

Appendix: written parliamentary answers on the Register of Overseas Entities, 2025 to 2026

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14608: Companies: Registration. Asked by Steff Aquarone (Liberal Democrat) on 2026-06-30; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-07-06.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, with reference to the Third progress report on the implementation and operation of Parts 1 to 3 of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023, what was the total value of the 401 penalty notices which were not reversed, waived or written off; what was the total value of the 144 penalty notices reversed, waived or written off; and what is the total value of penalty notices which have been paid to date.

Since the commencement of the Register of Overseas Entities regime, up to 31 March 2026, financial penalties have been issued to 445 overseas entities. Of these, 245 penalties with a total value of £13.19 million have been reversed, waived or written off, while penalties with a total value of £9.87 million remain valid. The total value of financial penalties paid to date is £1.18 million as at 31 March 2026. The 144 cases stated as reversed, waived or written off in the third progress report, included only those recorded during the 2025–26 financial year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-06-30/14608>

12520: Foreign Companies: Ownership. Asked by Steff Aquarone (Liberal Democrat) on 2026-06-23; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-06-29.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, pursuant to the Answer of 18 June 2026 to Question 9905 on Foreign Companies: Ownership, how many of those penalties were (a) financial sanctions, (b) disqualification and (c) criminal sanctions.

Of the 445 penalties issued to overseas entities for failure to register, as of 31 March 2026, all were financial sanctions in the form of civil penalties. Failure to register is a criminal offence under the Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act 2022. The Registrar has the power to issue financial penalties as a sanction, as they have done in all cases. The Register of Overseas Entities framework does not provide for disqualification, as overseas entities are established and governed under the laws of their home jurisdictions, where responsibility for corporate governance and any disqualification measures rests.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-06-23/12520>

9905: Foreign Companies: Ownership. Asked by Steff Aquarone (Liberal Democrat) on 2026-06-15; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-06-18.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, how many overseas entities which did not comply with beneficial ownership were identified in 2026 to date; how many penalties for non compliance were issued; and how many of those penalties were a) financial sanctions, b) disqualification and c) criminal sanctions.

The legislation requires overseas entities to provide details of their managing officers to Companies House when they are unable to identify their beneficial owners. An entity is unable to register or file an update without disclosing this information. Companies House has not issued any penalties for beneficial ownership non-compliance since the Register of Overseas Entities commenced. Where an entity has failed in its statutory obligation to register, Companies House has taken enforcement action by issuing penalties for non-compliance. As of 31 March 2026, 445 penalties have been issued.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-06-15/9905>

8433: Foreign Companies: Ownership. Asked by Steff Aquarone (Liberal Democrat) on 2026-06-09; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-06-15.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, how many overseas entities which did not comply with beneficial ownership were identified in 2025; how many penalties for non compliance were issued; and how many of those penalties were a) financial sanctions, b) disqualification and c) criminal sanctions.

Companies House did not identify any cases of beneficial ownership non-compliance during 2025. The legislation requires overseas entities to either provide details of their beneficial owners, or details of their managing officers when they are unable to identify their beneficial owners. Therefore, Companies House did not issue any penalties for beneficial ownership non-compliance during 2025.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-06-09/8433>

11057: Foreign Companies: Land. Asked by Steff Aquarone (Liberal Democrat) on 2026-06-17; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-06-22.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what is the total number of Overseas Entities who bought a land title in England and Wales after 1999, that have failed to register on the Register of Overseas Entities.

Data on land titles is held by the relevant UK Land Registries. Based on the data available to Companies House, we are confident that 933 overseas entities are registered proprietors of titles within scope of the Register of Overseas Entities and have failed to register.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-06-17/11057>

12026: Foreign Companies: Land. Asked by Steff Aquarone (Liberal Democrat) on 2026-06-22; answered by Matthew Pennycook, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 2026-06-25.

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 17 June 2026 to Question 11057 on Foreign Companies: Land, what is the total number of land titles bought after 1999 owned by overseas entities which do not have an owner registered on the Register of Overseas Entities.

HM Land Registry does not collect the data in question and so does not hold the information requested. Data showing every completed record about non-UK companies or corporate bodies that own land in England and Wales is available in the dataset of overseas companies, which can be found on gov.uk here . In respect of the number of overseas entities who are registered proprietors of titles within scope of the Register of Overseas Entities and have failed to register, based on data available to Companies House, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to Question UIN 11057 on 22 June 2026 by the Department for Business and Trade.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-06-22/12026>

11059: Foreign Companies: Land. Asked by Steff Aquarone (Liberal Democrat) on 2026-06-17; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-06-22.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what is the total number land titles bought after 1999 owned by overseas entities which do not have an owner registered on the Register of Overseas Entities.

As of the latest published figures, over 33,000 overseas entities have registered on the Register of Overseas Entities, indicating strong overall compliance with the regime. Companies House does not hold a definitive figure for the number of land titles bought after 1999 that are owned by overseas entities without a registered beneficial owner. This information is not captured within the scope of the register. Data on land titles will be held by the relevant Land Registry.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-06-17/11059>

11061: Foreign Companies: Ownership. Asked by Steff Aquarone (Liberal Democrat) on 2026-06-17; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-06-22.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what is the number of of Overseas Entities who have (a) disclosed another entity as their beneficial owner; (b) declared that they do not have a beneficial owner and (c) declared a trust or trustee as their beneficial owner.

Over 33,000 overseas entities have registered on the Register of Overseas Entities, supporting transparency over beneficial ownership. Companies House does not publish or verify figures for the number of overseas entities that have (a) disclosed another entity as their beneficial owner, (b) declared that they do not have a beneficial owner, or (c) declared a trust or trustee as their beneficial owner.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-06-17/11061>

11055: Land: Foreign Companies. Asked by Steff Aquarone (Liberal Democrat) on 2026-06-17; answered by Matthew Pennycook, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 2026-06-23.

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what is the total number of land titles bought in England and Wales prior to 1999 which belong to a company or entity based overseas.

Before 1999, HM Land Registry did not comprehensively record whether a property was acquired by an overseas entity. For that reason, my Department does not hold the information requested.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-06-17/11055>

126580: Property: Foreign Companies. Asked by Neil Coyle (Labour) on 2026-04-13; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-04-20.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Economic Crime and Transparency Act 2023 on the number of properties owned by offshore companies.

The Department has not made a specific assessment of the impact of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 on the number of properties owned by offshore companies. The Register of Overseas Entities was established and further strengthened through the Economic Crime Acts 2022 and 2023. It was designed to tackle the misuse of overseas corporate structures to own UK property anonymously, rather than legitimate overseas investment. Companies House's strategic intelligence assessment indicates that the register has significantly reduced anonymity and increased transparency around higher risk ownership. The Government will keep the effectiveness of the regime under review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-04-13/126580>

126579: Property: Money Laundering. Asked by Neil Coyle (Labour) on 2026-04-13; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-04-16.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Economic Crime and Transparency Act 2023 on the offshore ownership of property in the UK to conceal money laundering and other illegal activities.

The Economic Crime Acts 2022 and 2023 established and strengthened the UK's Register of Overseas Entities, which requires overseas entities owning UK land to disclose their beneficial owners. Since launching in 2022, over 33,000 entities have registered. The Companies House Strategic Intelligence Assessment (2024) found it is almost certain that the register has reduced the ability to hide beneficial ownership of UK property and improve transparency for law enforcement. Non-compliant entities are also prevented from selling, leasing or raising finance over UK land. The Government is currently reviewing the legislation's impact and will publish findings once complete.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-04-13/126579>

127095: Ownership: Registration. Asked by Neil Coyle (Labour) on 2026-04-14; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-04-20.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of (a) imposing fines on companies that do not register beneficial owners under the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 and (b) hypothecating those revenues for local authorities.

The Economic Crime Acts 2022 and 2023 established and enhanced the Register of Overseas Entities. Financial penalties are used where entities fail to comply. Alongside restrictions on property transactions, this helps protect the integrity of the UK property market by enhancing transparency about who owns and controls overseas entities. As with other fines, revenues are paid into the Consolidated Fund. Government does not generally support the hypothecation of fine revenue, as this can reduce flexibility in public finances and risk weakening the deterrent purpose of penalties. Core funding for local authorities is set through the Local Government Finance Settlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-04-14/127095>

97160: Foreign Companies: Property. Asked by Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) on 2025-12-04; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2025-12-10.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the enforcement of penalties for non-compliance with the UK's Register of Overseas Entities.

The Government recognises the challenges of enforcing financial penalties on overseas entities but remains committed to ensuring compliance with the Register of Overseas Entities (ROE) requirements. Companies House has strengthened its enforcement strategy, introducing robust procedures to address non-compliance with penalties, and will continue to monitor the effectiveness of enforcement. Non-compliant entities are also prohibited from selling, leasing, or raising finance on their property until they meet the ROE requirements. The Government will also carry out a Post-Implementation Review in 2027 to assess the effectiveness of the ROE.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-12-04/97160>

8435: Foreign Companies: Registration. Asked by Steff Aquarone (Liberal Democrat) on 2026-06-09; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-06-15.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of removing the £55 fee for requesting trust information on the Register of Overseas Entities.

In line with Managing Public Money (MPM) principles, Companies House sets its fees on a cost recovery basis. The £55 fee for providing access to trust information on the Register of Overseas Entities recovers the cost of delivering the service. Companies House regularly reviews the level of its fees.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-06-09/8435>

HL10055: Foreign Companies: Ownership. Asked by Lord Rooker (Labour) on 2025-09-01; answered by Lord Leong, Department for Business and Trade, on 2025-09-12.

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure improved transparency and access to information about beneficial ownership of overseas entities since July 2024.

The Government remains committed to increasing knowledge of beneficial ownership of overseas entities. In February 2025, the Government introduced The Register of Overseas Entities (Protection and Trusts) (Amendment) Regulations 2025. This enables the public to apply to access unpublished trust information on the Register of Overseas Entities from 31 August 2025, increasing transparency and empowering stakeholders to scrutinise entities more effectively. The Government will also publish a response to the public consultation on the Transparency of Land Ownership Involving Trusts in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-09-01/HL10055>

30494: Foreign Companies: Registration. Asked by Lloyd Hatton (Labour) on 2025-02-10; answered by Justin Madders, Department for Business and Trade, on 2025-02-19.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, with reference to The Register of Overseas Entities (Protection and Trusts) (Amendment) Regulations 2025, when applicants are required to demonstrate a legitimate interest; how this differs from information required on application under Regulation 4(1).

Under these regulations the presumption is that trust data on the Register of Overseas Entities will normally be disclosed when requested. Most applications will not require the applicant to demonstrate any legitimate interest. Legitimate interest applies where trust data involves a minor or multiple entities. In such cases, applicants must demonstrate their request relates to the investigation of possible money laundering, tax evasion, terrorist financing or sanctions breaches, make a statement it is to further their investigation and explain the information's intended use. A legitimate interest must be shown for each new application. The registrar will consider any appropriate restrictions on the use and further disclosure of trust information before disclosing this information to a successful applicant. The applicant may publish this information unless the registrar has imposed a restriction on its further disclosure.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-02-10/30494>

2289: Foreign Companies: Registration. Asked by Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) on 2026-05-18; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-05-27.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of Companies House address verification procedures in preventing overseas entities from registering UK companies at virtual office addresses, residential properties, or addresses used by large numbers of unconnected companies.

Companies House is continuously improving its ability to detect and prevent the misuse of addresses on the companies register. The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 enhanced the Registrar's powers to query and challenge addresses before they are registered and streamlined and strengthened powers to change and remove inappropriate addresses from the register. Reports on this activity are provided to Parliament each year. The latest report is available here: Second progress report on the implementation and operation of Parts 1 to 3 of Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-05-18/2289>

HL4276: Property: Spain. Asked by Lord Swire (Conservative) on 2025-01-21; answered by Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 2025-02-04.

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan respond to proposals by the government of Spain prohibiting non-EU citizens from buying property by prohibiting non-resident Spanish citizens from buying houses in the United Kingdom.

The government does not have plans to place specific restrictions on Spanish citizens buying UK residential property. We have already acted on overseas buyers in the housing market by raising the Stamp Duty Higher Rate for Additional Dwellings by 2 percentage points to 5%. This will raise £310 million by 2029-30 and help to rebalance the housing market towards those who want to buy property for use as a primary residence.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-01-21/HL4276>

28447: Asylum: Housing. Asked by David Simmonds (Conservative) on 2026-09-09; answered by James Murray, Treasury, on 2026-09-17.

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether residential asylum accommodation will be liable for the council tax surcharge.

The High Value Council Tax Surcharge is a new charge on owners of residential property in England worth £2m or more. The Government consulted on a proposed list of discounts and exemptions. and a response to the consultation will be published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-09-09/28447>

20334: Council Tax: Valuation. Asked by Sir James Cleverly (Conservative) on 2026-08-28; answered by James Murray, Treasury, on 2026-09-08.

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what information his Department holds on the HMRC Valuation Office's Antecedent Valuation Date for the (a) council tax surcharge in England and (b) council tax revaluation in Wales.

a) The antecedent valuation date for the High Value Council Tax Surcharge has not yet been set in legislation. b) Details about the valuation date of the Council Tax revaluation in Wales can be found here .

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-08-28/20334>