

# Guernsey registered companies - Guidance for new company directors

*You may have received this guidance as you have recently incorporated a Guernsey registered company. Please feel free to share this information with your co-directors.*

## Included in this guidance note:

The Online Services Portal  
Entity PINs  
Audit Waiver  
AGM Waiver  
Annual Submission Requirements  
Personal Directorships  
Charities and NPOs  
Intellectual Property  
Opening Hours and Contact Details

## Introduction

This guidance has been put together to help directors become familiar with certain requirements of the Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 and the Guernsey Registry.

The Registry is always keen to receive feedback on its services so please do not hesitate to email [enquiries@guernseyregistry.com](mailto:enquiries@guernseyregistry.com) with any questions or comments.

**Helen Gains, Registrar**



## Disclaimer

*The purpose of this document is to provide information and guidance for Registry users.*

*However, the interpretation of the legislation is a matter on which the Guernsey Registry cannot advise and individuals will need to form their own view on compliance.*

*Independent legal advice is advised where there is any uncertainty.*

## The Online Services Portal - [www.greg.gg](http://www.greg.gg)

The Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 requires companies to make a number of submissions to the Guernsey Registry.

The Online Services Portal ([www.greg.gg](http://www.greg.gg)) enables these submissions to be made electronically via a secure portal. Users have to login to use the portal and submissions are validated using an Entity PIN or a Registered Person PIN (see details below).

As well as using the portal to make submissions for a particular company it is also used to update your personal information - address, email etc.

In order to use the portal you will need to go to [www.greg.gg](http://www.greg.gg) and register as a user.

Once registered you will be able to make the necessary company submissions (see page 5 for details of the annual submission requirements) to ensure that you comply with the requirements of the legislation.

Full details regarding how to login and use the Portal can be found on our [Online Services Portal Guidance](#).

This guidance note also includes links to guidance on company searches, ordering documents online, PIN requests, annual validation submissions etc.

## Entity/Registered Person PINs

Entity PINS and Registered Person PINS are the electronic signature required to validate the information on submissions made on the Online Services Portal.

A PIN number for a new company or registered person can be requested using the Portal ('Registered Person/Entity PIN Request' submission) and will be sent to the registered office address for a company PIN or your personal address for a person PIN. If you lose a PIN you can request another one using the online services portal and selecting 'Registered Person/Entity PIN Request' or by emailing the office at [enquiries@guernseyregistry.com](mailto:enquiries@guernseyregistry.com).

Once you have received your PIN you can change it to one that is more memorable if you wish. Full details of how to change the PIN number can be found here: [PIN Maintenance](#)

### What will I need to use the Online Services Portal?

- An online login which is a combination of an email address and password ([click here if you need to register](#))

### To make submissions for a company you will need:

- Company number
- Entity PIN/Company PIN
- Payment method (credit/debit card or cheque)

### To make submission to change any personal details you will need:

- Registered person number
- Registered person PIN

*n.b. there is NO fee for changing personal details*

**Meet the team:** Stella Harris, Registry Officer



## Documents to be held at the Registered Office

The law requires companies to keep certain documents at their registered office. These documents may also need to be available for inspection (by certain individuals) during ordinary office hours.

Full details of the documents you are required to keep at the registered office can be found here : <http://www.guernseyregistry.com/regoffdocs>.

Do you have all of the documents you are required to have at your registered office address ?

## Resident Agents

All Guernsey registered companies are required to have a resident agent. The resident agent is responsible for keeping a record of the beneficial owners of the company (Beneficial Ownership Register) at the registered office of the company.

There are circumstances where a company can be resident agent exempt, but you would have been advised of this at the time your company was incorporated.

If you have a director or a Corporate Service Provider acting as the resident agent and you decide to change the person responsible, then it is very important that you advise the Registry of the change.

If a company does not have a resident agent and is not exempt from the requirement then it is guilty of an offence under the law and is liable to be struck off the register.

Full details regarding resident agents can be found on our [Resident Agent guidance note](#).

### Things to consider:

Is my company resident agent exempt ?

Has the resident agent changed ?

Have I updated the Registry of any changes ?

## Beneficial Ownership Register

If you are the **resident agent** of a company you will need to ensure that you keep a record of who the beneficial owners are. [A template record of beneficial owners is available here](#).

If there are any changes to the beneficial ownership of your company then you must update your internal record of beneficial owners, and notify the Registry by filing an 'Add/Remove BO Entity Details' form within 14 days.

Further information on beneficial ownership - including how to file online and guidance on the definition of beneficial ownership is available on the Registry website: [www.guernseyregistry.com/beneficialownership](http://www.guernseyregistry.com/beneficialownership).

Have I kept my Beneficial Ownership Register up to date?

**Meet the team:** Dave Adams, Senior Registry Officer



## Audit Waiver

The Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 requires that a company's accounts for a financial year must be audited unless that company is exempt from audit.

The members of certain companies may pass a waiver resolution exempting the company from the requirement which can be on an annual basis, for a particular year or indefinitely.

It is important, if your company does not wish to audit its accounts, that members take the necessary steps to exempt the company.

Full details can be found here:

<http://www.guernseyregistry.com/resolutions>

You can check whether the Registry has a record of a waiver resolution by carrying out a company search on the online services portal: [www.greg.gg](http://www.greg.gg).

### Things to consider:

Can my company be exempt from audit?

Have the members passed the necessary resolution?

Has the resolution been filed with the Registry?

## AGM Waiver

The Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 requires that every company holds a general meeting of its members. However, section 201 of the law allows members of a company to waive the requirement to have a general meeting by the passing of a waiver resolution.

This waiver resolution may be for a particular year, or years, or for an indefinite period.

Further information regarding AGM waiver, including a template resolution, can be found here:

<http://www.guernseyregistry.com/resolutions>

If a company has not filed an AGM waiver to exempt the company from AGM and HAS NOT held an AGM then the company is guilty of an offence and a member can petition the Court. In such circumstances the Court will decide whether the company should be wound up or a meeting should be held.

You can check whether the Registry has a record of a waiver resolution by carrying out a company search on the online services portal:

[www.greg.gg](http://www.greg.gg)

### Things to consider:

Can my company be exempt from AGM?

Have the members passed the necessary resolution?

Has the resolution been filed with the Registry?

**Meet the team:** Rachel Renouf, Senior Registry Officer



## Annual submission requirements

Companies registered in Guernsey must comply with the requirements of the Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008. Directors are, therefore, required to consider the submissions that need to be made with the Registry on an annual or an ad-hoc basis.

**Annual Validation:** Following the passing of The Companies (Annual Validation) (No. 2) Regulations, 2020, the annual validation period for companies has changed for 2021.

Instead of filing between 1 January and 28 February, annual validations will be filed between 1 June and 31 July 2021. The information contained in the annual validations will need to be current as at 31 May 2021. Companies incorporated during May 2021 will not need to submit an annual validation in June/July 2021. There will also be some amendments to the information collected on annual validations for 2021. Further information and guidance will be issued early in 2021.

**Changes to the director or resident agent:** If there are any changes to the directors of a company (adding or removing director) or there is a change in the resident agent then you must inform the Registry within 14 days of the date of the change.

**Change of registered office.** If you move the registered office of your company you must notify the Registry immediately. The change only officially becomes effective once it has been registered. Please note: documents can still be legally sent to the old registered office for 14 days after the date of the change.

**Waiver resolution:** the Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 enables companies to pass certain waiver resolutions to exempt them from certain requirements of the legislation e.g. audit, AGM etc. There is a requirement for these waiver resolutions to be filed with the Registry within 30 days of them being passed.

**Change of Personal details:** if there have been any changes to your personal details (name, address, email, contact number etc.) it is important that you update the information held at the Registry. You can make the necessary changes using the 'Change Personal Details (Director, Guardian, Councillor) Form'. **There is no charge for changing your personal details.**

Further details regarding submission requirements can be found here: <http://guernseyregistry.com/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1564&p=0>

### Please Note:

- **There is NO requirement to file minutes of an AGM with the Registry.**
- **There is NO requirement to file annual accounts with the Registry.**

**Meet the team:** Joe Le Page, Registry Manager

### To make submissions for a company you will need:

- Company number
- Entity PIN/Company PIN
- Payment method (credit/debit card or cheque)

### To make submissions to change any personal details you will need:

- Registered person number
- Registered person PIN

*n.b. there is NO fee for changing personal details*



## Personal Directorships - multiple director relationships

The Regulation of Fiduciaries, Administration Businesses and Company Directors etc. (Bailiwick of Guernsey Law, 2000 requires directors (who carry out a regulated activity for money or for money's worth) to hold a personal fiduciary license unless the companies are exempt in some way under the law - for example, hold 6 or less directorships.

This legislation relates to ANY companies regardless of where they are registered.

More details regarding the requirements of the legislation can be found here: <http://www.guernseyregistry.com/multipledirectorships>.

**Where there is any doubt, advice should be sought from the Guernsey Financial Services Commission (GFSC).**

### Things to consider:

If you are a director of 6 or more companies (regardless of where they are registered) you will need to establish with the GFSC whether you need a personal fiduciary license.

## Charities and Non Profit Organisations

Is your new company a Charity or a Non Profit Organisation (NPO)?

The Registry is also responsible for the registration and ongoing administration of charities under the above-mentioned legislation.

The Registry has put together guidance to help Charity/NPO Officials become familiar with certain requirements of the Charities and Non Profit Organisations (Registration) Guernsey Law, 2008 and the Guernsey Registry. This guidance is available on the Registry website here: <http://www.guernseyregistry.com/newcharitynpoinfo>

**Please note** - if you have a company that is a charity or a NPO then you must complete the annual validation for the company in June/July 2021 **AND** the charity or NPO annual renewal in January 2021.

### Things to consider:

Do I need to register my charity/NPO?

Do I know what information I need to provide to the Registry each year?

Have I notified the Registry of any changes to charity/NPO officials?

## Intellectual Property Office updates

### Copyright - Berne Convention

Guernsey has received confirmation from the World Intellectual Property Office that the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works has been extended to the Bailiwick.

The Convention offers signatory countries (currently 168) a minimum standard of copyright protection—this includes literary, dramatic, musical artistic works, films, broadcasts and typographical arrangements.

### Trade Marks

Have you thought about registering your company trade mark? If you have invested time and money in developing a brand then serious consideration should be given to protecting your intellectual property. More information can be found in our 'What is a trademark, and why register?' guidance which can be found here:

<http://ipo.guernseyregistry.com/article/5032/Trade-Marks-Guidance-Notes>

## Office opening & contact details

**Please note: The office is not open to the public, therefore we are not open for drop ins and we cannot provide a document collection service. We ask that documents are emailed or sent via the island's postal service.**

In the first instance we would encourage all of our customers to review the guidance and information available on [www.guernseyregistry.com](http://www.guernseyregistry.com) before contacting us. Where there are still queries we request that they are emailed.

### Contact details

**Email address:** [enquiries@guernseyregistry.com](mailto:enquiries@guernseyregistry.com)

**Address:** Market Building, PO Box 451, Fountain Street, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 3GX

**Telephone:** Due to the reduced telephone service we would ask that calls are only made where absolutely necessary.

44 (0)1481 743800 (Monday to Friday 10am - 2pm only)

**\*\*IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT OUR PHONE NUMBER WILL BE CHANGED TO +44 1481 222800 WITH EFFECT 1ST FEBRUARY 2021. HOWEVER OUR OLD NUMBER WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 31ST MARCH 2021\*\***

**Website:** [www.guernseyregistry.com](http://www.guernseyregistry.com)

### Useful links:

#### **Locate Guernsey -**

Information to help businesses and individuals looking to relocate to Guernsey  
[www.locateguernsey.com](http://www.locateguernsey.com)

#### **Startup Hub Guernsey**

Established by the Digital Greenhouse and the States of Guernsey to provide free and inclusive support for new business and entrepreneurs.  
<https://startuphub.digitalgreenhouse.gg>

#### **Digital Greenhouse -**

Focused on growing Guernsey's digital and creative sectors and provides co-working space, meeting rooms and event hosting for digital/creative startups  
[www.digitalgreenhouse.gg](http://www.digitalgreenhouse.gg)

**Meet the team:** Alison Le Page, Registry Officer



**Last updated:**

08/12/2020