

Companies House Direct and WebCheck services are closing



We're continuously reviewing our position and will be in touch with users when a closure date has been set for Companies House Direct (CHD) and WebCheck.

[Find and update company information](#) remains our prime company search function and this is where we're directing our users.

Dissolved company records have been added to [Find and update company information](#). There are more dissolved records available than ever before with an additional 1.5 million company records uploaded. This information is free and includes the records for all companies dissolved since January 2010.

The government's response to the [Corporate transparency and register reform consultation](#) highlighted the need to balance enhanced corporate transparency with legitimate data privacy concerns.

For companies dissolved before 2010 (up to 20 years) a dissolved company names index is available, providing basic company information and company reports. Copies of documents for these companies will be available on request from our contact centre for a fee.

See our [guidance on dissolved records](#).

Published 20 January 2022

Last updated 25 January 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 25 January 2022

Added translation

2. 20 January 2022

First published.

Australia: Readout – Foreign Secretary meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne

News story

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss held talks with Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne during her visit to the country.



A spokesperson from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said:

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss met with Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Marise Payne, in Sydney for wide-ranging talks. They covered building the UK's cooperation and leadership in the Indo-Pacific with Australia, tackling state and hybrid threats, and defending shared values and the rules-based system.

Ministers also took stock of progress in implementing both the recently announced AUKUS security partnership and UK-Aus Free Trade Agreement, as well as agreeing new ways to deepen collaboration on clean, reliable and honest infrastructure investment.

Finally they agreed to build on our existing strong collaboration on cyber and technology issues, while adding new emphasis to our shared goal of upholding and protecting liberal democratic values.

Published 20 January 2022

UK and Australia team up to encourage clean, reliable and transparent infrastructure investment in the Indo-Pacific

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne have agreed to closer cooperation to offer clean, reliable and transparent finance for investment in infrastructure that meets the needs and priorities of our Indo-Pacific partners.

The new agreement will deepen the UK and Australia's cooperation on infrastructure investment across the Indo-Pacific, setting the scope for joint and complementary financing and technical assistance for high-standard development projects such as disaster resilient and climate adapted infrastructure.

Truss and Payne signed the Memorandum of Understanding today, during Truss's visit to Australia for AUKMIN and after a roundtable with private investors in Sydney.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said:

The UK and Australia are natural partners, and we are determined to play a positive and proactive role by financing and delivering clean infrastructure that is reliable and honest.

The UK is committed to building a 'network of liberty' and that means championing democracy by supporting countries in the Indo-Pacific to resolve their development needs.

Foreign Minister Payne said:

Australia's vision for the Indo-Pacific is of an open, inclusive and resilient community of sovereign nations.

We have progressively transformed our investment approach in line with the evolving infrastructure needs and priorities across the Indo-Pacific, with a strong focus on climate adapted and resilient projects.

We look forward to deepening our engagement with the UK to deliver practical infrastructure solutions that drive economic growth, enhance connectivity and achieve development goals in the Indo-Pacific region.

A new 'Strategic Infrastructure and Development Dialogue' has been agreed between the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

The UK is stepping up its work on infrastructure investment and aims to mobilise up to £8bn of UK-backed financing a year by 2025. This includes the relaunch of the UK Development Finance Institution British International Investment, which is expanding in the Indo-Pacific, through injecting new capital and has a new investment strategy to finance projects across sectors, from ports to renewable energy and digital.

Building on existing collaboration with Australia, the UK will also continue investment into the Private Infrastructure Development Group, to further develop a pipeline of investable projects in the region.

Background:

The UK-Australia MOU will be complemented by dialogue between the UK's British International Investment (BII) and Australia's Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) and Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) to explore joint opportunities on infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific working closely with regional partners.

Government backs UK entrepreneurs with tech support and software to help them grow

- Help to Grow: Digital scheme launches today – part of the government's flagship support programme for small businesses
- scheme provides businesses with discounts of up to £5,000 on approved Digital Accounting and Customer Relations Management (CRM) software
- dedicated website providing free, impartial support now open to boost businesses' digital skills

The government's Help to Grow: Digital scheme – designed to support smaller businesses in adopting digital technologies so they can grow – has opened for applications today (20 January).

Under the scheme, eligible businesses can now receive discounts of up to £5,000 off the retail price of approved Digital Accounting and CRM software from leading technology suppliers. This software will help them to effectively manage their finances and build customer relationships, ultimately levelling up the way businesses are run and helping them to scale up.

From today, businesses can also access practical, specialised support and advice on how to choose the right digital technologies to boost their growth and productivity through [a new online platform](#).

The new Help to Grow: Digital scheme sits alongside the Help to Grow: Management scheme launched in 2021 as part of wider government efforts to back businesses and level up the economy.

Through Help to Grow: Digital, the government is providing business leaders with the advice and funding they need to embrace digital technology and help their business grow.

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:

I want UK businesses to be primed and ready to seize all the opportunities on the horizon as we build back better from the pandemic.

Adopting technology means higher performance, and the Help to Grow: Digital scheme is future-proofing our small businesses and putting the UK at the forefront of the worldwide digital revolution.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak said:

Small and medium sized businesses are the backbone of our economy, creating jobs and prosperity across the UK.

When I announced this at Budget I said we wanted to help businesses become more innovative, more competitive and more profitable and I am excited this programme allows them do that.

Help to Grow: Digital will help them to grow and flourish by adopting new technologies that are proven to improve processes and boost productivity, levelling up their digital technology and skills.

Mike Cherry, National Chair at the Federation of Small Businesses, said:

Small businesses are often keen to embrace new technologies, but we know that 1 in 4 lack confidence in their own basic digital skills. For those small firms who are eligible, providing the means to make improvements through projects like this will make a real difference for those that are keen to expand their knowledge and skills.

Our own research has shown that just 40% of small business owners have used applications like cloud services and online data storage or back-up. It's crucial that practical changes like this scheme are put in place to help small firms adopt digital technologies, making improvements to their own business and driving growth.

We're encouraging as many eligible small firms to apply and make the most of this new scheme.

Business Minister Lord Callanan said:

Tech is proven to boost business productivity and help firms, however big or small, to work better.

The cost-effective support, advice and software offered through Help to Grow: Digital will help to level up the UK economy, backing jobs and growth and bolstering the ability of our businesses to compete globally.

Tech and Digital Economy Minister Chris Philp said:

We're working hard to make sure small businesses can capitalise on technology's potential to give people new skills, create jobs and power growth in the economy.

The support and advice provided by this new scheme will supercharge small businesses and build a workforce with tech talents fit for the future.

Lord Karan Bilimoria, CBI President, said:

The launch of Help to Grow digital will help thousands of SME businesses invest in technologies. Supporting businesses on their digital transformation journey is fundamental to unlocking economic growth, boosting productivity and creating a more resilient future for firms.

The financial support and practical guidance offered under this scheme as well as under the Help to Grow: Management of which I'm a member on the advisory council, will be a valuable additional resource to business leaders.

Driving greater technology adoption continues to be a central aspect of the government's Innovation Strategy, and will be essential in delivering a high skill, high wage economy.

Through the Help to Grow schemes, the government is helping businesses to boost their productivity with training and software that is proven to get results.

This is also just the start of the new scheme. The government is looking to bring on further products that will help small and medium-sized businesses to grow, including new software to help businesses maximise their sales online.

Help to Grow: Management offers business leaders management and leadership training. Designed to be manageable alongside full-time work, businesses receive 50 hours of training across 12 weeks.

The course is 90% funded by government and delivered by leading business schools across the UK, with the support of experienced entrepreneurs and leading figures from industry.

Courses have been running at business schools across the UK since June.

The Help to Grow: Digital scheme is delivered through [a new online platform](#)

To qualify for the financial discount through Help to Grow: Digital, businesses can be from any business sector, but must meet all 4 of the following criteria:

- be a business based in the United Kingdom registered with Companies House or be a registered society on the Financial Conduct Authorities Mutuals Register
- be employing between 5 and 249 people.
- have been actively trading for over 12 months, and have an incorporation date of at least 365 days prior to application
- be purchasing the approved software for the first time
- eligible businesses will receive one financial discount towards the purchase of one approved software product up to a maximum of £5,000 (not including VAT) in Customer Relationship Management and Digital Accounting software product categories
- additional software product categories will be available with the discount soon, including e-Commerce software
- the financial discount covers 12 months' worth of approved software product core costs, exclusive of VAT

The approved software products from technology suppliers on the Help to Grow: Digital online platform for wave 1 are:

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software:

- Zestia Ltd
- Zymplify
- Livepoint Software Solutions Ltd
- Esteiro Business Solutions Ltd
- Deskpro Ltd

Digital Accounting software:

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software allows businesses to store their customer contact and order data all in one secure, central location. CRM has the capability to simplify business processes and enable businesses to be more profitable and efficient.

Businesses who use CRM systems to manage their sales and customers see on average [an 18% boost to their productivity](#).

Digital Accounting software makes essential business finance tasks like raising invoices, tracking spend, and sharing information easier to manage. Businesses who adopt Digital Accounting software see on average an [11.8% increase in employee sales over 3 years](#).

To find out how your business can get Help to Grow, [visit the GOV.UK Help to Grow page](#).

[Prime Minister Appoints Deputy Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief](#)

News story

David Burrowes appointed as Prime Minister's Deputy Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)



- The Prime Minister has appointed David Burrowes as his Deputy Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief.
- In his role, David will support the Prime Minister's Special Envoy, Fiona Bruce, in bringing together faith representatives, faith organisations and civil society stakeholders from around the world to promote religious tolerance overseas.
- David will also work alongside the Minister responsible for Human Rights, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, to drive forward the implementation of the Bishop of Truro's recommendations on Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) support for persecuted Christians around the world.

Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, FCDO Minister for Human Rights, said:

I wholeheartedly welcome David Burrowes' appointment as the Prime

Minister's Deputy Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief. Mr Burrowes' staunch commitment to advocating for everyone persecuted for their faith or belief is truly inspiring.

I look forward to David supporting the positive work on this important agenda for the UK Government.

The Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Fiona Bruce MP, said:

Freedom of religion or belief is a universal human right but millions of people around the world are still denied it. That's why the UK is committed to defending freedom of religion or belief for all.

David brings a wealth of experience, passion and expertise in advocating for freedom of religion or belief over many years and his appointment is a signal of the UK's continuing determination to address this critical issue.

Speaking on his appointment, David Burrowes said:

I am delighted to be appointed to this role. This is an exciting opportunity to help fully implement the Truro Review's recommendations.

Through my work, I will ensure that the UK Government will continue to work hand in hand with key international partners to champion freedom of religion or belief across the world.

Notes to Editors:

- David Burrowes, a solicitor by profession, was Member of Parliament for Enfield Southgate between 2005 and 2017. During that time, he championed Freedom of Religion or Belief for all. Since 2017, David has been the Parliamentary Adviser to Fiona Bruce MP.
- David is also co-founder and Parliamentary Director of the Conservative Christian Fellowship, now in its 30th year.
- The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) will host an International Ministerial Conference to promote freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) this summer in London. The conference will drive collective action in promoting respect between different religious and non-religious communities around the world so that everyone, everywhere can practise their own religion or belief freely.