



ASIC
Australian Securities &
Investments Commission

Access to information on the companies register

Consultation paper 391 | September 2026

About this paper

This consultation paper is seeking feedback on ASIC's proposed future access settings for information on the companies register.

It sets out our proposed model for different types of company information and user groups accessing that information and invites feedback on key design questions.

Contents

The consultation process	3
Context for the proposals	5
Our proposals	7
Questions	13
Appendix 1: Statutory tests	15
Appendix 2: Proposed access to companies register information	16

The consultation process

We invite your comments on the proposals in this paper on future access to information on the companies register. Our proposals outline the approach we may take, but are not necessarily our final position.

We have included questions about the proposals in this paper to guide your feedback. You can also tell us about any other approach that may help us achieve our objectives.

We also want to understand the likely financial and other impacts of our proposals and any alternatives. Where possible, please provide both numbers and examples in your feedback.

We will consider information about compliance costs, effects on competition, and other costs and benefits.

Providing feedback

Feedback or detailed submissions can be sent by email to consultation.registrydata@asic.gov.au.

The closing date for submissions is **12 October 2026**.

You may choose to remain anonymous or use an alias when providing your feedback. However, if you do remain anonymous, we will not be able to contact you to discuss your submission should we need to.

Please note we will not treat your feedback as confidential unless you specifically ask that we treat the whole or part of it (such as any personal or financial information) as confidential.

Please refer to [our privacy policy](#) for more information on how we handle personal information, your rights to seek access to and correct personal information, and your right to complain about breaches of privacy by ASIC.

What will happen next?

Your feedback to this paper will help guide our design for access to information on the companies register. It will take time for us to develop the systems before we change to the new settings.

From 1 July 2027, officeholders and companies will start to lodge their director IDs, service addresses and electronic contact addresses. We plan to have a staggered rollout of our new services while companies transition to the new information requirements. We expect the process of collecting the new information from existing companies to take one year aligned with the annual obligations for companies to review and update company information.

The stages from consultation to rollout of the new services are set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Stages to rollout of new registry services

Stage	Date
Consultation on proposed access to registry information	11 September to 12 October 2026
Report on submissions with draft legislative instrument	March 2027
Design, build and testing of the new registry services	November 2026 to June 2027
Start of director ID, service address and electronic address lodgements	1 July 2027
Start of new registry services and access settings	1 July 2027
Full implementation of new information requirements and access settings	1 August 2028

Context for the proposals

About the companies register

ASIC administers the companies register, which records information about Australian companies and certain people connected with those companies. The register supports transparency and confidence in the market by helping people identify companies, understand their status, and make informed decisions when dealing with them.

Information on the companies register is used by a wide range of stakeholders, including companies and officeholders, company agents, legal representatives, creditors, investors, consumers, journalists, researchers, insolvency practitioners, information brokers, regulators, law enforcement agencies and other government bodies.

Public access to company information helps people check who they are dealing with, assess risk, support due diligence, enforce rights and comply with legal obligations. At the same time, some information on the register is personal or sensitive, and access settings must balance transparency with privacy, safety and security.

Current access to companies register information

Currently, some company information is available to everyone for free through a company search, while more detailed information is available through paid extracts. Other information can be accessed by buying copies of documents lodged with ASIC.

Some personal information about officeholders and other people connected to a company is available through paid extracts or lodged documents. This includes dates of birth, places of birth and residential addresses.

These settings were developed when company information was less easy to search, download, combine and reuse. Easy access to companies register information supports transparency and market confidence. However, it can also increase the risk of fraud and impersonation, as well as privacy and safety risks for individuals whose personal information appears on the register.

Registry upgrades and evolving information needs

We are upgrading our registry technology and implementing new laws to support a more modern, stable and secure registry service. The aim of the changes is to provide businesses, the public and government with the information they need, while improving safety and security for individuals identified in registry data.

As part of this upgrade, we will start collecting new or updated information, including director ID-related information, service addresses for officeholders and electronic addresses for officeholders and companies. The new information will:

- › support stronger identity assurance
- › provide alternatives to publishing residential addresses, and

- › allow us to communicate with companies and officeholders more efficiently.

Service addresses for officeholders are particularly important, because they will allow ASIC to reduce access to residential addresses, while maintaining access to a reliable address so that documents and notices can be served on officeholders. Director ID-related information will help confirm that a director is who they say they are and reduce misuse of director identities.

Developing the new access settings

Recent amendments to the laws give us new powers to manage access to companies register information by making a legislative instrument to restrict access to information or deciding to publish additional public interest information.

We propose to make an instrument that would specify whether access to certain information is restricted, who can access restricted information and what conditions or verification is required to access restricted information. The factors that we must consider when setting access arrangements are set out in Table 3 in Appendix 1.

This paper seeks feedback on the proposed access settings before the new arrangements are implemented. The proposed access model in Table 2 summarises the proposed settings for person and company details across general, company, business and government access categories of users. For an accessible version, see Appendix 2.

Your feedback will help us assess whether the proposed model appropriately balances transparency, usability, privacy, safety and regulatory needs.

Our proposals

We propose to introduce new settings for access to companies register information during a transition period from 1 July 2027 until the new information requirements are fully implemented from 1 August 2028. The aim of the proposed model is to ensure transparency through broad public access to core company information, while limiting access to more sensitive personal information to users who have a clear need for that information and whose role or authority can be verified.

Our proposed access model is detailed in Table 2. Appendix 2 sets out the access model in a more accessible format.

The table summarises our proposed access settings for types of company information across four main categories of users – general, company, business and government.

The ‘company access’ category allows access to information about a specific company. It is only available to that company, its officeholders or authorised representatives. Users in the other access categories would have access to information about any company.

Company information types fall into two broad groups: person details and company details. Person details include information about officeholders and other individuals connected with a company, such as names, director ID-related information, and address and birth information. Company details include information about the company itself, such as the company name, ACN, company status and share structure.

The proposed access table also identifies whether an information type is new, whether the proposal changes current access arrangements, and whether ASIC proposes to publish new indicators or display flags. These indicators include whether an individual director has confirmed their director ID, whether any or all directors of a company have confirmed their director ID, and whether a company has failed to pay an annual review.

Table 2: Proposed access settings for companies register information

Information	General access		Company access	Business access		Government access
	Free extract	Paid extract		Registered liquidators	Legal practitioners, journalists	
Person details						
Usual name of officeholder <i>Currently not available on free extract</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Former names of officeholder <i>Currently available on lodged documents</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Director ID number of director (NEW)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Name recorded on director ID register (NEW)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Individual director has confirmed director ID (NEW FLAG)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service address of officeholder (NEW)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Residential address of officeholder: if a service address lodged with ASIC	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
if no service address lodged with ASIC (1 Aug 2028) <i>Currently available on paid extract to restricted users</i>	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Residential locality (state and country) of officeholder	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Electronic address of officeholder (NEW)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Date of birth of officeholder <i>Currently available on general paid extract</i>	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Year of birth of officeholder	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Place of birth of officeholder <i>Currently available on general paid extract</i>	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Officeholder status <i>Currently not available on free extract</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Usual name and address of other officer or member	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Company details						
Company name, ACN, ABN, registration date, locality of registered office, company status, company type and class, former company name, list of documents lodged	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
State of registration, registered office, principal place of business, contact address, other officer role status, all role appointment and cessation dates, share structure and shareholdings	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Next review date <i>Currently available on free extract</i>	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Company electronic address (NEW)	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Any or all directors of the company have confirmed their director ID (NEW FLAG)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Company has an overdue annual review (NEW FLAG)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Row status colour key

Change to current access	No change to current access	New information field	New flag or indicator
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Changes to access settings

The proposed model would change the current access settings. Some information that is currently only available through paid extracts would become available in free extracts where it supports transparency and helps people better understand companies they deal with. Other information would still be available only through paid extracts or move from general access to restricted access for verified users.

We also propose to recognise additional user types who would be able to access company information if they have a verified relationship, appointment, authority or professional need. This includes company and officeholder representatives, appointed external administrators, registered liquidators, legal practitioners, journalists and certain government bodies.

Availability of information

New information types

We propose to make more information available. This includes director ID-related information, officeholder service addresses, and officeholder and company electronic addresses. A service address is an alternative to a person's usual residential address where documents can be served on the officeholder.

We also propose to restrict the amount of personal information made available. For example, we would provide an officeholder's year of birth rather than full date of birth for some access levels.

Free information

We also propose to publish the current and former names and status of officeholders, as well as director IDs on our free extract. This information will help users identify who manages or controls a company, distinguish people with similar names and accurately trace a person's director appointments. We will only publish former names that are linked to a director ID so that users can confidently rely on the information.

Residential addresses

The availability of residential addresses raises particular privacy and safety considerations. ASIC has already changed access to some officeholder residential addresses, and the proposed model considers how residential addresses should be treated once service addresses are available. There are two key elements to our proposal:

- › From 1 August 2028, we would make residential addresses available for general access, only if a service address has not been lodged with ASIC. This gives officeholders and companies one year and one month from 1 July 2027 to provide a service address.
- › We would publish a residential locality (state and country) to help with due diligence, while reducing the risks associated with publishing full residential addresses.

Hidden information

Hidden information (also called suppressed information) is information that we restrict access to because of heightened risks to safety, privacy or other threats. Hidden information would not generally be available through public, business, government or company access, including to the company itself or its representatives. Users would only be able to access hidden information through a separate process where the law permits disclosure and ASIC considers release appropriate. See our website for more information about [how to hide a residential address on the companies register](#) today.

Introduction of display flags

The proposed model introduces new display flags that show important information about a company or its officeholders without disclosing unnecessary personal information. The aim of these flags is to support confidence in registry data (e.g. showing that a director ID has been confirmed by the director) and to help users identify potential issues (e.g. an overdue annual review fee).

We will introduce new electronic communications to help companies and officeholders ensure that they comply with their obligations to complete their reviews on time, but the display flag will serve as an additional reminder.

Access to lodged documents

Documents that are lodged with ASIC on the companies register can be accessed, unless there is an exception in the legislation. We propose that if a lodged document includes person details that have a restricted access setting, ASIC will provide a redacted version for general or business access users. The unredacted version will only be available for company and government access.

A general or business user would receive a redacted version of the lodged document with any information removed that they are not entitled to access under the proposed access settings set out in Table 2. For example, general access users will not be able to view the company electronic address, but business access users will.

This approach aligns the level of access to lodged documents with the proposed access settings and ensures users do not experience a delay when requesting copies of documents. This proposal will only apply to documents lodged from 1 July 2027.

User access categories

There are four main access categories in this model – general, company, business and government access.

General access

General access information is available to everyone through free or paid extracts.

Available: Core company details, officeholder names and status, director ID number and flags, year of birth, officeholder locality and service address.

Not available: Name recorded on director ID register, electronic addresses, full date and place of birth, and residential address (if service address is lodged).

Company access

Information relating to a specific company is available to that company, its officeholders, other officers or associated roles and any authorised representatives.

- › **Other officers or associated roles** of a company are auditors, appointed liquidators and other registered external administrators. These roles have existing registrations with ASIC.
- › **Authorised representatives** of a company are engaged by the company or an individual officeholder of a company. Representatives include nominated company agents, legal representatives and community advocates.

Available: All listed company and person details for that company, including service and electronic addresses, birth details and residential addresses.

There is no fee for company access.

Business access

Information is available for verified business users if it is needed for a legitimate business or professional purpose. The specific business users are:

- › **registered liquidators** who may need information for pre-engagement checks or investigative functions
- › **legal practitioners** who may need information to support litigation and serve legal documents, and
- › **journalists and media organisations** who may need information to support public-interest investigative reporting.

We anticipate that new information types, such as director ID-related information and service addresses, could satisfy the needs of other business user groups without requiring access to more sensitive personal information.

Available: Most company details, officeholder names and status, director ID number and flags, locality, service addresses and residential addresses.

Limits: Liquidators can access officeholders' date of birth; legal practitioners and journalists can access year of birth only. Electronic addresses and names recorded on the director ID register are excluded.

There is a fee for business access, except journalists and media who are eligible for a fee exemption.

Government access

Information is available to regulatory, law enforcement and other government bodies for official purposes.

Available: All listed person and company details, including director ID information, addresses, birth details and proposed flags.

There is a fee for government access, unless a fee exemption applies.

User verification

We also propose to verify users before allowing access within a defined user group. Verification may involve confirming a person's identity, role, appointment, professional credential, authority to act for a company, or government function. Access would be limited to the information relevant to that user group and purpose. If access depends on an appointment or authority, access would end when that appointment or authority ends.

Questions

Information types and access settings

1. Do you agree with our proposed access settings for each information type in our proposed access model? Which settings do you support or not support, and why?
2. Are there any information types that should be added, removed, combined or described differently?
3. Do you agree with the proposal to provide subsets of personal information (i.e. year of birth instead of full date of birth and state and country instead of full residential address)?
4. Do you agree with the information we propose to make available through free and paid general access? Is there any information that should be restricted?
5. Do you agree with the proposed approach to making residential addresses available for general access from 1 August 2028 if a service address has not been lodged with ASIC?
6. Are there any practical recurring issues for registry users or other stakeholders if access to residential addresses is restricted?
7. Will redacted copies of documents that have been lodged with ASIC be sufficient for the needs of general and business users?

Display flags

8. Do you agree with our proposal to publish new display flags or indicators, such as director ID confirmation and overdue annual review status?
9. Are the proposed flags useful for people dealing with companies? Are there any risks or unintended consequences?
10. Are there other flags or indicators that would help users understand company register information?

User groups and verification

11. Do you agree with the proposed access settings for each user group – namely, general, company, business and government?
12. Are there other business users that should have access to more companies register information? Why does that group need access?
13. What verification should we require before giving a user access within a restricted user group?
14. Should we authenticate general users or introduce other access controls for general access? If yes, what controls would be appropriate?
15. What safeguards should we put in place for access to company data by company representatives, including company agents, legal representatives, community legal centres, auditors, liquidators and external administrators?

Impacts, costs and benefits

16. What costs, benefits or operational impacts would the proposed access model create for you or your organisation?
17. Would the proposal affect competition, compliance costs, fraud prevention, credit risk assessment, due diligence, enforcement, journalism, research or other activities?
18. Are there changes we could make to reduce costs or impacts while still protecting personal information?
19. Are there any transitional issues we should consider before the proposed access settings start on 1 July 2027?
20. Do you have any other comments on the proposed access model?

Appendix 1: Statutory tests

Companies register information is prescribed in the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and broadly includes details of a company's registration, its officeholders, the company status and external administration information. ASIC's powers to restrict access to company register information and lodged documents and to publish additional information with company register information have safeguards set out in the legislation.

ASIC must reasonably believe that the benefits of restricting access outweigh the risks after considering the factors in the first column in Table 3. Similarly, when publishing additional information, the benefits must outweigh the risks, and publishing the information must be in the public interest after considering the factors in the second column in Table 3.

Table 3: Factors ASIC must consider when determining access settings

When restricting access: Corporations Act, section 1274AC	When publishing additional information: Corporations Act, section 1274AB
Whether it could protect consumers or investors from wrongdoing to have (or not have) the restriction	Whether it could protect consumers or investors from wrongdoing to disclose the information
The purpose for which the class of information or class of documents was collected	The purpose for which the class of information or class of documents was collected
Any harm or adverse impacts for persons (including impacts related to privacy or safety) that could result from having, or not having, the restrictions	Any harm or adverse impacts for persons (including impacts related to privacy or safety) that could result from disclosing, or not disclosing, the disclosure
The commercial sensitivity of the class of information or class of documents	The commercial sensitivity of the information
Whether it could prejudice the proper administration of justice to have, or not have, the restrictions	Whether it could prejudice the proper administration of justice to disclose the information
Whether the class of information or class of documents is irrelevant to the purposes of the particular register	No equivalent factor
Whether the disclosure would be of limited benefit to the public because the class of information is outdated or incomplete	No equivalent factor
Whether the class of information or class of documents is inaccurate, is likely to cause confusion or mislead the public	No equivalent factor
Any other matters prescribed by regulations	Any other matters prescribed by regulations
Any other matters that ASIC considers relevant	Any other matters that ASIC considers relevant

Appendix 2: Proposed access to companies register information

The proposed access settings for person details available on the companies register are summarised in Table 4.

Table 4: Proposed access to company information – person details

Information	General – free	General – paid	Company	Business – registered liquidators	Business – legal practitioners, journalists	Government
Usual name of officeholder	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Former names of officeholder	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Director ID number of director	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Name recorded on director ID register	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Individual director has confirmed director ID	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Service address of officeholder	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Residential address of officeholder: if a service address is lodged with ASIC	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Residential address of officeholder: if a service address is not lodged with ASIC	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Residential locality (state and country) of officeholder	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Electronic address of officeholder	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Date of birth of officeholder	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Year of birth of officeholder	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Place of birth of officeholder	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Officeholder status	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Usual name and address of other officer or member	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The proposed access settings for company details available on the companies register are summarised in Table 5.

Table 5: Proposed access to company information – company details

Information	General – free	General – paid	Company	Business – registered liquidators	Business – legal practitioners, journalists	Government
Company name, ACN, ABN, registration date, locality of registered office, company status, company type and class, former company name, list of documents lodged	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State of registration, registered office, principal place of business, contact address, other officer role status, all role appointment and cessation dates, share structure and shareholdings	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Next review date	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Company electronic address	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Any or all directors of the company have confirmed their director ID	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Company has an overdue annual review	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes