



## Communications plan

30 January 2026

### Removal of officeholder addresses

#### Purpose of this document

1. Identify key stakeholders impacted by the decision to remove officeholder address details from ASIC registry extracts.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

#### Objectives of communication approach

1. Publicly communicate the change to our registry company current and historical extracts to relevant stakeholders, including directors, information brokers and members of the public.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

#### Sequencing of communications

s 47C



**Sensitive**

S 47C

**Sensitive**

# s 47C

## Background

- There have been longstanding concerns about the availability of directors' personal information on ASIC business registers.
- While the Government and ASIC have been working on a permanent solution, interim steps are required to address security concerns raised by agencies and some stakeholders.
- The Treasurer is supportive of ASIC taking action within its existing powers to remove residential addresses from the company search extracts for the general public as soon as possible.
- This would remove addresses from the most widely available access point.
- The Government also expects wholesale access providers and commercial users of registry information to take steps to ensure that directors' residential information is restricted to legitimate business and legal purposes.
- The Treasurer has also encouraged ASIC to consider whether other measures are needed to address privacy and security risks associated with access to registry information.

## Key considerations

# s 47C, s 47E(d)



s 47C, s 47E(d)

#### Risks

s 47C, s 47E(d)

#### Stakeholders

- Directors and company officeholders
- Information brokers
- Registered agents
- Industry associations (COSBOA, AICD, Governance Institute, ABA)
- Law enforcement agencies and regulators (ATO, Austrac, APRA, AFP)
- Other government users of registry data



- ASIC Staff
- Media
- Members of the public

## Channels

- ASIC Newsroom
- ASIC Corporate LinkedIn account (To be considered once implementation bedded down)
- ASIC Connect home page
- ASIC intranet
- Direct comms with Information Brokers
- In-Focus newsletter (issued first Wednesday of every month)
- Registry broker inquiry email groups

## Approach

- Publish a news item on ASIC Newsroom
- EDM to registered agents sharing news item.
- Direct engagement with information brokers sharing news item.
- Article in In-Focus newsletter.
- Add call-out boxes to ASIC Connect home page to promote change.
- Email to government/law enforcement stakeholders with direct access, advising that they won't see any change.
- Direct channel communications with government stakeholders..
- Early RBAG meeting or direct update
- Consider LinkedIn post after evaluating stakeholder response.

**More detail on communications approach for registry stakeholder available here:**

[Communication brief, schedule and products.docx](#)

**[Key messages and Q&A next page](#)**



## Key messages/talking points

- This is about taking sensible and achievable precautions to reduce the amount of residential address information that is easily accessible.
- It will provide additional protection of information as we continue to work on implementing stronger methods to validate and authenticate users through our Registry Connect Program, without exposing private details. .
- We have removed officeholder addresses from current and historical extracts that can be purchased through the ASIC website.
- We are acting to address privacy and safety concerns including the potential to access personal information, heightened concerns around personal safety and to reduce the risk of identity theft and cyber-crime.
- We are balancing the need to protect people's personal information while maintaining transparent registers.
- This action does not remove residential address information entirely, but it introduces a barrier to the most publicly available source of residential address information.
- We are actively engaging with a range of ASIC data consumers to explain this change and to ensure that users of the registry data can take appropriate steps to ensure access to their products are for legitimate business and legal purposes.
- Government departments and law enforcement agencies who rely on this information will continue to be able to access it through direct channels. There are no changes to the services these users consume.
- Through RegistryConnect, ASIC will implement stronger methods to validate and authenticate officeholders on our registers and registry users without exposing private details, supporting the accuracy business information, aiding regulatory activity, and providing greater assurance to the public.

## Question and Answers

### Media

#### **Why has ASIC made this change?**

ASIC is responding to privacy and safety concerns raised by numerous groups and individuals over a period of time, including the potential to access personal information, heightened concerns around personal safety and to reduce the risk of identity theft and cyber-crime.

#### **Who has raised privacy concerns?**

Numerous stakeholders and industry representative bodies have raised privacy concerns, including concerns raised publicly by the [AICD](#) and the [Governance Institute](#).

#### **Won't this information still be easily accessible through historical documents available to order on the register? Why can't you update all of these?**

This decision is not about removing every access point to residential information. It is about removing this information from one of the most widely available point of access via the ASIC website.

#### **What are the main privacy and safety benefits of the residential address removal?**

An increase in personal safety and privacy for directors and officeholders, by no longer sharing home addresses on extracts purchasable via the ASIC website. This will reduce threats to physical safety and cyber security.

#### **How will ASIC ensure confidence in who is behind a company if less personal information appears on the public register?**

ASIC's ongoing RegistryConnect program, which will stabilise and uplift ASIC's registers, will introduce stronger methods to validate and authenticate users without exposing private



details, including through linking Director ID numbers.

These improvements will support the accuracy and availability of business information and provide greater assurance to the public that people interacting with the registers are who they say they are.

A Treasury consultation on draft laws to improve Australia's business registers is open until 10 February 2026.

**Will this impact the implementation of Registry Connect?**

No, Registry Connect is continuing to be implemented as planned.

**ASIC cites security concerns as part of the reason for this decision. What concerns?**

We are alive to the fact that Australia's security environment is dynamic, diverse and degraded, a fact pointed to by ASIO director general Mike Burgess at ASIC's Annual Forum last year. Considering this in tandem with the concerns raised with us by industry representative bodies, including about identity theft, personal safety and fraud threats, we decided this was a reasonable step.

**Will journalists still be able to access address information?**

Yes. Provided journalists access extracts through the journalist search portal, they will still receive this information. There will be no change to the service available to them.

**Does this change require legislative approval?**

No. ASIC makes information available to the public in extracts of the Companies Register under s 1274A(4) of the Corporations Act. The Corporations Regulations prescribe the information that may be included in an extract, which includes information about company officeholders given to ASIC under Part 2D.5 (public information about directors and secretaries) of the Act. However, that particular information is not required to be included in an extract, meaning that ASIC has a discretion about what prescribed information to include.

**Some people have a genuine need for this information. Is it fair for those people to have their access to information restricted?**

Directors will still be required to provide their addresses to ASIC, these addresses simply won't be available on company extracts via the ASIC website.

Copies of lodged documents including change of company director details forms will still be available for purchase.

Those with particular needs to access this information in an extract, including law enforcement agencies, government departments and journalists, continue to have access to this information via other services.

**Will this prevent ASIC from sharing data with other agencies?**

This change has no impact on ASIC's ability to efficiently share information with other law enforcement agencies.

**Does this step take ASIC out of line with international peers? (or, I can get this information in New Zealand, why can't I get it in Australia?)**

Some peer regulators opt to use alternate addresses. UK Companies House and Singapore's BizFile, for example, provide correspondence or company addresses, not residential addresses. This option will become more widely available in Australia as part of the RegistryConnect project.

**The New Zealand Companies Register provides officeholder residential addresses. For companies registered in both countries, doesn't this undermine ASIC's change?**

We will be engaging with the New Zealand Companies Register on these changes.

**Will this change impact users such as lawyers, banks, and credit reports?**

ASIC will work with stakeholders including the Registry Business Advisory Group to respond to the needs of end users while also ensuring appropriate privacy protections.

**Company directors****What can I do if I'm concerned my information is still available?**

ASIC has existing processes (available through the ASIC website: [Hide a residential address on the companies register | ASIC](#) ) that individuals can follow to request access to their information be restricted.

**Why has it taken ASIC this long to make this change?**

ASIC has made this change in response to legitimate concerns about privacy and personal safety, in an environment where Australia's security agencies have raised concerns about the nation's security environment.

This change is an interim step that we are able to take within our existing powers and systems. We continue to work towards the linking of director IDs that will address the privacy and security concerns.

**Do I still have to give ASIC my address?**

The obligation for companies to provide the details of officeholders to ASIC in order to comply with their legal obligations remains unchanged.

**Why do I have to give ASIC my address if you're not going to need it in the future?**

Addresses may be used for the service of notices, notifications from ASIC or other law enforcement agencies. The legal requirement for companies to provide the details (including addresses) of all officeholders remains unchanged.

**Why does ASIC need my address when I have a director ID?**

Linking of director IDs is a key priority of RegistryConnect. Linking information from the director ID register maintained by Australian Business Register Services (ABRS) to the ASIC Companies Register will further prevent the use of fraudulent identities and, over time, enhance the traceability of director relationships with companies.

**Industry associations****Our members rely on officeholder data in extracts provided by information brokers to comply with our regulatory obligations, including AML/CTF. Will this change affect them?**

Residential address information should be restricted to legitimate business and legal use cases, but we understand there may be challenges for wholesale access providers with their systems and processes.

ASIC has already actively had preliminary engagement with the Banking sector, Credit Bureaus and information brokers to understand the use of this data.

We will be doing further work in the coming weeks with wholesale access providers to ensure we fully understand how they use this information, how this change affects them, and how they can ensure that officeholder residential information is restricted to legitimate business and legal use cases.

**Why aren't you also removing access to other documents that contain this information?**

ASIC will engage registry intermediaries to help them understand how this change affects them and continue to monitor the implementation to assess any impacts upon users.

**Law enforcement****Will we still be able to access registry data for law enforcement purposes?**



There will be no change to the data and services available to you. MASCOT, Direct Access, customised reports or access through an Information Broker remains unaffected by this change.