



ASIC

Australian Securities &
Investments Commission

ASIC FOI 021-2026 and 022-2026

Commission meeting 1046

21 January 2026

Removal of directors' residential address from the public register

What is the key issue(s) for decision?	NA
When is a decision needed by?	NA
Has the matter previously been considered by this or another internal forum?	No
Is there a communications plan that has been prepared in consultation with Communications & Corporate Affairs?	No
What consultation has been undertaken? Were there any materially different views?	No. Legal Services, DDT (RegistryConnect Program), Registry Operations

Draft Resolution

1. That the Commission **note** engagement with Treasury on removal of directors' residential address from the publicly available data from the Company register.

Purpose

2. To provide an update on work with Treasury exploring options to enable the earlier removal of directors' residential address publicly available from company register and to seek Commission input.

Background

3. During January, we have been providing information and advice to Treasury in relation to disclosure of directors' residential address information. We have engaged with AICD who continue to advocate for more urgent action.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

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Appendix A – Director Residential Address Suppression Fact Sheet

The Legislation

1. The Corporations Act provides that any person has a right to inspect and obtain a copy of a document lodged with ASIC ([s1274\(2\)](#) of the Corporations Act) unless the document is explicitly exempted ([s.1274\(2\) \(a\)](#) of the Corporations Act).
2. This includes documents applications for registration of an Australian company ([s117\(2\)](#) of the Corporations Act) and notice of the appointment, change of details or cessation of a director of an Australian company ([205B\(1\), \(2\) or \(4\)](#) of the Corporations Act).
3. Those applications and notices are required to include the usual residential address of a director of an Australian company unless the director has demonstrated their entitlement to use an alternative address ([s205D\(1\) and \(2\)](#) of the Corporations Act).
4. ASIC may make available to a person prescribed information (in the form of a document or otherwise) that ASIC has obtained from a prescribed register by using a data processor ([s1274A\(4\)](#) of the Corporations Act). The register of companies is a prescribed register ([regulation 9.1.01\(a\)](#) of the Corporations Regulations). Information about the company's officers is prescribed information in relation to that register ([regulation 9.1.02\(a\)\(vi\)](#) of the Corporations Regulations).
5. ASIC relies on [s1274A\(4\)](#) of the Corporations Act and [regulation 9.1.01\(a\)](#) of the Corporations Regulations to produce company extracts that include the usual residential address of directors (except where an alternative address is substituted).
6. Company extracts are admissible as prima facie evidence of the matters stated in the extract, without the need for any certificate or signature ([s1274B](#) of the Corporations Act).
7. In performing its functions and exercising its powers, ASIC must strive to (among other things) "receive, process and store, efficiently and quickly, the information given to ASIC under the laws that confer functions and powers on it" and "ensure that information is available as soon as practicable for access by the public" ([s1\(2\)\(e\) and \(f\)](#) of the ASIC Act).
8. ASIC in part fulfills this obligation by allowing an online search of the registry and surfacing a company extract (for a fee) containing information from documents lodged with ASIC including Director detail including residential address.
9. Anyone can also access the underlying source documents/forms (for an additional fee).
10. The legislation does not stipulate the way in which ASIC makes information available and accordingly there is no legislative requirement to provide and extract or particular content within that extract.
11. The provision of search and extract is though the way in which ASIC fulfils its obligation to make information available.

The director address suppression process

12. The Corporations Act provides for the substitution of an alternative address to the residential address (s205D (2) of the Corporations Act) in circumstances where: a) the person is a [silent electors on the Australian Electoral Commission](#) or b) their name is not on an electoral roll and ASIC determines their personal safety, or the personal safety of members of their family is at risk. Our understanding from engagement with the AEC in late 2024 is becoming a silent elector is not a significant impediment.
13. Just over 4k individuals with a suppressed residential address across ~20k companies (~3.5 million total companies registered) on the ASIC company register. Of these, the majority (93%) are proprietary companies, the remainder (~1500) are public companies (half of which related to public companies limited by guarantee – charities, incorporated community organisations).
14. ASIC has invested in supporting requests for address suppression and operates a low friction, pragmatic and fast process under the current legislative framework and has made this clear on its website.
 - 17.1 Applications have increased 50% from 525 in 2024 to 788 in 2025.
 - 17.2 We have established electronic and phone processes to minimise burden and support accessibility and timeliness.
 - 17.3 Average time for actioning requests has gone from 8 business days to 1 business day.
 - 17.4 Time to remove public access to underlying documents on an interim basis pending redaction has moved from multiple weeks to 1 business day.
 - 17.5 Redacting is manual and time consuming. Where we receive a request for public access, we prioritise redaction. As noted above, ASIC does not have an express power to redact the documents and relies on its incidental powers where doing so “is necessary for or in connection with, or reasonably incidental to, the performance of its functions” under the Corporations Act (s11(4) of the ASIC Act) (e.g. in circumstances where we are considering an application by a person for a suppressed residential address under s 205D).
 - 17.6 We act urgently on an interim basis where risk of harm or circumstances heightened as reflected over new year instances.

s 47C, s 47E(d)