

1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)
2. Health and social care (<https://www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care>)
3. Public health (<https://www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health>)
4. Health protection (<https://www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/health-protection>)
5. Infectious diseases (<https://www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/health-protection-infectious-diseases>)

News story

Coronavirus: if your company cannot file accounts with Companies House on time

If Coronavirus (COVID-19) has affected your company and you need more time to file your accounts, you should act before your filing deadline.

Published 11 March 2020

From:

Companies House (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/companies-house>)



All companies must send their accounts, reports and confirmation statements to Companies House every year. If a company's accounts are filed late, the law imposes an automatic penalty.

Your company should take appropriate measures to ensure accounts are filed on time. You should also file your accounts online (<https://www.gov.uk/file-your-company-annual-accounts>) if you're able to.

If, immediately before the filing deadline, it becomes apparent that accounts will not be filed on time due to your company being affected by Coronavirus (COVID-19), you may make an application to extend the period allowed for filing.

Find out how to apply for more time to file your company's accounts (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-more-time-to-file-your-companys-accounts>).

Late filing penalties

If you do not apply for an extension and your accounts have been filed late, an automatic penalty will be

imposed. The registrar has very limited discretion not to collect a penalty.

Read our guidance on late filing penalties and appeals (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/late-filing-penalties>).

Each appeal is treated on a case-by-case basis, and we already have policies in place to deal with appeals based upon unforeseen poor health. Appeals based upon COVID-19 will be considered under these policies.

More information

Guidance: Filing your company's accounts (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-of-a-company-annual-requirements>)

Guidance: Online filing and email reminders for companies (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/online-filing-and-email-reminders-for-companies>)

Coronavirus (COVID-19): UK government response (<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>)

COVID-19: guidance for employers and businesses (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>)

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Explore the topic

- Limited companies and partnerships (<https://www.gov.uk/business-and-industry/limited-companies-and-partnerships>)
- Infectious diseases (<https://www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/health-protection-infectious-diseases>)