

An Update from Stanley Davis Group

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Companies House Statistics

In December 2011 a total of 29,646 companies were incorporated in the UK, an increase of 12.3% on December 2010. The total register now stands at 2,798,983 companies and 50,597 LLPs. Penalty fines of £7m were issued for late filing, bringing the total revenue in fines for the financial year to over £64m.

Winding-up companies: changes from 1 March 2012

The Finance Bill 2012 proposes that the ability to return capital informally to shareholders, contained in extra-statutory concession ESC 16, be placed on a statutory basis. Normally, where a company returns funds to shareholders that are greater than the original capital subscribed, the excess amount is treated as the receipt of a dividend for the shareholder, which is subject to income tax. Under ESC C16, a shareholder can treat the dividend as a capital receipt. This gives rise to a capital gain, rather than being taxed at higher income tax rates.

Under the legislation, from 1 March 2012 the amount that can be treated as a capital distribution will be limited to £25,000. If the distribution exceeds this figure the whole sum (excluding the original capital subscribed) will be taxed as income. Anyone who is intending to dissolve their company under the extra-statutory procedure is advised to consult with their accountants as soon as possible.

Companies House Registrar Change

Gareth Jones, Chief Executive and Registrar, is leaving Companies House at the beginning of March to take on a role as acting Director General in the Welsh Government. For the time being, the role of Registrar and Chief Executive will pass to Tim Moss.

Reduce your tax bill like Tony Blair

Whilst we always advise that professional advice be sought before incorporation, we recently read this article which is very much in favour of the limited company. Click [here](#) to read the full version.

A reminder of the Stanley Davis advantage

Stanley Davis has been in the business of forming and looking after companies for more than 40 years. In that time we have formed literally hundreds of thousands of companies, offering competitive prices and years of expertise without sacrificing our professional standards or our clients' peace of mind.

As new company formations businesses sprout up every so often, we thought it was worth taking this opportunity to remind you of the advantages of forming your companies through Stanley Davis.

- We offer an online company formation service, where companies start from £30. In addition, if you elect to open a bank account with Barclays for the companies that you form using this method, we will **give you back £40 cash** for each one.
- If you prefer, we also offer a traditional formations service where we do all the work on your behalf. We can form companies with different structures (including limited liability partnerships), different classes of shares, bespoke Memorandum and Articles of Association, anything to suit the needs of you and your clients.
- The Memorandum and Articles of Association for our companies includes pre-emption rights on shares as standard.
- We also offer full telephone and Email support to answer any questions you may have on forming companies.
- We can incorporate companies in any jurisdiction around the world.
- Once your company is set up we can assist you with our company secretarial and maintenance services, such as annual returns, nominee services, registered office services, the setting up of internet domains, operating bank accounts, registering your company for VAT, or offering you international tax advice, wherever your company is domiciled.
- Just Email us at info@stanleydavis.co.uk or call us on 020 7554 2222 if you have any questions about any aspect of our service.