

## Companies House is currently a supplier of licensed ide...

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Prof Prem Sikka, my old tax justice friend who now sits in the House of Lords as a Labour peer, has been asking a series of questions of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy with regard to failings at Companies House. [These are two that have just been answered](#), wholly inadequately, as is apparent:

**Question for Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

Companies House: Maladministration

To ask Her Majesty's Government what checks were made by Companies House to establish the authenticity of a secretary of Spyriest Limited who gave his name as "Mr Adolf Tooth Fairy Hitler"; and whether they have taken any action against (1) this company, or (2) individuals associated with it, for filing incorrect information.

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Asked 26 January 2022

We are unable to comment on individual cases.

We announced plans to reform Companies House in September 2020, and in 2021 we consulted on more detailed aspects of the reforms, and we will respond soon. The Government's plans will deliver significant improvements to the integrity of the UK's register of companies and assist greatly in the fight against economic crime.

When parliamentary time allows, the Government intends to bring forward legislation to give the Registrar greater powers to check information before it is registered and to verify the identity of directors, People with Significant Control and those filing on behalf of a company.

This question is grouped with 5 other questions:

HL5716, HL5718, HL5719, HL5720, HL5721

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[^ Hide answer](#)

Answered 7 February 2022

By Lord Callanan (Conservative, Life peer)

**Question for Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

Companies House: Maladministration

To ask Her Majesty's Government what checks were made by Companies House to establish the authenticity of a director or secretary of MISER SCROOGE SPYPRIEST THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE LTD who gave his name as "Lord Truman Hell Christ"; and whether they have taken any action against this company or individuals associated with it for filing incorrect information at Companies House.

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Asked 27 January 2022

We announced plans to reform Companies House in September 2020. In 2021, we consulted on more detailed aspects of the reforms, and we will respond soon.

The Government's plans will deliver significant improvements to the integrity of the UK's register of companies and assist greatly in the fight against economic crime. These reforms will include the identity verification of directors, People with Significant Control and those filing on behalf of a company, and new powers for the registrar to query and check information.

It will also include the requirement that the accounts filed with the Registrar must be the most detailed set of accounts that has been prepared for the company's members.

We will bring forward legislation on these reforms when Parliamentary time allows.

This question is grouped with 1 other question:

HL5750

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[^ Hide answer](#)

Answered 7 February 2022

By Lord Callanan (Conservative, Life peer)

As Prem and I have often claimed, there is no effective system of checks in place at Companies House making it, in effect, a supplier of licensed identities available for the purposes of fraud and corruption.

There can be no wonder that we have a problem with regard to money laundering in the UK. The simple fact is that we have actively permitted it. Despite the fact that some of us have been highlighting these problems for well over a decade nothing has yet been done to tackle them, and there is no indication as yet as to when the government will bring forward any legislation, if it will do so at all.

Could it be that they really do not care?