

## Company directors soon to have another tool to fight identity fraud

[The Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance System \(Cifas\)](#), the not-for-profit fraud prevention organisation, released a report in June 2017 that said company directors are more than twice as likely to be the victims of identity fraud compared to the rest of the general population, and are fraud victims in one in five recorded cases. It is widely reported that fraudsters just require a name, address and date of birth of an individual in order to fraudulently use their identity.

[The Companies \(Disclosure of Address\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2018](#), which comes into force by the end of summer 2018, will make it easier for directors to remove their personal addresses from the company register.

This new law will really help existing businesses reduce their risk of fraud by allowing directors to replace their personal correspondence address with an alternative (i.e. to the company's registered office or a trading address), where they can still be contacted to ensure that the company they are director of meets its legal requirements.

Currently, director's personal correspondence addresses can only be removed only when Companies House and the relevant authorities judge that there is a serious risk of violence or intimidation because of the company's work. Public authorities including the police and the Pensions Regulator will be able to obtain directors' personal addresses.

Directors must still be cautious when sending forms that contain their signature to Companies House. In most cases, these signed forms can be accessed by the public and director's signatures can be viewed. Companies House have not yet suggested a solution for this.

For further information on any of the issues raised in this Briefing Note, please contact a member of the Rooks Rider Solicitors Corporate team:



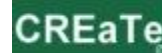
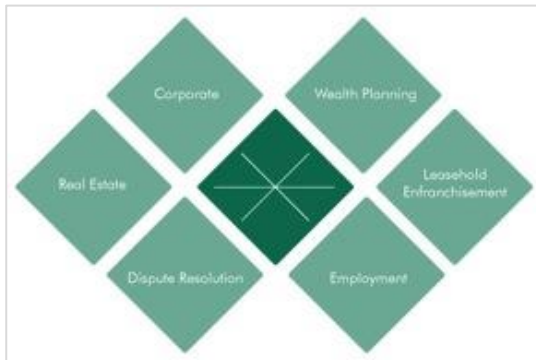
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