

A UK company must have a registered office, which must be an address within the borders of England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. When incorporating a new company, the application will state whether the company is to be registered in England & Wales, England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. Whilst all locations are subject to the same rules and regulations, a peculiarity of Company Law prevents a company moving its place of registration from one region to another. For example a company with a registered address in Manchester cannot change it to an address in Glasgow. If the place of registration is given as 'England & Wales', a company is permitted to move its registered office from an address in England to one in Wales and vice versa.

None of these rules prevent a company moving its trading address to anywhere in the UK, or outside the UK if it desires.

The registered office address recorded at Companies House, provides a point of contact for correspondence from sources such as Companies House itself, HM Revenue and Customs and other authorities or third parties wishing to make formal contact with the company.

A general post office box cannot be used, and it should be noted that Companies House are likely to reject any address which does not appear on the official Post Office lists of addresses.

Whilst there is no reason to prevent companies being registered at the home address of one of its directors, this is often not satisfactory for matters of privacy. CRO can provide a choice of accommodation addresses for your registered office to help retain your privacy. See our Service Guide for more information on our Registered Office Service.