

UK's Register of Company Beneficial Owners

The People with Significant Control (PSC) Register

Nick Vail, Senior Policy Advisor – Corporate Transparency (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)

Lee Robins, Senior Manager Intelligence and Enforcement (Companies House)

Company framework regulation in the UK

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

- policy responsibility for the creation and operation of a company structure by an individual
- policy responsibility for the framework of responsible operation of business

Companies House

- Registrar of Companies, publishing register of company information since 1844
- Company incorporation, compliance with Companies Act 2006 requirements
- People with Significant Control (PSC) register, UK's company beneficial ownership register

Definition of a PSC

A person with significant control is an individual who meets one of five conditions:

Condition i: directly or indirectly **holds more than 25% of the shares in the company;**

Condition ii: directly or indirectly **holds more than 25% of the voting rights in the company;**

Condition iii: directly or indirectly **has the right to appoint or remove the majority of the board of directors;**

Condition iv: **otherwise** has the right to exercise or actually **exercises significant influence or control** over the company;

Condition v: where **a trust or a firm** would satisfy one of the first 4 conditions if it were an individual, any individual holding the right to exercise or actually exercising significant influence or control over that trust or a firm

Scope

Entities that have **legal personality** fall within scope of the PSC register. Certain UK entities do not have legal personality and thus are not required to report PSC information.

Legal entities in scope: Private and public limited companies, UK Societas

Limited Liability Partnerships

Scottish Limited Partnerships, Scottish Qualifying Partnerships

Exemptions: Listed Companies (on main markets)

If a company meets the PSC criteria, and is under PSC requirements itself, it can be a Registrable Relevant Legal Entity

Value of public data

- Free and accessible to all - viewed >500,000 times a month, downloaded in bulk >350 times a month
- Useful source of information for law enforcement, financial institutions, civil society organisations and businesses
- Used alongside basic company information and alongside other Beneficial Ownership data sources
- Supporting detection and analysis of suspected illicit financial flows
- Allows businesses to identify who they are really doing business with. Transparency promoting trust in the business environment

Protection of information in exceptional circumstances

Most information is made public. Individuals **at serious risk of violence or intimidation** can apply to prevent their information being publicly disclosed (*on the company's register and the public register at Companies House*)

- Activities of company *or* personal attribute in association with company
- Specified public authorities and credit and financial institutions will have access to protected data on request
- Applications accepted in advance of requirements to report PSC information

Economic value of the data

BEIS conducted a 'willingness to pay' survey on users of the register to get a better understanding of the economic value of public company data

- Total value of the data on the public register (including basic information, company accounts and PSC) approximately **£1-3 billion**.
- The value of PSC information is estimated to be roughly **£400 million**.

[Companies House data: valuing the user benefits](#)

Ongoing reforms

- The Government would like to see Companies House **play an expanded role in future**: moving from being a largely passive recipient of information to a much **more active gatekeeper over company creation and custodian of more reliable data**.
 - Identity verification of directors and PSCs
 - New powers for the Registrar to query and reject filings
 - Enhanced data sharing between CH, law enforcement and other government departments
 - Enhanced privacy protections

[Corporate transparency and register reform: government response](#)

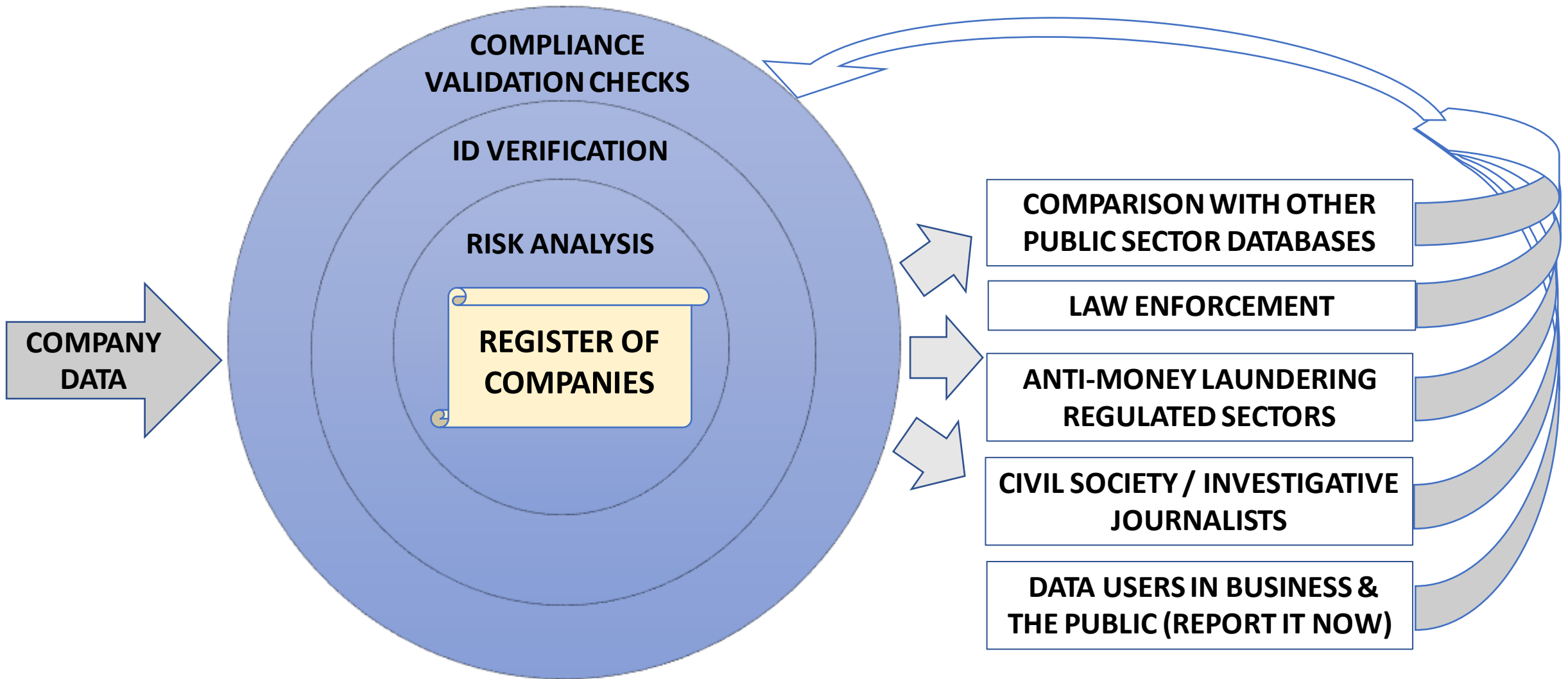
Register integrity and enforcement – Companies House

- Lessons learned from implementation of the suppression regime
- Working with the private and public sector – JMLIT
- Working with law enforcement on investigations
- Enforcement – PSC prosecutions

Thank you for your attention

Implementation and operation

- Robust IT
- Analytical capacity and understanding of risk
- Customer 1 “the information provider”: guidance and clear channels of communication on requirements
- Customer 2 “the register searcher”: accessible, searchable and readable.
- Keep on reviewing and making improvements



Information collected

- full name;
- full date of birth; (day not made public)
- nationality;
- country, state or part of the UK where the PSC usually lives;
- service address;
- usual residential address; (not public)
- the date he or she became a PSC in relation to the company;
- the nature of the PSC's control over the company.

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