

**Companies House**

# **Uniform Resource Identifiers** (URI) Customer Guide

**BIS** | Department for Business  
Innovation & Skills

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**Companies House**

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# Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI)

## Customer Guide

Companies House has introduced a simple Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) for all companies on our register. The URI is permanent and represents the company. When used as an internet address, it will return basic company details in a format appropriate for the requesting system.

Such a URI may be stored and freely exchanged as a company reference that can be used to discover the latest basic company details. It provides a more efficient way of data linking for users and the business information industry.

The 'business.data.gov.uk' domain is used for the company URI service, and complements the existing [Companies House XML Gateway](#) by offering a simple, more open mechanism to basic company details ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representational\\_state\\_transfer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representational_state_transfer)). The XML Gateway continues to provide more detailed company information/documents and company name searches, which URIs do not provide.

### Supported Formats

The supported formats for URI are RDF, JSON, XML, CSV, YAML and HTML.

The appropriate format is determined through [content negotiation](#), automatically performed between the requesting client and the service. Therefore, the company data for a URI request will be returned in the format most suitable to the requester, e.g. if through a web browser HTML will be returned, if via an RDF client, RDF will be returned.

### URI structure

`http://business.data.gov.uk/id/company/{companynumber}`

e.g. under the URI scheme company number 02050399 would be represented as: `http://business.data.gov.uk/id/company/02050399`

Where a company number contains a prefix e.g. SC, NI, FC, the prefix should be provided in upper case.

e.g. company number SC002180 would be represented as:  
`http://business.data.gov.uk/id/company/SC002180`

## Data returned for URI

Data Element	Comments
CompanyName	The current company name.
CompanyNumber	The unique company number.
RegAddress	The Registered Office Address of the company. For some company types the registered office may not be available. In these instances, the RegAddress fields will be blank. Complex type – this returns a single search result comprising some of the following elements listed below:
Careof	
POBox	
AddressLine1	
AddressLine2	
PostTown	
County	
Country	
Postcode	
CompanyCategory	The type of company. See appendix B for full list.
CompanyStatus	The current status of the company. See appendix C for full list.
CountryofOrigin	Where company was originally registered.
IncorporationDate	The date that the company was incorporated. Will not show if RegistrationDate is returned.
RegistrationDate	The date that the company was registered/formed in the UK (date of transfer to UK is European company). Will not show if IncorporationDate is returned.
DissolutionDate	Only supplied for companies with dissolved status.
PreviousName	If a company has changed its name in the last 20 years, the previous company names and dates of change will be returned. If the company has had no name changes, then this section will be suppressed.  Complex type – returns a single search result comprising the following elements listed below.
CONDate	Date of Change of Name
CompanyName	Previous company name

Accounts	Complex type – returns a single search result comprising the following elements listed below:
AccountRefDay	Accounting reference date, i.e. the financial period. Day of the month.
AccountRefMonth	Accounting reference date, i.e. the financial period. Month of the year.
NextDueDate	The date the next accounts are due to be filed.
LastMadeUpDate	The made up date of the latest accounts filed. If no accounts have been filed, then message 'No accounts filed' will be returned.
AccountsCategory	Describes the type of accounts filed.
Returns	Complex type – returns a single search result comprising the following elements listed below
NextDueDate	The date the next annual return is due to be filed.
LastMadeUpDate	The made up date of the latest annual return filed. If no return has been filed, this will be left blank.
Mortgages	If the company has mortgage charges registered the number of charges will be returned. If no mortgages are registered against the company, then this section will be suppressed. Complex type – returns a single search result comprising the following elements listed below
NumMortCharges	Total number of charges registered against the company
NumMortOutstanding	Total Number of Outstanding charges registered against the company
NumMortPartSatisfied	Total Number of Part Satisfied charges registered against the company
NumMortSatisfied	Total Number of Satisfied charges registered against the company
SICCodes	This is the nature of business of the company. This will display up to 4 of the primary business classifications (SIC codes) as notified by the company. If the code is 4 digits, it indicates that the SIC 03 classification is being used. If it is 5 digits, it indicates that the latest SIC 07 classification is being used,  Complex type – returns a single search result comprising the following elements listed below

SicText	Only supplied where applicable. If none given, message "None Supplied" is shown.
LimitedPartnerships	Complex type – returns a single search result comprising the following elements listed below
NumGenPartners	Number of General Partners. Only supplied where information is available for Limited Partnership (LP, SL, NL prefixes).
NumLimPartners	Number of Limited Partners. Only supplied where information is available for Limited Partnership (LP, SL, NL prefixes).

## Error Handling

Standard HTTP errors will be returned in instances of failure, for example, if a company number is not found on the system, then a standard HTTP '404 not found' error will be returned.

## List of Company Numbers and Prefixes

Data is available using URI for the following company numbers/types. Where specific data does not exist for a company then that section of the URI will be suppressed, e.g. RegAddress for Assurance Companies (AC, SA, NA) or PreviousNames where the company has not changed its name.

Prefix	Company Type
	England & Wales Company
AC	Assurance Company for England & Wales
ZC	Unregistered Companies (S 1043 - Not Cos Act) for England & Wales
FC	Overseas Company
GE	European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG) for England & Wales
LP	Limited Partnership for England & Wales
OC	Limited Liability Partnership for England & Wales
SE	European Company (Societas Europaea) for England & Wales
SA	Assurance Company for Scotland
SZ	Unregistered Companies (S 1043 Not Cos Act) for Scotland
SF	Overseas Company regd in Scotland (pre 1/10/09)
GS	European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG) for Scotland
SL	Limited Partnership for Scotland
SO	Limited Liability Partnership for Scotland
SC	Scottish Company
ES	European Company (Societas Europaea) for Scotland
NA	Assurance Company for Northern Ireland
NZ	Unregistered Companies (S 1043 Not Cos Act) for Northern Ireland
NF	Overseas Company regd in Northern Ireland (pre 1/10/09)
GN	European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG) for Northern Ireland
NL	Limited Partnership for Northern Ireland
NC	Limited Liability Partnership for Northern Ireland
RO	Northern Ireland Company (pre partition)
NI	Northern Ireland Company (post partition)
EN	European Company (Societas Europaea) for Northern Ireland

Companies House does not hold information, other than the company name and number, on companies with the following company number prefixes:

Prefix	Company Type
IP	Industrial & Provident Company
SP	Scottish Industrial/Provident Company
IC	ICVC (Investment Company with Variable Capital)
SI	Scottish ICVC (Investment Company with Variable Capital)
NP	Northern Ireland Industrial/Provident Company or Credit Union
NV	Northern Ireland ICVC (Investment Company with Variable Capital)
RC	Royal Charter Companies (English/Wales)
SR	Scottish Royal Charter Companies
NR	Northern Ireland Royal Charter Companies
NO	Northern Ireland Credit Union Industrial/Provident Society

## List of Company Categories

- Private Unlimited Company
- Private Limited Company
- Public Limited Company
- Old Public Company
- PRI/LBG/NSC/S.30 (Private, limited by guarantee, no share capital, section 30 of the Companies Act)
- Limited Partnership
- PRI/LTD BY GUAR/NSC (Private, limited by guarantee, no share capital)
- Converted/Closed
- Private Unlimited
- Other company type
- PRIV LTD SECT.30 (Private limited company, section 30 of the Companies Act)
- ICVC (Securities)
- ICVC (Warrant)
- ICVC (Umbrella)
- European Public Limited-Liability Company (SE)
- Community Interest Company
- Community Interest Public Limited Company
- Limited Liability Partnerships (OC & SO companies)

## List of Company Status

- Active
- Dissolved
- Liquidation
- Receivership
- Converted/Closed
- Voluntary Arrangement
- Voluntary Arrangement / Receivership
- Administration Order
- Administration Order / Receivership
- Receiver Manager
- Administrative Receiver
- Receiver Manager / Administrative Receiver
- Voluntary Arrangement
- Voluntary Arrangement / Receiver Manager
- Voluntary Arrangement / Administrative Receiver
- Voluntary Arrangement / Administrative Receiver/Receiver Manager
- Administration Order
- Administration Order / Receiver Manager
- Administration Order / Administrative Receiver
- Administration Order / Receiver Manager
- Proposal To Strike Off
- Petition To Restore
- In Admin / Receivership
- In Admin
- In Admin / Receiver Manager
- In Admin / Administrative Receiver
- In Admin / Receiver Manager / Administrative Receiver
- Transformed To SE
- Proposed SE
- Converted To PLC
- Transferred From GB
- Proposed Transfer