



**Press Release**  
**ProtectMyCompany.co.uk**

**Company Identity Theft and Fraud**

**The Home office said - Identity fraud costs Britain 1.7 billion pounds a year.  
We aim to help safeguard your assets.**

**The Purpose of the Service**

The objective of this service is to protect companies against corporate identity theft and the related corporate fraud and at the same time help to protect the personal assets and credit history of the directors against the knock on effects of any corporate ID theft. The service will be launched in March 2006

**The Risk**

In a statement reported by Reuters, the Home Office said on Thursday the 2nd February this year that - Identity fraud costs Britain 1.7 billion pounds a year. It is much more expensive than previously estimated. "These findings confirm the sheer scale of the threat posed by identity fraud to individual citizens, private companies, and government bodies alike," Home Office minister Andy Burnham said in a statement.

Corporate identity theft is therefore a major cost to UK industry and it is on the increase. It affects businesses across all sectors. The fraudsters can change the registered office and directors of a company, thus effectively stealing the company's identity, simply by lodging forged forms at Companies House. Companies House receives the documents in good faith and does not have the resources to check that the documents are genuine.

In every case you are unlikely to find out what has happened until it is far too late. This could fatally impact your business in the following ways:

- Your company assets could be stolen and the bank accounts emptied by the criminals who have fraudulently appointed themselves as directors of your company.
- Your company identity could be stolen by the fraudsters who would then trade on the basis of your company credit history, by ordering goods and services on credit, for which you would probably be sued for the eventual payment.
- Your company could sell goods or services to fraudsters who have stolen a legitimate company's identity and you may never receive payment for the goods or services you have supplied.

The subsequent consequences could even affect your personal assets and credit history.

**The Legal Position**

Directors have a legal obligation to take reasonable steps to protect the assets of their companies, in addition they owe a duty of care to their shareholders. Companies House is not obliged by law to check whether documents submitted to them are genuine, therefore company directors should take steps to check that the documents being filed with Companies House are genuine and not fakes.

In summary the Companies Acts place a legal duty of care on all company directors, which if breached could render them personally liable for the debts and actions of their companies. This onus is mirrored in most professional indemnity insurance policies.

### **The Service Proposition**

The subscription would ensure that a subscriber director would be informed of any documents filed at Companies House (the official UK processor of company information) that would change any of the following:

- The registered office.
- The board of directors.
- The legally registered mortgages.
- The share capital.

In addition a subscriber director will be notified of any newly filed:

- Accounts.
- Annual returns.

If any of the aforementioned documents are filed with Companies House, the subscriber director will receive an email notification explaining what has been filed and describing its potential significance, together with an attached electronic copy of the actual document filed.

This will allow the subscriber director to immediately review the document filed in order to check whether or not they knew about this corporate action and whether it is a genuine filing by their company. This will help us to help the subscriber directors to ensure that their companies are not targets for corporate identity theft (corporate ID theft).

### **The Cost of the Service**

Directors will be able to purchase a 12 month subscription to ProtectMyCompany.co.uk for £47 (£40 plus VAT) by simply telephoning 0845 4000777 or entering their details onto the web site at ProtectMyCompany.co.uk.

A two year subscription is also available for £60 + VAT. This option is only available by telephone on 0845 4000777.

### **The Service Background**

ProtectMyCompany.co.uk is an innovative service, which should rapidly become an essential part of the standard control environment operating to cost effectively counter corporate fraud in the UK. The service is delivered by the Quantum Consulting Group Plc, a company that has operated at the highest levels within the financial services sector and other industries for over 10 years. It has built up a blue chip client base including Norwich Union, Axa, Leeds Building Society and several other major organisations.

### **Other Service Benefits**

To properly fulfil their legal duty of care as directors, it is essential that directors ensure that they are properly informed as regards the activities of their company. It is clear that to properly fulfil this responsibility, an essential element would be an awareness of all of the major corporate affairs of their company. A prerequisite would be a thorough knowledge of the latest accounts, board appointments and resignations as well as any changes to the share capital.

ProtectMyCompany.co.uk will help directors to fulfil those responsibilities, as well as assist in protecting them from any potential lawsuits.

This will also help to ensure that they are well informed concerning any legitimate board changes, or other amendments to the key elements of the legal structure and position of their company, which in turn could help to protect them from any legitimate but unwelcome boardroom shocks.

### **Electronic Document Filing**

An alternative to the standard services mentioned earlier is a combination of Web filing and Protected Online Filing. These are two relatively new services offered by Companies House

Directors would also be able to sign up for these services through [ProtectMyCompany.co.uk](http://ProtectMyCompany.co.uk), we would handle all of the initial registration details and if requested (an optional service) also perform all of subsequent electronic filing based upon the traditional documents sent to us by the company.

The initial registration fee for this service would be £47 (including VAT) plus a further optional £47 (£40 plus VAT) for a 12 month filing subscription period (the company could perform this directly). In addition the normal filing fees would be payable by the company; however these filing fees are reduced by Companies House for some documents, e.g. annual returns are half the normal price.

This option is only available by calling 0845 4000777 and requesting the electronic filing service.

### **Further Information for Journalists**

Would the media please contact Philip Arnold (Chief Executive Officer) on one of:

44 (0) 1582 501309

44 (0) 7967 008858

Or email [PhilipA@QuantumConsultingGroup.com](mailto:PhilipA@QuantumConsultingGroup.com)

Alternatively you could visit [ProtectMyCompany.co.uk](http://ProtectMyCompany.co.uk)

Or email [Admin@ProtectMyCompany.co.uk](mailto:Admin@ProtectMyCompany.co.uk)

Orders can placed by telephoning 0845 4000777 or entering the order details onto the web site at [ProtectMyCompany.co.uk](http://ProtectMyCompany.co.uk)