

Press Release

2 November 2016

Beneficial ownership of Jersey corporate and legal entities and a register of directors

The Government of Jersey has today released a policy document detailing an enhanced policy on Beneficial Ownership and a Register of Directors.

Further to a public consultation earlier in 2016, the policy document details the further development of a domestic policy to ensure that Jersey continues to fulfil its obligation as a responsible international finance centre. The policy has been developed on the back of an already effective functioning system in Jersey, that has been independently endorsed by international assessors and acknowledged experts, but that also considers recent developments concerning the increasing need for law enforcement authorities to have information passed to them quickly to investigate financial crime, but particularly where Terrorist Financing is concerned.

Senator Philip Ozouf, Assistant Chief Minister: Financial Services, Competition, Digital & Innovation, Government of Jersey, stated:

“In the Government of Jersey’s Financial Services Policy Framework, published in April 2014, the Government clearly set out that being ‘Responsible’ was one of four core principles upon which a financial services policy for Jersey was based. As a leading international finance centre, Jersey commits to comply with international standards and global initiatives. Jersey is considered a responsible partner to the UK, the EU and other international jurisdictions and aims to be a ‘good citizen’ internationally. Our obligation as a responsible international finance centre require us to continue to develop our own domestic policies so that we continue to be regarded as one of the most stable and successful international financial centres in the world. The Government see this policy as an enhancement of an already effective functioning system in Jersey but this announcement further develops our policy and our ability to exchange information with law enforcement and tax authorities so that it is robust and effective for the future.”

The policy, that is predominantly relevant to trust and company service providers (TCSPs) who administer Jersey corporate and legal entities, will require the TCSP to update the central registry within 21 days of knowledge of a change of beneficial ownership of a corporate that they administer. Additionally, the Government announces that it will be creating a central register of directors of Jersey companies, with information being exchanged with law enforcement and tax authorities on request, on the same basis that beneficial ownership information is exchanged.

The Government also notes the importance of technology in implementing the new policy between the Companies Registry and TCSPs to allow TCSPs computer systems to automatically and securely provide the central registry with information. The policy document notes that the launch of the policy will be supported by a programme of outreach by the Government and the Jersey Financial Services Commission (JFSC) to the financial services industry before the end of 2016. The JFSC Companies Registry will also be communicating with companies and publishing documents relevant to the implementation of the new policy:

John Harris, Registrar of Companies and Director General of the JFSC said:

“The Jersey Financial Services Commission will be deploying the Government of Jersey policy, but the timelines for the implementation are very tight and, in order to meet the deadlines, we will be working with industry and related interest groups, plus there will be an extensive programme of outreach to ensure the process of delivery is efficient and effective.

A requirement to obtain beneficial ownership information already exists, so this is a matter of centralising collection for all Jersey registered entities, which will enhance our current leading position, as formally recognised in our recent Council of Europe MONEYVAL assessment and part of our ongoing work to comply with their recommendations.

In addition, work already undertaken as part of our Change programme will make the process smarter taking advantage of modern technology.”

Ends

Notes to Editor:

Government of Jersey Consultation re Beneficial Ownership of Jersey companies and a register of directors

The areas covered in the Government of Jersey consultation regarding Beneficial Ownership are as follows:

1. Automatic updating (post implementation) of the companies registry by Trust and Company Service Providers (TCSP) upon change of beneficial ownership and control over the 25% threshold
2. The introduction of a central register of directors

Further information can be found [here](#).

[Click here](#) to read the Government of Jersey response and policy document concerning beneficial ownership of Jersey companies and a register of directors.

Background information about the Jersey’s Companies Registry

The JFSC operates Jersey’s Companies Registry, which registers Jersey companies, partnerships, foundations and business names. The Registry aims to maintain a service that is able to supply its users with a customer-centric approach enabling users to have access to accurate and reliable information. In addition, the Registry administers the Register of Beneficial Ownership and the Security Interests Register (SIR).

The Registry activities include:

- › Jersey’s second line of defence on AML/CFT compliance where an overseas person incorporates a company through a TCSP (the first line of defence being the TCSPs)
- › Monitoring and vetting adherence to the Sound Business Practice Policy (SBPP)
- › Vetting and recording details of beneficial ownership
- › Vetting applications for corporate and legal entities that wish to circulate a prospectus in Jersey