Companies House iXBRL explained: what mandatory tagged accounts from April 2028 mean for filers

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Short answer: the UK government has confirmed that from April 2028 all companies registered at Companies House must file their accounts in inline XBRL (iXBRL) using commercial software, and the web and paper filing routes will close. XBRL International reported the decision on 9 November 2026. It matters for accountants and agents because it ends manual filing for every company, and because iXBRL means each figure is tagged data that regulators can aggregate and compare.

TL;DR The short version

- From April 2028 every company at Companies House must file accounts in inline XBRL using commercial software, and web and paper filing will close.
- A separate requirement for small and micro companies to file profit and loss accounts has been paused.
- Accountants should ask software vendors about iXBRL support and move clients who file on the web or on paper first.

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What was confirmed?

According to XBRL International's report, the government has confirmed that from April 2028 every company registered at Companies House must file accounts in iXBRL through commercial software. The web and paper routes close, whether a company files its own accounts or uses an accountant or agent. The report is a summary; we did not read the government's own statement.

How it works: what iXBRL is

- Inline XBRL embeds machine-readable tags in a human-readable accounts document, so one file serves both people and software.
- Each tagged fact carries a concept, a period and a unit, drawn from a taxonomy. That is what lets regulators and analysts aggregate and compare accounts without re-keying them.
- The UK financial reporting taxonomies are maintained separately; see the UK and Ireland taxonomies for 2027.

What is paused and what stays

- A separate requirement for small companies and micro-entities to file profit and loss accounts has been paused, following recommendations from the Small Business Regulatory Taskforce.
- Abridged accounts remain, and smaller companies can still leave profit and loss information out of the accounts they file.
- The government will look at streamlining filing between Companies House and HMRC under its “tell Government once” plan.
- XBRL International notes that HMRC already receives accounts in iXBRL with tax returns, which gives a joined-up approach a foundation, and that there will be a data gap while profit and loss figures are not filed.

Limitations and open questions

- The date and scope come from a secondary report. Check Companies House and government guidance for the exact wording, transitional rules and any exemptions.
- The report does not list approved software, costs or support for very small filers.
- The pause on profit and loss filing means less data than the original plan, as the report itself notes.

How accountants and agents can prepare

1. Inventory the filing software you and your clients use now and ask each vendor for its iXBRL support and timeline.
2. Identify clients who file through the web service or on paper, and plan their move first.
3. Learn to review tagged output: check the tagged values, periods and units, not just the rendered page.
4. Watch Companies House guidance for taxonomy versions and validation rules before April 2028.

What it means for the profession

Tagging moves from a large-company task to a basic filing step for every company. Accountants who already review iXBRL for tax returns have a head start; the rest will need tools and checking routines. For why tagged data matters to AI and supervision, see DNB on XBRL, AI and data standards.

Frequently asked questions

- **When does mandatory iXBRL start at Companies House?** From April 2028, according to the government decision reported by XBRL International.
- **Can companies still file on paper or the web?** Not after that date; those routes will close.
- **Is profit and loss filing required for small companies?** That separate requirement has been paused; abridged accounts remain.
- **Who does it apply to?** Every company registered at Companies House, whether it files itself or through an agent.

Related reading

- UK and Ireland digital reporting taxonomies 2027
- SEC proposes inline XBRL for executive pay tables
- DNB, XBRL and Project TAVI

Sources and currency

Sources were read on 24 November 2026. Products, rules and standards change, so check the linked originals before you rely on any detail. This post relies on XBRL International's report of the decision.

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Sources and further reading

1. XBRL International. Companies House commits to iXBRL. 9 November 2026. xbrl.org/news/companies-house-commits-to-ixbrl.

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