

Company Type	Founders/Shareholders	Capital	Legal Representation	Liability	Registration in Commercial Register
Public Limited Company (PLC)	At least two	Have issued shares to the public to a value of at least £50,000 (which must be fully paid up to the extent of at least a quarter of the nominal value and the whole of any premium on the shares)	At least two directors (one must be an individual) and one secretary	Limited to the amount, if any, unpaid on the shares held by them.	Yes, at Companies House
Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG)	One or more	No requirement for share capital. Instead, the members provide a guarantee, which is a commitment to contribute a specified amount towards the company's debts and liabilities if it is wound up	At least one member and at least one director	Limited to the amount they have guaranteed to contribute in the event of the company's winding up	Yes, at Companies House
Private Limited Company (limited by shares)	One or more	No minimum required	At least one member and at least one director	Limited to the amount unpaid on their shares	Yes, at Companies House
General Partnership	At least two	No minimum required	At least two	Unlimited liability for partners	The nominated partner (the partner responsible for the administration) must register the partnership for self assessment with HMRC.
Limited Partnership	At least two	No minimum required	At least one general partner and at least one limited partner	Limited liability that equates to the amount of money they invested in the business	Yes, at Companies House
Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)	At least two	No minimum required	At least two	Limited liability for partners	Yes, at Companies House
Unlimited Company	One or more	No minimum required	One or more	Unlimited liability	Yes, at Companies House
Sole Trader	Not required	No minimum required	One	Personally liable for all debts and obligations of the business	No, only needs to register with HMRC
Unincorporated Association (UA)	No shareholders typically owned by one individual or group of individuals	No minimum required	Unincorporated companies do not have directors. The owners themselves manage the business.	Unlimited liability	Each individual needs to register with HMRC

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Community Interest Company (CIC) or Community Interest PLC	A CIC can be limited by shares or by guarantee. If limited by shares, it will have shareholders who are subject to the provisions of the articles of association. If limited by guarantee, it will have members who do not hold shares but give a guarantee to contribute a nominal amount to the company in the event of its winding-up	The capital requirements for a CIC depend on whether it is limited by shares or by guarantee. For a CIC limited by shares, the capital structure will be similar to that of other companies limited by shares. For a CIC limited by guarantee, there is no share capital, but members provide a guarantee to contribute a nominal amount in the event of winding-up	A CIC must have at least one director if it is a private company and at least two directors if it is a public company. If the CIC is a public company it is listed as a Community Interest PLC.	The liability of members in a CIC limited by guarantee is limited to the amount they have guaranteed to contribute in the event of winding-up. For a CIC limited by shares, the liability of shareholders is limited to the amount unpaid on their shares	Yes, at Companies House
Statutory Companies	No shareholders as created by statute and typically owned by the Government (or a Department within the Government) with its powers defined by the relevant statute of Parliament that created the company. For some statutory companies, such as the "Transport for London", carry out certain activities through a limited liability subsidiary company or through a limited liability partnership.	Primarily determined by the specific statute that establishes the company but no specific capital requirements.	At least one	Primarily determined by the specific statute that establishes the company but generally limited liability to the amount unpaid on the shares (if any).	Only some statutory companies need to be registered at Companies House.
General Notes:					
For EU entities wishing to expand into England and Wales, they can consider setting up a subsidiary or branch office.					

For more detailed advice, contact us directly at :

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