

[News story: Accounts filing options for small companies](#)

Small companies

If you're a small company you now have the following 3 options for filing your accounts:

Micro-entity accounts

You must meet at least 2 of the following

- turnover is no more than £632,000
- balance sheet total is no more than £316,000
- average number of employees is no more than 10

Abridged accounts

You must meet at least 2 of the following:

- turnover is no more than £10.2 million
- balance sheet total is no more than £5.1 million
- average number of employees is no more than 50

Full accounts with Companies House and HMRC

These joint accounts are suitable for small companies who are audit exempt and wish to file full accounts to both Companies House and HMRC. You can also file your tax return with HMRC at the same time.

Dormant company accounts

These accounts are suitable for companies limited by shares or by guarantee that have never and can be filed using our WebFiling Service.

Micro-entity accounts:

To file micro-entity accounts you need to sign-in to our WebFiling service and choose the micro-entity accounts type.

Abridged accounts:

We are constructing a replacement service for WebFiling that will enable you to file abridged accounts to Companies House. This is expected to be launched by the end of the summer 2017.

During the transitional period there are two options for you to consider:

1. Use the Companies House-HMRC joint filing service:

This will require signing up for a Government Gateway account, or using your existing credentials to sign in. You can file your tax return to HMRC at the same time.

[Visit HMRC to use the joint filing accounts service.](#)

1. Use third party software

The service is available to everyone but mostly benefits those who file frequently – on a daily or weekly basis. The more documents you file, the more appropriate software filing is likely to be.

View our list of approved software providers.

We've updated our [accounts guidance](#).

[Speech: Science and Innovation – Impact of the Newton-Picarte Fund in Chile](#)

Thank you for joining us today to celebrate the impact of the Newton-Picarte fund in Chile and the contribution of the British Council.

The Newton Fund was created by the UK Government in 2014. A total of £735m has been invested by the Government to work with 15 countries up until 2021. In South America our partner countries are Chile, Brazil, Mexico and Colombia. The objective of the fund is to encourage science and innovation collaboration between the UK and developing economies, supporting their socio-economic development. The Newton Fund is part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA). A key characteristic of the fund, which distinguishes it from other UK Government ODA funding, is that partner countries provide match funding, thereby creating a partnership in which both countries are investing equal resources.

Since its official in-country launch in August 2014, through the signing of the MOU between Minister Cespedes and myself, representing the Ministry of Economy and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy respectively, I am pleased to say that the Newton-Picarte Fund has helped to firmly position the UK as one of Chile's leading science and innovation partners.

Through the Newton-Picarte fund in Chile we have been able to finance collaboration across the scientific spectrum with programmes in key sectors such as agriculture, engineering, natural and social sciences and medical and health research – in total more than 200 initiatives. More importantly the

fund has been the vehicle through which UK and Chilean researchers and universities have been able to establish partnerships, which we hope will continue for the long term.

The great success of the Newton fund can largely be attributed to the excellent work carried out by the British and Chilean Delivery Partners, who jointly have been in charge of designing, implementing and managing the programmes. The British Council, due to its presence in Chile, has been one of our closest allies in strengthening Chile's scientific and innovative excellence, developing advanced human capital, mobility and networking, through programmes such as Institutional Skills Development and the Communication Skills Workshop.

Chile is expected to graduate from the OECD DAC list of ODA recipient countries this year, with retrospective effect from 1 January 2017, after exceeding the high income country threshold in 2012 and 2013. Consequently the priorities and objectives of the UK-Chile Newton partnership will change to focus on global development challenges and those facing other developing countries, as opposed to Chile's own development challenges.

This year we will launch four activities which reflect this new focus – broadening the impact of joint British and Chilean research to benefit developing countries. These will be the final bilateral Newton programmes, which we will launch in Chile. In future years Chile will continue to be involved in regional Newton fund programmes, one of which we hope to launch this year on biodiversity. Please do ask our Embassy science team, Francisco and Alvaro, as well as British Council colleagues, if you would like more information.

Chile is a part of the Science and Innovation Network (UK SINet) of the UK Government. UKSINet is a network of around 90 officers in more than 30 countries in the world, that build links and collaborations in science and innovation in each country. Francisco is in charge of leading this work here in Chile, which reflects the importance that the UK Government places on our relations with Chile in science and innovation.

The Newton Picarte fund has enabled the UK to develop a relationship with Chile which is delivering significant impact. We are grateful to the British Council and to all of you for your help in making the fund such a success and we look forward to building on that success with you in the future. Because science and innovation is important for our economies, our societies and for the world.

[National policies can offset impact of](#)

joblessness caused by market competition – UN partner report

10 April 2017 – Trade and trade-related policies have a role to play not just in promoting growth and prosperity, but helping share that prosperity more widely, United Nations global finance partners said today, launching a report that calls on national governments to pursue policies that help those who might lose their jobs, one of the unintended consequences of trade integration.

Trade leads to productivity gains and significant benefits for consumers, especially the poor, but can also be responsible for job displacement that must be addressed through sound domestic policies that can help the unemployed get back on their feet, say economists from the World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

“I recognize that there are very real concerns, but the answer is not to turn against trade, which would harm us all,” says the WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo.

Economists from the three global organizations reflect in the report on the latter part of the 20th century, arguing that trade integration helped drive economic growth in advanced and developing economies through greater productivity, increased competition resulting in higher living standards and more choices and better prices for consumers.

Looking back, “trade has had a very positive impact on the lives and livelihoods of many millions of people in recent decades,” says Mr. Azevêdo.

The report notes that job losses in certain sectors or regions in advanced economies have resulted to a large extent from technological changes rather than from trade.

According to Mr Azevêdo the “challenge before us is to support the workers of today and train the workers of tomorrow.”

The organizations call on national governments to pursue both “active” and “passive” labour market policies such as training programmes, job search assistance and wage insurance (a private insurance providing compensation if one is forced to move to a job with a lower salary) to facilitate reintegration of the unemployed back into the job market.

The organizations also call on governments to stabilize unemployed working families with short term passive labour market programmes, such as unemployment benefits and income support until those who have lost their jobs can get back to work.

Effective education and skills policies will be essential in preparing workers for the changing demands of the modern economy, they add.

RELATED: [World's jobless numbers to rise amid economic uncertainty, growing inequality – UN labour report](#)

The report also calls for further trade integration to strengthen global growth and advance an inclusive trading environment.

It stresses that traditional areas such as agriculture need further attention, while sectors such as services, as well as digital trade, represent areas where further trade reform can make a particularly strong contribution to growth.

[News story: Minister Hopkins urges politics students to have their say](#)

Down High School pupils welcomed UK Government Minister Kris Hopkins to a meeting of the school's current affairs society.

Down High School pupils welcomed UK Government Minister Kris Hopkins to a meeting of the school's current affairs society today.

The Northern Ireland Office Minister gave the pupils a first-hand account of life in central and local government, drawing on his experience as a minister in central Whitehall departments and as leader of Bradford City Council.

The minister's visit was an opportunity to hear the views of Northern Ireland's young people about the current political impasse. Mr Hopkins was also keen to emphasise the vital role that politics and public service has played in making Northern Ireland a peaceful and prosperous place.

Mr Hopkins said:

"My message to the pupils today is simple: you can shape the future so get involved and have your say! Their energy was fantastic and it is good to see them engaged in the Northern Ireland political debate and showing a great interest in current affairs.

"With significant challenges facing Northern Ireland politicians it was instructive to hear the students' desire for a stronger society and a politics that works.

"It is vital we listen to their views. They are the next generation who will make a difference to the lives of people here and help build a brighter future for Northern Ireland."

Michael Sheen supports Welsh Government campaign to promote children's rights

The campaign includes a number of children's rights and United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) resources and the [Children's Rights Wales website](#). Both provide information and advice for children and young people, and those who work with them, about their rights.

Wales leads the way in championing children's rights and the Welsh Government formally adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 2004.

Communities and Children Cabinet Secretary Carl Sargeant said:

"I'm delighted that Michael Sheen is supporting our campaign to make children and young people aware of their rights."

"It is important they know they have the right to get involved and have their voices heard when decisions are made which affect their lives."

"By participating in decision making, children and young people may be able to access and better understand their rights, and play a fuller role in their own lives and in the communities where they live."

Michael Sheen said:

"The Welsh Government continues to be ground-breaking in its commitment to children's rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. As a father I appreciate the importance of children having access to a great education and healthcare, but equally that they should be safe and happy. It is important that children and young people are aware of their rights so that they can have their say about issues that may affect them."