COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANIES

Regulator of Community Interest Companies Annual Report

2025 to 2026



Regulator of Community Interest Companies Annual Report 2025 to 2026

Presented to Parliament pursuant to paragraph 7 of Schedule 3 to the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004

© Crown copyright 2026
Produced by Companies House

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence,
visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/
or email: **psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk**

Where we have identified any third-party copyright material, you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

Alternative format versions of this report are available on request from:
Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies, 2nd Floor Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff CF14 3UZ or email: cicregulator@companieshouse.gov.uk.

Companies House is an executive agency of the Department for Business and Trade.

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at: Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies, 2nd Floor Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff CF14 3UZ or email: cicregulator@companieshouse.gov.uk

COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANIES

Table of contents

Foreword	1
The Regulator's Office	2
Applications and growth	4
Case studies	5
Dissolutions	9
Regulatory role	10
Finance	13
Report of the Official Property Holder	14

COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANIES

Foreword

by the Regulator of Community Interest Companies, Andy King



I am delighted to present this annual report for the Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies (CICs) for the year ending 31 March 2026.

I took up the role of Regulator in February 2026, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to support and champion a sector that combines enterprise with purpose.

During 2025 to 2026, the Office of the Regulator continued to fulfil its statutory responsibilities by making sure CICs follow legislative requirements. We remain focused on maintaining public confidence in the CIC model while supporting a regulatory environment that is proportionate, transparent and effective.

Over the year we continued to assess applications from organisations seeking CIC status, monitor compliance and respond to enquiries. We worked closely with Companies House colleagues and key stakeholders to keep our regulatory processes efficient and accessible.

The CIC sector continues to evolve, reflecting the diversity of communities and causes it serves. It is encouraging to see organisations embracing the flexibility of the CIC model while remaining committed to their social mission.

I would like to thank our colleagues and partners for their hard work and dedication.

Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on maintaining confidence in the CIC framework, supporting compliance with statutory requirements, and ensuring that the regulatory regime remains fit for the future. Through constructive engagement with stakeholders and a commitment to continuous improvement, we will seek to support a strong, trusted and thriving CIC sector.

The Regulator's Office

Who we are

CICs are limited companies that operate for community benefit rather than private profit. They have a company structure with safeguards to make sure assets and profits are used for community benefit, such as the community interest test and asset lock.

The Regulator of Community Interest Companies combines regulatory oversight with support for the social enterprise sector. We make sure CICs operate for community benefit while retaining the flexibility of a company structure.

We:

- assess organisations against the community interest test
- ensure CICs continue to operate for community benefit and comply with statutory requirements
- oversee compliance with the asset lock
- investigate complaints and take enforcement action where needed
- promote and provide guidance and support to improve awareness of the CIC model

This helps maintain public confidence in CICs as a trusted way to deliver social, environmental and economic benefit.

In March 2025, the UK government proposed merging The Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies into Companies House in efforts to streamline the UK's regulatory environment and reduce administrative costs for business. We are working with colleagues in Companies House to progress this while maintaining a high level of customer service.

Purpose and focus

Our purpose is to maintain confidence in the CIC model through proportionate, transparent and effective regulation. Our key areas of focus are reflected in our objectives:

- Community interest companies operate in line with the community interest test and asset lock requirements.
- The CIC model is protected from misuse.
- Confidence in the integrity of community interest companies is maintained.
- Awareness and understanding of the CIC model are increased.
- CIC regulation is successfully integrated into Companies House while maintaining service quality for customers.

Performance highlights

During 2025 to 2026:

- the number of CICs on the register increased to 43,065, the highest total since the model was introduced
- 10,767 new CICs were approved, the most annual incorporations since 2005
- 352 companies converted to CIC status
- the Office assessed referrals and complaints in line with its statutory responsibilities and worked with other regulators and enforcement bodies where appropriate
- the Office continued to support applicants, CIC directors and stakeholders through guidance and regulatory advice
- we held a webinar in March, 'A guide to the CIC online process', which explained how to incorporate a CIC online and had over 500 signups

Table 1: key metrics in financial year 2025 to 2026 compared with previous year

	2025 to 2026	2024 to 2025
CICs on the register	43,065	37,081
New CIC incorporations	10,767	8,376
Company conversions to CIC status	352	201
CIC dissolutions	4,677	3,832
Referrals received	298	N/A*
Complaints within regulatory remit	36	36

*this data was not recorded in previous years

Applications and growth

There were 10,767 CIC incorporations this year, the highest ever number. There were 2,391 more applications in 2025 to 2026 than 2024 to 2025.

There are now 43,065 CICs in the UK. Areas of growth include mental health, additional needs education, sports, social housing for the homeless, and food bank facilities offering home cooking classes.

This year, 352 limited companies converted to the CIC model, an increase of 14% on last year. Since the CIC model began in 2005, 3,271 limited companies have converted to CICs.

During this financial year, the fees to incorporate and file obligatory documents increased. The high number of incorporations indicates that businesses see value in the CIC structure despite increased fees.

The Regulator continues to meet with social enterprise organisations across the UK to hear their views, understand challenges facing the sector and identify funding and grant opportunities to support the sector.

The Regulator remains committed to modernising services for CICs and will continue to access opportunities to implement this as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANIES

Case studies

Building Futures Together CIC

Company number: 12418865
Incorporated: 22 January 2020

Leeds-based Building Futures Together CIC (BFT) was established in 2020 with a clear social mission, to prevent young people from falling out of education and becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). Like many CICs, redefining how business can deliver social value, BFT demonstrates how a purpose-led model can address real skills gaps while supporting some of the most vulnerable learners.

Operating as a CIC has been central to this progress. Over the past year, the model has enabled BFT to secure £35,620 in funding and philanthropic investment, while ensuring that all income is reinvested directly into provision and learner support. This structure not only builds trust with partners (schools, councils, businesses) and funders but also allows the organisation to remain fully focused on community impact.







COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANIES

Citizen Zoo C.I.C.

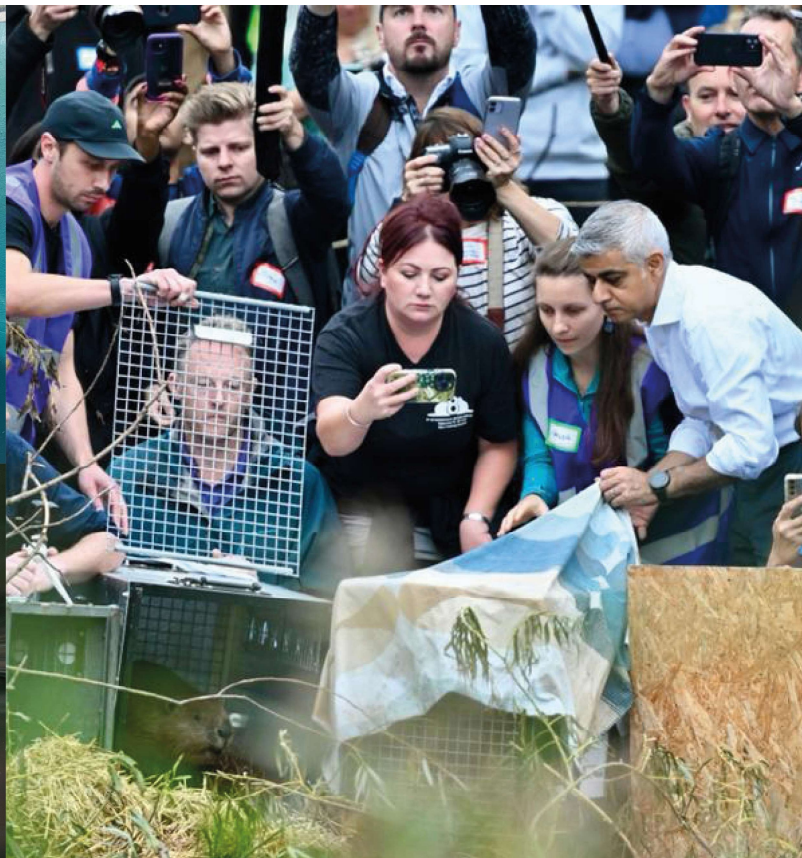
Company number: 10059791
Incorporated: 13 March 2016

Citizen Zoo C.I.C. was established to restore habitats back to their functional states, reintroducing species to their former ranges, and empowering people and communities to take action in protecting their local nature.

The CIC model works well for Citizen Zoo C.I.C. because it provides flexibility in how they operate and enables the organisation to grow their impact. It allows for the company to combine grant funding, philanthropy and commercial activities in a way that supports their mission and helps to respond to opportunities as they arise.







COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANIES

Community Murals CIC

Company number: 14319614
Incorporated: 26 August 2022

Community Murals CIC was founded to improve public places by making high quality, engaging murals and other public artworks with genuine, meaningful community involvement. As a disabled-led organisation, Community Murals CIC are strongly committed to ensuring that their work processes and spaces are accessible to everyone, whatever their educational or physical ability and level of artistic confidence, adapting their work processes and environments to suit all abilities and ages.

Community Murals CIC chose the CIC model as their mission is to exist in the interest of the community. The idea was to be run by an unpaid board so that no individual has too much power. The alternative option would have been to be a charity, however, given the time and effort and stronger regulations involved with the charity model, the CIC model allowed for more flexibility for the company. The CIC model also benefits the company as it makes it clear to potential funders that Community Murals CIC are properly run and scrutinised, with any generated surplus feeding into funding new projects.



COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANIES

Sisters In Service CIC

Company number: 15750085
Incorporated: 30 May 2024

Sisters In Service CIC (SIS) was founded in 2024 to fill an identified need for female military veterans working in healthcare. The company operates as a peer support network specifically for women who have served in the UK Armed Forces and are now involved in health, social care, or health education.

Initially, SIS was run through their NHS organisation, but the company felt that the CIC model was the right next step for the company, allowing them greater autonomy and to develop the group in the way it was needed. The CIC model has benefitted Sisters in Service CIC by giving them greater independence, credibility and flexibility, while still being able to keep their social purpose at heart. It also helps them to demonstrate that any income generated is used to support their aims and create positive impact for the women and communities served.

Over the past year, SIS has grown its membership to over 260 veterans, service leavers, and reservists. Members include nurses, physios, administrators, senior leaders and others from various professional backgrounds.



Dissolutions

This financial year, 4,677 CICs were dissolved, just over 10% of CICs on the public register. This is an 18% increase compared to last financial year.

Despite the increase in dissolutions, the long term resilience of the CIC model is evident. Eighteen percent of CICs incorporated when the model was introduced in 2005 are still active in 2026.

Regulatory role

The Regulator of Community Interest Companies has statutory powers to supervise and intervene in the affairs of a CIC. These powers come under sections 41 to 51 of the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004.

These powers include appointing and removing directors, appointing managers and protecting the assets of a CIC.

In deciding whether and how to exercise these powers the Regulator must exercise their powers only to the extent necessary to maintain confidence in CICs.

The Regulator's complaints policy

When we receive referrals that fall within the Regulator's complaints policy, we address them with the CIC. We use a compliance-based approach. This means working with the CIC to highlight concerns and make sure they take action.

The Regulator may refer serious complaints to the Insolvency Service to consider an investigation under the Companies Act.

Referrals to the CIC Regulator

We assess CIC referrals to decide whether regulatory action is required, and review the best action to take.

In 2025 to 2026, the Regulator's office received 298 referrals regarding CICs. These contained information shared by the members of the public and other agencies.

Thirty six of these were within the Regulator's remit and classified as complaints requiring the Regulator's action.

This figure is similar to the previous year. It represents 0.08% of registered CICs.

Table 3: categories of complaints about CICs

Nature of complaint	Number
Activities	3
Asset transfer	6
Confusion CIC or charity	10
Directors' activities	2
Directors' remuneration	2
Financial mismanagement	3
Governance	2
Political activity	5
Other	3
Total	**36**

Concerns about CICs

Two hundred and sixty two referrals were deemed not within the Regulator's remit and classified as 'concerns about CICs'. Many were unfounded allegations with no evidence.

The Regulator's Office reviewed these concerns. In most cases we also referred them to other agencies including: Citizen's Advice, the Fundraising Regulator, local councils, the police, The Insolvency Service, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HMRC.

Table 4: categories of concerns about CICs

Nature of concern	Number
Animal welfare	4
Asset lock breach allegations	5
CIC/community relations (including governance)	15
Civil matter/legal advice required	35
Company law issues (accounts filings, directorial appointments, etc)	10
Concerns not about a CIC (for example, a charitable incorporated organisation)	8
Conflict of interest	1
Director dispute	10
Employment concerns (Acas)	5
Financial mismanagement allegations	20
Fraud	5
Fundraising	36
General Data Protection Regulation / Data Subject Access Request issues (for Information Commissioner's Office)	13
Grant misuse	12
Intellectual property (Intellectual Property Office issue)	2
Licensing/permissions (for council)	4
Misuse of CIC brand (entity not a CIC posing as one)	11
Police matters	16
Political allegations	12
Quality of service	5
Safeguarding	24
Volunteer issues	9
Total	**262**

Finance

Key changes

In February 2025, Companies House increased the fees to file statutory documents. These fees are payable to the Registrar of Companies on delivery of the related documents.

This year our expenditure has increased by 16% compared to the previous year.

Finance

(a) Expenditure	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22
31 March (£)	450,562	380,212	351,103	293,558	233,693

(b) Income	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22
Formations and conversions	10,767	8,376	7,230	6,056	5,339
CIC Reports	27,896	23,202	21,151	18,987	18,316
31 March (£)	586,060	473,670	425,715	375,645	354,435

(c) Percentage of income against spend					
31 March (%)	128	125	121	128	152

Report of the Official Property Holder

Foreword by Dale Walters, Official Property Holder

1. In discharge of my responsibilities under Schedule 5 to the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004 ("the Act"), I submit my report on the exercise of the functions of the Official Property Holder for Community Interest Companies during the financial year 2025-2026.

Status

2 The Official Property Holder is a corporation sole by virtue of paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 5 to the Act.

3. The Act and the Community Interest Company Regulations 2005 establish community interest companies as a new type of limited company registered by the Registrar of Companies, which may be private (limited by shares or by guarantee), or public.

4. Section 29(2) of the Act requires the Regulator of Community Interest Companies ("the Regulator") to appoint a member of the Regulator's staff to be the Official Property Holder.

5. The relationship between the Regulator and the Official Property Holder is further specified, with other relevant details, in Schedule 5 to the Act. Copies of section 29 and Schedule 5 are annexed to this report.

6. The Official Property Holder is based in the Office of the Regulator in Companies House in Cardiff.

Functions

7. The Act gives the Regulator various powers to protect the assets of a community interest company. In essence, the function of the Official Property Holder is to protect such assets until authorised to arrange for its transfer, as directed by the Regulator.

8. In particular, under section 48(1), the Regulator may by order transfer to the Official Property Holder any property held by, or held in trust for, a community interest company. Or they may by order require persons in whom such property is vested to transfer it to the Official Property Holder.

9. The Official Property Holder's function is then to hold the property transferred to or vested in them as a trustee.

10. The Official Property Holder may release, or deal with, the property: to give effect to any interest in, or right over, the property of any person (other than the community interest company by which, or in trust for which, the property was held before it was vested, or transferred), or at the request of a person appointed to act as administrative receiver, administrator, provisional liquidator, or liquidator of the company.

11. On discharging an order made under section 48(1) the Regulator may make any order as to the vesting, or transfer, of the property and give any directions which they consider appropriate.

12. Except as mentioned in paragraph 8 above, the Official Property Holder may not release or deal with property vested in or transferred to them, except in accordance with directions given by the Regulator.

13. As soon as possible after the end of each financial year, the Official Property Holder must prepare a report on the exercise of the Official Property Holder's functions during the financial year.

14. The Official Property Holder must send a copy of the report to the Regulator, who must send it to the Secretary of State.

Recruitment

15. I have held the office of Official Property Holder for Community Interest Companies since 1 March 2021.

16. On 25 July 2005, when the Regulator's office opened to receive applications, the previous property holder was able to fully exercise these functions.

17. The Official Property Holder has not recruited staff during this financial year and has no staff to date.

Control

18. As the Official Property Holder, I have responsibility for ensuring that a sound system of internal control is maintained to achieve the aims and objectives of the Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies in respect of my functions.

    Department for Business & Trade systems and controls are in place across the board.[1]

Performance

19. In the exercise of my functions for 2025 - 2026, I can confirm that:

    No property either held by, or in trust for a community interest company has been vested in the Official Property Holder;

    No persons in whom such property is vested has been required to transfer it to the Official Property Holder.

Finance

20. No expenses were incurred during the financial year ending 31 March 2026.

[1] Department for Business & Trade now renamed as Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade as of July 2026.

COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANIES

2025 to 2026

Annual Report

Office of the Regulator of
Community Interest Companies
2nd Floor
Companies House
Crown Way
Cardiff
CF14 3UZ

gov.uk/cic-regulator

cicregulator@companieshouse.gov.uk

0054-2026-CIC-AR-26