



# Companies Act 2006

## 2006 CHAPTER 46

### PART 15

#### ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS

#### CHAPTER 10

#### FILING OF ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS

#### *Failure to file accounts and reports*

#### **451 Default in filing accounts and reports: offences**

- (1) If the requirements of section 441 (duty to file accounts and reports) are not complied with in relation to a company's accounts and reports for a financial year before the end of the period for filing those accounts and reports, every person who immediately before the end of that period was a director of the company commits an offence.
- (2) It is a defence for a person charged with such an offence to prove that he took all reasonable steps for securing that those requirements would be complied with before the end of that period.
- (3) It is not a defence to prove that the documents in question were not in fact prepared as required by this Part.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale and, for continued contravention, a daily default fine not exceeding [<sup>F1</sup>one-tenth of level 5 on the standard scale][<sup>F1</sup>one-tenth of the greater of £5,000 or level 4 on the standard scale].

*Status: Point in time view as at 26/05/2015.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 2006, Cross Heading: Failure to file accounts and reports. (See end of Document for details)*

### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 451(4) substituted (E.W.) (12.3.2015) by [The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(Fines on Summary Conviction\) Regulations 2015 \(S.I. 2015/664\)](#), reg. 1(1), **Sch. 3 para. 9(13)** (with reg. 5(1))

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Ss. 451-453 applied (6.4.2008) by [S.I. 2005/1788](#), reg. 29 (as substituted by [The Companies Act 2006 \(Consequential Amendments etc\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/948\)](#), art. 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 242(4)** (with arts. 6, 11, 12))
- C2** Ss. 451-453 applied (with modifications) (1.10.2008) by [The Limited Liability Partnerships \(Accounts and Audit\) \(Application of Companies Act 2006\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1911\)](#), **reg. 22**
- C3** S. 451 applied (with modifications) (6.4.2008) by [The Companies \(Revision of Defective Accounts and Reports\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/373\)](#), **reg. 8(3)**
- C4** S. 451 applied (with modifications) (6.4.2008) by [The Companies \(Revision of Defective Accounts and Reports\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/373\)](#), **reg. 14(3)**
- C5** S. 451 applied (with modifications) (6.4.2008) by [The Companies \(Revision of Defective Accounts and Reports\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/373\)](#), **reg. 15(5)**
- C6** S. 451 applied (with modifications) (6.4.2008) by [The Companies \(Revision of Defective Accounts and Reports\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/373\)](#), **reg. 16(3)**
- C7** S. 451 applied (with modifications) (1.10.2009) by [The Overseas Companies Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1801\)](#), **reg. 41** (with [Sch. 8](#))
- C8** S. 451 applied (with modifications) (1.10.2009) by [The Overseas Companies Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1801\)](#), **reg. 56** (with [Sch. 8](#))
- C9** Ss. 418-469 applied (with modifications) (1.10.2009) by [The Unregistered Companies Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/2436\)](#), regs. 3-5, **Sch. 1 para. 10** (with transitional provisions and savings in regs. 7, 9, [Sch. 2](#))
- C10** Ss. 441-469 applied (with modifications) (1.10.2009) by [The Unregistered Companies Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/2436\)](#), regs. 3-5, **Sch. 1 para. 10** (with reg. 7, [Sch. 2](#)) (as amended (with application in accordance with reg. 1(3) of the amending S.I.) by [The Unregistered Companies \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1972\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(2)(a)**)

## 452 Default in filing accounts and reports: court order

(1) If—

- (a) the requirements of section 441 (duty to file accounts and reports) are not complied with in relation to a company's accounts and reports for a financial year before the end of the period for filing those accounts and reports, and
- (b) the directors of the company fail to make good the default within 14 days after the service of a notice on them requiring compliance,

the court may, on the application of any member or creditor of the company or of the registrar, make an order directing the directors (or any of them) to make good the default within such time as may be specified in the order.

(2) The court's order may provide that all costs (in Scotland, expenses) of and incidental to the application are to be borne by the directors.

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C10** Ss. 441-469 applied (with modifications) (1.10.2009) by [The Unregistered Companies Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/2436\)](#), regs. 3-5, **Sch. 1 para. 10** (with reg. 7, [Sch. 2](#)) (as amended (with application

*Status: Point in time view as at 26/05/2015.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 2006, Cross Heading: Failure to file accounts and reports. (See end of Document for details)*

- in accordance with reg. 1(3) of the amending S.I.) by [The Unregistered Companies \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1972\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(2)(a)**
- C11** Ss. 451-453 applied (6.4.2008) by S.I. 2005/1788, reg. 29 (as substituted by [The Companies Act 2006 \(Consequential Amendments etc\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/948\)](#), art. 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 242(4)** (with arts. 6, 11, 12))
- C12** Ss. 451-453 applied (with modifications) (1.10.2008) by [The Limited Liability Partnerships \(Accounts and Audit\) \(Application of Companies Act 2006\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1911\)](#), **reg. 22**
- C13** S. 452 applied (with modifications) (6.4.2008) by [The Companies \(Revision of Defective Accounts and Reports\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/373\)](#), **reg. 8(3)**
- C14** S. 452 applied (with modifications) (6.4.2008) by [The Companies \(Revision of Defective Accounts and Reports\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/373\)](#), **reg. 14(3)**
- C15** S. 452 applied (with modifications) (6.4.2008) by [The Companies \(Revision of Defective Accounts and Reports\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/373\)](#), **reg. 15(5)**
- C16** S. 452 applied (with modifications) (6.4.2008) by [The Companies \(Revision of Defective Accounts and Reports\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/373\)](#), **reg. 16(3)**
- C17** Ss. 418-469 applied (with modifications) (1.10.2009) by [The Unregistered Companies Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/2436\)](#), regs. 3-5, **Sch. 1 para. 10** (with transitional provisions and savings in regs. 7, 9, Sch. 2)

#### **453 Civil penalty for failure to file accounts and reports**

- (1) Where the requirements of section 441 are not complied with in relation to a company's accounts and reports for a financial year before the end of the period for filing those accounts and reports, the company is liable to a civil penalty.

This is in addition to any liability of the directors under section 451.

- (2) The amount of the penalty shall be determined in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State by reference to—
- the length of the period between the end of the period for filing the accounts and reports in question and the day on which the requirements are complied with, and
  - whether the company is a private or public company.
- (3) The penalty may be recovered by the registrar and is to be paid into the Consolidated Fund.
- (4) It is not a defence in proceedings under this section to prove that the documents in question were not in fact prepared as required by this Part.
- (5) Regulations under this section having the effect of increasing the penalty payable in any case are subject to affirmative resolution procedure.

Otherwise, the regulations are subject to negative resolution procedure.

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C10** Ss. 441-469 applied (with modifications) (1.10.2009) by [The Unregistered Companies Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/2436\)](#), regs. 3-5, **Sch. 1 para. 10** (with reg. 7, Sch. 2) (as amended (with application in accordance with reg. 1(3) of the amending S.I.) by [The Unregistered Companies \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1972\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(2)(a)**)

---

**Status:** Point in time view as at 26/05/2015.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 2006, Cross Heading: Failure to file accounts and reports. (See end of Document for details)

---

- C18** Ss. 451-453 applied (6.4.2008) by S.I. 2005/1788, reg. 29 (as substituted by The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments etc) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/948), art. 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 242(4)** (with arts. 6, 11, 12))
- C19** Ss. 451-453 applied (with modifications) (1.10.2008) by The Limited Liability Partnerships (Accounts and Audit) (Application of Companies Act 2006) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/1911), **reg. 22**
- C20** Ss. 418-469 applied (with modifications) (1.10.2009) by The Unregistered Companies Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/2436), regs. 3-5, **Sch. 1 para. 10** (with transitional provisions and savings in regs. 7, 9, Sch. 2)

---

**Commencement Information**

- I1** S. 453 wholly in force at 6.4.2008; s. 453 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 1300; s. 453 in force for specified purposes at 20.1.2007 by S.I. 2006/3428, **art. 3(3)** (subject to art. 5, Sch. 1 and with arts. 6, 8, Sch. 5); s. 453 in force at 6.4.2008 by S.I. 2007/3495, **art. 3(1)(d)** (with arts. 7, 12, Sch. 4 paras. 6-8)

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 26/05/2015.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 2006, Cross Heading:  
Failure to file accounts and reports.