



Companies Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 46

PART 16

AUDIT

CHAPTER 1

REQUIREMENT FOR AUDITED ACCOUNTS

Exemption from audit: small companies

478 Companies excluded from small companies exemption

A company is not entitled to the exemption conferred by section 477 (small companies) if it was at any time within the financial year in question—

- (a) a public company,
- (b) a company that—
 - (i) is an authorised insurance company, a banking company, an e-money issuer, [^{F1}a MiFID investment firm] or a UCITS management company, [^{F2}or]
 - (ii) carries on insurance market activity, or
 - [^{F3}(iii) is a scheme funder of a Master Trust scheme within the meanings given by section 39(1) of the Pension Schemes Act 2017 [^{F4}or section 39(1) of the Pension Schemes Act (Northern Ireland) 2021] (interpretation of Part 1), or]
- (c) a special register body as defined in section 117(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (c. 52) or an employers' association as defined in section 122 of that Act or Article 4 of the Industrial Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 (S.I. 1992/807 (N.I. 5)).

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Companies Act 2006. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 478(b)(i) substituted (1.11.2007) by The Markets in [Financial Instruments Directive \(Consequential Amendments\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/2932\)](#), **reg. 3(5)**
- F2** Word in s. 478(b)(i) omitted (E.W.S.) (1.10.2018) by virtue of [The Occupational Pension Schemes \(Master Trusts\) Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1030\)](#), regs. 1(2), **30(4)(a)**
- F3** S. 478(b)(iii) inserted (E.W.S.) (1.10.2018) by [The Occupational Pension Schemes \(Master Trusts\) Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1030\)](#), regs. 1(2), **30(4)(b)**
- F4** Words in s. 478(b)(iii) inserted (N.I.) (29.9.2023) by [The Occupational Pension Schemes \(Master Trusts\) \(No. 2\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2023 \(S.R. 2023/148\)](#), regs. 1, **30(4)**, 33

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Ss. 477-479 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. 34** (as amended: (1.10.2012 with application in accordance with reg. 2 of the amending S.I.) by S.I. 2012/2301, **regs. 1, 20(3)**; (E.W.S.) (1.10.2018) by S.I. 2018/1030, **regs. 1(2), 31(4)**; (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2019/177, **regs. 2, 50(a)** (as amended by S.I. 2020/335, **regs. 1, 3, 4** and S.I. 2020/523, **regs. 1(2), 22, 25(c)**; 2020 c. 1, **Sch. 5 para. 1(1)**); (N.I.) (6.4.2022) by S.R. 2022/121, **regs. 1, 31(4)**; (N.I.) (3.10.2022) by S.R. 2022/234, **regs. 1, 31(4)**; (N.I.) (1.4.2023) by S.R. 2023/59, **regs. 1, 31(4)**; and (N.I.) (29.9.2023) by S.R. 2023/148, **regs. 1, 31(4)(5)**)
- C2** Ss. 475-481 applied (with modifications) (1.10.2009) by [The Unregistered Companies Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/2436\)](#), **regs. 3-5, Sch. 1 para. 11** (with transitional provisions and savings in **regs. 7, 9, Sch. 2**)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 478(b)(iii) words inserted by [S.R. 2024/78 reg. 30\(4\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 1989/638, Sch. 4 by [S.I. 2024/410 Sch. 2 para. 1](#)
- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 2008/373 reg. 11(1) by [S.I. 2013/1971 reg. 9\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Amending Regulations revoked (1.10.2013) without ever being in force by S.I. 2013/2224, reg. 2)
- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 2008/373 reg. 3(4) by [S.I. 2013/1971 reg. 4](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Amending Regulations revoked (1.10.2013) without ever being in force by S.I. 2013/2224, reg. 2)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 156A-156C inserted by [2015 c. 26 s. 87\(4\)](#)
- s. 156B(5) omitted by [2023 c. 56 Sch. 2 para. 26](#)
- s. 156C(2) words substituted by [2023 c. 56 s. 41\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 156C(2A) inserted by [2023 c. 56 s. 41\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 156C(3) substituted for s. 156C(3)-(5) by [2023 c. 56 Sch. 2 para. 27](#)
- s. 479A(2)(c)(zi) inserted by [S.I. 2019/177 reg. 4\(b\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 4 substituted by regs. 4, 4A immediately before IP completion day by S.I. 2019/1392, regs. 1(2), 4)
- s. 479B(a)(iii) amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I.2008/1991 reg.34 by [S.R. 2024/78 reg. 31\(4\)](#)
- s. 479B(a)(iii) amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I.2008/1991 reg.34A by [S.R. 2024/78 reg. 31\(5\)](#)
- s. 1047(4)(i)(j) inserted by [2023 c. 56 s. 21\(2\)](#)
- s. 1087(da) substituted by [2023 c. 56 s. 52\(2\)](#)
- s. 1087A-1807C applied by S.I. 2009/2436, Sch. 1 para. 20(1)(ca) (as substituted) by [S.I. 2024/410 Sch. 2 para. 5\(d\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 1110E-110G applied by S.I. 2009/1804, reg. 60 (as amended) by [S.I. 2024/234 reg. 26](#)
- s. 11989A applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2009/1804, reg. 79A (as inserted) by [S.I. 2024/234 reg. 46](#)
- Sch. 10 para. 6(2D) inserted by [S.I. 2019/177 reg. 28\(e\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 28(e) omitted immediately before IP completion day by virtue of S.I. 2020/523, regs. 1(2), 14(e)(iv))
- Sch. 10 para. 7(2A) inserted by [S.I. 2019/177 reg. 29\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 29 substituted immediately before IP completion day by S.I. 2020/523, regs. 1(2), 14(f))