

Dissolved Company Files 1865-2001

Overview

Tynwald passed the first Isle of Man Companies Act in 1865. As well as providing a legal framework for companies to form on the Island, this legislation established a register for these companies.

Regular issuing of legislation relating to companies throughout the 20th century, chiefly the Companies Acts of 1931 and 1993, has created variation in which companies can incorporate on the Island.

As a part of Government, the Companies Registry transfers records of dissolved companies to the Isle of Man Public Record Office at regular intervals. Once here, all dissolved company files are managed in a single series, sharing the reference code prefix 'S2'.

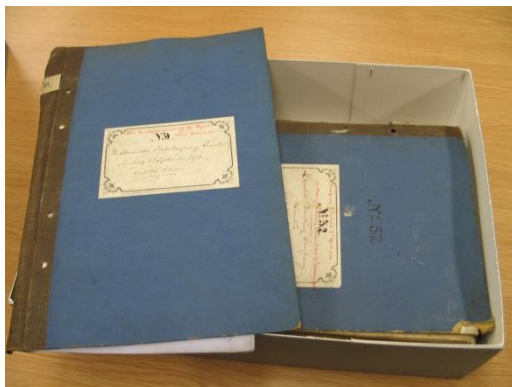
1) The Dissolved Company Files

Reference number: S2

As part of the incorporation process, Companies Registry creates a folder for each new company. Documents relating to the establishment of a new company are stored in this folder; as time goes by other records relating to that company are added. Once the company ceases to function, papers regarding its cessation are added and the file is marked 'dissolved'.

A dissolved company file contains the papers submitted to Companies Registry over the lifetime of that company, typically including:

- certificate of incorporation
- notice of the registered office address
- memorandum of association and/or articles of association (these detail the constitution and aims of the company)
- statement of capital
- particulars of directors and secretaries
- annual returns, details of share capital and lists of shareholders
- certificates of company name changes
- dissolution records, including receiver's statements



The Public Record Office holds the majority of files for companies dissolved between 1865-1981; it also holds a selection of files for companies dissolved 1982-2001, sampled on the following basis. All records relating to companies registered with a number ending in 11, 31, 51, 71 and 91 have been retained. In addition, company files with a clear Manx connection, such as companies that have a Manx name, have been retained.

2) Custodial History

Dissolved company files have been created and maintained by the Companies Registry. Once dissolved, Companies Registry stores the files for twelve years before making them available for selection by the Isle of Man Public Record Office.

3) Why the Dissolved Company Files are Useful

When considered as a whole, this series of records charts the regulation of companies by the Isle of Man Government between 1865-2001. They can also provide researchers with an insight into the significance of company incorporation to the economic life of the Island.

The dissolved company files illustrate the evolution of the Manx economy over time: from the prominence of the mining industry in the 1860s-1880s, to the rise and fall of the tourist trade in the 20th century, and the growing number of financial services companies from the 1970s onwards.

If you are interested in the history of a specific company, please contact us and we will check if we have a related company file.

4) Accessing the Dissolved Company Files

All of the Dissolved Company Files retained by the Public Record Office are open to the public. Some of the older files are fragile and care must be taken when handling them.

Hard copy lists are available in alphabetical order. The Isle of Man Companies Registry also has a company search facility on its website: <http://www.gov.im/ded/companies/companiesregistry.xml>. This includes entries concerning both live and dissolved companies. It is helpful if you use this search facility to supply us with company names and registration numbers.

As some of the Public Record Office records are held on a separate site, it is advised that a prior appointment is made before visiting, so that any required records can be located ahead of time.

5) Contact Us

We welcome enquiries relating to any aspect of the information given in this factsheet. To ask us any questions or to arrange an appointment, please contact our public enquiries service on 01624 693569 or email us at public.records@gov.im. For more information about visiting the IOMPRO, including our opening hours and identification requirements, please see our service guide: www.gov.im/pro.