

Guide to the HMRC Trust Registration Service



Important Note

This guide is intended to be an introduction to this topic and to help a lay Lead Trustee register most Trusts used by Financial Planners. Lead Trustees should seek personalised advice with more complex matters.

Introduction

I am a Registered Trust & Estate Practitioner and have been advising on Wills, Trusts, Probate, and Estate Planning since 1971. As a qualified member of the Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners (STEP), I comply with their Code of Professional Conduct. I am a former Chair of STEP Yorkshire.

A trust has a separate legal identity from the person who has created it. Just as an individual must complete tax returns, the trustees need to report certain events arising in a Trust.

Following the 5th EU Anti Money Laundering Directive, to which the UK was subject prior to Brexit, all “Express Trusts” must be registered via the [HMRC Trust Registration Service](#) with effect from 06 October 2020.

Whilst HMRC has created limited facilities for professional Agents to register Trusts under the Trust Registration Service (TRS), the Trustees are left “high and dry” at a crucial point in the process. So much so, that it negates any benefit of outsourcing.

This guide, therefore, is intended to steer the “Lead Trustee” through the process for the most common types of Trusts used in private client financial planning. I do offer a service to work alongside the Lead Trustee through the registration process, generally via Microsoft Teams online. This is for both HMRC TRS and the Equivalent in the Republic of Ireland.

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Important note

The impact of taxation (and any tax reliefs) depends upon your individual circumstances. The information in this guide is based on the author's understanding and interpretation of current UK tax law and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) practice as at the date of publication.



What is an Express Trust?

The simple answer is that an Express Trust is one that is written. Consequently, the “rule of thumb” now is that all Trusts need to be registered under TRS. Previously, the only Trusts that needed to register with HMRC were those liable to pay Income Tax, Capital Gains Tax (CGT), Inheritance Tax (IHT), Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT), or Stamp Duty Reserve Tax (SDRT)(or the Scottish/Welsh equivalents).

The exceptions relevant to UK private client financial planning are:

- the trust is used to hold life or retirement policies providing that the policy only pays out on death, terminal or critical illness or permanent disablement, or to meet the healthcare costs of the person assured
- the trust is holding insurance policy benefits received after the death of the person assured — as long as the benefits are paid out from the trust within 2 years of the death
- it is a “pilot” trust set up before 6th October 2020 and holds no more than £100 — pilot trusts set up after 6th October 2020 will need to register
- it is a “co-ownership trust” set up to hold shares of property or other assets which are jointly owned by 2 or more people for themselves as “tenants in common”
- it is a will trust created by a person’s will and comes into effect on their death providing they only hold the estate assets for up to 2 years after the person’s death

- it is a trust for bereaved children under 18, or adults aged 18 to 25, set up under the will (or intestacy) of a deceased parent or the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme
- it is set up under the intestacy laws when a person dies without a valid will and the assets in the estate are held by a trust before passing to relatives
- it is set up under a court order to hold compensation payments, a “Personal Injury Trust”, for example.

A “Pilot Trust” is often a Trust of a £10 note to which it is intended to add other funds later.



What is the tax treatment of Trusts?

During the registration process (see page 9) you will be asked about tax liabilities in the current and/or previous tax years. If you are registering an existing Trust, you will know what's happened in the past. If you are registering a new Trust, the following notes should help you decide.

The two determining factors are, the type of Trust and, if potentially taxable, the underlying investments and other assets.

Whether it is set up during the Settlor(s) lifetime, or by their Will following death, there are only three types of Trust – Bare, Interest in Possession, and Discretionary. Particularly when the marketing team from a life assurance company is involved, Trusts can get all sorts of fancy names but, generally, they fall into one of these three broad categories.

A **Bare** (or Absolute) Trust is commonly used for minor beneficiaries, meaning that the Trustee is holding funds until the beneficiary has capacity to provide a valid receipt. The income and gains are those of the beneficiary and is, therefore, non-taxable on the Trustees.

The most usual form of an **Interest in Possession** Trust is a Life Interest under a Will – “To my wife for life and then to my children”, for example. If the Trust only holds the matrimonial home, or a share of it, then the Trust is non-taxable. If it holds investments, including rental property, and all the income is paid directly to the lifetime beneficiary, then it is the responsibility of that beneficiary to report the income in their Self Assessment Tax Return. Consequently, from the Trustee(s) perspective it's non-taxable. If the Trustee(s) accumulate the income to pay out on, say, a quarterly basis, then a Trust Self Assessment Tax Return is required, rendering the Trust taxable.

With **Discretionary** Trusts the income and gains are assessable on the Settlor(s), or the Trustees if the Settlor is dead. If the Settlor(s) is/are alive, the Trust is non-taxable on the Trustees. If one or more of the Settlers has died the Trust is partially or fully taxable on the Trustees. However, Trusts holding just investments are often set up using a Life Assurance Bond, in which case there is no taxable income or gains for the Trustee(s) to declare, so it is non-taxable. If the Trust holds other income-producing assets – rental property or cash on deposit, for example – then it is taxable.

In the previous section, the five taxes Trustees may be involved in paying are mentioned, and in this section is a summary of those taxes and when they could be payable.

Income Tax

There is a de minimis threshold, so if income doesn't exceed £500 in the Tax Year, no tax is payable. There is no separate Dividend Allowance. If income exceeds £500, the total is taxable at the Rates Applicable to Trustees. For an Interest in Possession Trust that is 8.75% on dividends and 20% on other income in 2025/26. For a Discretionary Trust it's 39.35% and 45%, respectively.

Capital Gains Tax (CGT)

The Annual Allowance for Trusts is one-half of the personal allowance, so £1,500 in 2025/26, and the rate of tax is 24% on all qualifying disposals.

If CGT isn't a common occurrence – Trusts owning investment properties (as opposed to residential properties occupied by a beneficiary) or portfolios of unit-trust-type investments, then the Trust can be classified as non-taxable, but the registration changed to taxable if a taxable gain arises.

Inheritance Tax (IHT)

IHT can be payable on setting up lifetime Trusts if the amount going into a “Relevant Property Trust” exceeds any exemptions and available Nil Rate Bands (NRBs).

If there was no IHT on entry, then there are no Exit Charges during the first 10-years, so the Trust is non-taxable. On each 10-yearly anniversary, the Trust is measured against the available NRB (generally £325,000 for a single Settlor and £650,000 for joint Settlers up to 2030). If the value of the Trust exceeds the NRB, then IHT is payable, effectively at 6% on any excess. It should be noted that, if the value on an anniversary exceeds 80% of the available NRB a Return is needed, even if no tax is payable.

On the first anniversary, any distributions during the first 10-years must be added back to the then value.

Between anniversaries, if there was IHT payable on the preceding anniversary, there will be an Exit Charge on any distributions. The charge is apportioned by the number of quarters that have elapsed since the anniversary, divided by 40 (quarters in 10-years). The rate of tax is calculated by arriving at a percentage from dividing the amount of IHT paid at the previous anniversary by the value then declared.

Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT)

Trustees pay SDLT on the purchase of any land or property at standard rates, so, in 2025/26:

£0 - £125,000	0%
£125,001 - £250,000	2%
£250,001 - £925,000	5%
£925,001 to £1.5m	10%
£1.5m+	12%

Stamp Duty Reserve Tax (SDRT)

Transactions via an intermediary – Stockbroker, for example - don’t need registration, as the SDLT is accounted for by the intermediary. However, if Trustees buy unquoted shares, they will need to pay SDRT at 0.5%.

Conclusion

This is, of necessity, a summary of an extraordinarily complex topic intended to give Trustees a steer on whether the Trust they are registering is taxable or non-taxable. Your Financial Planner or Accountant will be able to advise you.

It will be appreciated, from this summary, that whilst a Trust may initially be declared as being non-taxable, that can change during the administration, requiring a change in the registration – see page 18.



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When does a trust have to be registered?

The deadline for registering a new Trust is 90-days after execution. All existing Trusts, created prior to 6th October 2020, should have been registered by 1st September 2022. Trustees need to be aware that there is a £5,000 penalty, payable by them personally, if they fail to register a relevant Trust. At the time of writing no penalties have been imposed, but that moratorium is bound to run out at some point.

It is important to note that any Trust created prior to 6th October 2020, which had previously been registered with HMRC under the old regime, needs to re-register.

All financial institutions involved in providing services to the Trustees are precluded from acting for the Trustees of an unregistered Express Trust unless it qualifies for an exemption. Furthermore, since 01 April 2023, there has been a responsibility placed upon all relevant financial institutions to check the TRS entry and identify any discrepancies.

What information is needed for TRS?

For the Trust

- Its name
- The date it was created
- Details of any UK land or property the Trust has purchased
- Any existing UTR (Unique Taxpayer Reference) and whether it is taxpaying
- A copy of the Trust Deed
- Any guidance on paraphrasing classes of beneficiaries – see page 12

For the individuals involved

By “individuals” it is the Settlor(s) (who set up the Trust); the Trustees; the beneficiaries; any other individuals who have any influence over the management of the Trust – a Protector, for example.

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Residence & nationality (passport details for any non-UK residents)
- Whether they have mental capacity

Additionally for the Settlor(s):

- National Insurance number
- Their date of death, if appropriate

Additionally, for the Lead Trustee only:

- National Insurance number
- Address
- Mobile number
- Email address

If a corporate entity is involved:

- Their UTR
- Address
- Telephone number
- Email address

Gathering all this information beforehand will aid the registration process.

At the risk of stating the obvious, the Lead Trustee needs to be familiar with the Internet, form-filling, have an email address, and a mobile phone.

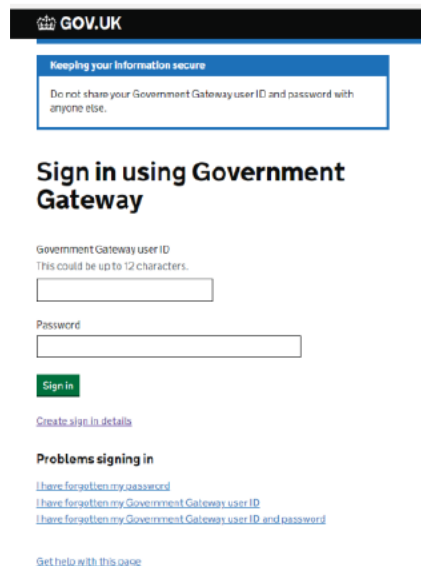
Full guidance is available on the HMRC website via this [link](#).

Creating a Government Gateway

You may already have a Government Gateway for your own tax affairs, but you need a separate one for TRS. If there are multiple Trusts, you need a separate one for each!

This [link](#) is the starting point, and you need to scroll down the page until you get to the “**Register Now**” button.

The following screenshots and notes will take you through these initial steps. Where it appears intuitive, it’ll just be a screenshot.



As this is the first time you’ve logged in you need to start with “Create sign in details”.



When you click “continue”, the system will send you an email for you to confirm the email address.

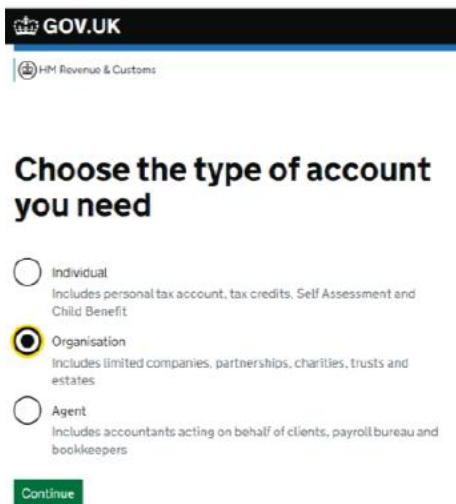




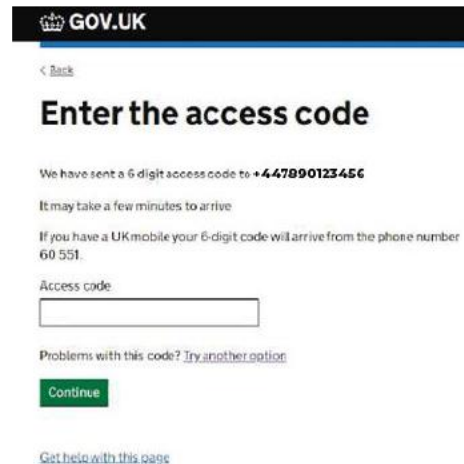
If there are multiple Trusts, the email address, and recovery word can be the same, but separate passwords will be needed.



This will be emailed to you.



It's **critical** that you select "Organisation".



Complete the TRS Registration

You must sign-in with your newly created credentials

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Keeping your information secure

Do not share your Government Gateway user ID and password with anyone else.

Sign in using Government Gateway

Government Gateway user ID
This could be up to 12 characters.

Password

[Create sign in details](#)

Problems signing in

[I have forgotten my password](#)
[I have forgotten my Government Gateway user ID](#)
[I have forgotten my Government Gateway user ID and password](#)

[Get help with this page](#)

Assuming you've used your mobile, the system will send you a 6-digit code to that mobile from 60551.

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Enter the access code

We have sent a 6 digit access code to *****0594
It may take a few minutes to arrive

If you have a UK mobile your 6-digit code will arrive from the phone number 60 551.

Access code

Remember me for 7 days

[Problems receiving this code?](#)

GOV.UK Register and Maintain a Trust

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Has the trust already been registered online?

Yes No

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Are you registering an express trust?

An express trust is a trust created deliberately by a settlor, usually in the form of a document such as a written deed of trust. Express trusts can be created by will or during lifetime, also known as inter-vivos.

Yes No

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Does the trust have any tax liability from 6 April 2021 to 5 April 2022?

Yes No

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This will ask the question based on the current Tax Year. Your Financial Planner/Accountant will tell you the answer to this and see page 4.

GOV.UK Register and Maintain a Trust

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Has the trust had any UK tax liability in the last four tax years?

A trust has a tax liability if it either:

- needs to fill out a Self Assessment: Trust and Estate Tax Return (SA900)
- is liable for Capital Gains Tax
- is liable for Income Tax

Yes No

[Is this page not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Especially, if this is a new Trust, the answer is "No". Again, your Financial Planner/Accountant will tell you the answer to this.

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Before you continue

While all trustees are equally legally responsible for the trust, you need to nominate a 'lead' trustee.

The lead trustee will:

- receive the trust's Unique Reference Number (URN)
- receive all official documents for the trust
- be the main point of contact with HMRC for the trust

As the lead trustee is the main point of contact for the trust, you need to keep their contact information up to date.

You can find out more about:

- [Who should register \(opens in a new window or tab\)](#)
- [Trusts and taxes \(opens in a new window or tab\)](#)

[Continue to register the trust](#)

[Is this page not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

The expectation is that the Lead Trustee is attending to this process in any event.

Registration progress

You can save your registration and come back later. You have 28 days from the first time you save to complete this registration or your information will be deleted.

Saved until

7 April 2022

Sections to be completed

Trust details	NOT STARTED
Settlers	NOT STARTED
Trustees	NOT STARTED
Beneficiaries	NOT STARTED

Additional sections to be completed

Company ownership or controlling interest	NOT STARTED
Protectors	NOT STARTED
Other individuals	NOT STARTED

[Is this page not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Once you get to this stage the information entered so far will be saved, so you can log out and return, but only within 28-days.

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What is the trust's name?

Slipstream Discretionary Trust

You have 23 characters remaining

[Save and continue](#)

[Is this page not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

If the Trust Deed doesn't give the Trust a name, the normal convention is "The [Settlor(s) names] [type of Trust] [year of creation]", "Joe Blogs Discretionary Gift Trust 2025", for example.

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When was the trust created?

This is the date the trust deed was signed. For will trusts use the settlor's date of death.

For example, 31 3 2015

Day Month Year

[Save and continue](#)

If it's a Will Trust, this is the date of death.

[Back](#)

Has the trust acquired land or property in the UK since 6 October 2020?

The current rules for registering a new trust came into effect on 6 October 2020.

Land or property refers to plots of land or bricks and mortar buildings in the UK.

Yes No

[Save and continue](#)

[Is this page not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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Is the trust registered on the trust register of any other countries within the European Economic Area (EEA)?

The EEA includes:

- all countries within the European Union (EU)
- Iceland
- Lichtenstein
- Norway

Yes No

[Save and continue](#)

[Is this page not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

If the Trust has an offshore investment in Luxembourg, Ireland, or another EU/EEA country, then there will be additional registration formalities in that jurisdiction. This doesn't include the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands.

GOV.UK Register and Maintain a Trust

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Are the trustees based in the UK?

All of the trustees are based in the UK
 None of the trustees are based in the UK
 The trust contains trustees based in and outside the UK

Save and continue

[Is this save not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

GOV.UK Register and Maintain a Trust

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Check trust details

What is the trust's name?	Slipstream Discretionary Trust	Change
When was the trust created?	1 March 2020	Change
Has the trust acquired land or property in the UK since 6 October 2020?	No	Change
Is the trust registered on the trust register of any other countries within the European Economic Area (EEA)?	No	Change
How many of the trustees are based in the UK?	All of the trustees are based in the UK	Change

Save and continue

[Is this save not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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Registration progress

You can save your registration and come back later. You have 28 days from the first time you save to complete this registration or your information will be deleted.

Saved until
7 April 2022

Sections to be completed

Trust details	COMPLETED
Settlers	NOT STARTED
Trustees	NOT STARTED
Beneficiaries	NOT STARTED

Additional sections to be completed

Company ownership or controlling interest	NOT STARTED
Protectors	NOT STARTED
Other individuals	NOT STARTED

[Is this save not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Click on “Settlers”.

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Was the trust set up after the settlor died?

Yes No

Save and continue

[Is this save not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

If the answer is “Yes”, the system will ask for the date of death.

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Is the settlor an individual or a business?

Individual Business

Save and continue

[Is this save not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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What is the settlor's name?

First name

Middle names (optional)

Last name

Save and continue

[Is this save not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

For the purposes of this illustration, the Settlor is “Jane Doe”.

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Do you know Jane Doe's date of birth?

Yes No

Save and continue

[Is this save not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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What is Jane Doe's date of birth?

For example, 31 3 1980.

Day Month Year

Save and continue

[In this case, not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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Do you know Jane Doe's country of nationality?

The country of nationality is usually where the settlor was born and where their passport is registered.

Yes No

Save and continue

[In this case, not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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Does Jane Doe have UK nationality?

Yes No

Save and continue

[In this case, not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

GOV.UK Register and Maintain a Trust

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Does Jane Doe have a National Insurance number?

Yes No

Save and continue

[In this case, not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

GOV.UK Register and Maintain a Trust

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What is Jane Doe's National Insurance number?

It is on their National Insurance card, benefit letter, payslip or P60. For example, 'QQ 12 34 56 C'.

Save and continue

[In this case, not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

GOV.UK Register and Maintain a Trust

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Do you know Jane Doe's country of residence?

The country of residence is usually where the settlor lives and works most of the time during the tax year.

Yes No

Save and continue

[In this case, not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

GOV.UK Register and Maintain a Trust

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Is Jane Doe's a UK resident?

The lead trustee is a UK resident if they live and work in the UK most of the time during the tax year.

Yes No

Save and continue

[In this case, not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

GOV.UK Register and Maintain a Trust

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What is Jane Doe's address?

Address line 1

Address line 2

Address line 3 (optional)

Address line 4 (optional)

Postcode
For example, AB1 1AB.

Save and continue

[In this case, not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

GOV.UK Register and Maintain a Trust

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Do you know Jane Doe's email address?

Yes No

Save and continue

[In this case, not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

GOV.UK Register and Maintain a Trust

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What is Jane Doe's telephone number?

For international numbers include the country code.

Save and continue

[Is this page not working correctly? Please let us know](#)

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Check lead trustee details

Is the lead trustee an individual or a business?	Individual	VERIFIED
What is the lead trustee's name?	Jane Katharine Doo	VERIFIED
What is Jane Doe's date of birth?	15 March 1974	VERIFIED
Does Jane Doe have UK nationality?	Yes	Change
Does Jane Doe have a National Insurance number?	Yes	VERIFIED
What is Jane Doe's National Insurance number?	AB 12 34 56 C	VERIFIED
Is Jane Doe a UK resident?	Yes	Change
What is Jane Doe's address?	The Cottage 123 Some Avenue Potters Bar Hertfordshire EN6 5TW	Change
Do you know Jane Doe's email address?	Yes	Change
What is Jane Doe's email address?	Jane.Doe@abc.co.uk	Change
What is Jane Doe's telephone number?	07890123456	Change

Save and continue

GOV.UK Register and Maintain a Trust

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Add a trustee

Completed

Jane Doe	Lead Trustee	Change	Remove
----------	--------------	--------	--------

Do you need to add another trustee?

Yes, I want to add them now

Yes, I want to add them later

No, I have added all trustees

Save and continue

[Is this page not working correctly? Please let us know](#)

If there is another Trustee, you'll be asked all the same questions as for the Lead Trustee, apart from National Insurance Number.

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Check trustee details

Is the trustee an individual or a business?	Individual	Change
What is the trustee's name?	Harriet Jane Bloggs	Change
Do you know Harriet Bloggs's date of birth?	Yes	Change
What is Harriet Bloggs's date of birth?	29th March 1995	Change
Do you know Harriet Bloggs's country of nationality?	Yes	Change
Does Harriet Bloggs have UK nationality?	Yes	Change
Do you know Harriet Bloggs's country of residence?	Yes	Change
Is Harriet Bloggs a UK resident?	Yes	Change
Does Harriet Bloggs have mental capacity at the time of registration?	Yes	Change

Save and continue

[Is this page not working correctly? Please let us know](#)

GOV.UK Register and Maintain a Trust

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You have added 2 trustees

Completed

Jane Doe	Lead Trustee	Change	Remove
Harriet Bloggs	Trustee Individual	Change	Remove

Do you need to add another trustee?

Yes, I want to add them now

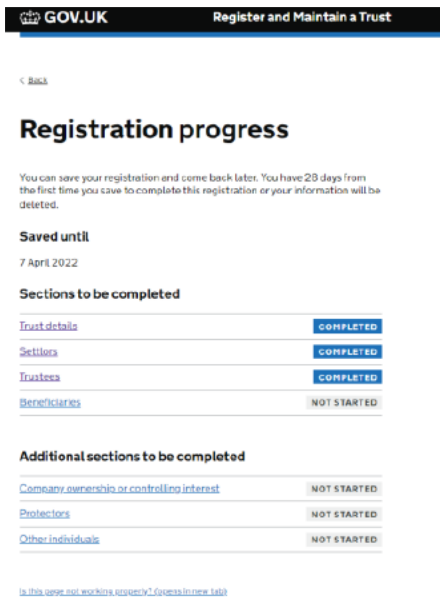
Yes, I want to add them later

No, I have added all trustees

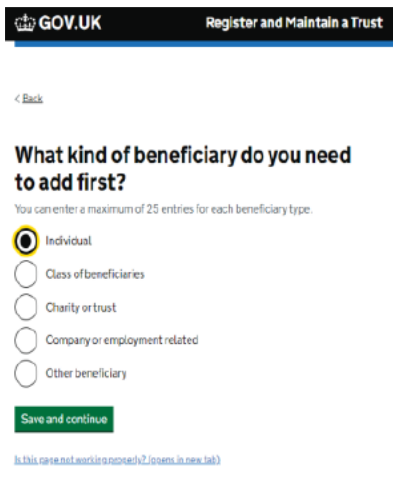
Save and continue

You just keep doing this until you've added all the Trustees.





Click on “Beneficiaries”.

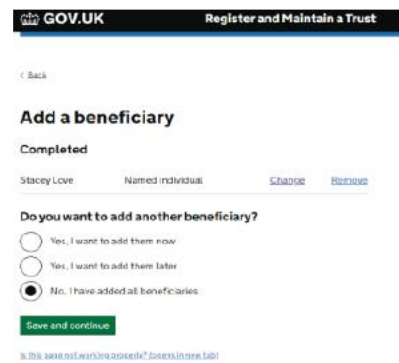


If there are named beneficiaries in the Trust Deed, then you need to add them as Individuals. The questions are identical to those for second and subsequent Trustees, so I won’t repeat all the steps here.

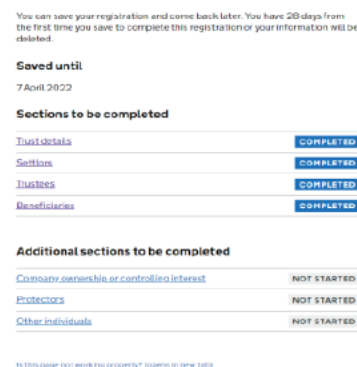
Often, however, the Trust Deed just refers to a “Class of Beneficiaries” – “My descendants”, for example – so, it’s then step two above. Equally, if there are both named and classes of beneficiaries, you need to complete both steps.

The difficulty often comes with adding classes, because there are just 56 characters (including spaces) available, so some paraphrasing is needed.

If the Trust Deed is a pro forma from an insurance company or other provider, there’s likely to be guidance from them on suggested paraphrasing.



Registration progress



Click on “Company ownership or controlling interest”.



Basically, outside Europe.

Registration progress

You can save your registration and come back later. You have 28 days from the first time you save to complete this registration or your information will be deleted.

Saved until

7 April 2022

Sections to be completed

Trust details	COMPLETED
Settlers	COMPLETED
Trustees	COMPLETED
Beneficiaries	COMPLETED

Additional sections to be completed

Company ownership or controlling interest	NOT STARTED
Protectors	NOT STARTED
Other individuals	NOT STARTED

[Is this page not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Click on “Protectors”.

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Does the trust have a protector?

This is an individual or business named in the deed that can affect the way the trust is managed.

Yes No

Save and continue

[Is this page not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

The inclusion of a Protector is rare; it'll be clear from the Trust Deed.

Registration progress

You can save your registration and come back later. You have 28 days from the first time you save to complete this registration or your information will be deleted.

Saved until

7 April 2022

Sections to be completed

Trust details	COMPLETED
Settlers	COMPLETED
Trustees	COMPLETED
Beneficiaries	COMPLETED

Additional sections to be completed

Company ownership or controlling interest	NOT STARTED
Protectors	NOT STARTED
Other individuals	NOT STARTED

[Is this page not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Click on “Other Individuals”.

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Are there any other individuals associated with the trust?

This can be anyone who can affect the way the trust is managed, but does not fit any of the specific trust roles, such as the parent of a young beneficiary.

Yes No

Save and continue

[Is this page not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Again, this is rare. Sometimes an “Advisory Trustee” will be appointed, which is a similar role to that of a Protector – being a point of reference for the Trustees before implementing major decisions.

If there is a Protector, or anyone else, it'll be all the same questions as for second and subsequent Trustees.

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Registration progress

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7 April 2022

Sections to be completed

Trust details	COMPLETED
Settlers	COMPLETED
Trustees	COMPLETED
Beneficiaries	COMPLETED

Additional sections to be completed

Company ownership or controlling interest	COMPLETED
Protectors	COMPLETED
Other individuals	COMPLETED

Print a copy

You can [print or save a draft copy of your saved answers](#). You can also print a declared copy after you have made a declaration.

Ownership or controlling interest in a non-EEA company

You can return to this service at any time to add, remove, or change the details of an ownership or controlling interest in a non-EEA company.

Continue to declaration

[Is this page not working properly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Click on “Continue to Declaration”.

[Back](#)

Declaration

Your first name

Your middle names (optional)

Your last name

I confirm that I have taken all reasonable steps to obtain up to date and accurate information for all of the entities given in this registration. I understand that if I knowingly provide false information and I cannot demonstrate that I have taken all reasonable steps, I could be subject to penalties.

[Confirm and send](#)

[In this case not working correctly? Please see help](#)



Click on “[Confirm and send](#)” to complete the registration.

Registration received
Your reference is:
XFTRN0000189320

[Print or save a declared copy of the trust's registration](#)

Keep a note of this reference in case you need to contact HMRC. This is a reference number for this declaration, and will not be used to identify the trust.

The reference number for the trust

The Unique Reference Number (URN) for the trust has been linked to this Government Gateway account.

The URN is a permanent reference number, and it's how HMRC will identify this trust.

- A URN has 15 letters and numbers, for example ABTRUST71234567

You can return to this service using the same Government Gateway account used to register the trust.

How to get the trust's URN

To view the trust's URN you need to sign out of the service, then sign back in using the Government Gateway account used to register the trust.

When you return to the service, you can:

- view the trust's URN
- update the trust details

Managing the trust

This trust does not need to make an annual declaration, or submit an annual tax return. However, you need to keep the details of the trust up to date. You also need to let us know if the trust becomes liable for tax.

If you need any help with the service [contact the trusts helpline](#) ([opens in a new window or tab](#)).

[In this case not working correctly? Please see help](#)

This will be emailed to you.

Click on “Sign out” in the black bar, top right of your screen.

Obtain evidence of TRS registration.

If you've printed the information you've recorded, you'd think that was evidence of TRS, but sadly not. That would be too simple!

Your Financial Planner and any other financial institution involved with the Trust will need to see and check a "Certificate of Registration", and this is how to obtain one.

The screenshot shows the GOV.UK sign-in page. At the top, there is a security warning: "Keeping your information secure. Do not share your Government Gateway user ID and password with anyone else." Below this is the "Sign in using Government Gateway" section. It includes a "Government Gateway user ID" field (up to 12 characters), a "Password" field, and a "Sign in" button. There are also links for "Create sign in details", "Problems signing in", and "Get help with this page".

Log in using your Government Gateway credentials and click on "Maintain Trust"

The screenshot shows the "Maintain this trust" page. It displays the trust's URN: XCTRUST80013493. The text states: "The trust with the Unique Reference Number (URN) XCTRUST80013493 has been linked with this account. You can add, remove and update settlors, trustees, beneficiaries, protectors and other individuals in this trust. Your changes will not be saved until you have declared. If you need to register or maintain another trust, you will need to use another Government Gateway account. If you need help using this service contact the trust helpline (opens in a new window or tab)." A "Continue" button is visible at the bottom.

After the usual series of security questions, you'll be given the following options:

The screenshot shows the options page for "Register and Maintain a Trust". It lists four options with radio buttons:


- Make changes to the trust and declare: Add or remove beneficiaries, protectors, settlors, trustees and any other individuals, and make changes to their details and declare the changes to HMRC.
- Close the trust and declare: Tell us the end date for the trust, and make any changes to the trust details before declaring the changes to HMRC.
- Tell HMRC if the trust needs to pay tax: Tell HMRC if the trust needs to pay tax or submit tax returns.
- Get evidence of the trust's registration: Create a digitally signed PDF, which shows the people and companies within the trust, that can be shared with any relevant persons.

A "Continue" button is located below the options. Below the button, there is a section titled "Trust details PDF" with the question "Do you want to view evidence of the trust's registration?". It explains that the PDF shows registration details and relevant persons. A "Continue" button is also present at the bottom of this section.

Assuming there are no changes to be made, just click "No".

You'll then be able to download and save something that looks like this:

Trust register



HM Revenue & Customs

HM Revenue and Customs
Trusts
R03 191

Date of issue
28/08/2022

Our reference
ICTRUST0013493

Slipstream Discretionary Trust

This document confirms that the trust named below has been registered on the Trust Registration Service in the United Kingdom. Details of the beneficial owners of the trust as held on the register are shown below.

Trust details

Full name of the Trust	Slipstream Discretionary Trust
URN	ICTRUST0013493
Trust start date	01/03/2020
Date Trust last updated	10/06/2022

Lead Trustee

First Name	[REDACTED]
Middle Name	[REDACTED]
Last Name	[REDACTED]
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Country of residence	UNITED KINGDOM
Nationality	UNITED KINGDOM

Trustees

First Name	[REDACTED]
Middle Name	[REDACTED]
Last Name	[REDACTED]
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Country of residence	UNITED KINGDOM
Nationality	UNITED KINGDOM

This needs to be dated within 30-days of it being presented to your Financial Planner/other financial institution, so you may need to download it again, even if there have been no changes!

What if there are changes to be made?

In this case, we're back to this screen:

GOV.UK
Register and Maintain a Trust

[< Back](#)

What do you want to do next?

- Make changes to the trust and declare**
Add or remove beneficiaries, protectors, settlors, trustees and any other individuals, and make changes to their details and declare the changes to HMRC.
- Close the trust and declare**
Tell us the end date for the trust, and make any changes to the trust details before declaring the changes to HMRC.
- Tell HMRC if the trust needs to pay tax**
Tell HMRC if the trust needs to pay tax or submit tax returns.
- Get evidence of the trust's registration**
Create a digitally signed PDF, which shows the people and companies within the trust, that can be shared with any relevant persons.

Continue

[Is this page not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

GOV.UK
Register and Maintain a Trust

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Do you need to update details about the trust?

Tell us if you need to add, remove, or change the details of any trustees.

At this point HMRC will only ask you which details you need to update.

Once you have told HMRC which details you need to update, you will then be asked to provide those details.

Yes No

Continue

[Is this page not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

GOV.UK
Register and Maintain a Trust

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Do you need to update details for the trustees?

Tell us if you need to add, remove, or change the details of any trustees.

At this point HMRC will only ask you which details you need to update.

Once you have told HMRC which details you need to update, you will then be asked to provide those details.

Yes No

Continue

[Is this page not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

GOV.UK
Register and Maintain a Trust

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Do you need to update details for the beneficiaries?

Tell us if you need to add, remove, or change the details of any beneficiaries.

At this point HMRC will only ask you which details you need to update.

Once you have told HMRC which details you need to update, you will then be asked to provide those details.

Yes No

Continue

[Is this page not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

GOV.UK
Register and Maintain a Trust

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Do you need to update details for the settlors?

Tell us if you need to add, remove, or change the details of any settlors.

At this point HMRC will only ask you which details you need to update.

Once you have told HMRC which details you need to update, you will then be asked to provide those details.

Yes No

Continue

[Is this page not working correctly? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

This is then followed by a series of Yes/No questions

[Back](#)

Do you need to add a protector?

Tell us if you need to add the details of any protectors.

A protector is an individual or business named in the trust who can influence the way the trustees manage the trust.

Yes No

[Continue](#)

[Is this page not working or over? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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Do you need to add any other individuals associated with the trust?

Tell us if you need to add the details of any other individuals.

This means anyone who potentially has indirect control of or influence on the trust, and is not listed on the trust deed.

Yes No

[Continue](#)

[Is this page not working or over? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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Do you need to add a controlling interest in a Non-EEA company?

A non-EEA company is a company registered outside the following countries:

- all countries within the European Union (EU)
- Iceland
- Lichtenstein
- Norway

The trust will have a controlling interest in a non-EEA company if any of the following apply:

- the trustees hold more than 50 percent of the shares in the company
- the trustees hold more than 50 percent of the voting rights in the company
- the trustees hold the right to appoint or remove a majority of the board of directors of the company
- the trustees can exercise significant influence or control over the company

Yes No

[Continue](#)

Having answered all the questions, adding the changes where the answer is in the affirmative, then check everything has been done and submit a new declaration.

This trust's URN: XCTRUST80013493

Trust overview

You can make changes to the trust details, and make a declaration once you have confirmed each section is up to date.

Any changes you make without declaring will not be saved.

! You need to declare the trust details are up to date. Some questions may have changed since the trust was registered.

Sections to be completed

Trust details	NOT STARTED
Settlers	COMPLETED
Trustees	COMPLETED
Beneficiaries	COMPLETED

Additional sections to be completed

Ownership or controlling interest of a Non-EEA company	COMPLETED
Protectors	COMPLETED
Other individuals	COMPLETED

[Is this page not working or over? \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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Declaration

Your first name

Your middle names (optional)

Your last name

I confirm that the information given is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I will ensure it is regularly kept up to date as required including changes of address. If I discover that I have made an error or something has changed, I will update this register.

[Confirm and send](#)

You'll now have to sign out and log back in to download a new Certificate of Registration to send to your Financial Planner/other financial institutions (See page 17).

Other relevant issues

Trust Registration in Ireland

If your Trust holds a Life Assurance Bond issued in the Republic of Ireland, in addition to HMRC TRS, the Trust also needs to be registered in Ireland.

I can help with these formalities via Microsoft Toms online.

Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)

Whilst not administered by HMRC, this is another element of previous Anti Money Laundering legislation and can cause confusion.

Many Trusts used by Financial Planners are invested via a Life Assurance Bond, either onshore or offshore, in which case a Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is not needed. Equally, if the Trust is invested in a unit trust-type structure, an LEI is not needed. However, if a Trust is invested in a Model Portfolio Service or on a bespoke basis via a Discretionary Fund Manager (DFM) where they may use Exchange Traded Funds, Investment Trusts, and/or direct equities, an LEI is required.

As with the Trust Registration Service, I am unable to apply for the LEI, so this needs to be done by the Lead Trustee and renewed by them, usually on an annual basis. There are several providers which can be accessed by Trustees via an Internet search; I have not undertaken due diligence on any of the providers, so am unable to make a recommendation, but they all seem to be “much of a muchness”.

The DFM will be unable to act or continue to act in the absence of a current LEI.



Can the author help with other matters?

Personally, and in conjunction with other trusted partners, there are several legal and other matters the author can help with, including:

- Lifetime Trusts for gifts and loans
- Wills
- Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs)
- Advance Directives
- Trust Administration
- Trust Investment
- Deeds of Variation
- Applications for Probate
- Mitigating Inheritance Tax

The above list isn't exhaustive, so if you have a question on any matter raised in this guide, or any other financial matter, please just ask. Remember, the only dumb questions are the ones you don't ask when you have the chance!

Contact me for help and advice on any of these and other related services. Any initial consultation is without obligation, at my expense and your convenience.

