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Law Changes Review

Keeping societies up to date

Welcome to the August 2025 edition of the Law Changes Review update for incorporated societies

This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about the law changes that affect incorporated societies. It gives you information about these changes and any changes in our register, services, and website.

The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (2022 Act) came fully into force on 5 October 2023.

There are less than 8 months remaining until the reregistration deadline of 5 April 2026.

In this issue, we provide highlights from the incorporated societies survey, a reminder that you will need authority to act on behalf of your society, and a reminder to complete your financial statement filing obligations before reregistering. We also explain the implications of not reregistering your society.

In our next issue, we'll provide an update on the outcome of the Companies Office fees and levies consultation and information on a webinar we co-hosted with Charities Services.



Key survey insights

In May 2025, we surveyed around 3,000 societies that have already reregistered under the 2022 Act. We wanted to understand how societies are finding the reregistration process.

Here's what we learned:

- **85%** successfully reregistered on their first attempt.
- Updating the constitution to meet the new requirements was the most time-consuming step for many.
- **83%** of respondents used resources on the Incorporated Societies website, and over **50%** made use of the Constitution Builder tool.
- Overall feedback from societies was they valued information and resources we provided, and the checklists made it easy to follow the process.

Our top tip based on survey feedback?

Start preparing early, by reading information on our website.

[Law changes hub for incorporated societies](#)

[Constitution builder for incorporated societies](#)

Before you apply to reregister: do you have authority?

Reregistration under the 2022 Act isn't the same as starting a new society – you're not starting from scratch. But before you begin, there's one important step.

Make sure you have authority to act on behalf of your society.

Only users who have authority can update society details or complete the reregistration process on our website. If you haven't confirmed your authority yet, you'll need to do that first (before you apply to reregister your society).

How do you know if you have authority?

When you log in, your society's name should appear on your dashboard under 'My Businesses' (see example below). If it's not there, this means you don't have authority to act on behalf of your society.

Reminder: reregistration is free – if you're being asked to pay, you're most likely using the wrong service (ie, applying to register a new society instead of applying to reregister your existing society as required under the 2022 Act).

Dashboard

I would like to...

 Search Business

- ☒ Incorporate Charitable Trust Board
- ☒ Incorporate a Society
- ☒ Register New Zealand Limited Partnership
- ☒ Register Overseas Limited Partnership
- ☒ Register Sole Trader
- ☒ Register Partnership
- ☒ Register Trust

My Businesses

2 Results

[ANYONE'S SOCIETY INCORPORATED \(50010080\) \(NZBN: 942903175669\)](#)

[MESSAGE BROKER WOE TEST INCORPORATED \(50009720\) \(NZBN: 9429051753627\)](#)

[Learn how to confirm your authority to manage information](#)

Once you've confirmed your authority, **you can apply to reregister your society.**

[Need help with reregistration process?](#)

[Watch our step-by-step reregistration video guide](#)

Reminder to file financial statements before reregistering

We have noticed some societies have reregistered under the 2022 Act, before filing their financial statements under the 1908 Act.

Before you apply to reregister your society, make sure:

- **All financial statements are up to date** and have been filed with the Companies Office.
- **Financial statements must be approved** by your members at a general meeting.
- **They must be filed by the end of the month following that meeting.**

You can approve your financial statements at the same meeting where you approve your new constitution and other reregistration requirements, - but you must file everything in the correct order, eg – file the 1908 Act financial statements first and then apply to reregister your society.

Please note this doesn't apply to registered charities, because they file their financial statements with Charities Services.

[Learn about filing financial statements before you reregister](#)

How to apply to remove your society from the register

If your society chooses not to reregister under the 2022 Act, it must be formally wound up and an application made to have it removed from the register.

If your society does nothing, it will cease to exist. That could have serious implications — especially if your society has any debts (or obligations such as leases) or owns any assets. The effects of ceasing to exist are:

- Your society would no longer be registered as a separate legal identity. Members could be held personally liable for debts or obligations (such as leases) owed by the society. Similarly, your society could not sign any new contracts in its name.
- You will no longer have the right to make decisions on behalf of your society. This includes deciding what happens to any assets it owns.
- The name your society used will no longer have any protection – another group could incorporate using the same name.

[Learn about the consequences of doing nothing with your society](#)

[Learn about how to apply to remove your society from the register](#)

Thank you for reading this edition of the Law Changes Review. We look forward to sharing more information and tips to help you stay informed throughout 2025 as we head to the reregistration deadline of 5 April 2026.

[Visit our website for more information and resources](#)

Did you know we have a handy tool to help you draft your society's constitution?

[Constitution builder tool](#)

[View our video on the reregistration process: How to reregister your society.](#)

If you have any questions or suggestions for possible future updates, email us at engage@societies.govt.nz

If you think this information would be useful to others, [please forward this on](#).



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government



Forward

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