

**theguardian**

**Offshore secrets**



## Offshore secrets: how many companies do 'sham directors' control?

The Guardian/ICIJ offshore investigation has identified 'nominee' directors controlling thousands of companies across the world. But just how many are there?



Charlestown on Nevis, one of the far-flung towns used as a base by so-called "nominee directors". Photograph: Sergio Pitamitz/Corbis

The Guardian and the Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists have been investigating the offshore industry and secrecy surrounding it, uncovering a network of individuals willing to appear on official records as directors of companies while acting only on the instructions of its real owners, who stay invisible and off-the-books.

The main story from Monday's Guardian sets out the position:

More than 21,500 companies have been identified using this group of 28 so-called nominee directors. The nominees play a key role in keeping secret hundreds of thousands of commercial transactions. They do so by selling their names for use on official company documents, using addresses in obscure locations all over the world.

This is not illegal under UK law, and sometimes nominee directors have a legitimate role. But our evidence suggests this particular group of directors only pretend to control the companies they put their names to.

The companies themselves are often registered anonymously offshore in the British Virgin Islands (BVI), but also in Ireland, New Zealand, Belize and the UK itself. More than a score of UK agencies sell offshore companies, several of whom also help supply sham directors.

The directors first came to light as a result of the Guardian's investigations into the British Virgin Islands, and it is not possible to get the company lists or totals published below using the official records made publicly available.

Having obtained for the first time total company counts for dozens of individuals, the Guardian then cross-checked the same names at other registries around the world (UK, Ireland and New Zealand) to examine the international nature of these activities.

It is possible some or all of the individuals named below have more companies in further countries, which do not make interfaces available to find directors' companies.

We've published the full table below, showing total numbers of current and former companies across four countries for 28 individuals acting as nominee directors.

If you've got any comments or thoughts on their activities, leave a comment on our main news story today, or (if you'd prefer to comment confidentially), email me at [james.ball@guardian.co.uk](mailto:james.ball@guardian.co.uk).

## Nominee directors

Director	Country of operation	BVI companies	UK companies	Irish Companies	New Zealand companies	Total
Alastair Matthew Cunningham	Cyprus	33	765	230	11	1,039
Andrew Moray-Stuart	Mauritius	214	36	43	4	297
Brenda Patricia Cocksedge	Mauritius	132	522	50	5	709
Christina Van Den Berg	Mauritius	18	360	7	4	389
Colin Peter Bradford	UK	44	11	-	-	55
Damian Calderbank	Dubai	229	430	44	5	708
David Bird	Cyprus	16	32	45	-	93

This is a list of companies across the British Virgin Islands, Republic of Ireland, New Zealand and the UK for which the individuals named appear either on official records or documents obtained by the Guardian/ICIJ as company directors. It includes current directorships, resigned directorships and directorships of dissolved companies which still appear on records. It is not an exhaustive list of all directorships they hold across the world. Directors' locations have been included based either on Guardian/ICIJ research or the addresses used most frequently across official records. Some directors have addresses in multiple countries.

Director	Country of operation	BVI companies	UK companies	Irish Companies	New Zealand companies	Total
Edward George Frank Cocks	UK	190	-	-	-	190
Edward Petre-Mears	Nevis	150	795	65	16	1,026
Elizabeth Fox	Dubai	71	28	10	3	112
Geoffrey Taylor	Vanuatu	142	37	-	-	179
Ian Taylor	Vanuatu	149	405	-	-	554
James Grassick	Sark	9	679	3,508	-	4,196
Jason Hughes	Cyprus	64	144	2	-	210
Jesse Hester	Mauritius	201	776	528	4	1,509
John Wortley-Hunt	Dubai	256	364	29	3	652
Joseph Sparks	UK	282	-	-	-	282
Kellee France	Nevis	70	129	1	-	200
Kim Pusey	UK	-	67	-	-	67
Marea Jean O'Toole	Mauritius	37	152	10	3	202
Matthew Charles Stokes	Dubai	332	668	248	8	1,256
Nicholas Henry Thom	Mauritius	-	70	3	2	75
Philip Croshaw	Sark	50	6	3,986	1	4,043
Sarah Petre-Mears	Nevis	221	963	62	5	1,251
Sean Hogan	Cyprus	95	743	11	15	864

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Director	Country of operation	BVI companies	UK companies	Irish Companies	New Zealand companies	Total
Shane Michael Smith	Cyprus	5	121	18	-	144
Stanley Williams	Nevis	131	190	1	-	322
Stephen Kelly	Mauritius	377	493	36	24	930
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,518</b>	<b>8,986</b>	<b>8,937</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>21,554</b>

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