

Four things to look for when sending documents abroad

Process serving and private investigation are currently unlicensed in the UK and it is therefore legal to pose as a process serving company with only a website, a mailbox and a forwarded telephone number.

Before you send your documents to a website you found on the internet first check that there's actually a company there to send them to.

1. Telephone numbers beginning 08 or 07

In the UK numbers beginning 07 are cellphones and 08 are non-geographical numbers. They have a legitimate use for national call centres but are more often used to disguise the real location of a "company".

2. Mailbox address

Companies like "MailBoxes etc" offer a central London address and mail redirection for these non-existent companies. Is it likely that a legitimate international company receives its post though a box in a sandwich shop wall.

Google the address plus the word mailbox to find out.

3. Nationwide offices

We've seen companies that claim offices all over the UK that trace back to an apartment. Websites sometimes list 20 regional offices with no contact details other than a phone number. Is that credible?

If we instruct work outside our area we use local agents, manage the case at our end and add a percentage.

4. Cheap website

Look at the website design and content.

How many international corporations with 20 regional offices have a \$20 website?

In summary, none of these things in isolation are without their uses by legitimate businesses, but any one of them should raise questions that you should ask.

KNOW WHO YOU'RE SENDING YOUR DOCUMENTS TO.