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UK vs Netherlands: company formation compared

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In short: The United Kingdom: private company limited by shares, corporate tax 19–25%, registration often within 24 hours online. The Netherlands: BV, corporate tax 19–25.8%, registration typically a few days after the notary has all documents. The United Kingdom and the Netherlands have a double tax treaty. Figures as of November 2026.

This page compares the standard private company in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Each figure links to the official source; the full rules, step-by-step registration and FAQs are in the Company formation in the United Kingdom and Company formation in the Netherlands guides.

Side by side

	United Kingdom	Netherlands
Common form	Private company limited by shares (Ltd)	BV (besloten vennootschap)
Registry	Companies House [1]	Netherlands Chamber of Commerce (KVK) [3]
Minimum capital	None (one share is enough, often £1)	€0.01 (no meaningful minimum)
Directors	1 (a natural person aged 16 or over)	1 director
Local director	Not required	Not required
Corporate tax	19% (profits up to £50,000) to 25% (over £250,000) [2]	19% up to €200,000; 25.8% above [4]
VAT / sales tax	20%	21%
Typical timeline	Often within 24 hours online	Typically a few days after the notary has all documents

	United Kingdom	Netherlands
Tax treaties	about 130 treaties [5]	about 100 treaties [6]
Currency	Pound sterling (GBP)	Euro (EUR)

Tax treaty between the United Kingdom and the Netherlands

A double tax treaty caps the withholding tax one country may charge on payments to a company resident in the other. Where two rates are shown (for example 5/15), the lower rate applies only if conditions are met, usually a minimum shareholding.

Payment	Dividends	Interest	Royalties
From United Kingdom to Netherlands [5]	0%	0%	0%
From Netherlands to United Kingdom [6]	0/10/15%	0%	0%

The United Kingdom withholds at most 0% on dividends, 0% on interest and 0% on royalties paid to a company resident in the Netherlands. The Netherlands withholds at most 0%, 10% or 15% (depending on conditions) on dividends, 0% on interest and 0% on royalties paid to a company resident in the United Kingdom.

Treaty benefits require proof of tax residence and are subject to anti-abuse rules. See corporate tax residence and permanent establishment.

Frequently asked questions

Is there a double tax treaty between the United Kingdom and the Netherlands?

Yes. The United Kingdom withholds at most 0% on dividends, 0% on interest and 0% on royalties paid to a company resident in the Netherlands. The Netherlands withholds at most 0%, 10% or 15% (depending on conditions) on dividends, 0% on interest and 0% on royalties paid to a company resident in the United Kingdom. Rates from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 23 July 2026 and 29 May 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands?

The United Kingdom: 19% (profits up to £50,000) to 25% (over £250,000). The Netherlands: 19% up to €200,000; 25.8% above. The effective burden also depends on reliefs, the type of income and when profit is distributed.

How long does it take to register a company in the United Kingdom compared with the Netherlands?

The United Kingdom: often within 24 hours online. The Netherlands: typically a few days after the notary has all documents. Opening a bank account and tax registrations often take longer than registration itself.

What is the minimum share capital in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands?

The United Kingdom: none (one share is enough, often £1). The Netherlands: €0.01 (no meaningful minimum).

Do I need a local director in the United Kingdom or the Netherlands?

The United Kingdom: not required. The Netherlands: not required.

See also

- Company formation in the United Kingdom
- Company formation in the Netherlands
- UK vs Ireland: company formation compared
- UK vs US: company formation compared
- Ireland vs Netherlands: company formation compared
- Germany vs Netherlands: company formation compared
- UAE vs UK: company formation compared
- Comparison of all 222 countries

References

1. Official Companies House . United Kingdom. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Tax authority of the United Kingdom . United Kingdom. Accessed November 2026.

3. Official Netherlands Chamber of Commerce (KVK) . Netherlands. Accessed November 2026.
4. Official Tax authority of the Netherlands . Netherlands. Accessed November 2026.
5. United Kingdom: Corporate – Withholding taxes (reviewed 23 July 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
6. Netherlands: Corporate – Withholding taxes (reviewed 29 May 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

General information, not legal or tax advice. Figures as of November 2026; confirm with the official registry, the tax authority or a qualified adviser before filing.

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