



Checklist #4 : Choosing a name for your business

Starting a new business is a hugely exciting time. However, choosing the right name, which you and your clients will need to love, is one of the hardest things you will have to do.

Here's our checklist to help you come up with the right name for your new business, or, indeed if you are rebranding an existing practice.

1

Build a shortlist of names

Think about the style of name you want. For example, should it:

- Include your name or a geographical location?
- Be descriptive of your beliefs and values?
- Be abstract?

Done	<input type="checkbox"/>
To do	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not for us	<input type="checkbox"/>

2

Decide whether to include a descriptor of what you do

Making it really clear what it is you do in your name will help you pass our 'split second test'. It will also probably have a marginal effect on your search result positioning.

Options include:

- Independent financial adviser
- Wealth management
- Financial planner
- Financial planning

Done	<input type="checkbox"/>
To do	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not for us	<input type="checkbox"/>

3

Is the domain available?

For each of the names on your shortlist check whether the domain is available. As this will be used in your website and emails ideally it should exactly, or very closely, match your company name.

Use a site such as [123 Reg](#) to check what's available. We recommend using the .co.uk version, but register other options to stop competitors and fraudsters.

Done	<input type="checkbox"/>
To do	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not for us	<input type="checkbox"/>

4

Companies House search

If you plan to trade as a limited company, you will need to check that your chosen name is available.

However, this is less important than the domain being available as you can often get around conflicts by using a trading name.

You can check whether your preferred company name is already being used by [clicking here](#) to visit Companies House.

Done	<input type="checkbox"/>
To do	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not for us	<input type="checkbox"/>

5

What social media accounts are available?

If social media is part of your marketing strategy again, it's important that the accounts you need are available.

Run searches on your chosen channels to see what names are available.

Done



To do



Not for us



6

Run Google searches

It's crucial you dominate the first page for searches run on your brand, in other words, the name of your business.

This is particularly important if you are to maximise the potential from referrals and recommendations, as well as sites such as Unbiased and VouchedFor.

A search on the names remaining on your search list will tell you how easy it will be to achieve a first page listing. Avoid choosing very generic names where the results page is dominated by large organisations or Google Ads you would rather not be associated with.

Done



To do



Not for us



7

Testing

Your remaining names now need to be tested on a group of your target clients.

This might not be the same as your friends and family!

Done



To do



Not for us



8

A final check

Once you've arrived at your ideal name a final, double-check, is sensible:

- Does it accurately reflect your business?
- Will you be easy to find and identify online?
- Will it engage with your audience?

Done



To do



Not for us



We hope you found this useful

Branding is more than just your logo. It is a combination of your visual identity, your values and, of course, your name.

Ideally therefore, the designer producing your branding should be involved in the naming process. Good ideas often come from the most unexpected of places and their thoughts on a name will be invaluable.

This is of course a service we offer, if you would like to chat to us about naming or branding your new business you can reach us by calling 0115 815 7770 or emailing hi@theyardstickagency.co.uk

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