

# Community Finance Search Directory

## Data methodology & sources

How organisation data is collected, verified, and maintained

### Introduction

Comuno provides this free community finance search tool. It is designed to help people find fair, ethical alternatives to high cost credit across the UK.

This document explains how Comuno collects, validates and maintains organisation data within the Community Finance Search Directory. It is intended for:

- journalists and researchers
- policy makers
- sector bodies
- participating organisations
- publishers embedding Comuno tools

### Scope of the directory

The Comuno Community Finance Directory includes:

- Credit Unions operating in the UK
- Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs)
- Other not-for-profit or mission-led community finance organisations where relevant. The directory is UK-only and covers England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

### Types of data collected

For each organisation, Comuno may hold the following categories of data:

#### Core organisation details

- Organisation name
- Legal name (where available)

- Organisation type (e.g. Credit Union, CDFI)
- Website URL
- Contact details (email, phone)
- Registered address or head office location
- Town / city and postcode
- Country / region

## **Services & products**

- Whether savings products are offered
- Whether personal loans are offered
- Whether business finance is offered
- Indicative loan features (e.g. typical loan amounts or terms where published)

Comuno does not publish personalised rates, eligibility decisions or financial advice.

## **Membership & eligibility indicators**

- Geographic areas served
- Common bond descriptions (where publicly stated)
- Membership of recognised sector bodies (e.g. ABCUL, Responsible Finance)

## **Data sources**

Comuno uses publicly available, non-proprietary sources only, including:

- Official organisation websites
- Regulator registers (e.g. FCA Financial Services Register)
- Sector bodies and trade associations
- Public disclosures and policy documents
- Direct submissions or corrections from organisations

Comuno does not scrape private systems, require logins, or bypass access controls.

## **Data collection approach**

Data is collected through a combination of:

- Manual research and verification
- Structured review of official organisation websites
- Cross-checking against regulator and sector registers
- Periodic updates and corrections

Where data cannot be confirmed with sufficient confidence, the relevant field is left blank or marked as unavailable.

## **Accuracy, confidence & limitations**

Community finance organisations do not publish information in a consistent or standardised format. As a result:

- Some fields may be incomplete or unavailable
- Published information may change without notice
- Eligibility and product details may vary by individual circumstances

Comuno aims to be directionally accurate, not exhaustive or authoritative.

Users are always encouraged to:

- visit the organisation's own website
- contact the provider directly
- confirm eligibility before applying

## **Update cycle & maintenance**

- The directory is reviewed and refreshed periodically
- Organisations may request updates or corrections
- Material inaccuracies are prioritised for review

Comuno welcomes corrections from providers and sector bodies.

## Provider feedback & corrections

If you represent an organisation listed in the directory and wish to:

- update information
- correct an error
- add missing details

Please contact: [hello@comuno.co.uk](mailto:hello@comuno.co.uk)

## Use of the data

The Comuno Community Finance Directory data may be used for:

- public interest research
- journalism & reporting
- policy analysis
- embedding via the Comuno search widget

The data is provided free of charge and without warranty.

## Legal & regulatory context

Comuno is a trading style of Choose Wisely Limited

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Comuno is a community finance search and information tool. It does not provide credit, process applications, or give regulated financial advice.

## Versioning

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