

COMMERCIAL CAIS

Credit Account Information Sharing



Commercial CAIS is a shared database of your businesses credit history maintained by Experian. All major financial institutions and creditors engaged in commercial lending activities will share details of your businesses credit commitments and how you're performing on them. The information is shared with your consent, which you normally give when you apply for credit. It's used primarily for the assessment of credit applications, in particular to help prevent customers getting into financial difficulty through over-commitment, and for the prevention and detection of fraud and money laundering.

What's in the Commercial CAIS database?

Over **90 financial institutions** and creditors contributing...

...contributing more than **10m accounts**...

...more than **480,000** of which are in default,

...and an active worth of over **£49bn**,

...relating to **2m limited companies**,

...**3m** non-limited businesses,

...and **3.7m business** persons.

Why is this data shared?

This sharing of information provides lenders with access to a greater range of data, giving them a far more comprehensive view of your business, which enables them to make responsible lending decisions.

How does this benefit me?

As a business, the sharing of this information benefits you by helping you to gain access to a wider range of financial products; where you may have previously struggled due to a lack of data available on your business.

What type of data is shared?

Information shared includes the length and start date of each agreement, the amount of credit outstanding on a facility and how the business has performed with regards to meeting payment commitments.

What type of financial institutions share through CAIS?

There are currently over 90 Commercial CAIS members, predominantly major banks, building societies, telecommunications firms, utilities and asset finance providers.

Who can access this data and how is it governed?

The sharing of this data is governed by a strict code of conduct, overseen by a cross industry group called the Steering Committee on Reciprocity (SCOR). Only members of the CAIS scheme can gain access to this data, and then only with the permission of the business concerned. The information can also be used to confirm to non-members of the scheme that individual businesses exist, however non-members cannot access the shared information.

My Business Profile allows you to see a fully comprehensive view of your own business credit report

Why do I need to see my CAIS data?

When you apply for commercial credit, members of the CAIS programme have access to your CAIS data, and this will be used in their decision making process to ensure that they are treating you fairly and making responsible lending decisions. If you view your own business credit report through a service that does not include CAIS information (like our 'Protect' module of Experian Business Express), then you may not be seeing what the lender sees.

CAIS information can affect your credit rating, therefore a lender with access to CAIS information may see a different credit score to that which you would see without CAIS access.

Why isn't CAIS data available within the 'Protect' module of Experian Business Express?

CAIS data is only available to those that share within the scheme, and to those that the data belongs to e.g. the Director/Owner of the business.

CAIS data cannot be included within the 'Protect' module, because anyone within the company can access this report, and you haven't given every business the permission to see all of this data. The primary function of the 'Protect' module is for you to determine the credit worthiness of a prospect (whether it's a business or individual), not for you to check your own business credit rating.

My Business Profile allows you to see a fully comprehensive view of your own business credit report as it has a strict registration process to ensure that only the Director of a business can log in and access this report, which includes Commercial CAIS data – enabling you to see what lenders who are CAIS members see when making credit decisions about your business.

To find out more, please visit :

www.experian.co.uk/mybusinessprofile
