



**Joint Liquidators' Annual Report to Members and Creditors
For the year ending 25 April 2014**

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Company name	Hoby Hotels Ltd T/a Woodhall Spa Hotel
Registered office	9/10 Scirocco Close, Moulton Park, Northampton NN3 6AP formerly Suite 1 Meadow Court, 2-4 Meadow Close, Ise Valley estate, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 4BH
Former registered office	340 Melton Road, Leicester LE4 7SL
Registered number	03438812
Joint Liquidators	Gavin G Bates and Gary S Pettit
Liquidators' address	9/10 Scirocco Close, Moulton Park, Northampton, NN3 6AP
Date of appointment	26 April 2013

SPECIAL NOTICE

Pursuant to an Order of the High Court dated 22 May 2014 Mr Price has been replaced as office holder by Mr Gavin Geoffrey Bates. A copy of the Order may be provided upon written request.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

I attach my receipts and payments account for the period from 26 April 2013 to 25 April 2014. I also attach a copy my receipts and payments account for the administration account showing a balance of £10,551. These funds could not be paid into the Insolvency Services Account because there is currently a debit balance of £1,158. The funds are also subject to a first charge in respect of the outstanding administration expenses, including post administration deposits made by customers, which will be refunded. The Secretary of State has just authorised a suspense account to ring fence these funds and the balance will be transferred shortly.

Marshman Price, 9/10 Scirocco Close, Moulton Park, Northampton, NN3 6AP
Tel 01604 926 070 Fax 01604 493 008

e-mail info@marshmanprice.co.uk www.marshmanprice.co.uk

Gary Pettit is licensed in the UK by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Gavin Bates is licensed in the UK by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

R Neil Marshman is licensed in the UK by the Insolvency Practitioners Association

Alan R Price is licensed in the UK by the Insolvency Practitioners Association

Marshman Price is the trading name of Marshman Price Ltd, company number 03869807, registered in England and Wales,
Registered office 9/10, Scirocco Close, Moulton Park, Northampton, NN3 6AP

ASSETS

My final progress report to creditors was made up to 12 September 2012. During the period 13 September 2012 to 25 April 2013 there had been some realisations in the matter, I therefore enclose a copy of the administrators' receipts and payments account for the period and list below the assets realised

Asset	£
Fixtures & Fittings	10,000
Insurance Refund	5,227
Bank Interest Gross	4
Cardnet Funds	7,975
	23,206

Below is a list of the assets realised during the liquidation

Asset	£
Book Debts	5,608
Bank Interest Gross	4
	5,612

Fixtures & Fittings

In my final progress report, I anticipated that the contents of the hotel would realise £10,000. The contents were sold in October 2012 for this amount.

Insurance Refund

I received an insurance refund of £5,227 in January 2013 in respect of premiums paid in advance by the company.

Cardnet Funds

It was anticipated that the Cardnet funds would realise £16,955 in respect of receipts through the company's PDQ terminal, however a payment of £7,975 was received in March 2013. This was as a result of a number of customers obtaining refunds for payments made in advance in respect of bookings that could not be honoured.

Book debts

As at the date of administration, debtors were estimated to realise £26,038. A total of £9,956 was received during the administration and £5,608 received in the liquidation. The amount received in the liquidation includes a payment of £5,092 received in error from Your Golf Travel Ltd which will be returned.



A small amount of debtors totalling £272 has been written off as they are not cost effective to continue to pursue

The only remaining debtor is Groupon with an amount owing to the company of £19,172 This debt has been disputed and I am currently dealing with it

Insurance Claim

As previously reported in the administrators' final report, the company made a claim to its insurers for the damage caused to the hotel by the flooding, which was rejected After some consideration it has transpired that there is a potential claim against the company's insurance broker, RA Insurance Brokers Ltd for negligence The claim totals £465,000 and the liquidators have assigned the company's interest to Jeremy Walsh, who has instructed solicitors to pursue on his behalf If the claim is successful, the company will be entitled to 44% of funds which could be as much as £204,600 Mr Walsh is in the process of obtaining counsel's opinion on the matter to ensure that his case against RA Insurance Brokers Ltd is strong I am currently waiting for the outcome of the advice obtained

Bank Interest Gross

I have received £4 in respect of interest during the administration period above and £4 during the liquidation

LIABILITIES

Deposit Creditors

During the trading period in the administration, the company took a number of payments for advance bookings totalling £5,132 As a result of the information provided by Cardnet, I have identified payments totalling £3,750 Which have been refunded and the total bookings to be repaid is £1,382

Administration Expenses

There are expenses totalling £8,434.13 which were incurred during the period of the administration which remains outstanding These relate to the outstanding costs of Legacy Hotels & Resorts Ltd in respect of the day to day management of the hotel during the administration, HMRC for PAYE and NI due as a result of the wages paid and Booking Services International in respect of commission payments for stays during the trading period These will be paid as and when funds permit

Secured Liabilities

An examination of the company's mortgage register held by the Registrar of Companies, showed that it granted a debenture in favour of Bank of Scotland Plc however as far as I am aware nothing is owed to the bank in this respect



Preferential Creditors

The estimate of the assets and liabilities anticipated £10,642 in preferential creditors. A claim of £16,289 has been received.

Crown Creditors

The estimated liabilities included £19,118 owed to HMRC in respect of PAYE and £102,094 in respect of VAT. HMRC's provisional claims of £22,429 and £102,094 have been received.

Unsecured Creditors

The estimated liabilities included 83 unsecured creditors totalling £428,322. I have received claims from 32 creditors totalling £238,940. To date I have not received claims from 60 creditors with original estimated claims of £136,915.

INVESTIGATION INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMPANY

Within six months of my appointment as joint liquidator, the Official Receiver is required to submit a confidential report to the Secretary of State to include any matters which have come to both his and my attention during the course of my work which may indicate that the conduct of any past or present director would make him unfit to be concerned with the management of the company. I understand that this report has been submitted.

My investigations into the company's affairs are continuing.

ADMINISTRATORS' REMUNERATION

The administrators' remuneration was previously authorised by creditors at a meeting held on 03 December 2012 to be drawn on a time cost basis. My total time costs up to the date of liquidation amount to £91,517 which remains outstanding.

The administrators' expenses amount to £119 which also remains outstanding.

A schedule of my time costs incurred is attached to this report.

LIQUIDATORS' REMUNERATION

My remuneration was previously authorised by creditors at a meeting held on 03 December 2012, in the administration, to be drawn on a time cost basis. My total time costs to date amount to £11,100. I have not been able to draw any remuneration in this matter to date.

A schedule of my time costs incurred to date is attached to this report.



A description of the routine work undertaken in the liquidation to date is as follows

1. Administration and Planning

- Preparing the documentation and dealing with the formalities of appointment
- Statutory notifications and advertising
- Preparing documentation required
- Dealing with all routine correspondence
- Maintaining physical case files and electronic case details
- Review and storage
- Case bordereau
- Case planning and administration
- Preparing reports to members and creditors
- Convening and holding meetings of members and creditors

2. Cashiering

- Maintaining and managing the liquidator's cashbook and bank account
- Ensuring statutory lodgements and tax lodgement obligations are met

3. Creditors

- Dealing with creditor correspondence and telephone conversations
- Preparing reports to creditors
- Maintaining creditor information
- Reviewing and adjudicating on proofs of debt received from creditors

4. Investigations

- Review and storage of books and records
- Conduct investigations into suspicious transactions

5. Realisation of Assets

- Corresponding with Legacy regarding the collection of the book debts
- Liaising with the director in respect of the insurance claim against RA Insurance Brokers

A copy of 'A Creditors Guide to Liquidators' Fees' published by the Association of Business Recovery Professionals together with an explanatory note which shows the Marshman Price fee policy are enclosed. Further copies are available upon request.

LIQUIDATORS' EXPENSES

My expenses to date amount to £119 and I have not been able to draw any expenses in this matter



The following agents or professional advisors have been utilised in this matter

<u>Professional Advisor</u>	<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>Fee Arrangement</u>
Legacy Hotel & Resorts Ltd	Collection of book debts	Percentage of realisations

The choice of professionals was based on my perception of their experience and ability to perform this type of work, the complexity and nature of the assignment and the basis of my fee arrangement with them. The fees charged have been reviewed and I am satisfied that they are reasonable in the circumstances of this case.

FURTHER INFORMATION

An unsecured creditor may, with the permission of the court or with the concurrence of 5% in value of the unsecured creditors (including the creditor in question) request further details of the Liquidator's remuneration and expenses, within 21 days of receipt of this report. Any secured creditor may request the same details in the same time limit.

An unsecured creditor may, with the permission of the court or with the concurrence of 10% in value of the creditors (including the creditor in question), apply to court to challenge the amount and/or basis of the Liquidator's fees and the amount of any proposed expenses or expenses already incurred, within 8 weeks of receipt of this report. Any secured creditor may make a similar application to court within the same time limit.

DIVIDEND PROSPECTS

On present information, it is unclear whether a dividend will be available to unsecured creditors. This will be dependent on the outcome of the claim against RA Insurance Brokers.

SUMMARY

The liquidation will remain open until the claim against RA Insurance Brokers is concluded. Once this issue has been dealt with the liquidation will be finalised and our files will be closed.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter please contact Natasha Pink at the office for which the details are on the front page of this report.



GAVIN G BATES

Joint Liquidator



Hoby Hotels Limited T/A Woodhall Spa Hotel - In Administration
Joint Administrators' Abstract of Receipts & Payments

From 26 April 2013 To 25 April 2014

S of A £	As Previously Reported	26/04/13 to 25/04/14	Total £
RECEIPTS			
NIL Sales	4,403 41	NIL	4,403 41
NIL Fixtures & Fittings	10,000 00	NIL	10,000 00
NIL Stock	2,119 58	NIL	2,119 58
NIL Book Debts	9,955 65	5,607 95	15,563 60
NIL Insurance Refund	5,226 71	NIL	5,226 71
NIL Cash at Bank	6,013 15	NIL	6,013 15
NIL Bank Interest Gross	4 62	4 18	8 80
NIL Cardnet funds	7,975 28	NIL	7,975 28
NIL	45,698 40	5,612 13	51,310 53
PAYMENTS			
Purchases	8,253 61	NIL	8,253 61
Wages & Salaries	11,734 46	NIL	11,734 46
Utility Payments	2,678 06	5,054 70	7,732 76
Petitioners Deposit	1,455 00	NIL	1,455 00
Legal Fees	NIL	771 98	771 98
Storage Costs	NIL	112 52	112 52
Re-Direction of Mail	23 25	NIL	23 25
Statutory Advertising	69 75	NIL	69 75
Insurance of Assets	1,233 15	NIL	1,233 15
Repayment of Employee Entitlements	4,000 00	3,515 75	7,515 75
Vat Receivable	535 61	1,046 08	1,581 69
Specific Bond	276 00	NIL	276 00
	30,258 89	10,501 03	40,759 92
CASH IN HAND	15,439 51	(4,888 90)	10,550 61

**Hoby Hotels Limited T/A Woodhill Spa Hotel - In Compulsory Liquidation
Joint Joint Liquidators' Abstract of Receipts & Payments**

From 26 April 2013 To 25 April 2014

S of A £	As Previously Reported	26/04/13 to 25/04/14	Total £
RECEIPTS			
<u>NIL</u>			
<u>NIL</u>	<u>NIL</u>	<u>NIL</u>	<u>NIL</u>
PAYMENTS			
BIS Bank Charges	NIL	88 00	88 00
OR Debit Balance	NIL	1,070 00	1,070 00
	<u>NIL</u>	<u>1,158 00</u>	<u>1,158 00</u>
CASH IN HAND			
	<u>NIL</u>	<u>(1,158 00)</u>	<u>(1,158 00)</u>

Joint Administrators' Remuneration Schedule
Hoby Hotels Limited
Between 11 June 2012 and 25 April 2013

Classification of work function	Partner/Director	Manager	Other Senior Professionals	Assistants & Support Staff	Total Hours	Time Cost	Average Hourly Rate
Administration & Planning	18 40	25 00	9 10	74 10	126 60	18,142 07	143 30
Investigations	1 20	14 90	0 00	1 30	17 40	3,128 00	179 77
Realisations	7 50	6 90	3 70	0 00	18 10	4,588 30	253 50
Trading	27 70	0 60	5 40	0 00	33 70	11,096 00	329 26
Creditors	10 70	5 10	12 90	15 70	44 40	8,268 72	186 23
Case Specific Matters	39 10	7 20	158 00	58 20	262 50	46,293 58	176 36
Total hours	104 60	59 70	189 10	149 30	502 70		
Time costs	37,866 65	11,341 20	31,353 05	10,955 77	91,516 66		
Average hourly rate	362 01	189 97	165 80	73 38	182 05		

Description	Total Incurred £	Total Recovered £
Mileage	2 20	0 00
Companies House Services	7 00	0 00
Insolv Case Administration Fee	110 00	0 00
Totals	119 20	0.00

Summary of Fees

Time spent in administering the Assignment	Hours	502 70
Total value of time spent to 25 April 2013	£	91,516 66
Total Joint Administrators' fees charged to 25 April 2013	£	0 00

Joint Liquidators' Remuneration Schedule
Hoby Hotels Limited
Between 26 April 2013 and 25 April 2014

Classification of work function	Partner/Director	Manager	Other Senior Professionals	Assistants & Support Staff	Total Hours	Time Cost	Average Hourly Rate
Administration & Planning	1 00	3 30	4 90	6 10	15 30	2,253 87	147 31
Investigations	0 00	0 20	0 00	0 00	0 20	54 08	270 40
Realisations	1 00	0 20	0 40	0 00	1 60	500 86	313 04
Trading	1 60	0 50	0 00	0 00	2 10	737 57	351 22
Creditors	0 00	0 90	3 90	4 00	8 80	1,095 46	124 48
Case Specific Matters	0 90	1 50	30 90	5 50	38 80	6,458 02	166 44
Total hours	4 50	6 60	40 10	15 60	66 80		
Time costs	1,694 16	1,784 64	6,778 10	842 98	11,099 87		
Average hourly rate	376 48	270 40	169 03	54 04	166 17		

Description	Total Incurred £	Total Recovered £
Mileage	1 65	0 00
Cheque fee	7 00	0 00
Insolv Case Administration Fee	110 00	0 00
Totals	118.65	0 00

Summary of Fees

Time spent in administering the Assignment	Hours	66 80
Total value of time spent to 25 April 2014	£	11,099 87
Total Joint Liquidators' fees charged to 25 April 2014	£	0 00

A CREDITORS' GUIDE TO LIQUIDATORS' FEES

ENGLAND AND WALES

1 Introduction

- 1 1 When a company goes into liquidation the costs of the proceedings are paid out of its assets. The creditors, who hope to recover some of their debts out of the assets, therefore have a direct interest in the level of costs, and in particular the remuneration of the insolvency practitioner appointed to act as liquidator. The insolvency legislation recognises this interest by providing mechanisms for creditors to fix the basis of the liquidator's fees. This guide is intended to help creditors be aware of their rights to approve and monitor fees, explains the basis on which fees are fixed and how creditors can seek information about expenses incurred by the liquidator and challenge those they consider to be excessive.

2 Liquidation procedure

- 2 1 Liquidation (or 'winding up') is the most common type of corporate insolvency procedure. Liquidation is the formal winding up of a company's affairs entailing the realisation of its assets and the distribution of the proceeds in a prescribed order of priority. Liquidation may be either voluntary, when it is instituted by resolution of the shareholders, or compulsory, when it is instituted by order of the court.
- 2 2 Voluntary liquidation is the more common of the two. An insolvent voluntary liquidation is called a creditors' voluntary liquidation (often abbreviated to 'CVL'). In this type of liquidation an insolvency practitioner acts as liquidator throughout and the creditors can vote on the appointment of the liquidator at the first meeting of creditors.
- 2 3 In a compulsory liquidation on the other hand, the function of liquidator is, in most cases, initially performed not by an insolvency practitioner but by an official called the official receiver. The official receiver is an officer of the court and an official belonging to The Insolvency Service. In most compulsory liquidations, the official receiver becomes liquidator immediately on the making of the winding-up order. Where there are significant assets an insolvency practitioner will usually be appointed to act as liquidator in place of the official receiver, either at a meeting of creditors convened for the purpose or directly by The Insolvency Service on behalf of the Secretary of State. Where an insolvency practitioner is not appointed the official receiver remains liquidator.
- 2 4 Where a compulsory liquidation follows immediately on an administration the court may appoint the former administrator to act as liquidator. In such cases the official receiver does not become liquidator. An administrator may also subsequently act as liquidator in a CVL.

3 The liquidation committee

- 3 1 In a liquidation (whether voluntary or compulsory) the creditors have the right to appoint a committee called the liquidation committee, with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 members, to monitor the conduct of the liquidation and approve the liquidator's fees. The committee is usually established at the creditors' meeting which appoints the liquidator, but in cases where a liquidation follows immediately on an administration any committee established for the purposes of the administration will continue in being as the liquidation committee.
- 3 2 The liquidator must call the first meeting of the committee within 6 weeks of its establishment (or his appointment if that is later), and subsequent meetings must be held either at specified dates agreed by the committee, or when requested by a member of the committee, or when the liquidator decides he needs to hold one. The liquidator is required to report to the committee at least every 6 months on the

progress of the liquidation, unless the committee directs otherwise. This provides an opportunity for the committee to monitor and discuss the progress of the insolvency and the level of the liquidator's fees.

4 Fixing the liquidator's remuneration

4.1 The basis for fixing the liquidator's remuneration is set out in Rules 4.127 – 4.127B of the Insolvency Rules 1986. The Rules state that the remuneration shall be fixed

- as a percentage of the value of the assets which are realised or distributed or both,
- by reference to the time properly given by the liquidator and his staff in attending to matters arising in the liquidation, or
- as a set amount.

Any combination of these bases may be used to fix the remuneration, and different bases may be used for different things done by the liquidator. Where the remuneration is fixed as a percentage, different percentages may be used for different things done by the liquidator.

It is for the liquidation committee (if there is one) to determine on which of these bases, or combination of bases, the remuneration is to be fixed. Where it is fixed as a percentage, it is for the committee to determine the percentage or percentages to be applied. Rule 4.127 says that in arriving at its decision the committee shall have regard to the following matters:

- the complexity (or otherwise) of the case,
- any responsibility of an exceptional kind or degree which falls on the liquidator in connection with the insolvency,
- the effectiveness with which the liquidator appears to be carrying out, or to have carried out, his duties,
- the value and nature of the assets which the liquidator has to deal with.

4.2 If there is no liquidation committee, or the committee does not make the requisite determination, the liquidator's remuneration may be fixed by a resolution of a meeting of creditors. The creditors take account of the same matters as apply in the case of the committee. A resolution specifying the terms on which the liquidator is to be remunerated may be taken at the meeting which appoints the liquidator.

4.3 If the remuneration is not fixed as above, it will be fixed in one of the following ways. In a CVL, it will be fixed by the court on application by the liquidator, but the liquidator may not make such an application unless he has first tried to get his remuneration fixed by the committee or creditors as described above, and in any case not later than 18 months after his appointment. In a compulsory liquidation, it will be in accordance with a scale set out in the Rules.

4.4 Where the liquidation follows directly on from an administration in which the liquidator had acted as administrator, the basis of remuneration fixed in the administration continues to apply in the liquidation (subject to paragraph 8 below).

5 Review of remuneration

Where there has been a material and substantial change in circumstances since the basis of the liquidator's remuneration was fixed, the liquidator may request that it be changed. The request must be made to the same body as initially approved the remuneration, and the same rules apply as to the original approval.

6 What information should be provided by the liquidator?

6.1 When fixing bases of remuneration

- 6.1.1 When seeking agreement for the basis or bases of remuneration, the liquidator should provide sufficient supporting information to enable the committee or the creditors to make an informed judgement as to whether the basis sought is appropriate having regard to all the circumstances of the case. The nature and extent of the information provided will depend on the stage during the conduct of the case at which approval is being sought. The appendix to this guide sets out a suggested format for the provision of information.
- 6.1.2 If any part of the remuneration is sought on a time costs basis, the liquidator should provide details of the minimum time units used and current charge-out rates, split by grades of staff, of those people who have been or who are likely to be involved in the time costs aspects of the case.
- 6.1.3 The liquidator should also provide details and the cost of any work that has been or is intended to be sub-contracted out that could otherwise be carried out by the liquidator or his or her staff.
- 6.1.4 If work has already been carried out, the liquidator should state the proposed charge for the period to date and provide an explanation of what has been achieved in the period and how it was achieved, sufficient to enable the progress of the case to be assessed and whether the proposed charge is reasonable in the circumstances of the case. Where the proposed charge is calculated on a time costs basis, the liquidator should disclose the time spent and the average charge-out rates, in larger cases split by grades of staff and analysed by appropriate activity. The liquidator should also provide details and the cost of any work that has been sub-contracted out that could otherwise be carried out by the liquidator or his or her staff.

6.2 After the bases of remuneration have been fixed

The liquidator is required to send progress reports to creditors at specified intervals (see paragraph 7.1 below). When reporting periodically to creditors, in addition to the matters specified in paragraph 7.1, the liquidator should provide an explanation of what has been achieved in the period under review and how it was achieved, sufficient to enable the progress of the case to be assessed. Creditors should be able to understand whether the remuneration charged is reasonable in the circumstances of the case (whilst recognising that the liquidator must fulfil certain statutory obligations and regulatory requirements that might be perceived as bringing no added value for the estate). Where any remuneration is on a time costs basis, the liquidator should disclose the charge in respect of the period, the time spent and the average charge-out rates, in larger cases split by grades of staff and analysed by appropriate activity. If there have been any changes to the charge-out rates during the period under review, rates should be disclosed by grades of staff, split by the periods applicable. The liquidator should also provide details and the cost of any work that has been sub-contracted out that could otherwise be carried out by the liquidator or his or her staff.

6.3 Disbursements and other expenses

- 6.3.1 Costs met by and reimbursed to the liquidator in connection with the liquidation should be appropriate and reasonable. Such costs will fall into two categories:
- Category 1 disbursements. These are costs where there is specific expenditure directly referable both to the liquidation and a payment to an independent third party. These may include, for example, advertising, room hire, storage, postage, telephone charges, travel expenses, and equivalent costs reimbursed to the liquidator or his or her staff.

- **Category 2 disbursements** These are costs that are directly referable to the liquidation but not to a payment to an independent third party. They may include shared or allocated costs that can be allocated to the liquidation on a proper and reasonable basis, for example, business mileage

Category 1 disbursements can be drawn without prior approval, although the liquidator should be prepared to disclose information about them in the same way as any other expenses. Category 2 disbursements may be drawn if they have been approved in the same manner as the liquidator's remuneration. When seeking approval, the liquidator should explain, for each category of expense, the basis on which the charge is being made.

6.3.2 The following are not permissible

- a charge calculated as a percentage of remuneration,
- an administration fee or charge additional to the liquidator's remuneration,
- recovery of basic overhead costs such as office and equipment rental, depreciation and finance charges

6.4 Realisations for secured creditors

Where the liquidator realises an asset on behalf of a secured creditor and receives remuneration out of the proceeds (see paragraph 11.1 below), he should disclose the amount of that remuneration to the committee (if there is one), to any meeting of creditors convened for the purpose of determining his fees, and in any reports he sends to creditors.

7 Progress reports and requests for further information

7.1 The liquidator is required to send annual progress reports to creditors. The reports must include

- details of the basis fixed for the remuneration of the liquidator (or if not fixed at the date of the report, the steps taken during the period of the report to fix it),
- if the basis has been fixed, the remuneration charged during the period of the report, irrespective of whether it was actually paid during that period (except where it is fixed as a set amount, in which case it may be shown as that amount without any apportionment for the period of the report),
- if the report is the first to be made after the basis has been fixed, the remuneration charged during the periods covered by the previous reports, together with a description of the work done during those periods, irrespective of whether payment was actually made during the period of the report,
- a statement of the expenses incurred by the liquidator during the period of the report, irrespective of whether payment was actually made during that period,
- a statement of the creditors' rights to request further information, as explained in paragraph 7.2, and their right to challenge the liquidator's remuneration and expenses

7.2 Within 21 days of receipt of a progress report (or 7 business days where the report has been prepared for the purposes of a meeting to receive the liquidator's resignation) a creditor may request the liquidator to provide further information about the remuneration and expenses set out in the report. A request must be in writing, and may be made either by a secured creditor, or by an unsecured creditor with the concurrence of at least 5% in value of unsecured creditors (including himself) or the permission of the court

7.3 The liquidator must provide the requested information within 14 days, unless he considers that

- the time and cost involved in preparing the information would be excessive, or

- disclosure would be prejudicial to the conduct of the liquidation or might be expected to lead to violence against any person, or
- the liquidator is subject to an obligation of confidentiality in relation to the information requested,

in which case he must give the reasons for not providing the information

Any creditor may apply to the court within 21 days of the liquidator's refusal to provide the requested information, or the expiry of the 14 days time limit for the provision of the information

8 Provision of information – additional requirements

The liquidator must provide certain information about the time spent on the case, free of charge, upon request by any creditor, director or shareholder of the company

The information which must be provided is –

- the total number of hours spent on the case by the liquidator or staff assigned to the case,
- for each grade of staff, the average hourly rate at which they are charged out,
- the number of hours spent by each grade of staff in the relevant period

The period for which the information must be provided is the period from appointment to the end of the most recent period of six months reckoned from the date of the liquidator's appointment, or where he has vacated office, the date that he vacated office

The information must be provided within 28 days of receipt of the request by the liquidator, and requests must be made within two years from vacation of office

9 What if a creditor is dissatisfied?

- 9 1 Except in cases where there is a liquidation committee it is the creditors as a body who have authority to approve the liquidator's fees. To enable them to carry out this function they may require the liquidator to call a creditors' meeting. In order to do this at least ten per cent in value of the creditors must concur with the request, which must be made to the liquidator in writing
- 9 2 If a creditor believes that the liquidator's remuneration is too high, the basis is inappropriate, or the expenses incurred by the liquidator are in all the circumstances excessive he may, provided certain conditions are met, apply to the court
- 9 3 Application may be made to the court by any secured creditor, or by any unsecured creditor provided at least 10 per cent in value of unsecured creditors (including himself) agree, or he has the permission of the court. Any such application must be made within 8 weeks of the applicant receiving the liquidator's progress report in which the charging of the remuneration or incurring of the expenses in question is first reported (see paragraph 7 1 above). If the court does not dismiss the application (which it may if it considers that insufficient cause is shown) the applicant must give the liquidator a copy of the application and supporting evidence at least 14 days before the hearing
- 9 4 If the court considers the application well founded, it may order that the remuneration be reduced, the basis be changed, or the expenses be disallowed or repaid. Unless the court orders otherwise, the costs of the application must be paid by the applicant and not out of the assets of the insolvent company

10 What if the liquidator is dissatisfied?

If the liquidator considers that the remuneration fixed by the liquidation committee, or in the preceding administration, is insufficient or that the basis used to fix it is inappropriate he may request that the amount or rate be increased, or the basis changed, by resolution of the creditors. If he considers that the remuneration fixed by the liquidation committee, the creditors, in the preceding administration or in accordance with the statutory scale is insufficient, or that the basis used to fix it is inappropriate, he may apply to the court for the amount or rate to be increased or the basis changed. If he decides to apply to the court he must give at least 14 days' notice to the members of the committee and the committee may nominate one or more of its members to appear or be represented at the court hearing. If there is no committee, the liquidator's notice of his application must be sent to such of the creditors as the court may direct, and they may nominate one or more of their number to appear or be represented. The court may order the costs to be paid out of the assets.

11 Other matters relating to remuneration

- 11.1 Where the liquidator realises assets on behalf of a secured creditor he is entitled to be remunerated out of the proceeds of sale in accordance with a scale set out in the Rules. Usually, however, the liquidator will agree the basis of his fee for dealing with charged assets with the secured creditor concerned.
- 11.2 Where two (or more) joint liquidators are appointed it is for them to agree between themselves how the remuneration payable should be apportioned. Any dispute between them may be referred to the court, the committee or a meeting of creditors.
- 11.3 If the appointed liquidator is a solicitor and employs his own firm to act in the insolvency, profit costs may not be paid unless authorised by the committee, the creditors or the court.
- 11.4 If a new liquidator is appointed in place of another, any determination, resolution or court order which was in effect immediately before the replacement continues to have effect in relation to the remuneration of the new liquidator until a further determination, resolution or court order is made.
- 11.5 Where the basis of the remuneration is a set amount, and the liquidator ceases to act before the time has elapsed or the work has been completed for which the amount was set, application may be made for a determination of the amount that should be paid to the outgoing liquidator. The application must be made to the same body as approved the remuneration. Where the outgoing liquidator and the incoming liquidator are from the same firm, they will usually agree the apportionment between them.
- 11.6 There may also be occasions when creditors will agree to make funds available themselves to pay for the liquidator to carry out tasks which cannot be paid for out of the assets, either because they are deficient or because it is uncertain whether the work undertaken will result in any benefit to creditors. Arrangements of this kind are sometimes made to fund litigation or investigations into the affairs of the insolvent company. Any arrangements of this nature will be a matter for agreement between the liquidator and the creditors concerned and will not be subject to the statutory rules relating to remuneration.

12. Effective date

This guide applies where a company goes into liquidation on or after 1 November 2011.

Appendix

Suggested format for the provision of information

Professional guidance issued to insolvency practitioners sets out the following suggested format for the provision of information when seeking approval of remuneration. However, the level of disclosure suggested below may not be appropriate in all cases, and will be subject to considerations of proportionality. In larger or more complex cases the circumstances of each case may dictate the information provided and its format.

Narrative overview of the case

In all cases, reports on remuneration should provide a narrative overview of the case. Matters relevant to an overview are:

- the complexity of the case,
- any exceptional responsibility falling on the liquidator;
- the liquidator's effectiveness,
- the value and nature of the property in question.

The information provided will depend upon the basis or bases being sought or reported upon, and the stage at which it is being provided. An overview might include:

- an explanation of the nature, and the liquidator's own initial assessment, of the assignment (including the anticipated return to creditors) and the outcome (if known),
- initial views on how the assignment was to be handled, including decisions on staffing or subcontracting and the appointment of advisers,
- any significant aspects of the case, particularly those that affect the remuneration and cost expended,
- the reasons for subsequent changes in strategy,
- the steps taken to establish the views of creditors, particularly in relation to agreeing the strategy for the assignment, budgeting, and fee drawing,
- any existing agreement about remuneration,
- details of how other professionals, including subcontractors, were chosen, how they were contracted to be paid, and what steps have been taken to review their fees,
- in a larger case, particularly if it involved trading, considerations about staffing and managing the assignment and how strategy was set and reviewed,
- details of work undertaken during the period,
- any additional value brought to the estate during the period, for which the liquidator wishes to claim increased remuneration.

Time cost basis

Where any part of the remuneration is or is proposed to be calculated on a time costs basis, requests for and reports on remuneration should provide:

- An explanation of the liquidator's time charging policy, clearly stating the units of time that have been used, the grades of staff and rates that have been charged to the assignment, and the policy for recovering the cost of support staff. There is an expectation that time will be recorded in units of not greater than 6 minutes.
- A description of work carried out, which might include:
 - details of work undertaken during the period, related to the table of time spent for the period,
 - an explanation of the grades of staff used to undertake the different tasks carried out and the reasons why it was appropriate for those grades to be used,
 - any comments on any figures in the summary of time spent accompanying the request the liquidator wishes to make.
- Time spent and charge-out summaries, in an appropriate format.

It is useful to provide time spent and charge-out value information in a tabular form for each of the time periods reported upon, with work classified (and sub-divided) in a way relevant to the circumstances of the case

The following areas of activity are suggested as a basis for the analysis of time spent

- Administration and planning
- Investigations
- Realisation of assets
- Trading
- Creditors
- Any other case-specific matters

The following categories are suggested as a basis for analysis by grade of staff

- Partner
- Manager
- Other senior professionals
- Assistants and support staff

The level of disclosure suggested above will not be appropriate in all cases, and considerations of proportionality will apply

- where cumulative time costs are, and are expected to be, less than £10,000 the liquidator should, as a minimum, state the number of hours and average rate per hour and explain any unusual features of the case,
- where cumulative time costs are, or are expected to be, between £10,000 and £50,000, a time and charge-out summary similar to that shown above will usually provide the appropriate level of detail (subject to the explanation of any unusual features),
- where cumulative time costs exceed, or are expected to exceed, £50,000, further and more detailed analysis or explanation will be warranted

PRACTICE FEE RECOVERY POLICY FOR MARSHMAN PRICE

Introduction

The insolvency legislation was changed in April 2010 for insolvency appointments commenced from that time in order to allow more flexibility on how an office holder's fees are charged to a case. This sheet explains how we may apply the alternative fee bases. The new legislation allows different fee bases to be used for different tasks within the same appointment. The basis or combination of bases set for a particular appointment are subject to approval, generally by a committee if one is appointed by the creditors, failing which the creditors in general meeting, or the court. Further details about how an office holder's fees are approved for each case type are available in a series of guides issued with Statement of Insolvency Practice 9 (SIP 9). A hard copy may be requested from Marshman Price, Suite 1, Meadow Court, 2-4, Meadow Close, Ise Valley Estate, Wellingborough, NN8 4BH or 9/10, Scirocco Close, Moulton Park, Northampton, NN3 6AP.

Once the basis of the office holder's remuneration has been approved, a periodic report will be provided to any committee and also to each creditor. The report will provide a breakdown of the remuneration drawn and time costs incurred and will also enable the recipients to see the average rates of such costs. Under the new legislation, any such report must disclose how creditors can seek further information and challenge the basis on which the fees are calculated and the level of fees drawn in the period of the report. Once the time to challenge the office holder's remuneration for the period reported on has elapsed, then that remuneration cannot subsequently be challenged.

Under the old legislation, which still applies for insolvency appointments commenced before 6 April 2010, there is no equivalent mechanism for fees to be challenged.

Time cost basis

This is the basis that we use in the majority of cases and we use charge out rates appropriate to the skills and experience of a member of staff and the work that they perform. This is combined with the amount of time that they work on each case, recorded in 6 minute units with supporting narrative to explain the work undertaken.

Charge-out Rates

Grade of staff	Charge-out rates per hour, (w.e.f 31 March 2013) £	Previous charge our rate per hour £
Partner – appointment taker	250 - 377	250-362
Senior Manager	271	260
Manager	176	176
Supervisor/Senior Administrator	82 - 125	75-125
Case Administrator	55 - 120	55-120
Other clerical/administrative staff	44	42

These charge-out rates charged are reviewed on 31 March each year and are adjusted to take account of inflation and the firm's overheads.

Time spent on casework is recorded directly to the relevant case using a computerised time recording system and the nature of the work undertaken is recorded at that time. Each unit of time is 6 minutes. The work is recorded under the following categories:

- Administration and Planning
- Investigations
- Realisation of Assets

- Employee matters
- Creditors
- Trading

Percentage basis

The new legislation allows fees to be charged on a percentage of the value of the property with which the office holder has to deal. Different percentages can be used for different assets or types of assets. Where we would like to realise any asset or type of assets on a percentage basis we will provide further information explaining why we think that this basis is appropriate and ask creditors to approve the basis.

Fixed fee

The new legislation allows fees to be charged at a set amount. Different set amounts can be used for different tasks. Where we would like to charge a set amount for a task or different set amounts for different tasks we will provide further information explaining why we think that this basis is appropriate and ask creditors to approve the basis.

All bases

The officeholder's remuneration invoiced to the insolvent estate will be subject to VAT at the prevailing rate. However, following the "Paymex" court decision, all fees charged on voluntary arrangements are zero-rated for VAT purposes.

Agents' Costs

Charged at cost based upon the charge made by the Agent instructed, the term Agent includes

- Solicitors/Legal Advisors
- Auctioneers/Valuers
- Accountants
- Quantity Surveyors
- Estate Agents
- Other Specialist Advisors

Disbursements

In accordance with Statement of Insolvency Practice 9 (SIP9) the basis of disbursement allocation in respect of disbursements incurred by the Office Holder in connection with the administration of the estate must be fully disclosed to creditors. Disbursements are categorised as either Category 1 or Category 2.

Category 1 expenses are directly referable to an invoice from a third party, which is either in the name of the estate or Marshman Price, in the case of the latter, the invoice makes reference to, and therefore can be directly attributed to, the estate. These disbursements are recoverable in full from the estate without the prior approval of creditors either by a direct payment from the estate or, where the firm has made payment on behalf of the estate, by a recharge of the amount invoiced by the third party. Examples of category 1 disbursements are statutory advertising, external meeting room hire, external storage, specific bond insurance and company search fees.

Category 2 expenses are incurred by the firm and recharged to the estate, they are not attributed to the estate by a third party invoice and/or they may include a profit element. These disbursements are recoverable in full from the estate, subject to the basis of the disbursement charge being approved by creditors in advance. Examples of category 2 disbursements are photocopying, internal room hire, internal storage and mileage.