In accordance with Rule 18.7 of the Insolvency (England & Wales) Rules 2016 and Sections 92A, 104A and 192 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

# LIQ03 Notice of progress report in voluntary winding up



For further information, please refer to our guidance at www.gov.uk/companieshouse

1	Commons details	
1	Company details	Dem care
Company number	0   5   5   2   2   9   5   2	→ Filling in this form Please complete in typescript or in
Company name in full	Russia Today TV UK Limited	bold black capitals.
2	Liquidator's name	
Full forename(s)	Paul Robert	
Surname	Appleton	
3	Liquidator's address	
Building name/number	29th Floor	
Street	40 Bank Street	
Post town	London	
County/Region		
Postcode	E 1 4 5 N R	
Country		
4	Liquidator's name	
Full forename(s)	Paul	<b>Other liquidator</b> Use this section to tell us about
Surname	Cooper	another liquidator.
5	Liquidator's address ❷	
Building name/number	29th Floor	② Other liquidator
Street	40 Bank Street	Use this section to tell us about another liquidator.
Post town	London	
County/Region		
Postcode	E 1 4 5 N R	
Country		

# LIQ03 Notice of progress report in voluntary winding up

6	Period of progress report
From date	$\begin{bmatrix} d & & & & \\ \hline 0 & 5 & & & \\ \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m & & & \\ \hline 4 & & & \\ \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_2 & y_2 \\ \hline 2 & & \\ \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_2 & y_2 \\ \hline 2 & & \\ \end{bmatrix}$
To date	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \boxed{4} & \boxed{0} & \boxed{4} & \boxed{9} & \boxed$
7	Progress report
	☑ The progress report is attached
8	Sign and date
Liquidator's signature	Signature X
Signature date	

### **Presenter information**

You do not have to give any contact information, but if you do it will help Companies House if there is a query on the form. The contact information you give will be visible to searchers of the public record.

Contact name	Glyn Middleton
Company name	Begbies Traynor (London) LLP
Address	29th Floor
	40 Bank Street
Post town	London
County/Region	
Postcode	E 1 4 5 N R
Country	
DX	
Telephone	020 7400 7900

### ✓ Checklist

We may return forms completed incorrectly or with information missing.

# Please make sure you have remembered the following:

- ☐ The company name and number match the information held on the public Register.
- ☐ You have attached the required documents.
- ☐ You have signed the form.

### Important information

All information on this form will appear on the public record.

### **☑** Where to send

You may return this form to any Companies House address, however for expediency we advise you to return it to the address below:

The Registrar of Companies, Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, Wales, CF14 3UZ. DX 33050 Cardiff.

### *t* Further information

For further information please see the guidance notes on the website at www.gov.uk/companieshouse or email enquiries@companieshouse.gov.uk

This form is available in an alternative format. Please visit the forms page on the website at www.gov.uk/companieshouse



# Russia Today TV UK Limited (In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)

Progress report

Period: 5 April 2022 to 4 April 2023

#### **Important Notice**

This report has been produced solely to comply with our statutory duty to report to members of the Company pursuant to Section 92A of the Insolvency Act 1986. This report is private and confidential and may not be relied upon, referred to, reproduced or quoted from, in whole or in part, by members for any purpose other than this report to them, or by any other person for any purpose whatsoever.

### **Contents**

- Interpretation
- Company information
- Details of appointment of liquidators
- Progress during the period
- □ Creditors
- Distributions to members
- □ Remuneration and expenses
- □ Liquidators' expenses
- Assets that remain to be realised and work that remains to be done
- Other relevant information
- □ Members' rights
- Conclusion
- Appendices
  - 1. Liquidators' account of receipts and payments
  - 2. Liquidators' time costs and expenses
  - 3. Statement of Liquidators' expenses

# 1. INTERPRETATION

Expression	<u>Meaning</u>					
"the Company"	Russia Today TV UK Limited (In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)					
"the liquidators", "we", "our" and "us"	Paul Robert Appleton of Begbies Traynor (London) LLP, 29th Floor, 40 Bank Street, London, E14 5NR; and Paul Cooper of Begbies Traynor (London) 29th Floor, 40 Bank Street, London, E14 5NR					
"the Act"	The Insolvency Act 1986 (as amended)					
"the Rules"	The Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016 (as amended)					
"secured creditor" and "unsecured creditor"	Secured creditor, in relation to a company, means a creditor of the company who holds in respect of his debt a security over property of the company, and "unsecured creditor" is to be read accordingly (Section 248(1)(a) of the Act)					
"security"	(i) In relation to England and Wales, any mortgage, charge, lien or other security (Section 248(1)(b)(i) of the Act); and					
	(ii) In relation to Scotland, any security (whether heritable or moveable), any floating charge and any right of lien or preference and any right of retention (other than a right of compensation or set off) (Section 248(1)(b)(ii) of the Act)					
preferential creditors	Any creditor of the Company whose claim is preferential within Sections 386, 387 and Schedule 6 to the Act					

## 2. COMPANY INFORMATION

Trading name(s): RTTVUK

Company registered number: 05522952

Company registered office: 29th Floor, 40 Bank Street, London, E14 5NR

Former trading address: 16th Floor, Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP

# 3. DETAILS OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATORS

Date winding up commenced: 5 April 2022

Date of liquidators' appointment: 5 April 2022

Changes in liquidator (if any): None

### PROGRESS DURING THE PERIOD

#### Receipts and Payments

Attached at Appendix 1 is our abstract of receipts and payments for the period from 5 April 2022 to 4 April 2023.

#### **RECEIPTS**

#### Plant & Machinery, Furniture & Equipment and Motor Vehicles

The Company's chattel assets, which comprised plant, machinery, furniture, office equipment and motor vehicles, were all situated at its trading premises at Millbank Tower, London SW1, when trading ceased.

Peter Davies & Sons ("PDS"), my Agents, were instructed initially to provide a valuation report, but, immediately following my appointment, to advise on the marketing and sale of the chattels. As access to the premises was expected to be unhindered, the advice received from PDS was to prepare the assets for auction, in situ, as this would likely prove not only to be the most cost-effective method of disposal — avoiding potentially substantial removal costs — but also allowing potential purchasers the opportunity to view the assets in the environment within which they were used.

PDS attended the premises, prepared the assets for viewing, and conducted an online auction, and the chattels assets were sold for a combined amount of £204,104, having been valued, on a forced sale basis, at £62,343.

#### Tax & VAT Refunds

At the date of this report, amounts totalling £1,078 have been recovered from HM Revenue & Customs in respect of VAT and PAYE.

#### Insurance Refunds

Amounts totalling £7,628 have been recovered from the Company's insurers and represent refunds on the insurance premiums previously paid in advance by the Company.

#### Cash at Bank

Immediately prior to my appointment, the Company's sole Director transferred the funds held in the Company's bank accounts to my firm's client account, having been served with notice by NatWest that its accounts were to be closed.

Following my appointment, as is standard procedure in such cases, I wrote to NatWest requesting that it close the Company's account and provide closing statements to enable the final reconciliation to be undertaken. At this point, NatWest advised that it was holding funds in the account, despite the initial transfer by the Director, and those funds were transferred in the sum of £80,609.

#### Cash held on Appointment

As mentioned above, the Company's Director transferred the balance of the Company's bank account to my firm's client account on 1 April 2022 to avoid any potential issues with NatWest closing the accounts, as it had advised it was intending to do. The amount of £6,726,200 was received into the client account and was subsequently transferred to the liquidation estate account following my appointment.

#### Cash held by Solicitors

The Company's Solicitors, Pallas Partners LLP ("PPL"), held funds on account in its client account by way of a legal retainer. Those funds were passed over to the liquidation estate and totalled £43,526.

#### **NNDR Refunds**

Following contact with City of Westminster, I have been able to secure refunds of business rates previously paid by the Company totalling £19,188.

#### **Deposit Interest**

The funds held on the liquidation estate account have attracted interest during the year totalling £7,973.

#### **PAYMENTS**

#### Specific Bond

An amount of £320 has been paid to AUA Insolvency Risk Services in respect of the Liquidators' Bond, as required by Insolvency legislation and best practice directives. The Bond is required on all cases and is an insurance policy covering the funds held in the estate.

#### Pre-Appointment Fees

The Company's sole Shareholder and Director approved a pre appointment fee for my firm to cover the costs of all pre appointment work, which comprised advice on the Company's financial position, assistance with closing the offices, advising on staff matters, as required, preparation of all immediate pre appointment documentation, Declaration of Solvency, etc. The amount of this fee was £25,000 plus VAT and this has been drawn from the estate funds.

#### Liquidators' Remuneration

As at 4 April 2023, a total of £85,000 has been drawn on account of my remuneration.

#### Agent's Fees

PDS have been paid the total amount of £46,128 for the services provided in respect of the preparation of the Valuation Report and the sale of the chattel assets. PDS's fees were agreed on the basis of a percentage of asset realisations achieved, being 10%, plus a fixed fee of £2,770 for the Valuation Report. PDS's fees on this basis were £23,182, with the balance being disbursements PDS incurred in dealing with the marketing costs, engagement of specialist consultants, property clearance costs, etc.

#### Solicitor's Fees

I engaged the services of Grosvenor Law LLP ("GLL") to advise on a number of matters arising during the course of the period of the liquidation thus far. Those matters included advising on the UK and Worldwide Sanctions covering a significant number of parties following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. I have also been served with a claim from the Company's main customer, ANO TV-Novosti, in the amount of £2,908,232, which has not yet formally been adjudicated upon, but is likely to have merit. ANO TV Novosti is currently the subject of UK and Worldwide Sanctions, and I am not, therefore, permitted to release any funds to it. My Solicitors have been requested to provide advice on this as well as looking at the narrative of the claim to ascertain its legal merits. GLL have been paid £11,471.

In addition to the above, the Company's Solicitors, PPL, had incurred costs in dealing with a number of matters, which had not been invoiced prior to my appointment. You will note from the 'receipts' heading above that an amount was held by PPL as a retainer for future services, and that the balance was transferred. Prior to transferring the balance held, PPL discharged its final fees of £10,141.

#### **Statutory Advertising**

Amounts totalling £310 have been paid to Courts Advertising to cover the costs of advertising the liquidation appointment documents in the London Gazette.

#### **Bank Charges**

Bank charges totalling £30 have been incurred on the liquidation estate account.

#### **Deferred Income/Creditors**

During the course of the liquidation, I have discharged various claims from creditors of the Company, as and when received. The total discharged during the year covered by this report was £1,071,213 and is split as follows:

What work has been done in the period of this report, why was that work necessary and what has been the financial benefit (if any) to members?

In addition to the extensive work carried out dealing with the realisation of the Company's assets and discharging the ongoing costs and liabilities, we have also undertaken the following.

Details of the types of work that generally fall into the headings mentioned below are available on our firm's website - <a href="http://www.begbies-traynorgroup.com/work-details">http://www.begbies-traynorgroup.com/work-details</a> Under the following headings, we have explained the specific work that has been undertaken on this case. Not every piece of work has been described, but we have sought to give a proportionate overview, which provides sufficient detail to allow members to understand what has been done, why it was necessary and what financial benefit (if any) the work has provided to members.

The costs incurred in relation to each heading are set out in the Time Costs Analysis, which is attached.

The details below relate to the work undertaken in the period of the report only.

#### General case administration and planning / Compliance with the Insolvency Act, Rules and best practice

This includes conducting periodic case reviews, internal planning meetings, maintenance of the estate account, cash book, etc, and other administrative tasks.

#### Realisation of assets

This relates to the work conducted in respect of realisation of the Company's assets, which are set out above.

#### Dealing with all creditors' claims, correspondence and distributions

Liaising with HM Revenue & Customs in respect of the Company's VAT account, and its Corporation Tax account. I have also made several attempts to obtain tax clearance from HMRC to allow ultimately for the conclusion of the liquidation, but at the date of this report, no response has been obtained.

#### Dealing with the Company's landlord

Liaising with the landlord of the trading premises with a view to bringing the Company's lease to an early end. Whilst I was initially confident that the landlord would agree favourable terms in this regard, it has not proved possible, and I am currently considering the options available to me to bring the Company's leases to an end.

## 5. CREDITORS

As in any liquidation, in a members' voluntary liquidation, creditors are required to prove their claims and the liquidators must examine the proofs and the particulars of the claims and admit them, in whole or in part, or reject them. The liquidators must then settle the priorities of the creditors (as between secured, preferential, secondary preferential and unsecured creditors) before paying them in full, together with statutory interest.

The majority of creditors' claims have been discharged during the course of the year, with the exception, for the reasons stated above, of the claim from ANO TV-Novosti.

# 6. DISTRIBUTIONS TO MEMBERS

During the course of the year, I have paid capital distributions to the Company's sole Shareholder totalling £300,000. Additional distributions are expected to be paid.

### 7. REMUNERATION & EXPENSES

Our remuneration has been fixed by a resolution of the members of the Company by reference to the time properly given by us (as liquidators) and the various grades of our staff calculated at the prevailing hourly charge out rates of Begbies Traynor (London) LLP in attending to matters arising in the liquidation.

We are also authorised to draw expenses, including expenses for services provided by our firm (defined as category 2 expenses in Statement of Insolvency Practice 9 in accordance with our firm's policy, details of which were sent to the members of the Company when written resolutions, including the special resolution that the Company be wound up voluntarily, were circulated] and which is attached at Appendix 2 of this report.

Our time costs for the period from 5 April 2022 to 4 April 2023 amount to £191,008, which represents 351.2 hours at an average rate of £543.87 per hour.

The following further information in relation to our time costs and expenses is set out at Appendix 2:

- ☐ Time Costs Analysis for the period 5 April 2022 to 4 April 2023
- □ Begbies Traynor (London) LLP,'s charging policy

To date, we have drawn the total sum of £85,000 on account.

The Time Costs Analysis for the period of this report attached at Appendix 2 shows the time spent by each grade of staff on the different types of work involved in the case, and gives the total costs and average hourly rate charged for each work type. An additional analysis is also attached, which details the time costs for the entire period for which we have administered the liquidation

Please note that the analysis provides details of the work undertaken by us and our staff following our appointment only.

Category 1 Expenses

I have drawn no category 1 expenses to date.

Category 2 Expenses

I have drawn no category 2 expenses to date.

# 8. LIQUIDATORS' EXPENSES

A statement of the expenses incurred during the period of this progress report is attached at Appendix 3.

# 9. ASSETS THAT REMAIN TO BE REALISED AND WORK THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE

Assets that remain to be realised:

There are no assets left to realise.

What work remains to be done, why is this necessary and what financial benefit (if any) will it provide to members?

#### General case administration and planning

Whilst the case remains open, I am required to conduct the usual case administration tasks, such as liaising with creditors, HM Revenue & Customs, Shareholders, professional advisors, the landlord, rating authority, amongst others.

Compliance with the Insolvency Act, Rules and best practice

All future compliance and best practice directives must be adhered to.

Dealing with all creditors' claims (including employees), correspondence and distributions

Liaising with ANO TV-Novosti in relation to its claim.

Other matters which includes meetings, tax, litigation, pensions and travel

Liaising with HM Revenue & Customs to obtain final clearance.

How much will this further work cost?

The 'further work' detailed above has always been anticipated, but at this point in the proceedings, it has not yet been carried out. As you know, this work is necessary in order that I may complete the liquidation as envisaged. The cost of completing this work is, unfortunately, not known, as the level of time required to be spent could vary considerably due to its nature.

## 10. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Use of personal information

Please note that in the course of discharging our statutory duties as liquidators, we may need to access and use personal data, being information from which a living person can be identified. Where this is necessary, we are required to comply with data protection legislation. If you are an individual and you would like further information about your rights in relation to our use of your personal data, you can access the same at <a href="https://www.begbies-traynorgroup.com/privacy-notice">https://www.begbies-traynorgroup.com/privacy-notice</a> If you require a hard copy of the information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### 11. MEMBERS' RIGHTS

#### Right to request further information

Pursuant to Rule 18.9 of the Rules, within 21 days of the receipt of this report a member or members of the Company with at least 5% of the voting total rights of all the members having the right to vote at general meetings of the Company (or any member or members with less than 5% of the total voting rights, but with the permission of the court) may request, in writing, that we provide further information about our remuneration or expenses, which have been incurred during the period of this progress report.

#### Right to make an application to Court

Pursuant to Rule 18.34 of the Rules, within 8 weeks of receipt of this progress report any member or members of the Company with at least 10% of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote at general meetings of the Company (or any member, or members with less than 10% of the total voting rights, but with the permission of the Court) may make an application to Court on the grounds that the remuneration charged or the expenses incurred during the period of this progress report are excessive or, the basis fixed for our remuneration is inappropriate.

Obtaining information on the remuneration of liquidators and the payment of expenses

The basis of remuneration for acting as liquidators was sought following appointment. Notwithstanding this, beneficiaries of the surplus are able to seek information on their rights in relation to the remuneration and the payment of expenses and can obtain a copy of 'Begbies Traynor Guide for Shareholders. A Guide to the Liquidators' fees – England and Wales' on our website at <a href="https://www.begbies-traynorgroup.com/services-to/shareholders">https://www.begbies-traynorgroup.com/services-to/shareholders</a>

Alternatively, if you require a hard copy of the guide, please contact our office and a copy will be sent to you.

# 12. CONCLUSION

We will report again in approximately twelve months' time or at the conclusion of the liquidation, whichever is the sooner.

Paul Appleton Joint Liquidator

Dated: 2 June 2023

# ACCOUNT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Period: 5 April 2022 to 4 April 2023

### LIQUIDATORS' RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FROM 5 APRIL 2022	TO 4 APRIL 2023	
	<u>Estimated</u> <u>to realise</u> £	Realised to date 04/04/2023 £
Receipts Plant & Machinery Furniture & Equipment Motor Vehicles Tax & VAT Refunds Insurance Refund Cash at Bank Cash Held on Appointment Rent Deposit Cash held by Solicitors NNDR Rates Refunds	2,387 29,956 30,000 45,564 - 6,814,181 - Nil -	9,394.35 124,810.65 69,900.00 1,078.73 7,628.49 80,609.58 6,726,200.55
Deposit Interest	-	7,973.41
Payments Specific Bond Pre Appointment Fees Liquidators' Remuneration - on Account Agents' Fees Solicitors' Fees Statutory Advertising Bank Charges Deferred Income/Creditors		320.00 25,000.00 85,000.00 46,128.42 21,612.75 310.50 30.00 1,071,213.70 1,249,615.37
<u>Distributions</u> Return of Share Capital Capital Distribution		0.00 300,000.00 300,000.00
Receipts less Payments		5,540,695.20
Represented by:- VAT Receivable Balance at Bank		40,135.31 5,500,559.89 5,540,695.20

# TIME COSTS AND EXPENSES

- a. Begbies Traynor (London) LLP,'s charging policy; and
- b. Time Costs Analysis for the period from 5 April 2022 to 4 April 2023

# TIME COSTS ANALYSIS

Period: 5 April 2022 to 4 April 2023

## SIP9 Russia Today Tv Uk Limited - Members Voluntary Liquidation - 23RU102.MVL : Time Costs Analysis From 05/04/2022 To 04/04/2023

Staff Grade		Consultant/Partner	Director	Snr Mngr	Mngr	Asst Mngr	Snr Admin	Admin	Jnr Admin	Support	Total Hours	Time Cost £	Average hourly rate £
General Case Administration and Planning	Case planning	5.8	4.3								10.1	6,496.00	643.17
	Administration		2.5	13.9					13.5		29.9	10,965.00	366.72
	Total for General Case Administration and Planning:	5.8	6.8	13.9					13.5		40.0	17,461.00	436.53
Compliance with the Insolvency Act, Rules and best	Appointment	1.3		8.1							9.4	4,947.00	526.28
practice	Banking and Bonding		4.0	5.0					7.8	15.2	32.0	8,962.00	280.06
	Case Closure												0.00
	Statutory reporting and statement of affairs												0.00
	Total for Compliance with the Insolvency Act, Rules and best practice:	1.3	4.0	13.1					7.8	15.2	41.4	13,909.00	335.97
Investigations	CDDA and investigations								0.2		0.2	38.00	190.00
	Total for Investigations:								0.2		0.2	38.00	190.00
Realisation of assets	Debt collection	8.1		2.9							11.0	7,039.00	639.91
	Property, business and asset sales	28.0	7.0	18.0							53.0	32,380.00	610.94
	Retention of Title/Third party assets												0.00
	Total for Realisation of assets:	36.1	7.0	20.9							64.0	39,419.00	615.92
Trading	Trading												0.00
	Total for Trading:												0.00
Dealing with all creditors claims (including employees),	Secured												0.00
correspondence and distributions	Others	85.2	36.1	58.9							180.2	109,176.00	605.86
	Creditors committee												0.00
	Total for Dealing with all creditors claims (including employees), correspondence and distributions:	85.2	36.1	58.9							180.2	109,176.00	605.86
Other matters which includes meetings, tax, litigation,	Seeking decisions of creditors												0.00
pensions and travel	Meetings			5.8					4.0		9.8	3,660.00	373.47
	Other								3.0		3.0	570.00	190.00
	Tax	4.4	1.3	5.4					1.5		12.6	6,775.00	537.70
	Litigation												0.00
	Total for Other matters:	4.4	1.3	11.2					8.5		25.4	11,005.00	433.27
	Total hours by staff grade:	132.8	55.2	118.0					30.0	15.2	351.2		
	Total time cost by staff grade £:	91,632.00	32,016.00	59,000.00					5,700.00	2,660.00		191,008.00	
	Average hourly rate £:	690.00	580.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.00	175.00			543.87
	Total fees drawn to date £:											0.00	

# STATEMENT OF LIQUIDATORS' EXPENSES

Type of expense	Name of party with	Amount	Amount	Balance (to be			
	whom expense	incurred	discharged	discharged)			
	incurred			£			
		£	£				
	·						
Expenses incurred with 6	entities not within the Begbies	Traynor Group					
Specific Bond	AUA Insolvency Risk	320.00	320.00	NII			
	Service						
Agent's Fees	Peter Davies & Sons	46,128.42	46,128.42	Nil			
Solicitors Fees	Grosvenor Law Ltd	11,471.75	11,471.75	Nil			
	Pallas Partners LLP	10,141.00	10,141.00	Nil			
Advertising Costs	Courts Advertising Ltd	310.50	310.50	Nil			
Advertising Costs	Courts Advertising Ltd	310.50	010.50	1411			
Bank Charges	Barclays Bank plc	30.00	30.00	Nil			
			,				
Expenses incurred with entities within the Begbies Traynor Group (for further details see Begbies Traynor							
Charging Policy)							
		,	·				
None							