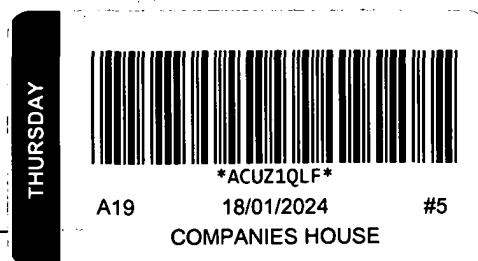


Company number: 06368840

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006



COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

of

SWAN ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING SOLUTIONS LTD

(Adopted by special resolution of the shareholders of the company
dated 12 January 2024)

1. Preliminary

- 1.1 Except as otherwise provided in these articles the Model Articles shall apply to the company. In the case of any inconsistency between these articles and the Model Articles, the provisions of these articles shall prevail. A copy of the Model Articles is set out in part 2 of the schedule to these articles.
- 1.2 Articles 7(2), 8, 9(3), 9(4), 11(2), 14, 15, 17(2) and (3), 18, 19(2), 19(4), 20, 21, 24(1) and (2), 26(1), 31(1), 36(4), 41(1), 44(4), 45(1), 46(4), 52 and 53 of the Model Articles shall not apply.
- 1.3 Table A in the Schedule to the Companies (Tables A to F) Regulations 1985 (as amended) shall not apply to the Company.

2. Definitions and interpretation

- 2.1 In these articles the following words and expressions shall (except where the context otherwise requires) have the following meanings:

"Act" means the Companies Act 2006;

"alternate" and "alternate director" have the meaning given in article 7;

"Appointor" has the meaning given in article 7.1;

"Business Day" means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday in England;

"call" has the meaning given in article 13.1;

"Call Notice" has the meaning given in article 13.1;

"Company's Lien" has the meaning given in article 12.1;

"EEA State" has the meaning given in schedule 1 of the Interpretation Act 1978 (a copy of which provision as at the date of adoption of these articles is set out in part 1 of the schedule to these articles);

"Electronic Address" has the meaning given in section 333(4) of the Act (a copy of which provision as at the date of adoption of these articles is set out in part 1 of the schedule to these articles);

"Electronic Means" has the meaning given in section 1168(4) of the Act (a copy of which provision as at the date of adoption of these articles is set out in part 1 of the schedule to these articles);

"Eligible Director" means a director who would be entitled to vote on the matter at a meeting of directors (but excluding any director whose vote is not to be counted in respect of a particular matter);

"Equity Securities" has the meaning given in sections 560(1) to (3) inclusive of the Act (a copy of which provisions as at the date of adoption of these articles is set out in part 1 of the schedule to these articles) and for the avoidance of doubt an allotment of Equity Securities includes a transfer of shares which immediately before such transfer were held by the company as Treasury Shares;

"Group Undertaking" has the meaning given in section 1161(5) of the Act (a copy of which provision as at the date of adoption of these articles is set out in part 1 of the schedule to these articles);

"Lien Enforcement Notice" has the meaning given in articles 12.3 and 12.4;

"Model Articles" means the model articles for private companies limited by shares contained in Schedule 1 to the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/3229) as amended prior to the date of adoption of these articles;

"nil paid" in relation to a share means that none of that share's nominal value or any premium at which it was issued has been paid to the company;

"Occupational Pension Scheme" has the meaning given in section 235(6) of the Act (a copy of which provision as at the date of adoption of these articles is set out in part 1 of the schedule to these articles);

"Officer" in relation to a body corporate includes a director, manager or secretary;

"partly paid" in relation to a share means that part of that share's nominal value or any premium at which it was issued which has not been paid to the company;

"Proxy Notice" has the meaning given in article 8.9;

"Qualifying Person" has the meaning given in section 318(3) of the Act (a copy of which provision as at the date of adoption of these articles is set out in part 1 of the schedule to these articles);

"Relevant Officer" means any director or other Officer or former director or Officer of the company or an associated company (within the meaning given in article 18.4);

"Shareholder" means a person who is the holder of a share in the capital of the company from time to time (but excludes the company holding Treasury Shares from time to time) (and the definition of "shareholder" in the Model Articles shall not apply); and

"Treasury Shares" means shares in the capital of the company held by the company as treasury shares within the meaning set out in section 724(5) of the Act (a copy of which provision as at the date of adoption of these articles is set out in part 1 of the schedule to these articles).

2.2 In these articles:

- (a) words and expressions defined in the Model Articles (or, in the absence of such definition in the Model Articles, in the Act) shall have the same meanings in these articles unless stated otherwise or the context otherwise requires;
- (b) headings are used for convenience only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of these articles;
- (c) reference in these articles to an "article" is a reference to the relevant article of these articles unless expressly provided otherwise;
- (d) reference to any statute or statutory provision includes, unless expressly provided otherwise, a reference:
 - (i) to that statute or statutory provision as from time to time consolidated, modified, re-enacted (with or without modification) or replaced by any statute or statutory provision; and
 - (ii) any subordinate legislation made under the relevant statutory provision;
- (e) reference in these articles to **"writing"** or **"written"** includes typing, printing, lithography, photography and other modes of representing words in a legible and non transitory form, including electronic form.

3. **Objects**

The objects of the company are unlimited.

4. **Directors**

- 4.1 Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, the number of directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall be no fewer than one.
- 4.2 In addition to the rights under article 17(1) of the Model Articles, a Shareholder or Shareholders having the right to attend and vote at any general meeting of the company and holding 75 per cent. or more in nominal value of the shares giving that right may from time to time by notice in writing or (subject to the Act) in electronic form to the company remove any director from office or appoint any person to be a director, and any such removal or appointment shall be deemed to be an act of the company and not only of such Shareholder or Shareholders. Any such notice may consist of one or more documents each executed by or on behalf of such Shareholder or Shareholders and shall take effect at and from the time when such notice is received at the registered office of the company or produced to a meeting of the directors of the company.
- 4.3 In any case where, as a result of death or bankruptcy, the company has no Shareholders and no directors, the transmittee(s) of the last Shareholder to have died or to have had a bankruptcy order made against him (as the case may be) shall have the right, by notice in writing, to appoint a natural person (including a transmittee who is a natural person) to be a director.

4.4 For the purposes of article 4.3, where two or more Shareholders die in circumstances rendering it uncertain who was the last to die, a younger Shareholder is deemed to have survived an older Shareholder. Article 17(2) and (3) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

4.5 A person shall cease to be a director as soon as that person:

- (a) has a bankruptcy order made against him;
- (b) ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision of the Act or becomes prohibited by law from being a director;
- (c) becomes, in the reasonable opinion of all his co-directors, incapable by reason of mental disorder of discharging his duties as a director;
- (d) resigns his office by written notice to the company and such resignation takes effect in accordance with its terms; or
- (e) is removed from office pursuant to article 4.2.

Article 18 of the Model Articles shall not apply.

4.6 Directors are entitled to such remuneration:

- (a) as the company may by ordinary resolution determine for their services to the company as directors; and
- (b) as the directors may determine for any other service which they undertake for the company.

Article 19(2) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

4.7 Unless the company by ordinary resolution resolves otherwise or, in the case of remuneration under article 4.6(b), the directors decide otherwise, directors' remuneration accrues from day to day. Article 19(4) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

4.8 The company may pay any reasonable expenses which the directors (including alternate directors) and the secretary properly incur in connection with their attendance at:

- (a) meetings of directors or committees of directors;
- (b) general meetings; or
- (c) separate meetings of the holders of any class of shares or of debentures of the company,

or otherwise in connection with the exercise of their powers and the discharge of their responsibilities in relation to the company. Article 20 of the Model Articles shall not apply.

5. Directors' decision-making

5.1 Notice of a directors' meeting must in so far as is reasonably practicable be given to each director and alternate director (whether or not in the United Kingdom), but need not be in writing and the accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any director or alternate director shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting. Article 9(3) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

5.2 Notice of a directors' meeting need not be given to directors who waive their entitlement to notice of that meeting, by giving notice to that effect to the company at any time before or after the date on which the meeting is held. Where such notice is given after the meeting has been held, that does not affect the validity of the meeting, or of any business conducted at it. Article 9(4) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

5.3 If:

(a) the company only has one director; and

(b) no provision of the articles requires it to have more than one director,

the general rule in article 7(1) of the Model Articles shall not apply and the director, or his alternate, may (so long as he remains the sole director) take decisions without regard to any of the provisions of the articles relating to directors' decision-making, except that he must comply with the provisions of article 5.5. Article 7(2) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

5.4 A decision of the directors is taken in accordance with this article when all Eligible Directors indicate to each other by any means that they share a common view on a matter, provided that the Eligible Directors would have formed a quorum if the matter had been proposed at a meeting. Such a decision may take the form of a resolution in writing, where each Eligible Director has signed one or more copies of it, or to which each Eligible Director has otherwise indicated agreement in writing (including confirmation given by Electronic Means). Article 8 of the Model Articles shall not apply.

5.5 The directors must ensure that the company keeps a record, in writing, of all directors' decisions for at least ten years from the date of their adoption, including those taken by a sole director or a committee of directors, and where decisions of the directors are taken by Electronic Means, such decisions shall be recorded in permanent form so that they can be read with the naked eye. Article 15 of the Model Articles shall not apply.

5.6 Subject to any contrary provision of these articles, the quorum for directors' meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the Shareholders and unless otherwise fixed it is two, save that in the event that there is only one director in office or only one Eligible Director who would be entitled to vote on a matter if proposed as a resolution at a directors' meeting, the quorum for such meeting (or other decision making process) shall be one. Article 11(2) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

6. Directors' conflicts of interests

6.1 Provided (if these articles so require) that he has declared to the directors, in accordance with the provisions of these articles, the nature and extent of his interest, a director may (save as to the extent not permitted by law from time to time), notwithstanding his office, have an interest of the following kind, namely:

(a) where a director (or a person connected with him) is party to or in any way directly or indirectly interested in, or has any duty in respect of, any existing or proposed contract, arrangement or transaction with the company or any other undertaking in which the company is in any way interested;

(b) where a director (or a person connected with him) is a director, employee or other Officer of, or a party to any contract, arrangement or transaction with, or in any way interested in, any body corporate promoted by the company or in which the company is in any way interested;

- (c) where a director (or a person connected with him) is a Shareholder or a shareholder in, employee, director, member or other Officer of, or consultant to, a Group Undertaking of the company;
- (d) where a director (or a person connected with him) holds and is remunerated in respect of any office or place of profit (other than the office of auditor) under the company or body corporate in which the company is in any way interested;
- (e) where a director is given a guarantee, or is to be given a guarantee, in respect of an obligation incurred by or on behalf of the company or any body corporate in which the company is in any way interested;
- (f) where a director (or a person connected with him or of which he is a shareholder or employee) acts (or any body corporate promoted by the company or in which the company is in any way interested of which he is a director, employee or other Officer acts) in a professional capacity for the company or any body corporate promoted by the company or in which the company is in any way interested (other than as auditor) whether or not he or it is remunerated for this;
- (g) an interest which cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest; or
- (h) any other interest authorised by ordinary resolution.

Article 14 of the Model Articles shall not apply.

- 6.2 For the purposes of this article 6, an interest of which a director is not aware and of which it is unreasonable to expect him to be aware shall not be treated as an interest of his.
- 6.3 In any situation permitted by this article 6 (save as otherwise agreed by him) a director shall not by reason of his office be accountable to the company for any benefit which he derives from that situation and no such contract, arrangement or transaction shall be avoided on the grounds of any such interest or benefit.
- 6.4 The company has, by ordinary resolution, resolved for the purposes of paragraph 47(3)(b) of schedule 4 to the Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No.5, (Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007) that authorisation of conflicts of interest may be given by the directors within section 175(5)(a) of the Act.
- 6.5 Any authority given in accordance with section 175(5)(a) of the Act in respect of a director ("**Interested Director**") who has proposed that the directors authorise his interest ("**Relevant Interest**") pursuant to that section may, for the avoidance of doubt:
 - (a) be given on such terms and subject to such conditions or limitations as may be imposed by the authorising directors as they see fit from time to time, including, without limitation:
 - (i) restricting the Interested Director from voting on any resolution put to a meeting of the directors or of a committee of the directors in relation to the Relevant Interest;
 - (ii) restricting the Interested Director from being counted in the quorum at a meeting of the directors or of a committee of the directors where such Relevant Interest is to be discussed; or
 - (iii) restricting the application of the provisions in articles 6.6 and 6.7, so far as is permitted by law, in respect of such Interested Director;

- (b) be withdrawn, or varied at any time by the directors entitled to authorise the Relevant Interest as they see fit from time to time; and
 - (c) an Interested Director must act in accordance with any such terms, conditions or limitations imposed by the authorising directors pursuant to section 175(5)(a) of the Act and this article 6.
- 6.6 Subject to article 6.7 (and without prejudice to any equitable principle or rule of law which may excuse or release the director from disclosing information in circumstances where disclosure may otherwise be required under this article), if a director, otherwise than by virtue of his position as director, receives information in respect of which he owes a duty of confidentiality to a person other than the company, he shall not be required:
 - (a) to disclose such information to the company or to the directors, or to any director, officer or employee of the company; or
 - (b) otherwise to use or apply such confidential information for the purpose of or in connection with the performance of his duties as a director.
- 6.7 Where such duty of confidentiality arises out of a situation in which he has, or can have, a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interests of the company, article 6.6 shall apply only if the conflict arises out of a matter which falls within article 6.1 or has been authorised under section 175(5)(a) of the Act (subject to any restrictions imposed by the authorising directors).
- 6.8 Where a director has an interest which can reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest, the director may take such additional steps as may be necessary or desirable for the purpose of managing such conflict of interest, including compliance with any procedures laid down from time to time by the directors for the purpose of managing conflicts of interest generally and/or any specific procedures approved by the directors for the purpose of or in connection with the situation or matter in question, including without limitation:
 - (a) absenting himself from any discussions, whether in meetings of the directors or otherwise, at which the relevant situation or matter falls to be considered; and
 - (b) excluding himself from documents or information made available to the directors generally in relation to such situation or matter and/or arranging for such documents or information to be reviewed by a professional adviser to ascertain the extent to which it might be appropriate for him to have access to such documents or information.
- 6.9 Subject to section 182 of the Act, a director shall declare the nature and extent of any interest permitted by article 6.1 at a meeting of the directors, or by general notice in accordance with section 184 (notice in writing) or section 185 (general notice) of the Act or in such other manner as the directors may determine, except that no declaration of interest shall be required by a director in relation to an interest:
 - (a) falling under article 6.1(g);
 - (b) if, or to the extent that, the other directors are already aware of such interest (and for this purpose the other directors are treated as aware of anything of which they ought reasonably to be aware); or
 - (c) if, or to the extent that, it concerns the terms of his service contract (as defined by section 227 of the Act) that have been or are to be considered by a meeting of the directors, or by a committee of directors appointed for the purpose under these articles.

6.10 Provided (if these articles so require) that he has declared to the directors, in accordance with the provisions of these articles, the nature and extent of his interest (and subject to any restrictions on voting or counting in a quorum imposed by the directors in authorising a Relevant Interest), a director, in relation to any resolution concerning a matter in which he has an interest, whether a direct or indirect interest, or in relation to which he has a duty:

- (a) can vote, and be counted in reckoning as to whether a quorum is present, at a meeting of the directors or of a committee of the directors; and
- (b) shall be an Eligible Director, and be counted as participating, for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is participating.

6.11 Subject to section 239 of the Act, the company may by ordinary resolution ratify any contract, transaction or arrangement, or other proposal, not properly authorised by reason of a contravention of any provisions of this article.

6.12 For the purposes of this article 6:

- (a) a conflict of interest includes a conflict of interest and duty and a conflict of duties;
- (b) the provisions of section 252 of the Act shall determine whether a person is connected with a director; and
- (c) a general notice to the directors that a director is to be regarded as having an interest of the nature and extent specified in the notice in any transaction or arrangement in which a specified person or class of persons is interested shall be deemed to be a disclosure that the director has an interest in any such transaction of the nature and extent so specified.

7. Alternate directors

7.1 Any director (the "**Appointor**") (other than an alternate director) may appoint as an alternate any other director or any other person to:

- (a) exercise that director's powers; and
- (b) carry out that director's responsibilities,

in relation to the taking of decisions by the directors in the absence of the alternate's Appointor.

7.2 Any appointment or removal of an alternate must be effected by notice in writing to the company signed by the Appointor, or in any other manner approved by the directors.

7.3 The notice must:

- (a) identify the proposed alternate; and
- (b) in the case of a notice of appointment, contain a statement signed by the proposed alternate that the proposed alternate is willing to act as the alternate of the director giving the notice.

7.4 An alternate director may act as an alternate to more than one director and has the same rights, in relation to any directors' meeting (including as to notice) or directors' written resolution, as the alternate's Appointor.

7.5 Except as these articles specify otherwise, an alternate director:

- (a) is deemed for all purposes to be a director;
- (b) is liable for his own acts and omissions;
- (c) is subject to the same restrictions as his Appointor; and
- (d) is not deemed to be an agent of or for his Appointor,

and, in particular (without limitation), each alternate director shall be entitled to receive notice of all meetings of directors and of all meetings of committees of directors of which his Appointor is a member.

7.6 A person who is an alternate director but not a director:

- (a) may be counted as participating for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is participating (but only if that person's Appointor is not participating); and
- (b) may sign a directors' written resolution (but only if his Appointor is an Eligible Director in relation to that decision, but does not participate).

No alternate may be counted as more than one director for such purposes.

7.7 A director who is also an alternate director is entitled, in the absence of his Appointor, to a separate vote on behalf of each Appointor, in addition to his own vote on any decision of the directors (provided that his Appointor is an Eligible Director in relation to that decision).

7.8 An alternate director is not entitled to receive any remuneration from the company for serving as an alternate director, except such part of the alternate's Appointor's remuneration as the Appointor may direct by notice in writing made to the company.

7.9 An alternate director's appointment as an alternate director shall terminate:

- (a) when the alternate director's Appointor revokes the appointment by notice to the company in writing specifying when it is to terminate;
- (b) on the occurrence in relation to the alternate director of any event which, if it occurred in relation to the alternate's Appointor, would result in the termination of the Appointor's appointment as a director;
- (c) on the death of the alternate director's Appointor; or
- (d) when the alternate director's Appointor's appointment as a director terminates for any other reason.

8. Decision-making by Shareholders

8.1 If the persons attending a general meeting within half an hour of the time at which the meeting was due to start do not constitute a quorum, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or such date and time as the directors may determine. Article 41(1) of the Model Articles shall not apply. Article 41(4) of the Model Articles shall only apply to meetings adjourned under article 41(2) of the Model Articles.

- 8.2 The provisions of section 318 of the Act shall apply to the company, save that:
- (a) if there is only one Shareholder who is permitted to vote upon the business at the meeting, the quorum for that part of meeting considering the business for which only one Shareholder is permitted to vote shall be one Qualifying Person present at the meeting; and
 - (b) if a quorum is not present at any meeting adjourned for the reason referred to in the first sentence of article 8.1, then, provided that the Qualifying Person present holds or represents the holder of at least 75 per cent in nominal value of the ordinary shares of the company in issue, any resolution agreed to by such Qualifying Person shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed unanimously at a general meeting of the company duly convened and held.
- 8.3 If any two or more Shareholders (or Qualifying Persons representing two or more Shareholders) attend the meeting in different locations, the meeting shall be treated as being held at the location specified in the notice of the meeting, save that if no one is present at that location so specified, the meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest number of Qualifying Persons is assembled or, if no such group can be identified, at the location of the chairman.
- 8.4 If at any general meeting any votes are counted which ought not to have been counted, or are not counted which ought to have been counted, the error shall not vitiate the result of the voting unless:
- (a) it is pointed out at the same meeting; and
 - (b) it is, in the opinion of the chairman of the meeting, of sufficient magnitude to affect the result of the voting.
- 8.5 If a demand for a poll is withdrawn under article 44(3) of the Model Articles, the demand shall not be taken to have invalidated the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made and the meeting shall continue as if the demand had not been made.
- 8.6 Polls must be taken in such manner as the chairman directs. A poll demanded on the election of a chairman or on a question of adjournment must be held immediately. A poll demanded on any other question must be held either immediately or at such time and place as the chairman directs not being more than 14 days after the poll is demanded. The demand for a poll shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll was demanded. Article 44(4) of the Model Articles shall not apply.
- 8.7 No notice need be given of a poll not held immediately if the time and place at which it is to be taken are announced at the meeting at which it is demanded. In any other case at least seven clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place at which the poll is to be taken.
- 8.8 If the poll is to be held more than 48 hours after it was demanded the Shareholders shall be entitled to deliver Proxy Notices in respect of the poll at any time up to 24 hours before the time appointed for taking that poll. In calculating that period, no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.
- 8.9 Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a "**Proxy Notice**") which:
- (a) states the name and address of the Shareholder appointing the proxy;
 - (b) identifies the person appointed to be that Shareholder's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;

- (c) is signed by or on behalf of the Shareholder appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine; and
- (d) (subject to article 8.7) is either handed to the chairman any time before the start of the relevant meeting or delivered to the company in accordance with the articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.

Article 45(1) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

- 8.10 If a Proxy Notice is executed on behalf of the Shareholder appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority (being the original, a duly certified copy of the grant of authority or such other evidence as the directors deem appropriate) of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointor's behalf. Article 46(4) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

9. Shares

- 9.1 The issued share capital of the company at the date of adoption of these articles is divided into ordinary shares of £1 each.
- 9.2 Article 21 of the Model Articles shall not apply.
- 9.3 No voting rights attached to a share which is nil paid may be exercised:
 - (a) at any general meeting, at any adjournment of it or at any poll called at or in relation to it; or
 - (b) on any proposed written resolution, unless all or some of the amounts payable to the company in respect of that share have been paid.
- 9.4 Sections 561 and 562(1) to (5) (inclusive) of the Act shall not apply to an allotment of Equity Securities made by the company.
- 9.5 Subject to articles 9.6 and 9.7 and unless otherwise determined by special resolution, any Equity Securities shall, before they are allotted (or, in the case of Treasury Shares, transferred) on any terms, be first offered by the company on the same or more favourable terms to the Shareholders in proportion as nearly as is practicable (without involving fractions) to the nominal value of the shares in the company held by them.
- 9.6 Any offer required to be made under article 9.5 shall be made by written notice to each Shareholder at his registered address or the email address provided for this purpose. If he has no registered address in an EEA State and has provided no email address for this purpose the offer shall be made by written notice to the address in an EEA State notified by him for the purpose of receiving notices. If a Shareholder's registered address is not in an EEA State and he has not notified an address in an EEA State or provided an email address for this purpose, then the offer shall be deemed to have been made to him even though no notice is sent to him. The notice shall specify the number of Equity Securities offered and the period, being at least 14 days, within which the offer, if not accepted, will be deemed to have been declined. After the expiration of such period, or if earlier on receipt of notice of acceptance or refusal of each offer so made, the directors may, subject to these articles, allot (or, in the case of Treasury Shares, transfer) such Equity Securities as have not been taken up in such manner as they think fit.
- 9.7 Article 9.5 shall not apply to the allotment of Equity Securities (or transfer of shares which immediately before such transfer were held by the company as Treasury Shares):

- (a) which would, apart from a renunciation or assignment of their right to the allotment, be held under or allotted or transferred pursuant to an employees' share scheme; or
 - (b) if the company has only one member, to that sole member.
- 9.8 Subject to articles 9.5 and 9.6 and the Act, any Equity Securities shall be at the disposal of the directors who may allot, grant options over, sell or otherwise dispose of them to any persons at those times and generally on the terms and conditions they think proper.
- 9.9 No shares shall (unless the board resolves otherwise) be allotted (nor any Treasury Share be transferred) to any employee, director, prospective employee or director who is resident in the United Kingdom unless such person has entered into a joint election with the company under section 431 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003.
- 9.10 The company may issue shares which are to be redeemed, or are liable to be redeemed at the option of the company or the holder. Those redeemable shares shall be redeemed on the following terms and in the following manner:
 - (a) a holder of a redeemable share may by at least 30 days' notice to the company at its registered office require the company to redeem it and on service of such notice the company shall redeem the shares to which such notice relates on the expiry of that 30 day period (or, if that day is not a working day, the next working day);
 - (b) the company may redeem a redeemable share by giving to its holder at least 30 days' notice in writing stating its wish to redeem it and such redemption shall take place on the expiry of that 30 day period (or, if that day is not a working day, the next working day);
 - (c) the sum payable to the holder on redemption of a redeemable share shall be its par value plus any declared but unpaid dividend in respect of that share (less any tax required to be withheld by law);
 - (d) the sum payable to the holder on redemption of a redeemable share shall be paid on redemption, or on such later date as the company and the holder may agree;
 - (e) on redemption of a redeemable share the holder shall deliver the certificate for it to the company at its registered office (or such other place as the company may notify the holders of redeemable shares) for cancellation. If the certificate includes shares not being redeemed then a new share certificate for the balance of the redeemable shares shall be issued to the holder. If a Shareholder, whose redeemable shares are to be redeemed, does not deliver the certificate for them at the time and place fixed for redemption or does not accept payment of the amount due to him on redemption, then the company shall hold the amount payable on redemption on trust for him.
- 9.11 Subject to the Act, the company may purchase its own shares out of capital otherwise than in accordance with Chapter 5 of Part 18 of the Act, to the extent permitted by section 692(1ZA) of the Act.
- 9.12 For the avoidance of doubt, the company shall not exercise any right in respect of any Treasury Shares, including without limitation any right to:
 - (a) receive notice of or to attend or vote at any general meeting of the company;

- (b) receive or vote on any proposed written resolution; or
- (c) receive a dividend or other distribution,

save as permitted by section 726 of the Act.

- 9.13 Whenever as a result of a consolidation of shares any Shareholders would become entitled to fractions of a share, the directors may, on behalf of those Shareholders, sell the shares representing the fractions for the best price reasonably obtainable to any person (including, subject to the provisions of the Act, the company) and distribute the net proceeds of sale in due proportion among those Shareholders. The directors may authorise some person to execute an instrument of transfer of the shares to, or in accordance with the directions of, the purchaser. The transferee shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase money nor shall his title to the shares be affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the proceedings in reference to the sale.
- 9.14 The company shall issue each Shareholder, free of charge, with one or more certificates in respect of the shares which that Shareholder holds. Every certificate shall specify:
- (a) in respect of how many shares, of what class, it is issued;
 - (b) the nominal value of those shares;
 - (c) the amount paid up on them; and
 - (d) any distinguishing numbers assigned to them.

Articles 24(1) and (2) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

- 9.15 A Shareholder exercising the right to be issued with a replacement certificate under article 25 of the Model Articles shall comply with such conditions as to evidence, indemnity and payment of a reasonable fee as the directors decide, including but not limited to the payment of the expenses reasonably incurred (if any) by the company in investigating evidence as the directors may determine. Article 25(2)(c) of the Model Articles shall be modified accordingly.
- 9.16 The company may pay any person a commission in consideration for that person:
- (a) subscribing, or agreeing to subscribe, for shares; or
 - (b) procuring, or agreeing to procure, subscriptions for shares.
- 9.17 Any commission payable by the company may be paid:
- (a) in cash, or in fully paid or partly paid shares or other securities, or partly in one way and partly in the other; and
 - (b) in respect of a conditional or an absolute subscription.

10. Transfer of shares

- 10.1 Shares may be transferred by means of an instrument of transfer in any usual form or any other form approved by the directors, which is executed by or on behalf of:
- (a) the transferor; and
 - (b) (if any of the shares is partly paid) the transferee.

10.2 Article 26(1) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

10.3 Notwithstanding any provision contained in these articles (whether by way of or in relation to pre-emption rights, restrictions on, or conditions applicable to, share transfers, or otherwise):

(a) the directors of the Company shall not decline to register any transfer of shares in the Company which are the subject of a security interest (a "**Share Charge**"), nor suspend registration thereof where such transfer is in favour of:

- (i) a Secured Party;
- (ii) a chargee or mortgagee of such shares or any receiver or delegate;
- (iii) any nominee of a chargee or mortgagee of such shares;
- (iv) a purchaser of such shares from a chargee or mortgagee (or its nominee or any other entity acting on its behalf) of such shares; or
- (v) a purchaser of such shares from any receiver, administrative receiver or administrator appointed by a chargee or mortgagee of such shares or from any other insolvency practitioner in the course of selling those shares,

and a certificate by the relevant chargee or mortgagee (or an officer thereof) that the relevant transfer is within paragraph (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) above shall be conclusive evidence of that fact;

(b) the Company's lien shall not attach to the shares of the Company subject to a Share Charge, whether any moneys are presently payable or not, and the Company shall not exercise any rights to sell those shares;

(c) the directors shall not have any right of forfeiture over the shares of the Company subject to a Share Charge; and

(d) no Secured Party (or any other party referred to in article 10.3(a) to whom a transfer is in favour of) shall be required to offer the shares which are or are to be the subject of any such transfer to the members for the time being of the Company or any of them, and no such member shall have any right under these articles or otherwise to require such shares to be transferred to them whether for consideration or not.

For the purposes of this article, "**Secured Party**" means a bank, financial institution, trust, fund or other entity which is regularly engaged in or established for the purpose of making, purchasing or investing in loans, securities or other financial assets to which a security interest (including by way of mortgage or charge) has been granted over shares in the Company and any affiliate of any such person, an agent or trustee acting for any such person or such affiliate or a nominee or other entity acting on behalf of any of the foregoing.

10.4 Article 26(5) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

11. Distributions

11.1 Where a dividend or other cash sum which is a distribution is payable in respect of a share, it shall be paid by one or more of the following means:

- (a) transfer to a bank or building society account specified by the distribution recipient (as defined in article 31(2) of the Model Articles) in writing;
- (b) sending of a cheque made payable to the distribution recipient by post to the distribution recipient at the distribution recipient's registered address (if the distribution recipient is a holder of the share), or (in any other case) to such other address as specified by the distribution recipient in writing;
- (c) sending of a cheque made payable to such person by post to such person at such address as the distribution recipient has specified in writing; or
- (d) any other means of payment as the directors agree with the distribution recipient in writing.

Article 31(1) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

11.2 A capitalised sum which was appropriated from profits available for distribution may be applied:

- (a) in or towards paying up any sums unpaid on existing shares held by the persons entitled; or
- (b) in paying up new debentures of the company which are then allotted credited as fully paid to the persons entitled or as they may direct.

Article 36(4) of the Model Articles shall not apply.

11.3 If:

- (a) a share is subject to the Company's Lien; and
- (b) the directors are entitled to issue a Lien Enforcement Notice in respect of it,

they may, instead of issuing a Lien Enforcement Notice, deduct from any dividend or other sum payable in respect of the share any sum of money which is payable to the company in respect of that share to the extent that they are entitled to require payment under a Lien Enforcement Notice. Money so deducted shall be used to pay any of the sums payable in respect of that share. The company shall notify the distribution recipient in writing of:

- (a) the fact and sum of any such deduction;
- (b) any non-payment of a dividend or other sum payable in respect of a share resulting from any such deduction; and
- (c) how the money deducted has been applied.

12. Company's Lien

12.1 The company has a lien (the "**Company's Lien**") over every share which is nil paid or partly paid for any part of:

- (a) that share's nominal value; and
- (b) any premium at which it was issued,

which has not been paid to the company, and which is payable immediately or at some time in the future, whether or not a Call Notice has been sent in respect of it.

12.2 The Company's Lien over a share:

- (a) shall take priority over any third party's interest in that share; and
- (b) shall extend to any dividend or other money payable by the company in respect of that share and (if the lien is enforced and the share is sold by the company) the proceeds of sale of that share.

The directors may at any time decide that a share which is, or would otherwise be, subject to the Company's Lien shall not be subject to it, either wholly or in part.

12.3 Subject to the provisions of this article 12, if:

- (a) a notice complying with article 12.4 (a "**Lien Enforcement Notice**") has been given by the company in respect of a share; and
- (b) the person to whom the notice was given has failed to comply with it,

then the company shall be entitled to sell that share in such manner as the directors decide.

12.4 A Lien Enforcement Notice:

- (a) may only be given by the company in respect of a share which is subject to the Company's Lien, in respect of which a sum is payable and the due date for payment of that sum has passed;
- (b) must specify the share concerned;
- (c) must require payment of the sum payable within 14 days of the notice;
- (d) must be addressed either to the holder of the share or to a person entitled to it by reason of the holder's death, bankruptcy or otherwise; and
- (e) must state the company's intention to sell the share if the notice is not complied with.

12.5 Where any share is sold pursuant to this article 12:

- (a) the directors may authorise any person to execute an instrument of transfer of the share to the purchaser or a person nominated by the purchaser; and
- (b) the transferee shall not be bound to see to the application of the consideration, and the transferee's title shall not be affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the process leading to the sale.

12.6 The net proceeds of any such sale (after payment of the costs of sale and any other costs of enforcing the lien) shall be applied:

- (a) first, in payment of so much of the sum for which the lien exists as was payable at the date of the Lien Enforcement Notice; and

- (b) secondly, to the person entitled to the share at the date of the sale, but only after the certificate for the share sold has been surrendered to the company for cancellation or an indemnity in a form reasonably satisfactory to the directors has been given for any lost certificate, and subject to a lien equivalent to the Company's Lien for any money payable over the share before the sale for any money payable in respect of the share after the date of the Lien Enforcement Notice.
- 12.7 A statutory declaration by a director or the company secretary that the declarant is a director or the company secretary and that a share has been sold to satisfy the Company's Lien on a specified date:
 - (a) shall be conclusive evidence of the facts stated in it as against all persons claiming to be entitled to the share; and
 - (b) subject to compliance with any other formalities of transfer required by the articles or by law, shall constitute a good title to the share.
- 13. Call Notices**
- 13.1 Subject to these articles and the terms on which shares are allotted, the directors may send a notice (a "**Call Notice**") to a Shareholder requiring the Shareholder to pay the company a specified sum of money (a "**call**") which is payable to the company by that Shareholder when the directors decide to send the Call Notice.
- 13.2 A Call Notice:
 - (a) may not require a Shareholder to pay a call which exceeds the total sum unpaid on that Shareholder's shares (whether as to the share's nominal value or any sum payable to the company by way of premium);
 - (b) shall state when and how any call to which it relates it is to be paid; and
 - (c) may permit or require the call to be paid by instalments.
- 13.3 A Shareholder shall comply with the requirements of a Call Notice, but no Shareholder shall be obliged to pay any call before 14 days have passed since the notice was sent.
- 13.4 Before the company has received any call due under a Call Notice the directors may:
 - (a) revoke it wholly or in part; or
 - (b) specify a later time for payment than is specified in the Call Notice, by a further notice in writing to the Shareholder in respect of whose shares the call is made.
- 13.5 Liability to pay a call shall not be extinguished or transferred by transferring the shares in respect of which it is required to be paid. Joint holders of a share shall be jointly and severally liable to pay all calls in respect of that share.
- 13.6 Subject to the terms on which shares are allotted, the directors may, when issuing shares, provide that Call Notices sent to the holders of those shares may require them to:
 - (a) pay calls which are not the same; or
 - (b) pay calls at different times.

- 13.7 A Call Notice need not be issued in respect of sums which are specified, in the terms on which a share is issued, as being payable to the company in respect of that share (whether in respect of nominal value or premium):
- (a) on allotment;
 - (b) on the occurrence of a particular event; or
 - (c) on a date fixed by or in accordance with the terms of issue.
- 13.8 If the due date for payment of such a sum as referred to in article 13.7 has passed and it has not been paid, the holder of the share concerned shall be treated in all respects as having failed to comply with a Call Notice in respect of that sum, and shall be liable to the same consequences as regards the payment of interest and forfeiture.
- 13.9 If a person is liable to pay a call and fails to do so by the Call Payment Date (as defined below):
- (a) the directors may issue a notice of intended forfeiture to that person; and
 - (b) until the call is paid, that person shall be required to pay the company interest on the call from the Call Payment Date at the Relevant Rate (as defined below).
- 13.10 For the purposes of article 13.9:
- (a) the "**Call Payment Date**" shall be the time when the call notice states that a call is payable, unless the directors give a notice specifying a later date, in which case the "**Call Payment Date**" is that later date; and
 - (b) the "**Relevant Rate**" shall be:
 - (i) the rate fixed by the terms on which the share in respect of which the call is due was allotted;
 - (ii) such other rate as was fixed in the Call Notice which required payment of the call, or has otherwise been determined by the directors; or
 - (iii) if no rate is fixed in either of these ways, five per cent. a year,provided that the Relevant Rate shall not exceed by more than five percentage points the base lending rate most recently set by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England in connection with its responsibilities under Part 2 of the Bank of England Act 1998.
- 13.11 The directors may waive any obligation to pay interest on a call wholly or in part.
- 13.12 The directors may accept full payment of any unpaid sum in respect of a share despite payment not being called under a Call Notice.

14. Forfeiture of shares

- 14.1 A notice of intended forfeiture:
- (a) may be sent in respect of any share in respect of which a call has not been paid as required by a Call Notice;

- (b) shall be sent to the holder of that share or to a person entitled to it by reason of the holder's death, bankruptcy or otherwise;
- (c) shall require payment of the call and any accrued interest and all expenses that may have been incurred by the company by reason of such non-payment by a date which is not fewer than 14 days after the date of the notice;
- (d) shall state how the payment is to be made; and
- (e) shall state that if the notice is not complied with, the shares in respect of which the call is payable will be liable to be forfeited.

14.2 If a notice of intended forfeiture is not complied with before the date by which payment of the call is required in the notice of intended forfeiture, then the directors may decide that any share in respect of which it was given is forfeited, and the forfeiture is to include all dividends or other moneys payable in respect of the forfeited shares and not paid before the forfeiture.

14.3 Subject to these articles, the forfeiture of a share extinguishes:

- (a) all interests in that share, and all claims and demands against the company in respect of it; and
- (b) all other rights and liabilities incidental to the share as between the person whose share it was prior to the forfeiture and the company.

14.4 Any share which is forfeited in accordance with these articles:

- (a) shall be deemed to have been forfeited when the directors decide that it is forfeited;
- (b) shall be deemed to be the property of the company; and
- (c) may be sold, re-allotted or otherwise disposed of as the directors think fit.

14.5 If a person's shares have been forfeited then:

- (a) the company shall send that person notice that forfeiture has occurred and record it in the register of members;
- (b) that person shall cease to be a Shareholder in respect of those shares;
- (c) that person shall surrender the certificate for the shares forfeited to the company for cancellation;
- (d) that person shall remain liable to the company for all sums payable by that person under the articles at the date of forfeiture in respect of those shares, including any interest (whether accrued before or after the date of forfeiture); and
- (e) the directors shall be entitled to waive payment of such sums wholly or in part or enforce payment without any allowance for the value of the shares at the time of forfeiture or for any consideration received on their disposal.

14.6 At any time before the company disposes of a forfeited share, the directors shall be entitled to decide to cancel the forfeiture on payment of all calls and interest and expenses due in respect of it and on such other terms as they think fit.

- 14.7 If a forfeited share is to be disposed of by being transferred, the company shall be entitled to receive the consideration for the transfer and the directors shall be entitled to authorise any person to execute the instrument of transfer.
- 14.8 A statutory declaration by a director or the company secretary that the declarant is a director or the company secretary and that a share has been forfeited on a specified date:
- (a) shall be conclusive evidence of the facts stated in it as against all persons claiming to be entitled to the share; and
 - (b) subject to compliance with any other formalities of transfer required by the articles or by law, constitutes a good title to the share.
- 14.9 A person to whom a forfeited share is transferred shall not be bound to see to the application of the consideration (if any) nor shall that person's title to the share be affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the process leading to the forfeiture or transfer of the share.
- 14.10 If the company sells a forfeited share, the person who held it prior to its forfeiture shall be entitled to receive the proceeds of such sale from the company, net of any commission, and excluding any sum which:
- (a) was, or would have become, payable; and
 - (b) had not, when that share was forfeited, been paid by that person in respect of that share,
- but no interest shall be payable to such a person in respect of such proceeds and the company shall not be required to account for any money earned on such proceeds.

15. Surrender of shares

- 15.1 A Shareholder shall be entitled to surrender any share:
- (a) in respect of which the directors issue a notice of intended forfeiture;
 - (b) which the directors forfeit; or
 - (c) which has been forfeited.
- The directors shall be entitled to accept the surrender of any such share.
- 15.2 The effect of surrender on a share shall be the same as the effect of forfeiture on that share.
- 15.3 The company shall be entitled to deal with a share which has been surrendered in the same way as a share which has been forfeited.

16. Secretary

The directors shall be entitled (but not required) to appoint a secretary for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit; and any secretary so appointed may be removed by them.

17. Communications

17.1 Subject to the Act, any notice given or document sent or supplied to or by any person under these articles, or otherwise sent by the company under the Act, may be given, sent or supplied:

(a) in hard copy form;

(b) in electronic form,

or partly by one of these means and partly by another of these means.

Notices shall be given and documents supplied in accordance with the procedures set out in the Act, except to the extent that a contrary provision is set out in this article 17.

17.2 Any notice, document or other information given or supplied under the Act or the articles shall be deemed to have been serviced and be effective:

(a) if properly addressed and delivered by hand (whether in hard copy form or electronic form), at the time of delivery at the appropriate address;

(b) if properly addressed to an address in the United Kingdom and posted by prepaid United Kingdom first class post (whether in hard copy form or electronic form), on receipt or 48 hours after the time it was posted, whichever occurs first;

(c) if properly addressed and sent (either to an address outside the United Kingdom or from outside the United Kingdom to an address within the United Kingdom) by reputable international courier addressed to the intended recipient, provided that delivery within at least five business days was guaranteed at the time of sending and the sending party receives a confirmation of delivery from the courier service provider), five business days after posting or, if earlier, the date of delivery as confirmed by the courier service provider;

(d) if sent by facsimile or email (to a fax number or an email address notified by the intended recipient for that purpose), on receipt or 24 hours after the time it was sent, whichever occurs first; and

(e) if sent by any other Electronic Means, at the time such delivery is deemed to occur under the Act.

17.3 In proving that any notice, document or other information was properly addressed, it shall be sufficient to show that the notice, document or other information was addressed to an address permitted for the purpose by the Act.

17.4 Where the company is able to show that any notice, document or other information given or supplied under the Act or the articles by Electronic Means was properly addressed with the electronic address supplied by the intended recipient, the giving or supply of that notice, document or other information shall be effective notwithstanding any receipt by the company at any time of notice either that such method of communication has failed or of the intended recipient's non-receipt.

17.5 In the case of joint holders of a share all notices, documents or other information shall be given or supplied to the joint holder whose name stands first in the register of members of the company in respect of the joint holding (the "**Primary Holder**"). Notice so given shall constitute notice to all the joint holders and any other documents or information so supplied shall be deemed to have been given to all the joint holders.

- 17.6 Anything agreed or specified by the Primary Holder in relation to the service, sending or supply of notices, documents or other information shall be treated as the agreement or specification of all the joint holders in their capacity as such (whether for the purposes of the Act or otherwise).
- 17.7 A document or information sent or supplied to the company by one person on behalf of another must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority (being the original, a duly certified copy of the grant of authority or such other evidence as the directors deem appropriate) of that person to act on behalf of the other.

18. Indemnity and insurance

18.1 Subject to article 18.2:

- (a) each Relevant Officer shall be indemnified out of the company's assets against:
 - (i) any liability incurred by that person in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the company or an associated company;
 - (ii) any liability incurred by that person in connection with the activities of the company or an associated company in its capacity as a trustee of an Occupational Pension Scheme; and
 - (iii) any other liability incurred by that person as an officer of the company or an associated company; and
- (b) the company may provide any Relevant Officer with funds to meet expenditure incurred or to be incurred by him in connection with defending any civil or criminal proceedings or any application for relief from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the company's (or any associated company's) affairs and otherwise may take any action to enable any such relevant officer to avoid incurring such expenditure.

18.2 This article 18 does not authorise or provide any indemnity which would be prohibited or rendered void by any provision of the Act or by any other provision of law.

18.3 The directors shall be entitled to purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of the company, for the benefit of any Relevant Officer in respect of any loss or liability which has been or may be incurred by a Relevant Officer in connection with that Relevant Officer's duties or powers in relation to the company, any associated company or any pension fund or employees' share scheme of the company or associated company.

18.4 In this article 18, companies are "associated" if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate.

18.5 Articles 52 and 53 of the Model Articles shall not apply.

SCHEDULE

Part 1

1. Extract from Schedule 1 to the Interpretation Act 1978:

""EEA State", in relation to any time, means—

- (a) a state which at that time is a member state; or
- (b) any other state which at that time is a party to the EEA Agreement;"

2. Extract from section 235(6) of the Companies Act 2006:

"(6) In this section "occupational pension scheme" means an occupational pension scheme as defined in section 150(5) of the Finance Act 2004 (c. 12) that is established under a trust."

3. Extract from section 318(3) of the Companies Act 2006:

"For the purposes of this section a "qualifying person" means—

- (a) an individual who is a member of the company,
- (b) a person authorised under section 323 (representation of corporations at meetings) to act as the representative of a corporation in relation to the meeting, or
- (c) a person appointed as proxy of a member in relation to the meeting."

4. Extract from section 333(4) of the Companies Act 2006:

"(4) In this section "electronic address" means any address or number used for the purposes of sending or receiving documents or information by electronic means."

5. Extract from section 560(1) to (3) of the Companies Act 2006

"(1) In this Chapter —

"equity securities" means—

- (a) ordinary shares in the company, or
- (b) rights to subscribe for, or to convert securities into, ordinary shares in the company;

"ordinary shares" means shares other than shares that as respects dividends and capital carry a right to participate only up to a specified amount in a distribution.

(2) References in this Chapter to the allotment of equity securities—

- (a) include the grant of a right to subscribe for, or to convert any securities into, ordinary shares in the company, and
 - (b) do not include the allotment of shares pursuant to such a right.
- (3) The sale of ordinary shares in the company that immediately before the sale are held by the company as treasury shares."

6. Extract from section 692(1ZA) of the Companies Act 2006:

"(1ZA) If authorised to do so by its articles, a private limited company may purchase its own shares out of capital otherwise than in accordance with Chapter 5, up to an aggregate purchase price in a financial year of the lower of—

- (a) £15,000, or
- (b) the nominal value of 5% of its fully paid share capital as at the beginning of the financial year."

7. Extract from section 724(5) of the Companies Act 2006:

"(5) In the Companies Acts references to a company holding shares as treasury shares are to the company holding shares that –

- (a) were (or are treated as having been) purchased by it in circumstances in which this section applies, and
- (b) have been held by the company continuously since they were so purchased (or treated as purchased)."

8. Extract from section 1161 of the Companies Act 2006:

"1161 Meaning of "undertaking" and related expressions

- (1) In the Companies Acts "undertaking" means—
 - (a) a body corporate or partnership, or
 - (b) an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business, with or without a view to profit.
- (2) In the Companies Acts references to shares—
 - (a) in relation to an undertaking with capital but no share capital, are to rights to share in the capital of the undertaking; and
 - (b) in relation to an undertaking without capital, are to interests—
 - (i) conferring any right to share in the profits or liability to contribute to the losses of the undertaking, or
 - (ii) giving rise to an obligation to contribute to the debts or expenses of the undertaking in the event of a winding up.

- (3) Other expressions appropriate to companies shall be construed, in relation to an undertaking which is not a company, as references to the corresponding persons, officers, documents or organs, as the case may be, appropriate to undertakings of that description.

This is subject to provision in any specific context providing for the translation of such expressions.

- (4) References in the Companies Acts to "fellow subsidiary undertakings" are to undertakings which are subsidiary undertakings of the same parent undertaking but are not parent undertakings or subsidiary undertakings of each other.
- (5) In the Companies Acts "group undertaking", in relation to an undertaking, means an undertaking which is—
- (a) a parent undertaking or subsidiary undertaking of that undertaking, or
 - (b) a subsidiary undertaking of any parent undertaking of that undertaking."

9. Extract from section 1168(4) of the Companies Act 2006:

- "(4) A document or information is sent or supplied by electronic means if it is—
- (a) sent initially and received at its destination by means of electronic equipment for the processing (which expression includes digital compression) or storage of data, and
 - (b) entirely transmitted, conveyed and received by wire, by radio, by optical means or by other electromagnetic means.

References to electronic means have a corresponding meaning."

10. Extract from section 150(5) of the Finance Act 2004:

- "(5) In this Part "occupational pension scheme" means a pension scheme established by an employer or employers and having or capable of having effect so as to provide benefits to or in respect of any or all of the employees of—
- (a) that employer or those employers, or
 - (b) any other employer,
- (whether or not it also has or is capable of having effect so as to provide benefits to or in respect of other persons)."

Part 2

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PART 1
INTERPRETATION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Defined terms

1. In the articles, unless the context requires otherwise—

"articles" means the company's articles of association;

"bankruptcy" includes individual insolvency proceedings in a jurisdiction other than England and Wales or Northern Ireland which have an effect similar to that of bankruptcy;

"chairman" has the meaning given in article 12;

"chairman of the meeting" has the meaning given in article 39;

"Companies Acts" means the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006), in so far as they apply to the company;

"director" means a director of the company, and includes any person occupying the position of director, by whatever name called;

"distribution recipient" has the meaning given in article 31;

"document" includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form;

"electronic form" has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;

"fully paid" in relation to a share, means that the nominal value and any premium to be paid to the company in respect of that share have been paid to the company;

"hard copy form" has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;

"holder" in relation to shares means the person whose name is entered in the register of members as the holder of the shares;

"instrument" means a document in hard copy form;

"ordinary resolution" has the meaning given in section 282 of the Companies Act 2006;

"paid" means paid or credited as paid;

"participate" in relation to a directors' meeting, has the meaning given in article 10;

"proxy notice" has the meaning given in article 45;

"shareholder" means a person who is the holder of a share;

"shares" means shares in the company;

"special resolution" has the meaning given in section 283 of the Companies Act 2006;

"subsidiary" has the meaning given in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006;

"transmittee" means a person entitled to a share by reason of the death or bankruptcy of a shareholder or otherwise by operation of law; and

"writing" means the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

Unless the context otherwise requires, other words or expressions contained in these articles bear the same meaning as in the Companies Act 2006 as in force on the date when these articles become binding on the company.

Liability of members

2. The liability of the members is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid on the shares held by them.

PART 2 DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS' POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Directors' general authority

3. Subject to the articles, the directors are responsible for the management of the company's business, for which purpose they may exercise all the powers of the company.

Shareholders' reserve power

4. (1) The shareholders may, by special resolution, direct the directors to take, or refrain from taking, specified action.
(2) No such special resolution invalidates anything which the directors have done before the passing of the resolution.

Directors may delegate

5. (1) Subject to the articles, the directors may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on them under the articles—
 - (a) to such person or committee;
 - (b) by such means (including by power of attorney);
 - (c) to such an extent;
 - (d) in relation to such matters or territories; and
 - (e) on such terms and conditions;as they think fit.
(2) If the directors so specify, any such delegation may authorise further delegation of the directors' powers by any person to whom they are delegated.
(3) The directors may revoke any delegation in whole or part, or alter its terms and conditions.

Committees

6. (1) Committees to which the directors delegate any of their powers must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of the articles which govern the taking of decisions by directors.
(2) The directors may make rules of procedure for all or any committees, which prevail over rules derived from the articles if they are not consistent with them.

DECISION-MAKING BY DIRECTORS

Directors to take decisions collectively

7. (1) The general rule about decision-making by directors is that any decision of the directors must be either a majority decision at a meeting or a decision taken in accordance with article 8.

(2) If—

(a) the company only has one director, and

(b) no provision of the articles requires it to have more than one director,

the general rule does not apply, and the director may take decisions without regard to any of the provisions of the articles relating to directors' decision-making.

Unanimous decisions

8. (1) A decision of the directors is taken in accordance with this article when all eligible directors indicate to each other by any means that they share a common view on a matter.
- (2) Such a decision may take the form of a resolution in writing, copies of which have been signed by each eligible director or to which each eligible director has otherwise indicated agreement in writing.
- (3) References in this article to eligible directors are to directors who would have been entitled to vote on the matter had it been proposed as a resolution at a directors' meeting.
- (4) A decision may not be taken in accordance with this article if the eligible directors would not have formed a quorum at such a meeting.

Calling a directors' meeting

9. (1) Any director may call a directors' meeting by giving notice of the meeting to the directors or by authorising the company secretary (if any) to give such notice.
- (2) Notice of any directors' meeting must indicate—
- (a) its proposed date and time;
- (b) where it is to take place; and
- (c) if it is anticipated that directors participating in the meeting will not be in the same place, how it is proposed that they should communicate with each other during the meeting.
- (3) Notice of a directors' meeting must be given to each director, but need not be in writing.
- (4) Notice of a directors' meeting need not be given to directors who waive their entitlement to notice of that meeting, by giving notice to that effect to the company not more than 7 days after the date on which the meeting is held. Where such notice is given after the meeting has been held, that does not affect the validity of the meeting, or of any business conducted at it.

Participation in directors' meetings

10. (1) Subject to the articles, directors participate in a directors' meeting, or part of a directors' meeting, when—
- (a) the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with the articles, and
- (b) they can each communicate to the others any information or opinions they have on any particular item of the business of the meeting.
- (2) In determining whether directors are participating in a directors' meeting, it is irrelevant where any director is or how they communicate with each other.
- (3) If all the directors participating in a meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is.

Quorum for directors' meetings

11. (1) At a directors' meeting, unless a quorum is participating, no proposal is to be voted on, except a proposal to call another meeting.
- (2) The quorum for directors' meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the directors, but it must never be less than two, and unless otherwise fixed it is two.
- (3) If the total number of directors for the time being is less than the quorum required, the directors must not take any decision other than a decision—
- (a) to appoint further directors, or
- (b) to call a general meeting so as to enable the shareholders to appoint further directors.

Chairing of directors' meetings

12. (1) The directors may appoint a director to chair their meetings.
- (2) The person so appointed for the time being is known as the chairman.
- (3) The directors may terminate the chairman's appointment at any time.
- (4) If the chairman is not participating in a directors' meeting within ten minutes of the time at which it was to start, the participating directors must appoint one of themselves to chair it.

Casting vote

13. (1) If the numbers of votes for and against a proposal are equal, the chairman or other director chairing the meeting has a casting vote.
- (2) But this does not apply if, in accordance with the articles, the chairman or other director is not to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum or voting purposes.

Conflicts of interest

14. (1) If a proposed decision of the directors is concerned with an actual or proposed transaction or arrangement with the company in which a director is interested, that director is not to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum or voting purposes.
- (2) But if paragraph (3) applies, a director who is interested in an actual or proposed transaction or arrangement with the company is to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum and voting purposes.
- (3) This paragraph applies when—
- (a) the company by ordinary resolution disapplies the provision of the articles which would otherwise prevent a director from being counted as participating in the decision-making process;
- (b) the director's interest cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest; or
- (c) the director's conflict of interest arises from a permitted cause.
- (4) For the purposes of this article, the following are permitted causes—
- (a) a guarantee given, or to be given, by or to a director in respect of an obligation incurred by or on behalf of the company or any of its subsidiaries;

- (b) subscription, or an agreement to subscribe, for shares or other securities of the company or any of its subsidiaries, or to underwrite, sub-underwrite, or guarantee subscription for any such shares or securities; and
 - (c) arrangements pursuant to which benefits are made available to employees and directors or former employees and directors of the company or any of its subsidiaries which do not provide special benefits for directors or former directors.
- (5) For the purposes of this article, references to proposed decisions and decision-making processes include any directors' meeting or part of a directors' meeting.
- (6) Subject to paragraph (7), if a question arises at a meeting of directors or of a committee of directors as to the right of a director to participate in the meeting (or part of the meeting) for voting or quorum purposes, the question may, before the conclusion of the meeting, be referred to the chairman whose ruling in relation to any director other than the chairman is to be final and conclusive.
- (7) If any question as to the right to participate in the meeting (or part of the meeting) should arise in respect of the chairman, the question is to be decided by a decision of the directors at that meeting, for which purpose the chairman is not to be counted as participating in the meeting (or that part of the meeting) for voting or quorum purposes.

Records of decisions to be kept

15. The directors must ensure that the company keeps a record, in writing, for at least 10 years from the date of the decision recorded, of every unanimous or majority decision taken by the directors.

Directors' discretion to make further rules

16. Subject to the articles, the directors may make any rule which they think fit about how they take decisions, and about how such rules are to be recorded or communicated to directors.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

Methods of appointing directors

17. (1) Any person who is willing to act as a director, and is permitted by law to do so, may be appointed to be a director—
- (a) by ordinary resolution, or
 - (b) by a decision of the directors.
- (2) In any case where, as a result of death, the company has no shareholders and no directors, the personal representatives of the last shareholder to have died have the right, by notice in writing, to appoint a person to be a director.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), where 2 or more shareholders die in circumstances rendering it uncertain who was the last to die, a younger shareholder is deemed to have survived an older shareholder.

Termination of director's appointment

18. A person ceases to be a director as soon as—
- (a) that person ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision of the Companies Act 2006 or is prohibited from being a director by law;
 - (b) a bankruptcy order is made against that person;
 - (c) a composition is made with that person's creditors generally in satisfaction of that person's debts;

- (d) a registered medical practitioner who is treating that person gives a written opinion to the company stating that that person has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
- (e) [repealed];
- (f) notification is received by the company from the director that the director is resigning from office, and such resignation has taken effect in accordance with its terms.

Directors' remuneration

19. (1) Directors may undertake any services for the company that the directors decide.
- (2) Directors are entitled to such remuneration as the directors determine—
- (a) for their services to the company as directors, and
 - (b) for any other service which they undertake for the company.
- (3) Subject to the articles, a director's remuneration may—
- (a) take any form, and
 - (b) include any arrangements in connection with the payment of a pension, allowance or gratuity, or any death, sickness or disability benefits, to or in respect of that director.
- (4) Unless the directors decide otherwise, directors' remuneration accrues from day to day.
- (5) Unless the directors decide otherwise, directors are not accountable to the company for any remuneration which they receive as directors or other officers or employees of the company's subsidiaries or of any other body corporate in which the company is interested.

Directors' expenses

20. The company may pay any reasonable expenses which the directors properly incur in connection with their attendance at—
- (a) meetings of directors or committees of directors,
 - (b) general meetings, or
 - (c) separate meetings of the holders of any class of shares or of debentures of the company,
- or otherwise in connection with the exercise of their powers and the discharge of their responsibilities in relation to the company.*

PART 3 SHARES AND DISTRIBUTIONS

SHARES

All shares to be fully paid up

21. (1) No share is to be issued for less than the aggregate of its nominal value and any premium to be paid to the company in consideration for its issue.
- (2) This does not apply to shares taken on the formation of the company by the subscribers to the company's memorandum.

Powers to issue different classes of share

22. (1) Subject to the articles, but without prejudice to the rights attached to any existing share, the company may issue shares with such rights or restrictions as may be determined by ordinary resolution.
- (2) The company may issue shares which are to be redeemed, or are liable to be redeemed at the option of the company or the holder, and the directors may determine the terms, conditions and manner of redemption of any such shares.

Company not bound by less than absolute interests

23. Except as required by law, no person is to be recognised by the company as holding any share upon any trust, and except as otherwise required by law or the articles, the company is not in any way to be bound by or recognise any interest in a share other than the holder's absolute ownership of it and all the rights attaching to it.

Share certificates

24. (1) The company must issue each shareholder, free of charge, with one or more certificates in respect of the shares which that shareholder holds.
- (2) Every certificate must specify—
- (a) in respect of how many shares, of what class, it is issued;
 - (b) the nominal value of those shares;
 - (c) that the shares are fully paid; and
 - (d) any distinguishing numbers assigned to them.
- (3) No certificate may be issued in respect of shares of more than one class.
- (4) If more than one person holds a share, only one certificate may be issued in respect of it.
- (5) Certificates must—
- (a) have affixed to them the company's common seal, or
 - (b) be otherwise executed in accordance with the Companies Acts.

Replacement share certificates

25. (1) If a certificate issued in respect of a shareholder's shares is—
- (a) damaged or defaced, or
 - (b) said to be lost, stolen or destroyed,
- that shareholder is entitled to be issued with a replacement certificate in respect of the same shares.
- (2) A shareholder exercising the right to be issued with such a replacement certificate—
- (a) may at the same time exercise the right to be issued with a single certificate or separate certificates;
 - (b) must return the certificate which is to be replaced to the company if it is damaged or defaced; and
 - (c) must comply with such conditions as to evidence, indemnity and the payment of a reasonable fee as the directors decide.

Share transfers

26. (1) Shares may be transferred by means of an instrument of transfer in any usual form or any other form approved by the directors, which is executed by or on behalf of the transferor.
- (2) No fee may be charged for registering any instrument of transfer or other document relating to or affecting the title to any share.
- (3) The company may retain any instrument of transfer which is registered.
- (4) The transferor remains the holder of a share until the transferee's name is entered in the register of members as holder of it.
- (5) The directors may refuse to register the transfer of a share, and if they do so, the instrument of transfer must be returned to the transferee with the notice of refusal unless they suspect that the proposed transfer may be fraudulent.

Transmission of shares

27. (1) If title to a share passes to a transmittee, the company may only recognise the transmittee as having any title to that share.
- (2) A transmittee who produces such evidence of entitlement to shares as the directors may properly require—
- (a) may, subject to the articles, choose either to become the holder of those shares or to have them transferred to another person, and
- (b) subject to the articles, and pending any transfer of the shares to another person, has the same rights as the holder had.
- (3) But transmittees do not have the right to attend or vote at a general meeting, or agree to a proposed written resolution, in respect of shares to which they are entitled, by reason of the holder's death or bankruptcy or otherwise, unless they become the holders of those shares.

Exercise of transmittees' rights

28. (1) Transmittees who wish to become the holders of shares to which they have become entitled must notify the company in writing of that wish.
- (2) If the transmittee wishes to have a share transferred to another person, the transmittee must execute an instrument of transfer in respect of it.
- (3) Any transfer made or executed under this article is to be treated as if it were made or executed by the person from whom the transmittee has derived rights in respect of the share, and as if the event which gave rise to the transmission had not occurred.

Transmittees bound by prior notices

29. If a notice is given to a shareholder in respect of shares and a transmittee is entitled to those shares, the transmittee is bound by the notice if it was given to the shareholder before the transmittee's name has been entered in the register of members.

DIVIDENDS AND OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS

Procedure for declaring dividends

30. (1) The company may by ordinary resolution declare dividends, and the directors may decide to pay interim dividends.
- (2) A dividend must not be declared unless the directors have made a recommendation as to its amount. Such a dividend must not exceed the amount recommended by the directors.

- (3) No dividend may be declared or paid unless it is in accordance with shareholders' respective rights.
- (4) Unless the shareholders' resolution to declare or directors' decision to pay a dividend, or the terms on which shares are issued, specify otherwise, it must be paid by reference to each shareholder's holding of shares on the date of the resolution or decision to declare or pay it.
- (5) If the company's share capital is divided into different classes, no interim dividend may be paid on shares carrying deferred or non-preferred rights if, at the time of payment, any preferential dividend is in arrear.
- (6) The directors may pay at intervals any dividend payable at a fixed rate if it appears to them that the profits available for distribution justify the payment.
- (7) If the directors act in good faith, they do not incur any liability to the holders of shares conferring preferred rights for any loss they may suffer by the lawful payment of an interim dividend on shares with deferred or non-preferred rights.

Payment of dividends and other distributions

31. (1) Where a dividend or other sum which is a distribution is payable in respect of a share, it must be paid by one or more of the following means—
- (a) transfer to a bank or building society account specified by the distribution recipient either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide;
 - (b) sending a cheque made payable to the distribution recipient by post to the distribution recipient at the distribution recipient's registered address (if the distribution recipient is a holder of the share), or (in any other case) to an address specified by the distribution recipient either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide;
 - (c) sending a cheque made payable to such person by post to such person at such address as the distribution recipient has specified either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide; or
 - (d) any other means of payment as the directors agree with the distribution recipient either in writing or by such other means as the directors decide.
- (2) In the articles, "the distribution recipient" means, in respect of a share in respect of which a dividend or other sum is payable—
- (a) the holder of the share; or
 - (b) if the share has two or more joint holders, whichever of them is named first in the register of members; or
 - (c) if the holder is no longer entitled to the share by reason of death or bankruptcy, or otherwise by operation of law, the transmittee.

No interest on distributions

32. The company may not pay interest on any dividend or other sum payable in respect of a share unless otherwise provided by—
- (a) the terms on which the share was issued, or
 - (b) the provisions of another agreement between the holder of that share and the company.

Unclaimed distributions

33. (1) All dividends or other sums which are—
- (a) payable in respect of shares, and

(b) unclaimed after having been declared or become payable,

may be invested or otherwise made use of by the directors for the benefit of the company until claimed.

(2) The payment of any such dividend or other sum into a separate account does not make the company a trustee in respect of it.

(3) If—

(a) twelve years have passed from the date on which a dividend or other sum became due for payment, and

(b) the distribution recipient has not claimed it,

the distribution recipient is no longer entitled to that dividend or other sum and it ceases to remain owing by the company.

Non-cash distributions

34. (1) Subject to the terms of issue of the share in question, the company may, by ordinary resolution on the recommendation of the directors, decide to pay all or part of a dividend or other distribution payable in respect of a share by transferring non-cash assets of equivalent value (including, without limitation, shares or other securities in any company).

(2) For the purposes of paying a non-cash distribution, the directors may make whatever arrangements they think fit, including, where any difficulty arises regarding the distribution—

(a) fixing the value of any assets;

(b) paying cash to any distribution recipient on the basis of that value in order to adjust the rights of recipients; and

(c) vesting any assets in trustees.

Waiver of distributions

35. Distribution recipients may waive their entitlement to a dividend or other distribution payable in respect of a share by giving the company notice in writing to that effect, but if—

(a) the share has more than one holder, or

(b) more than one person is entitled to the share, whether by reason of the death or bankruptcy of one or more joint holders, or otherwise,

the notice is not effective unless it is expressed to be given, and signed, by all the holders or persons otherwise entitled to the share.

CAPITALISATION OF PROFITS

Authority to capitalise and appropriation of capitalised sums

36. (1) Subject to the articles, the directors may, if they are so authorised by an ordinary resolution—

(a) decide to capitalise any profits of the company (whether or not they are available for distribution) which are not required for paying a preferential dividend, or any sum standing to the credit of the company's share premium account or capital redemption reserve; and

(b) appropriate any sum which they so decide to capitalise (a "capitalised sum") to the persons who would have been entitled to it if it were distributed by way of dividend (the "persons entitled") and in the same proportions.

(2) Capitalised sums must be applied—

- (a) on behalf of the persons entitled, and
 - (b) in the same proportions as a dividend would have been distributed to them.
- (3) Any capitalised sum may be applied in paying up new shares of a nominal amount equal to the capitalised sum which are then allotted credited as fully paid to the persons entitled or as they may direct.
- (4) A capitalised sum which was appropriated from profits available for distribution may be applied in paying up new debentures of the company which are then allotted credited as fully paid to the persons entitled or as they may direct.
- (5) Subject to the articles the directors may—
- (a) apply capitalised sums in accordance with paragraphs (3) and (4) partly in one way and partly in another;
 - (b) make such arrangements as they think fit to deal with shares or debentures becoming distributable in fractions under this article (including the issuing of fractional certificates or the making of cash payments); and
 - (c) authorise any person to enter into an agreement with the company on behalf of all the persons entitled which is binding on them in respect of the allotment of shares and debentures to them under this article.

PART 4

DECISION-MAKING BY SHAREHOLDERS

ORGANISATION OF GENERAL MEETINGS

Attendance and speaking at general meetings

37. (1) A person is able to exercise the right to speak at a general meeting when that person is in a position to communicate to all those attending the meeting, during the meeting, any information or opinions which that person has on the business of the meeting.
- (2) A person is able to exercise the right to vote at a general meeting when—
- (a) that person is able to vote, during the meeting, on resolutions put to the vote at the meeting, and
 - (b) that person's vote can be taken into account in determining whether or not such resolutions are passed at the same time as the votes of all the other persons attending the meeting.
- (3) The directors may make whatever arrangements they consider appropriate to enable those attending a general meeting to exercise their rights to speak or vote at it.
- (4) In determining attendance at a general meeting, it is immaterial whether any two or more members attending it are in the same place as each other.
- (5) Two or more persons who are not in the same place as each other attend a general meeting if their circumstances are such that if they have (or were to have) rights to speak and vote at that meeting, they are (or would be) able to exercise them.

Quorum for general meetings

38. No business other than the appointment of the chairman of the meeting is to be transacted at a general meeting if the persons attending it do not constitute a quorum.

Chairing general meetings

39. (1) If the directors have appointed a chairman, the chairman shall chair general meetings if present and willing to do so.

- (2) If the directors have not appointed a chairman, or if the chairman is unwilling to chair the meeting or is not present within ten minutes of the time at which a meeting was due to start—
 - (a) the directors present, or
 - (b) (if no directors are present), the meeting,
 must appoint a director or shareholder to chair the meeting, and the appointment of the chairman of the meeting must be the first business of the meeting.
- (3) The person chairing a meeting in accordance with this article is referred to as "**the chairman of the meeting**".

Attendance and speaking by directors and non-shareholders

40. (1) Directors may attend and speak at general meetings, whether or not they are shareholders.
- (2) The chairman of the meeting may permit other persons who are not—
 - (a) shareholders of the company, or
 - (b) otherwise entitled to exercise the rights of shareholders in relation to general meetings, to attend and speak at a general meeting.

Adjournment

41. (1) If the persons attending a general meeting within half an hour of the time at which the meeting was due to start do not constitute a quorum, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the chairman of the meeting must adjourn it.
- (2) The chairman of the meeting may adjourn a general meeting at which a quorum is present if—
 - (a) the meeting consents to an adjournment, or
 - (b) it appears to the chairman of the meeting that an adjournment is necessary to protect the safety of any person attending the meeting or ensure that the business of the meeting is conducted in an orderly manner.
- (3) The chairman of the meeting must adjourn a general meeting if directed to do so by the meeting.
- (4) When adjourning a general meeting, the chairman of the meeting must—
 - (a) either specify the time and place to which it is adjourned or state that it is to continue at a time and place to be fixed by the directors, and
 - (b) have regard to any directions as to the time and place of any adjournment which have been given by the meeting.
- (5) If the continuation of an adjourned meeting is to take place more than 14 days after it was adjourned, the company must give at least 7 clear days' notice of it (that is, excluding the day of the adjourned meeting and the day on which the notice is given)—
 - (a) to the same persons to whom notice of the company's general meetings is required to be given, and
 - (b) containing the same information which such notice is required to contain.
- (6) No business may be transacted at an adjourned general meeting which could not properly have been transacted at the meeting if the adjournment had not taken place.

VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

Voting: general

42. A resolution put to the vote of a general meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is duly demanded in accordance with the articles.

Errors and disputes

43. (1) No objection may be raised to the qualification of any person voting at a general meeting except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting is valid.
- (2) Any such objection must be referred to the chairman of the meeting, whose decision is final.

Poll votes

44. (1) A poll on a resolution may be demanded—
- (a) in advance of the general meeting where it is to be put to the vote, or
 - (b) at a general meeting, either before a show of hands on that resolution or immediately after the result of a show of hands on that resolution is declared.
- (2) A poll may be demanded by—
- (a) the chairman of the meeting;
 - (b) the directors;
 - (c) two or more persons having the right to vote on the resolution; or
 - (d) a person or persons representing not less than one tenth of the total voting rights of all the shareholders having the right to vote on the resolution.
- (3) A demand for a poll may be withdrawn if—
- (a) the poll has not yet been taken, and
 - (b) the chairman of the meeting consents to the withdrawal.
- (4) Polls must be taken immediately and in such manner as the chairman of the meeting directs.

Content of proxy notices

45. (1) Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a "proxy notice") which—
- (a) states the name and address of the shareholder appointing the proxy;
 - (b) identifies the person appointed to be that shareholder's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
 - (c) is signed by or on behalf of the shareholder appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine; and
 - (d) is delivered to the company in accordance with the articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.

- (2) The company may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.
- (3) Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.
- (4) Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as—
 - (a) allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting, and
 - (b) appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.

Delivery of proxy notices

- 46. (1) A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the company by or on behalf of that person.
- (2) An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the company a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.
- (3) A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.
- (4) If a proxy notice is not executed by the person appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointor's behalf.

Amendments to resolutions

- 47. (1) An ordinary resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution if—
 - (a) notice of the proposed amendment is given to the company in writing by a person entitled to vote at the general meeting at which it is to be proposed not less than 48 hours before the meeting is to take place (or such later time as the chairman of the meeting may determine), and
 - (b) the proposed amendment does not, in the reasonable opinion of the chairman of the meeting, materially alter the scope of the resolution.
- (2) A special resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution, if—
 - (a) the chairman of the meeting proposes the amendment at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed, and
 - (b) the amendment does not go beyond what is necessary to correct a grammatical or other non-substantive error in the resolution.
- (3) If the chairman of the meeting, acting in good faith, wrongly decides that an amendment to a resolution is out of order, the chairman's error does not invalidate the vote on that resolution.

PART 5
ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Means of communication to be used

48. (1) Subject to the articles, anything sent or supplied by or to the company under the articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act 2006 provides for documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by or to the company.
- (2) Subject to the articles, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to a director in connection with the taking of decisions by directors may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that director has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being.
- (3) A director may agree with the company that notices or documents sent to that director in a particular way are to be deemed to have been received within a specified time of their being sent, and for the specified time to be less than 48 hours.

Company seals

49. (1) Any common seal may only be used by the authority of the directors.
- (2) The directors may decide by what means and in what form any common seal is to be used.
- (3) Unless otherwise decided by the directors, if the company has a common seal and it is affixed to a document, the document must also be signed by at least one authorised person in the presence of a witness who attests the signature.
- (4) For the purposes of this article, an authorised person is—
- (a) any director of the company;
 - (b) the company secretary (if any); or
 - (c) any person authorised by the directors for the purpose of signing documents to which the common seal is applied.

No right to inspect accounts and other records

50. Except as provided by law or authorised by the directors or an ordinary resolution of the company, no person is entitled to inspect any of the company's accounting or other records or documents merely by virtue of being a shareholder.

Provision for employees on cessation of business

51. The directors may decide to make provision for the benefit of persons employed or formerly employed by the company or any of its subsidiaries (other than a director or former director or shadow director) in connection with the cessation or transfer to any person of the whole or part of the undertaking of the company or that subsidiary.

DIRECTORS' INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

Indemnity

52. (1) Subject to paragraph (2), a relevant director of the company or an associated company may be indemnified out of the company's assets against—
- (a) any liability incurred by that director in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the company or an associated company,

- (b) any liability incurred by that director in connection with the activities of the company or an associated company in its capacity as a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the Companies Act 2006),
 - (c) any other liability incurred by that director as an officer of the company or an associated company.
- (2) This article does not authorise any indemnity which would be prohibited or rendered void by any provision of the Companies Acts or by any other provision of law.
- (3) In this article—
- (a) companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate, and
 - (b) a "relevant director" means any director or former director of the company or an associated company.

Insurance

53. (1) The directors may decide to purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of the company, for the benefit of any relevant director in respect of any relevant loss.
- (2) In this article—
- (a) a "relevant director" means any director or former director of the company or an associated company,
 - (b) a "relevant loss" means any loss or liability which has been or may be incurred by a relevant director in connection with that director's duties or powers in relation to the company, any associated company or any pension fund or employees' share scheme of the company or associated company, and
 - (c) companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate.