

**Liquidator's Progress  
Report****S.192****Pursuant to Sections 92A and 104A and 192  
of the Insolvency Act 1986**

To the Registrar of Companies

Company Number

07007158

Name of Company

Abode Furnishings Limited

I/ We  
Paul Andrew Whitwam  
8 Park Place  
Leeds  
LS1 2RU

Gary Edgar Blackburn  
8 Park Place  
Leeds  
LS1 2RU

the liquidator(s) of the company attach a copy of my/our Progress Report  
under section 192 of the Insolvency Act 1986

The Progress Report covers the period from 10/11/2011 to 24/08/2012

Signed



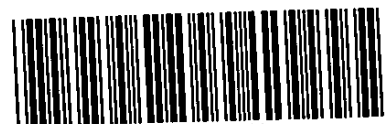
Date

24.8.12

BWC Business Solutions Limited  
8 Park Place  
Leeds  
LS1 2RU

Ref A080/PAW/GEB/SLB/LEF/MM

THURSDAY



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30/08/2012  
COMPANIES HOUSE

#375

**Abode Furnishings Limited**  
**(In Liquidation)**  
**Joint Liquidators' Abstract of Receipts & Payments**

Statement of Affairs		From 10/11/2011 To 24/08/2012
	<b>ASSET REALISATIONS</b>	
NIL	Leasehold Improvements	NIL
1,300 00	Motor Vehicles	1,300 00
1,000 00	Website	1,000 00
	Business Rates Refund	921 67
2,988 00	Cash at Bank	2,966 08
	Bank Interest Gross	0 54
		<u>6,188 29</u>
	<b>COST OF REALISATIONS</b>	
	Specific Bond	20 00
	Preparation of S of A	2,500 00
	Office Holders Fees	865 57
	Creditors' Meeting Costs	2,500 00
	Statutory Advertising	302 72
		<u>(6,188 29)</u>
	<b>PREFERENTIAL CREDITORS</b>	
(1,788 00)	Employee Arrears/Hol Pay	<u>NIL</u>
		NIL
	<b>UNSECURED CREDITORS</b>	
(28,360 00)	Trade & Expense Creditors	NIL
(383,512 00)	Pacific Lifestyle Limited	NIL
(19,057 00)	HM Revenue & Customs - VAT	NIL
(5,520 00)	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE/NIC	NIL
(14,060 00)	Pay in Lieu of Notice & Redundancy P	<u>NIL</u>
		NIL
	<b>DISTRIBUTIONS</b>	
(2 00)	Ordinary Shareholders	<u>NIL</u>
		NIL
<b>(447,011.00)</b>		<u><b>(0.00)</b></u>
	<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>	
		<u><u>NIL</u></u>

*S.S. PL*

Paul Andrew Whitwam  
Joint Liquidator

Our Ref PAW/SLB/LEF/A080/83/31  
Your Ref  
When Calling Please Ask For Laura Fisher

Registrar of Companies  
Companies House  
Crown Way  
Mandy  
Cardiff  
CF14 3UZ

24 August 2012

Dear Sirs

**ABODE FURNISHINGS LIMITED ("the Company") - IN LIQUIDATION**  
**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07007158**

**INTRODUCTION**

I refer to the appointment of Gary E Blackburn and I as Joint Liquidators of the Company on 10 November 2011 and have pleasure in submitting a copy of the report presented at the final meeting of creditors on 24 August 2012

The registered office of the Company was changed to 8 Park Place, Leeds, LS1 2RU following the appointment of the Liquidators

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

A copy of the Liquidators' draft final Receipts and Payments Account is attached at Appendix I

The Liquidator banked Company funds with an authorised clearing bank and therefore on this occasion there is no account held by the Secretary of State to reconcile the account with

**ASSET REALISATIONS**

Following their appointment, the Joint Liquidators instructed Michael Steel & Co (Plant & Machinery) Limited, Chartered Surveyors based in Leeds ("the Agents") to value and realise the Company's assets

The Company's assets have been realised as set out in the table overleaf.

8 Park Place, Leeds, LS1 2RU  
t 0113 243 3434 f 0113 243 5049 [www.bwc-solutions.com](http://www.bwc-solutions.com) e [bwc@bwc-solutions.com](mailto:bwc@bwc-solutions.com)

BWC is the trading name of BWC Business Solutions Limited (the Company). The Company is registered in England and Wales and the registered number is 5007904. The registered office of the Company is 8 Park Place, Leeds, LS1 2RU. The VAT Registration Number of the Company is GB 836 5118 25. The Directors of the Company are licensed as Insolvency Practitioners by the Insolvency Practitioners Association. Directors acting as Administrators contract as agents of the Company over which they are appointed and without personal liability.  
Office also at Dakota House, 25 Falcon Court, Preston Farm Business Park, Stockton on Tees, TS18 3TX t 01642 608588 f 01642 688063

<b>Asset Realisations</b>	<b>Estimated to Realise</b>	<b>Realised</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Motor Vehicle	1,300	1,300
Website	1,000	1,000
Cash at Bank	2,988	2,966
Business Rates Refund	-	922
Bank Interest	-	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,288</b>	<b>6,189</b>

### **Motor Vehicle and Website**

The Company's motor vehicle and website were sold to Pacific Lifestyle Limited ("Pacific"), a Company connected by virtue of common Directors, for £1,300 and £1,000 respectively. These funds were received on 18 April 2012. The assets were sold on the advice of the agents.

### **Cash at Bank**

On the date of the liquidation, the Company's bank account had a credit balance of £2,966. These funds were received from HSBC Bank PLC on 16 December 2011.

### **Business Rates Refund**

A business rates refund was received from North Tyneside Council in respect of an over-payment of rates.

The remaining asset realisations disclosed in the receipts and payments account are self-explanatory.

## **INVESTIGATIONS**

The Liquidators' investigations into the Company's affairs have not revealed any potential recoveries that would be of benefit to creditors.

The Liquidators are required to submit a 'Report on the Conduct of Directors' to the Department of Trade and Industry covering all directors who have served in the three years prior to their appointment. This report has been duly submitted. The contents of the report cannot be disclosed to creditors.

## SHARE OF ASSETS FOR UNSECURED CREDITORS ("PRESCRIBED PART")

In accordance with Section 176A of the Insolvency Act 1986, where a Company has granted a floating charge after 15 September 2003, a proportion of the funds subject to the floating charge are set aside for the benefit of the Company's unsecured creditors

This is calculated as being 50% of the first £10,000 of net property and 20% of net property thereafter subject to a maximum fund of £600,000 Net property is defined as being the realisations from assets subject to the floating charge after costs and after settlement of the preferential creditors' claims

There is no floating charge over the property of the Company and accordingly there is no "Prescribed Part" payable to unsecured creditors pursuant to Section 176A(2) Insolvency Act 1986

## DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTION

### Summary

A summary of creditors' claims received in this matter is set out in the table below

<i>Creditor Claims</i>	<i>Per Statement Of Affairs</i>	<i>Claims Received</i>
	£	£
Employee Claims - Preferential	1,788	4,014
Employee Claims - Unsecured	14,060	26,424
H M Revenue & Customs - VAT	19,057	19,057
H M Revenue & Customs - PAYE/NIC	5,520	6,562
Trade & Expense Creditors	28,360	5,128
Pacific Lifestyle Limited	383,512	317,658
<b>Total</b>	<b>452,297</b>	<b>378,843</b>

### Preferential Creditors

Preferential claims against the Company were agreed at £4,014 but there were insufficient funds available to make a dividend distribution

### Unsecured Creditors

Formal notice that no dividend would be declared to the unsecured creditors was given on 19 January 2012

No time costs have been incurred by the Joint Liquidators in agreeing the unsecured creditors' claims as it was uncertain whether sufficient funds would be generated to make a dividend distribution to the unsecured creditors

## **LIQUIDATION COSTS**

### **Basis of Liquidators' Remuneration**

A Creditors' Guide to Liquidator's remuneration, together with a Statement of Creditors Rights, was sent to all creditors with the papers giving notice of the meetings to place the Company into liquidation

The first meeting of creditors held on 10 November 2011 resolved that the Joint Liquidators be authorised to draw fees on account on a time cost basis according to the complexity of the work undertaken, at BWC's standard charging rates, in accordance with Statement of Insolvency Practice No 9

In common with all professional firms, our scale rates increase from time to time over the period of the administration of each insolvency case. Our scale rates were increased with effect from 1 May 2012. Full details of the increases are detailed at Section 6.1.5 in the Creditors Guide to Fees and Statement of Creditors Rights attached at Appendix III of this report

The Liquidators' total time costs to 15 June 2012 in dealing with the liquidation amount to £10,266.25, which equates to 57.75 hours at an average charge out rate of £177.77

Liquidators' fees of £866 have been drawn in respect of time spent in accordance with the resolution passed at the first meeting of creditors. The average recovery rate to 15 June 2012 has been £1.49 per hour. The Joint Liquidators have unbilled work in progress of £9,401 which has been written off

A detailed time summary is attached at Appendix II to this report

### **Statement of Expenses Incurred by the Convening Accountant**

Set fees of £2,500 and £2,500 were drawn in respect of assisting the directors in the preparation of the Statement of Affairs and the report presented to the first meeting of creditors, and in convening the meeting of members and creditors respectively following approval of the same by the first meeting of creditors also on 10 November 2011

### **Statement of Expenses Incurred by the Liquidator**

Liquidators' disbursements in respect of statutory advertising and insurance have been paid and are reflected in the Receipts & Payments Account attached at Appendix I

No 'Category 2' disbursements have been drawn by the Joint Liquidator

## **CONCLUSION**

The final meetings of members and creditors were held pursuant to Section 106 of the Insolvency Act 1986 on 24 August 2012. The meeting was presented with the contents of this report and the Joint Liquidators were granted their release.

I trust this is sufficient for your present purposes, however should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Fisher.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul A Whitwam', written over a circular stamp or seal.

**PAUL A WHITWAM**  
Joint Liquidator

Enc

**Abode Furnishings Limited**  
**(In Liquidation)**  
**Joint Liquidators' Abstract of Receipts & Payments**

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2,988 00	Cash at Bank	2,966 08	2,966 08
	Bank Interest Gross	0 54	0 54
		<u>6,188 29</u>	<u>6,188 29</u>
	<b>COST OF REALISATIONS</b>		
	Specific Bond	20 00	20 00
	Preparation of S of A	2,500 00	2,500 00
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	<b>DISTRIBUTIONS</b>		
(2 00)	Ordinary Shareholders	<u>NIL</u>	<u>NIL</u>
		NIL	NIL
<u>(447,011.00)</u>		<u>(0.00)</u>	<u>(0.00)</u>
	<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>		
			<u>NIL</u>



**ABODE FURNISHINGS LIMITED  
IN LIQUIDATION**

**Timecosts 10 November 2011 to 15 June 2012**

Notes		Partner Hours £310	Senior Manager / Manager Hours £200-£275	Admin & Clerical Hours £75-£165	Total Hours	Average Cost Per Hour	Total Cost
						£	£
1	Admin & Compliance	1 00	9 00	28 25	38 25	173 89	6,651 25
2	Planning & Control	2 00			2 00	310 00	620 00
3	Fixed Charge Assets						
4	Floating Charge Assets						
5	Trading						
6	Debt Collection						
7	Creditors		0 50		0 50	250 00	125 00
8	Employees			7 75	7 75	150 00	1,162 50
9	Meetings & Statutory Duties			4 50	4 50	150 00	675 00
10	Reports & Statutory Returns	2 00			310 00	310 00	620 00
11	Investigations			2 75	2 75	150 00	412 50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>9.50</b>	<b>43.25</b>	<b>57.75</b>	<b>177.77</b>	<b>10,266.25</b>

1	Admin and Compliance	Maintenance of cash and estate records, general correspondence, compliance and case reviews, filing, etc
2	Planning and Control	Case planning, strategy, trading strategy
3	Fixed Charge Assets	Dealing with various actions affecting the disposal of fixed charged assets (properties and goodwill) including sales pack and meetings with potential purchasers This excludes book debt collection which should be coded as 6
4	Floating Charge Assets	Dealing with various actions affecting the disposal of floating charged assets (motor vehicles, plant, machinery, office equipment, stock etc) including all correspondence, etc issued in respect of realising such assets, but excluding book debt collection which should be coded as 6
5	Trading	Disposal of work in progress, stock and general continuation of the business
6	Debt Collection	Correspondence with debtors, lawyers, instructing lawyers, collection of outstanding debts, maintaining debtor records
7	Creditors	Dealing with preferential and unsecured creditor claims
8	Employees	Dealing with employee claims (preferential and unsecured) and pension matters
9	Meetings and Statutory Duties	Post appointment formalities Annual and final meeting of members and creditors
10	Reports and Statutory Returns	Preparation of annual reports, director conduct reports and statutory returns submitted to Companies House
11	Investigations	Investigation of malpractice by directors before and during liquidation, penalisation of companies and company officers, investigations and prosecutions, investigation into preferences and transactions at an undervalue, wrongful trading etc

## APPENDIX III

### A CREDITORS' GUIDE TO LIQUIDATORS' FEES AND STATEMENT OF CREDITORS' RIGHTS

#### ENGLAND AND WALES

#### 1 Introduction

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

#### 2 Liquidation Procedure

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

#### 3 The Liquidation Committee

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

#### 4 Fixing the Liquidator's Remuneration

- 4.1 The basis for fixing the liquidator's remuneration is set out in Rule 4.127 - 4.127B of the Insolvency Rules 1986. The Rule states that the remuneration shall be fixed either
- as a percentage of the value of the assets which are realised or distributed or both, or
  - by reference to the time properly given by the liquidator and his staff in attending to matters arising in the insolvency, or
  - as a set amount

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **5 Review of Remuneration**

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

## **6 What Information should be Provided by the Liquidator?**

### **6.1 When Seeking Remuneration Approval**

6.1.1 When seeking agreement to his fees the liquidator should provide sufficient supporting information to enable the committee or the creditors to make an informed judgement as to whether the basis sought is appropriate, having regard to all the circumstances of the case. The nature and extent of the information provided will depend on the stage during the conduct of the case at which approval is being sought. Section 12 of this guide sets out a suggested format for the provision of information,

6.1.2 If any part of the remuneration is sought on a time costs basis, the liquidator should provide details of the minimum time units used and current charge out rates, split by grades of staff, of those people who have been or are likely to be involved in the time costs aspects of the case.

6.1.3 The liquidator should also provide details and the cost of any work that has been or is intended to be sub-contracted out that could otherwise be carried out by the liquidator or his staff.

6.1.4 If work has already been carried out, the liquidator should state the proposed charge for the period to date and provide an explanation of what has been achieved in the period and how it was achieved, sufficient to enable the progress of the case to be assessed and whether the proposed charge is reasonable in the circumstance so the case. Where the proposed charge is calculated on a time costs basis, the liquidator should disclose the time spent and the average charge out rates, in larger cases split by grades of staff and analysed by appropriate activity. The liquidator should also provide details and the cost of any work that has been sub-contracted out that could otherwise be carried out by the liquidator or his staff.

6.1.5 Details of the charge out rates of staff employed by BWC Business Solutions Limited with effect from 1 May 2012 and previous periods are as detailed over the page

<b>Staff Grade</b>	<b>1st November 2006 - 31st March 2009</b>	<b>1st April 2009 - 30th April 2012</b>	<b>1st May 2012 Onwards</b>
	<b>£/hr</b>	<b>£/hr</b>	<b>£/hr</b>
Partner	285	310	340
Senior Manager	N/A	250	275
Manager	175	200	220
Assistant Manager	150	175	190
Senior Administrator	110	150	175
Case Administrator	110	150	165
Cashiering	110	150	175
Clerical	50	75	80

## 6.2 After the bases of Remuneration have been Fixed

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

## 6.3 Disbursements and Other Expenses

6.3.1 Costs met by and reimbursed to the liquidator in connection with the liquidation should be appropriate and reasonable. Such costs will fall into two categories -

- **Category 1 disbursements** These are costs where there is specific expenditure directly referable both to the liquidation and a payment to an independent third party. These may include, for example, advertising, room hire, storage, postage, telephone charges, travel expenses and equivalent costs reimbursed to the liquidator or his staff.
- **Category 2 disbursements** These are costs that are directly referable to the liquidation but not to a payment to an independent third party. They may include shared or allocated costs that can be allocated to the liquidation on a proper and reasonable basis, for example, business mileage.

Category 1 disbursements can be drawn without prior approval, although the Liquidator should be prepared to disclose information about them in the same way as any other expenses.

Category 2 disbursements may be drawn if they have been approved in the same manner as the Liquidator's remuneration. The following items of expenditure may be charged to the case (subject to creditors' approval)

- Internal meeting room usage for the purpose of statutory meetings is charged at the rate of £100 per meeting.
- Car mileage is charged at the rate of 45 pence per mile.
- Printing/Photocopying is charged at the rate of 10 pence per page.
- Storage of books and records (when not chargeable as a Category 1 expense) is charged at the rate of £5 per storage box per annum.
- Destruction of books and records (when not chargeable as a Category 1 expense) is charged at the rate of £3 per box.
- Postage will be charged at the rate of 50 pence for small envelopes and £1.00 for large envelopes (to cover the costs of postage and envelopes).

6.3.2 The following are not permissible -

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

#### 6.4 Realisations for Secured Creditors

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

### 7 Progress Reports and Requests for Further Information

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

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

7.2 Pursuant to Rule 4.49E Insolvency Rules 1986, within 21 days of receipt of a progress report (or 7 business days where the report has been prepared for the purposes of a meeting to receive the liquidator's resignation) a creditor may request the liquidator to provide further information about the remuneration and expense set out in the report. A request must be in writing and may be made either by a secured creditor or by an unsecured creditor with the concurrence of at least 5% in value of unsecured creditors (including himself) or the permission of the court

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

- The time and cost involved in preparing the information would be excessive, or
- Disclosure would be prejudicial to the conduct of the liquidation or might be expected to lead to violence against any person, or
- The liquidator is subject to an obligation of confidentiality in relation to the information requested,

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

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

### 8 Provision of Information – Additional Requirements

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

The information which must be provided is

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

The period for which the information must be provided is the period from appointment to the end of the most recent period of six months reckoned from the date of the liquidator's appointment, or where he has vacated office, the date that he vacated office. The information must be provided within 28 days of receipt of the request by the liquidator, and requests must be made within two years from vacation of office

## **9 What if a Creditor is Dissatisfied?**

- 9 1 Except in cases where there is a liquidation committee it is the creditors as a body who have authority to approve the liquidator's fees. To enable them to carry out this function they may require the liquidator to call a creditors' meeting. In order to do this at least ten per cent in value of the creditors must concur with the request, which must be made to the liquidator in writing.
- 9 2 If a creditor believes that the liquidator's remuneration is too high, the basis is inappropriate, or the expenses incurred by the liquidator are in all the circumstances excessive, he may, provided certain conditions are met, apply to the court.
- 9 3 Pursuant to Rule 4.131 Insolvency Rules 1986, application may be made to the court by any secured creditor, or by any unsecured creditor, provided at least 10% in value of unsecured creditors (including himself) agree or he has the permission of the court. Any such application must be made within 8 weeks of the application receiving the liquidator's progress report in which the charging of the remuneration or incurring of the expenses in question is first reported (see paragraph 7.1 above). If the court does not dismiss the application (which it may if it considers that insufficient cause is shown), the applicant must give the liquidator a copy of the application and supporting evidence at least 14 days before the hearing.
- 9 4 If the court considers the application well founded, it may order that the remuneration be reduced, the basis be changed or the expenses be disallowed or repaid. Unless the court orders otherwise, the costs of the application must be paid by the applicant and not out of the assets of the insolvent company.

## **10 What if the Liquidator is Dissatisfied?**

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

## **11 Other Matters relating to Remuneration**

- 11 1 Where the liquidator realises assets on behalf of a secured creditor he is entitled to be remunerated out of the proceeds of sale in accordance with the scale laid down for the official receivers. Usually, however, the liquidator will agree the basis of his fee for dealing with charged assets with the secured creditor concerned.
- 11 2 Where two (or more) joint liquidators are appointed it is for them to agree between themselves how the remuneration payable should be apportioned. Any dispute between them may be referred to the court, the committee or a meeting of creditors.
- 11 3 If the appointed liquidator is a solicitor and employs his own firm to act in the insolvency, profit costs may not be paid unless authorised by the committee, the creditors or the court.
- 11 4 If a new liquidator is appointed in place of another, any determination, resolution or court order which was in effect immediately before the replacement continues to have effect in relation to the remuneration of the new liquidator or until a further determination, resolution or court order is made.
- 11 5 Where the basis of the remuneration is a set amount, and the liquidator ceases to act before the time has elapsed or the work has been completed for which the amount was set, application may be made for a determination of the amount that should be paid to the outgoing liquidator. The application must be made to the same body as approved the remuneration. Where the outgoing liquidator and the incoming liquidator are from the same firm, they will usually agree the apportionment between them.
- 11 6 There may also be occasions when creditors will agree to make funds available themselves to pay for the liquidator to carry out tasks which cannot be paid for out of the assets, either because they are deficient or because it is uncertain whether the work undertaken will result in any benefit to creditors. Arrangements of this kind are sometimes made to fund litigation or investigations into the affairs of the insolvent company. Any arrangements of this nature will be a matter for agreement between the liquidator and the creditors concerned and will not be subject to the statutory rules relating to remuneration.

## **12 Provision of Information**

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

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

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

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

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

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

- An explanation of the liquidator's time charging policy, clearly stating the units of time that have been used, the grades of staff and rates that have been charged to the assignment, and the policy for recovering the cost of support staff. It is the firm's policy to record time in units of not greater than 15 minutes
- A description of work carried out, which might include
  - Details of work undertaken during the period, related to the table of time spent for the period,
  - An explanation of the grades of staff used to undertake the different tasks carried out and the reasons why it was appropriate for those grades to be used,
  - Any comments on any figures in the summary of time spent accompanying the request the liquidator wishes to make
- Time spent and charge out summaries, in an appropriate format

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **13 Effective Date**

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