

# Tilly Bailey & Irvine

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THE COMPANIES ACT 2006



PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

OF

2020SPV001 LIMITED

Company Number 11812519

Tilly Bailey & Irvine LLP

12 Evolution

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**COMPANY NO. 11812519**  
**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**  
**PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES**  
**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**  
**OF**  
**2020SPV001 LIMITED**  
**(Adopted by special resolution passed on 27 October 2020)**

**Introduction**

**1. Interpretation**

**1.1** In these Articles, the following words have the following meanings:

**Articles:** the Company's articles of association for the time being in force;

**Business Day:** a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in England when banks in London are open for business;

**CA 2006:** the Companies Act 2006;

**Conflict:** a situation in which a director has, or can have, a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interests of the Company;

**Continuing Shareholder:** has the meaning given in article 15.7;

**Controlling Interest:** an interest in shares giving to the holder or holders control of the Company within the meaning of section 1124 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010;

**Deemed Transfer Notice:** a Transfer Notice that is deemed to have been served under any provisions of 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 the particular matter);

**Fair Value:** in relation to shares, as determined in accordance with article 18;

**Family Trust:** in relation to a shareholder, a trust set up wholly for the benefit of that shareholder and/or that shareholder's Privileged Relations;

**Group:** in relation to a company, that company, any subsidiary or holding company from time to time of that company, and any subsidiary from time to time of a holding company of that company. Each company in a Group is a **member of the Group**;

**holding company:** has the meaning given in article 1.5;

**Interested Director:** has the meaning given in article 8.1;

**Model Articles:** the model articles for private companies limited by shares contained in Schedule 1 of the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 (*SI 2008/3229*) as amended prior to the date of adoption of these Articles and reference to a numbered Model Article is a reference to that article of the Model Articles;

**Original Shareholder:** a shareholder who holds shares in the Company on the date of adoption of these Articles;

**Permitted Group:** in relation to a company, any wholly owned subsidiary of that company, any company of which it is a subsidiary (its holding company) and any other subsidiaries of any such holding company; and each company in a Permitted Group is a **member of the Permitted Group**. Unless the context otherwise requires, the application of the definition of Permitted Group to a company at any time will apply to the company as it is at that time;

**Permitted Transfer:** a transfer of shares made in accordance with article 16;

**Permitted Transferee:** in relation to a shareholder, any member of the same Permitted Group as that shareholder, any of his Privileged Relations or the trustees of his Family Trust(s);

**Privileged Relation:** the spouse or Civil Partner of a shareholder and the shareholder's children and grandchildren (including step and adopted children and grandchildren);

**Sale Shares:** has the meaning given in article 15.3;

**Seller:** has the meaning given in article 15.3;

**subsidiary:** has the meaning given in article 1.5;

**Valuers:** an independent firm of accountants jointly appointed by the shareholders or, in the absence of agreement between the shareholders on the identity of the expert within 15 Business Days of a shareholder serving details of a suggested expert on the other, an independent firm of accountants appointed by the President, for the time being, of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (in each case acting as an expert and not as an arbitrator);

**Writing or written:** 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;

1.2 Save as otherwise specifically provided in these Articles, words and expressions which have particular meanings in the Model Articles shall have the same meanings in these Articles, subject to which and unless the context otherwise requires, words and expressions which have particular meanings in the CA 2006 shall have those meanings in these Articles.

1.3 Headings in these Articles are used for convenience only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of these Articles.

- 1.4 A reference in these Articles to an article is a reference to the relevant article of these Articles unless expressly provided otherwise.
- 1.5 A reference to a **holding company** or a **subsidiary** means a holding company or a subsidiary (as the case may be) as defined in section 1159 of the CA 2006 and for the purposes only of the membership requirement contained in sections 1159(1)(b) and (c), a company shall be treated as a member of another company even if its shares in that other company are registered in the name of:
- (a) another person (or its nominee), by way of security or in connection with the taking of security; or
  - (b) its nominee.
- 1.6 Unless expressly provided otherwise, a reference to a statute or statutory provision is a reference to it as amended, extended or re-enacted from time to time.
- 1.7 A reference to a statute or statutory provision shall include all subordinate legislation made from time to time under that statute or statutory provision.
- 1.8 Any words following the terms **including, include, in particular, for example** or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words, description, definition, phrase or term preceding those terms.

## **2. Adoption of the Model Articles**

- 2.1 The Model Articles shall apply to the Company, except in so far as they are modified or excluded by these Articles or are inconsistent with these Articles, and, subject to any such modifications, exclusions or inconsistencies, shall together with these Articles constitute the articles of association of the Company to the exclusion of any other articles or regulations set out in any statute or in any statutory instrument or other subordinate legislation.
- 2.2 Model Articles 8, 9(1), 11(2) and (3), 13, 14, 16, 17(2), 18(e), 22, 26(5), 27 to 29 (inclusive), 36, 38, 39, 43, 44(2), 49 and 50 to 53 (inclusive) shall not apply to the Company.
- 2.3 Article 7 of the Model Articles shall be amended by:
- (a) the insertion of the words "for the time being" at the end of article 7(2)(a); and
  - (b) the insertion in article 7(2) of the words "(for so long as he remains the sole director)" after the words "and the director may".
- 2.4 Model Articles 31(1)(a) to (c) (inclusive) shall be amended by the deletion, in each case, of the words "either" and "or as the directors may otherwise decide". Model Article 31(1)(d) shall be amended by the deletion of the words "either" and "or by such other means as the directors decide".

## **Directors**

### **3. Unanimous decisions**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.

### **4. Calling a directors' meeting**

- 4.1 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.

### **5. Quorum for directors' meetings**

- 5.1 The quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of directors is any one eligible director.
- 5.2 For the purposes of any meeting (or part of a meeting) held pursuant to article 8 to authorise a director's conflict, if there is only one eligible director in office other than the conflicted director(s), the quorum for such meeting (or part of a meeting) shall be one eligible director.
- 5.3 If the total number of directors in office 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.

### **6. Casting vote**

If the numbers of votes for and against a proposal at a meeting of directors are equal, the chairman or other director chairing the meeting shall not have a casting vote.

### **7. Transactions or other arrangements with the company**

Subject to sections 177(5) and 177(6) and sections 182(5) and 182(6) of the Act and provided he has declared the nature and extent of his interest in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Acts, a director who is in any way, whether directly or indirectly, interested in an existing or proposed transaction or arrangement with the company:

- (a) may be a party to, or otherwise interested in, any transaction or arrangement with the company or in which the company is otherwise (directly or indirectly) interested;
- (b) shall be an eligible director for the purposes of any proposed decision of the directors (or committee of directors) in respect of such existing or proposed transaction or arrangement in which he is interested;
- (c) shall be entitled to vote at a meeting of directors (or of a committee of the directors) or participate in any unanimous decision, in respect of such existing or proposed transaction or arrangement in which he is interested;
- (d) may act by himself or his firm in a professional capacity for the company (otherwise than as auditor) and he or his firm shall be entitled to remuneration for professional services as if he were not a director;
- (e) may be a director or other officer of, or employed by, or a party to a transaction or arrangement with, or otherwise interested in, any body corporate in which the company is otherwise (directly or indirectly) interested; and
- (f) shall not, save as he may otherwise agree, be accountable to the company for any benefit which he (or a person connected with him (as defined in section 252 of the Act)) derives from any such transaction or arrangement or from any such office or employment or from any interest in any such body corporate and no such transaction or arrangement shall be liable to be avoided on the grounds of any such interest or benefit nor shall the receipt of any such remuneration or other benefit constitute a breach of his duty under section 176 of the Act.

## 8. Directors' conflicts of interest

8.1 The directors may, in accordance with the requirements set out in this article, authorise any matter or situation proposed to them by any director which would, if not authorised, involve a director (an **Interested Director**) breaching his duty under section 175 of the Act to avoid conflicts of interest (**Conflict**).

8.2 Any authorisation under this article 8 will be effective only if:

- (a) to the extent permitted by the Act, the matter in question shall have been proposed by any director for consideration in the same way that any other matter may be proposed to the directors under the provisions of these Articles or in such other manner as the directors may determine;
- (b) any requirement as to the quorum for consideration of the relevant matter is met without counting the Interested Director or any other interested director; and
- (c) the matter was agreed to without the Interested Director voting or would have been agreed to if the Interested Director's and any other interested director's vote had not been counted.

8.3 Any authorisation of a Conflict under this article 8 may (whether at the time of giving the authorisation or subsequently):

- (a) extend to any actual or potential conflict of interest which may reasonably be expected to arise out of the matter or situation so authorised;
- (b) provide that the Interested Director be excluded from the receipt of documents and information and the participation in discussions (whether at meetings of the directors or otherwise) related to the Conflict;
- (c) provide that the Interested Director shall or shall not be an eligible director in respect of any future decision of the directors in relation to any resolution related to the Conflict;
- (d) impose upon the Interested Director such other terms for the purposes of dealing with the Conflict as the directors think fit;
- (e) provide that, where the Interested Director obtains, or has obtained (through his involvement in the Conflict and otherwise than through his position as a director of the company) information that is confidential to a third party, he will not be obliged to disclose that information to the company, or to use it in relation to the company's affairs where to do so would amount to a breach of that confidence; and
- (f) permit the Interested Director to absent himself from the discussion of matters relating to the Conflict at any meeting of the directors and be excused from reviewing papers prepared by, or for, the directors to the extent they relate to such matters.

8.4 Where the directors authorise a Conflict, the Interested Director will be obliged to conduct himself in accordance with any terms and conditions imposed by the directors in relation to the Conflict.

8.5 The directors may revoke or vary such authorisation at any time, but this will not affect anything done by the Interested Director, prior to such revocation or variation, in accordance with the terms of such authorisation.

8.6 A director is not required, by reason of being a director (or because of the fiduciary relationship established by reason of being a director), to account to the company for any remuneration, profit or other benefit which he derives from or in connection with a relationship involving a Conflict which has been authorised by the directors or by the company in general meeting (subject in each case to any terms, limits or conditions attaching to that authorisation) and no contract shall be liable to be avoided on such grounds.

## **9. Records of decisions to be kept**

Where decisions of the directors are taken by electronic means, such decisions shall be recorded by the directors in permanent form, so that they may be read with the naked eye.



**10. Number of directors**

Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, the number of directors (other than alternate directors) shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less than one.

**11. Appointment of directors**

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 a bankruptcy order made against him (as the case may be) have the right, by notice in writing, to appoint a natural person (including a transmittee who is a natural person), who is willing to act and is permitted to do so, to be a director.

**12. Secretary**

The directors may appoint any person who is willing to act as the secretary for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit and from time to time remove such person and, if the directors so decide, appoint a replacement, in each case by a decision of the directors.

**Shares**

**13. Share capital**

13.1 The Shares shall rank pari passu in all respects.

13.2 The Company shall immediately cancel any shares acquired under Chapter 4 of Part 18 of the CA 2006.

**14. Share transfers: general**

14.1 In these Articles, reference to the transfer of a share includes the transfer, assignment or other disposal of a beneficial or other interest in that share, or the creation of a trust or encumbrance over that share, and reference to a share includes a beneficial or other interest in a share.

14.2 No share shall be transferred unless the transfer is made in accordance with these Articles or with the prior written consent of all shareholders for the time being.

14.3 Subject to article 14.4, the directors must register any duly stamped transfer made in accordance with these Articles and shall not have any discretion to register any transfer of shares which has not been made in compliance with these Articles.

14.4 The directors may, as a condition to the registration of any transfer of shares in the Company (whether to a Permitted Transferee or otherwise) require the transferee to provide the Company with the required particulars under section 790K of the CA 2006 if the transferee is a

registrable person or relevant legal entity within the meaning of section 790C of the CA 2006 and to execute and deliver to the Company a deed under which the transferee agrees to be bound by the terms of any shareholders' agreement (or similar document) in force between the shareholders in such form as the directors may reasonably require (but not so as to oblige the transferee to have any obligations or liabilities greater than those of the proposed transferor under any such agreement or other document). If any such condition is imposed in accordance with this article 14.4, the transfer may not be registered unless that deed has been executed and delivered to the Company's registered office by the transferee and the Company has received all of the required particulars under section 790K of the CA 2006 if the transferee is a registrable person or relevant legal entity within the meaning of section 790C of the CA 2006.

14.5 To enable the directors to determine whether or not there has been a transfer of shares in the Company in breach of these Articles, the directors of any class may from time to time require any shareholder to provide the Company with such information and evidence as they may reasonably require relevant to that purpose. If a shareholder fails to provide information or evidence in respect of any shares registered in its name to the reasonable satisfaction of such directors within 14 days of their request, such directors may serve a notice on the shareholder stating that the shareholder shall not in relation to those shares be entitled to be present or to vote in person or by proxy at any general meeting of the Company or any meeting of the holders of shares of that class, or to vote on a written resolution of the shareholders or to receive dividends on the shares until such evidence or information has been provided to the directors' satisfaction. Such directors may reinstate these rights at any time.

14.6 Any transfer of shares by way of a sale that is required to be made under article 15, article 16, article 17, article 19 or article 20 shall be deemed to include a warranty that the transferor sells the shares with full title guarantee.

## **15. Pre-emption rights on the transfer of shares**

15.1 In this Article, reference to the transfer of a share includes the transfer, assignment or other disposal of a beneficial or other interest in that share, or the creation of a trust or encumbrance over that share, and reference to a share includes a beneficial or other interest in a share.

15.2 Except where the provisions of Article 16, Article 19 or Article 20 apply, any transfer of shares by a shareholder shall be subject to the pre-emption rights in this Article.

15.3 A shareholder (**Seller**) wishing to transfer its shares (**Sale Shares**) must give notice in writing (a **Transfer Notice**) to the Company giving details of the proposed transfer including:

- (a) the number of Sale Shares;
- (b) if the Seller wishes to sell the Sale Shares to a third party, the name of the proposed buyer;

- (c) the price (in cash) at which the Seller wishes to sell the Sale Shares (which will be deemed to be Fair Value of the Sale Shares if no cash price is agreed between the Seller and the Board (**Transfer Price**)); and
  - (d) whether the Transfer Notice is conditional on all, or a specific number of, the Sale Shares being sold to shareholders (**Minimum Transfer Condition**).
- 15.4 Once given (or deemed to have been given) under these Articles, a Transfer Notice may not be withdrawn.
- 15.5 A Transfer Notice (or Deemed Transfer Notice) constitutes the Company the agent of the Seller for the sale of the Sale Shares in accordance with the provisions of these Articles.
- 15.6 As soon as practicable following the receipt of a Transfer Notice, the Board shall offer the Sale Shares for sale in the manner set out in the remaining provisions of this Article at the Transfer Price. Each offer shall be in writing and give details of the number and Transfer Price of the Sale Shares offered.
- 15.7 The Board shall offer the Sale Shares to all shareholders other than the Seller (the **Continuing Shareholders**), inviting them to apply in writing within the period from the date of the offer to the date 28 Business Days after the offer (both dates inclusive) (the **First Offer Period**) for the maximum number of Sale Shares they wish to buy.
- 15.8 If the Sale Shares are subject to a Minimum Transfer Condition, any allocation made under article 15.9 to article 15.12 shall be conditional on the fulfilment of the Minimum Transfer Condition.
- 15.9 If:
  - (a) at the end of the First Offer Period, the total number of Sale Shares applied for is equal to or exceeds the number of Sale Shares, the Board shall allocate the Sale Shares to each Continuing Shareholder who has applied for Sale Shares in the proportion which the Continuing Shareholder's existing holding of shares bears to the total number of shares held by those Continuing Shareholders who have applied for Sale Shares. Fractional entitlements shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number (save where such rounding would result in not all Sale Shares being allocated, in which case the allocation of any such fractional entitlements among the Continuing Shareholders who have applied for Sale Shares shall be determined by the Board). No allocation shall be made to a Continuing Shareholder of more than the maximum number of Sale Shares which it has stated it is willing to buy.
  - (b) not all Sale Shares are allocated following allocations in accordance with article 15.9(a), but there are applications for Sale Shares that have not been satisfied, the Board shall allocate the remaining Sale Shares to such applicant(s) in accordance with the procedure set out in article 15.9(a). The procedure set out in this article 15.9(b) shall

apply on any number of consecutive occasions until either all Sale Shares have been allocated or all applications for Sale Shares have been satisfied; and

- (c) at the end of the First Offer Period, the total number of Sale Shares applied for is less than the number of Sale Shares, the Board shall allocate the Sale Shares to the Continuing Shareholders in accordance with their applications. The balance (the **Initial Surplus Shares**) shall be dealt with in accordance with article 15.10.

15.10 At the end of the First Offer Period, the Board shall offer the Initial Surplus Shares (if any) to all the Continuing Shareholders, inviting them to apply in writing within the period from the date of the offer to the date 28 Business Days after the offer (both dates inclusive) (the **Second Offer Period**) for the maximum number of Initial Surplus Shares they wish to buy.

15.11 If, at the end of the Second Offer Period, the number of Initial Surplus Shares applied for is equal to or exceeds the number of Initial Surplus Shares, the Board shall allocate the Initial Surplus Shares to each Continuing Shareholder who has applied for Initial Surplus Shares in the proportion that the Continuing Shareholder's existing holding of shares (including any Sale Shares) bears to the total number of shares (including any Sale Shares) held by those Continuing Shareholders who have applied for Initial Surplus Shares during the Second Offer Period. Fractional entitlements shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number (save where such rounding would result in not all Initial Surplus Shares being allocated, in which case, the allocation of any such fractional entitlements among the Continuing Shareholders shall be determined by the Board). No allocation shall be made to a Continuing Shareholder of more than the maximum number of Initial Surplus Shares which it has stated it is willing to buy.

15.12 If, at the end of the Second Offer Period, the number of Initial Surplus Shares applied for is less than the number of Initial Surplus Shares, the Board shall allocate the Initial Surplus Shares to the Continuing Shareholders in accordance with their applications. The balance (the **Second Surplus Shares**) shall be dealt with in accordance with article 15.17.

15.13 If the Transfer Notice includes a Minimum Transfer Condition and the total number of Sale Shares applied for is less than the number of Sale Shares specified in the Minimum Transfer Condition, the Board shall notify the Seller and all those to whom Sale Shares have been conditionally allocated under article 15.9 to article 15.12, stating that the Minimum Transfer Condition has not been met and that the relevant Transfer Notice has lapsed with immediate effect.

15.14 If:

- (a) the Transfer Notice includes a Minimum Transfer Condition and such Minimum Transfer Condition has been satisfied, or the Transfer Notice does not include a Minimum Transfer Condition; and
- (b) allocations under article 15.9 to article 15.12 have been made in respect of some or all of the Sale Shares,

the Board shall give written notice of allocation (an **Allocation Notice**) to the Seller and each Continuing Shareholder to whom Sale Shares have been allocated (each an **Applicant**). The Allocation Notice shall specify the number of Sale Shares allocated to each Applicant, the amount payable by each Applicant for the number of Sale Shares allocated to them (**Consideration**) and the place and time for completion of the transfer of the Sale Shares (which shall be at least 30 Business Days, but not more than 50 Business Days, after the date of the Allocation Notice).

15.15 On the date specified for completion in the Allocation Notice, the Seller shall, against payment of the Consideration, execute and deliver a transfer of the Sale Shares allocated to such Applicant, in accordance with the requirements specified in the Allocation Notice.

15.16 If the Seller fails to comply with article 15.15:

- (a) the chairperson of the Company (or, failing the chairperson, one of the other directors, or some other person nominated by a resolution of the Board) may, as agent on behalf of the Seller:
  - (i) complete, execute and deliver in the Seller's name all documents necessary to give effect to the transfer of the relevant Sale Shares to the Applicants;
  - (ii) receive the Consideration and give a good discharge for it (and no Applicant shall be obliged to see to the distribution of the Consideration); and
  - (iii) (subject to the transfers being duly stamped) enter the Applicants in the register of members as the holders of the Sale Shares purchased by them; and
- (b) the Company shall pay the Consideration into a separate bank account in the Company's name on trust (but without interest) for the Seller until the Seller has delivered its certificate(s) for the relevant Sale Shares or an indemnity, in a form reasonably satisfactory to the Board, in respect of any lost certificate, together, in either case, with such other evidence (if any) as the Board may reasonably require to prove good title to those Sale Shares, to the Company.

15.17 If an Allocation Notice does not relate to all of the Sale Shares or the Transfer Notice lapses pursuant to article 15.13 then, subject to article 15.18 and within 8 weeks following service of the Allocation Notice or the date of the lapse of the Transfer Notice (as the case may be), the Seller may transfer the Second Surplus Shares or the Sale Shares (in the case of a lapsed offer) (as the case may be) to any person at a price at least equal to the Transfer Price. The sale of the Sale Shares (following the lapse of a Transfer Notice) in accordance with this article 15.17 shall continue to be subject to any Minimum Transfer Condition.

15.18 The Seller's right to transfer Sale Shares under article 15.17 does not apply if the Board reasonably considers that:

- (a) the transferee is a person (or a nominee for a person) who is a competitor with (or an Associate of a competitor with) the business of the Company; or

- (b) the sale of the Sale Shares is not bona fide or the price is subject to a deduction, rebate or allowance to the transferee; or
- (c) the Seller has failed or refused to provide promptly information available to the Seller and reasonably requested by the Board to enable it to form the opinion mentioned above.

15.19 The restrictions imposed by this Article may be waived in relation to any proposed transfer of Sale Shares with the consent of shareholders who, but for the waiver, would or might have been entitled to have such Sale Shares offered to them in accordance with this Article.

## **16. Permitted transfers**

16.1 An Original Shareholder may at any time transfer all (but not some only) of its shares in the Company to a Permitted Transferee without being required to follow the steps set out in article 15.

16.2 A shareholder holding shares in the Company as a result of a Permitted Transfer made after the date of adoption of these Articles by an Original Shareholder under the provisions of this article 16 may at any time transfer all (but not some only) of its shares back to the Original Shareholder from whom it received those shares or to another Permitted Transferee of such Original Shareholder, without being required to follow the steps set out in article 15.

16.3 If a Permitted Transfer has been made to a Permitted Transferee, that Permitted Transferee shall within five Business Days of ceasing to be a member of the Permitted Group transfer all of the shares in the Company held by it to:

- (a) the Original Shareholder from whom it received those shares; or
- (b) another Permitted Transferee of that Original Shareholder,

(which in either case is not in liquidation), without any price or other restriction. If the Permitted Transferee fails to make a transfer in accordance with this article 16.3, the Company may execute a transfer of the shares on behalf of the Permitted Transferee and register the Original Shareholder as the holder of such shares.

## **17. Compulsory transfers**

17.1 A shareholder is deemed to have served a Transfer Notice under article 15.3 immediately before any of the following events:

- (a) the passing of a resolution for the liquidation of the shareholder other than a solvent liquidation for the purpose of the reconstruction or amalgamation of all or part of the shareholder's Group in which a new company assumes (and is capable of assuming) all the obligations of the shareholder; or

- (b) the presentation at court by any competent person of a petition for the winding up of the shareholder and which has not been withdrawn or dismissed within seven days of such presentation; or
- (c) a change of control (as control is defined in section 1124 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010) of the shareholder, although in the case of a Permitted Transferee that ceases to be a member of the Permitted Group, it shall transfer the shares back to the Original Shareholder from whom it received those shares or to another Permitted Transferee of such Original Shareholder in accordance with article 16.3 rather than being deemed to have served a Transfer Notice under this article; or
- (d) the issue at court by any competent person of a notice of intention to appoint an administrator to the shareholder, a notice of appointment of an administrator to the shareholder or an application for an administration order in respect of the shareholder; or
- (e) any step being taken by any person to appoint a receiver, administrative receiver or manager in respect of the whole or a substantial part of the assets or undertaking of the shareholder; or
- (f) the shareholder being unable to pay its debts as they fall due for the purposes of section 123 of the Insolvency Act 1986; or
- (g) the shareholder entering into a composition or arrangement with any of its creditors; or
- (h) the shareholder applying to court for, or obtaining, a moratorium under Part A1 of the Insolvency Act 1986; or
- (i) any chargor taking any step to enforcing any charge created over any shares held by the shareholder in the Company (other than by the appointment of a receiver, administrative receiver or manager); or
- (j) a process having been instituted that could lead to the shareholder being dissolved and its assets being distributed among the shareholder's creditors, shareholders or other contributors; or
- (k) the shareholder ceasing to carry on its business or substantially all of its business; or
- (l) a bankruptcy petition being presented for the shareholder's bankruptcy; or
- (m) an arrangement or composition with any of the shareholder's creditors being proposed; or
- (n) the shareholder convening a meeting of his creditors, or taking any other steps with a view to making an arrangement or composition in satisfaction of his creditors generally; or
- (o) the shareholder being unable to pay his debts as they fall due within the meaning of section 268 of the Insolvency Act 1986; or

- (p) any encumbrancer taking possession of, or a receiver being appointed over or in relation to, all or any material part of the shareholder's assets; or
- (q) the happening in relation to a shareholder of any event analogous to any of the above in any jurisdiction in which he is resident, carries on business or has assets; or
- (r) in the case of the events set out in paragraphs (a), (b), (d) (e) (l), (m) or (o) above, any competent person taking any analogous step in any jurisdiction in which the shareholder carries on business; or
- (s) the shareholder committing a material or persistent breach of any shareholders' agreement to which it is a party in relation to the shares in the Company which if capable of remedy has not been so remedied within 20 Business Days of the other shareholder requiring such remedy.

17.2 The Deemed Transfer Notice has the same effect as a Transfer Notice, except that:

- (a) the Deemed Transfer Notice takes effect on the basis that it does not identify a proposed buyer or state a price for the Sale Shares and the price for the Sale Shares shall be the aggregate Fair Value of those shares, determined by the Valuers in accordance with article 18, save that if the Seller is deemed to have given a Transfer Notice as a result of article 17.1(s), the price for the Sale Shares shall be restricted to a maximum of the lower of the aggregate subscription price paid in respect of the Sale Shares, including any share premium, and the aggregate Fair Value of such Sale Shares;
- (b) if the Continuing Shareholder does not accept the offer of shares comprised in the Deemed Transfer Notice within 20 Business Days of receipt of the Valuers' determination of the Fair Value, the Seller does not have the right to sell the Sale Shares to a third party and the Company shall be wound up immediately upon the Continuing Shareholder giving notice in writing to the Company to that effect within such 20 Business Day period.

17.3 A Deemed Transfer Notice under article 17.1(s) shall immediately and automatically revoke:

- (a) a Transfer Notice served by the relevant shareholder before the occurrence of the relevant event giving rise to the Deemed Transfer Notice under article 17.1(s); and
- (b) a Deemed Transfer Notice deemed to be served by the relevant shareholder under any of the events set out in article 17.1(a) to article 17.1(r) (inclusive) before the occurrence of the relevant event giving rise to the Deemed Transfer Notice under article 17.1(s).

17.4 If the Seller fails to complete a transfer of Sale Shares as required under this article 17, the Continuing Shareholder is irrevocably authorised to appoint any person it nominates for the purpose as agent to transfer the Sale Shares on the Seller's behalf and to do anything else that the Continuing Shareholder may reasonably require to complete the sale, and the Company may



receive the purchase price in trust for the Seller (without any obligation to pay interest), giving a receipt that shall discharge the Continuing Shareholder.

**18. Valuation**

- 18.1 As soon as practicable after deemed service of a Transfer Notice under article 17, the shareholders shall appoint the Valuers to determine the Fair Value of the Sale Shares.
- 18.2 The Valuers shall be requested to determine the Fair Value within 20 Business Days of their appointment and to notify the shareholders in writing of their determination.
- 18.3 The Fair Value for any Sale Share shall be the price per share determined by the Valuers on the following bases and assumptions:
- (a) valuing each of the Sale Shares as a proportion of the total value of all the issued shares in the capital of the Company without any premium or discount being attributable to the percentage of the issued share capital of the Company which they represent or for the rights or restrictions applying to the Sale Shares;
  - (b) if the Company is then carrying on business as a going concern, on the assumption that it will continue to do so;
  - (c) the sale is to be on arms' length terms between a willing seller and a willing buyer;
  - (d) the Sale Shares are sold free of all encumbrances;
  - (e) the sale is taking place on the date the Valuers were requested to determine the Fair Value; and
  - (f) to take account of any other factors that the Valuers reasonably believe should be taken into account.
- 18.4 The shareholders are entitled to make submissions to the Valuers and will provide (or procure that the Company provides) the Valuers with such assistance and documents as the Valuers reasonably require for the purpose of reaching a decision, subject to the Valuers agreeing to give such confidentiality undertakings as the shareholders may reasonably require.
- 18.5 To the extent not provided for by this article 18, the Valuers may, in their reasonable discretion, determine such other procedures to assist with the valuation as they consider just or appropriate, including (to the extent they consider necessary) instructing professional advisers to assist them in reaching their valuation.
- 18.6 The Valuers shall act as expert and not as arbitrator and their written determination shall be final and binding on the shareholders in the absence of manifest error or fraud.
- 18.7 Each shareholder shall bear its own costs in relation to the reference to the Valuers. The Valuers' fees and costs properly incurred by them in arriving at their valuation (including any

fees and costs of any advisers appointed by the Valuers) shall be borne by the shareholders equally.

## **19. Tag along**

- 19.1 Except in the case of transfer pursuant to Article 17 (Compulsory Transfers) and after first giving a Transfer Notice to the Continuing Shareholder and going through the procedure set out in article 15, the provisions of article 19.2 to article 19.6 shall apply if, in one of a series of related transactions, one or more Sellers propose to transfer any of the Shares (**Proposed Transfer**) and such transfer would, if carried out, result in such person (**Buyer**) acquiring a Controlling Interest in the Company.
- 19.2 Before making a Proposed Transfer, the Seller shall procure that the Buyer makes an offer (**Offer**) to the other Shareholders to purchase all of the Shares held by them for a consideration in cash per Share that is at least equal to the highest price per Share offered by the Buyer in the Proposed Transfer or in any related previous transaction in the 6 months preceding the date of the Proposed Transfer (**Specified Price**).
- 19.3 The Offer shall be made by written notice (**Offer Notice**), at least 20 Business Days before the proposed transfer date (**Transfer Date**). To the extent not described in any accompanying documents, the Offer Notice shall set out:
- (a) the identity of the Buyer;
  - (b) the Specified Price and other terms and conditions of payment;
  - (c) the Transfer Date; and
  - (d) the number of Shares proposed to be purchased by the Buyer (**Offer Shares**).
- 19.4 If the Buyer fails to make the Offer in accordance with article 19.2 and article 19.3, the Seller shall not be entitled to complete the Proposed Transfer and the Company shall not register any transfer of Shares effected in accordance with the Proposed Transfer.
- 19.5 If the Offer is accepted by any Shareholder (**Accepting Shareholder**) in writing within 10 Business Days of receipt of the Offer Notice, the completion of the Proposed Transfer shall be conditional on completion of the purchase of all the Offer Shares held by Accepting Shareholders.
- 19.6 The Proposed Transfer is subject to the rights of pre-emption set out in article 15, but the purchase of the Offer Shares shall not be subject to those provisions.

## **20. Drag along**

- 20.1 After first giving a Transfer Notice to the Continuing Shareholder and going through the procedure set out in article 15, if the holder of 50% of the Shares in issue for the time being

(Selling Shareholders) wish to transfer all (but not some only) of its Shares (Seller's Shares) to a bona fide purchaser on arm's length terms (Proposed Buyer), the Selling Shareholders may require the holder(s) of all other Shares (Called Shareholder) to sell and transfer all of its shares (Called Shares) to the Proposed Buyer (or as the Proposed Buyer directs) in accordance with the provisions of this article (Drag Along Option).

- 20.2 The Selling Shareholders may exercise the Drag Along Option by giving written notice to that effect to the Called Shareholder (Drag Along Notice) at any time before the transfer of the Shares to the Proposed Buyer. The Drag Along Notice shall specify:
- (a) that the Called Shareholder is required to transfer all of its Called Shares pursuant to this article 20;
  - (b) the person to whom the Called Shares are to be transferred;
  - (c) the purchase price payable for the Called Shares which shall, for each Called Share, be an amount at least equal to the price per Share offered by the Proposed Buyer for the Sellers' Shares; and
  - (d) the proposed date of the transfer.
- 20.3 Once issued, a Drag Along Notice shall be irrevocable. However, a Drag Along Notice shall lapse if, for any reason, the Seller has not sold the Sellers' Shares to the Proposed Buyer within 35 Business Days of serving the Drag Along Notice. The Selling Shareholders may serve further Drag Along Notices following the lapse of any particular Drag Along Notice.
- 20.4 No Drag Along Notice shall require the Called Shareholder to agree to any terms except those specifically set out in this article 20.
- 20.5 Completion of the sale of the Called Shares shall take place on the Completion Date. Completion Date means the date proposed for completion of the sale of the Sellers' Shares unless:
- (a) all of the Selling Shareholders and the Called Shareholders agree otherwise in which case the Completion Date shall be the date agreed in writing by them; or
  - (b) that date is less than 10 Business Days after the date on which the Drag Along Notice is served, in which case the Completion Date shall be the 20<sup>th</sup> Business Day after service of the Drag Along Notice.
- 20.6 The proposed sale of the Sellers' Shares by the Selling Shareholders to the Proposed Buyer is subject to the rights of pre-emption set out in article 15, but the sale of the Called Shares by the Called Shareholder shall not be subject to those provisions.
- 20.7 On or before the Completion Date, the Called Shareholder shall execute and deliver a stock transfer form for the Called Shares, together with the relevant share certificate(s) (or a suitable indemnity for any lost share certificate(s)) to the Company. On the Completion Date, the Company shall pay the Called Shareholder, on behalf of the Proposed Buyer, the amounts due

pursuant to article 20.2 to the extent that the Proposed Buyer has put the Company in the requisite funds. The Company's receipt for the price shall be a good discharge to the Proposed Buyer. The Company shall hold the amounts due to the Called Shareholder in trust for the Called Shareholder without any obligation to pay interest.

- 20.8 To the extent that the Proposed Buyer has not, on the Completion Date, put the Company in funds to pay the purchase price due in respect of the Called Shares, the Called Shareholder shall be entitled to the return of the stock transfer form and share certificate(s) (or suitable indemnity) for the relevant Called Shares and the Called Shareholder shall have no further rights or obligations under this article 20 in respect of its Shares.
- 20.9 If the Called Shareholder does not, on or before the Completion Date, execute and deliver (in accordance with article 20.7) transfer(s) in respect of all of the Called Shares held by it, the Called Shareholder shall be deemed to have irrevocably appointed any person nominated for the purpose by the Selling Shareholders to be its agent to execute all necessary transfer(s) on its behalf, against receipt by the Company (on trust for such holder) of the purchase price payable for the Called Shares, and to deliver such transfer(s) to the Proposed Buyer (or as he may direct) as the holder thereof. After the Proposed Buyer (or its nominee) has been registered as the holder of the Called Shares, the validity of such proceedings shall not be questioned by any such person. Failure to produce a share certificate shall not impede the registration of shares under this article 20.9.

#### **Decision making by shareholders**

##### **21. Quorum for general meetings**

- 21.1 The quorum at any general meeting of the Company, or adjourned general meeting, shall be two persons present in person or by proxy, of whom one shall be a holder of X Shares or a duly authorised representative of such holder and one shall be a holder of Y Shares or a duly authorised representative of such holder.
- 21.2 No business shall be transacted by any general meeting unless a quorum is present at the commencement of the meeting and also when that business is voted on.

##### **22. Chairing general meetings**

The chairperson of the board of directors shall chair general meetings. If the chairperson is unable to attend any general meeting, the shareholder who appointed him or her shall be entitled to appoint another of its nominated directors present at the meeting to act as chair at the meeting, and the appointment of the chair of the meeting must be the first business of the meeting.

## **23. Voting**

- 23.1 At a general meeting, on a show of hands every shareholder who is present in person or by proxy shall have one vote, unless the proxy is himself a shareholder entitled to vote; on a poll every shareholder present in person or by proxy shall have one vote for each share of which he is the holder; and on a vote on a written resolution every shareholder has one vote for each share of which he is the holder.
- 23.2 Any resolution proposed as a written resolution shall be proposed in a form that provides shareholders with the ability to cast their votes against as well as in favour of such resolution.

## **24. Poll votes**

- 24.1 A poll may be demanded at any general meeting by a qualifying person (as defined in section 318 of the CA 2006) present and entitled to vote at the meeting.
- 24.2 Article 44(3) of the Model Articles shall be amended by the insertion of the words "A demand so withdrawn shall not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made" as a new paragraph at the end of that article.

## **25. Proxies**

- 25.1 Article 45(1)(d) of the Model Articles shall be deleted and replaced with the words "is delivered to the Company in accordance with the Articles not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the right to vote is to be exercised and in accordance with any instructions contained in the notice of general meeting (or adjourned meeting) to which they relate".
- 25.2 Article 45(1) of the Model Articles shall be amended by the insertion of the words "and a proxy notice which is not delivered in such manner shall be invalid" as a new paragraph at the end of that article.

## **Administrative arrangements**

### **26. Means of communication to be used**

- 26.1 Subject to article 26.2, any notice, document or other information shall be deemed received by the intended recipient:
- (a) if delivered by hand, at the time the notice, document or other information is left at the address;
  - (b) if sent by pre-paid first class post or other next working day delivery service at 9.00 am on the second Business Day after posting;
  - (c) if sent by pre-paid airmail at 9.00 am on the fifth Business Day after posting; or

- (d) if sent by email, at the time of transmission.
- 26.2 If deemed receipt under article 26.1 would occur outside Usual Business Hours, the notice, document or other information shall be deemed to have been received when Usual Business Hours next recommence. For the purposes of this article, **Usual Business Hours** means 9.00 am to 5.30 pm local time on any day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in the place of receipt of the notice, document or other information (which, in the case of service by email shall be deemed to be the same place as is specified for service of notices, documents or other information on the relevant recipient by hand or post).
- 26.3 To prove service, it is sufficient to prove that:
- (a) if delivered by hand, the notice was delivered to the correct address;
  - (b) if sent by post or by airmail, the envelope containing the notice was properly addressed, paid for and posted; or
  - (c) if sent by email, the notice was properly addressed and sent to the email address of the recipient.
- 26.4 In proving that any notice, document or information was properly addressed, it will suffice to show that the notice, document or information was addressed to an address permitted for the purpose by the CA 2006.

## **27. Indemnity and insurance**

- 27.1 Subject to article 27.2, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a relevant officer is otherwise entitled:
- (a) each relevant officer of the Company shall be indemnified out of the Company's assets against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred by him as a relevant officer:
    - (i) in the actual or purported execution and/or discharge of his duties, or in relation to them; and
    - (ii) in relation to the Company's activities as a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the CA 2006),including (in each case) any liability incurred by him in defending any civil or criminal proceedings, in which judgment is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or the proceedings are otherwise disposed of without any finding or admission of any material breach of duty on his part or in connection with any application in which the court grants him, in his capacity as a relevant officer, relief from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the Company's affairs; and
  - (b) the Company may provide any relevant officer with funds to meet expenditure incurred or to be incurred by him in connection with any proceedings or application

referred to in article 27.1(a) and otherwise may take action to enable any such relevant officer to avoid incurring such expenditure.

27.2 This article does not authorise any indemnity which would be prohibited or rendered void by any provision of the CA 2006 or by any other provision of law.

27.3 The directors may decide to purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of the Company, for the benefit of any relevant officer in respect of any relevant loss.

27.4 In this article:

- (a) a "relevant officer " means any director or other officer or former director or other officer of the Company but excluding in each case any person engaged by the Company as auditor (whether or not he is also a director or other officer), to the extent he acts in his capacity as auditor; and
- (b) a "relevant loss" means 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 or any pension fund or employees' share scheme of the Company.