

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
OF THE SAGE GROUP PLC.**

**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006
A PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES**

**(adopted by special resolution passed on 4 February 2021)
No.2231246**

ALLEN & OVERY
ALLEN & OVERY LLP
LONDON

CONTENTS

Article	Page
PRELIMINARY	1
1. Standard regulations do not apply	1
2. Interpretation	1
3. Objects.....	4
4. Limited liability	4
SHARE CAPITAL	4
5. Rights attached to shares	4
6. Allotment (etc.) of shares	4
7. Authority to allot shares and grant rights	4
8. Dis-application of pre-emption rights	5
9. Power to pay commission.....	5
10. Power to alter share capital	5
11. Power to issue redeemable shares	6
12. Power to purchase own shares.....	6
13. Power to reduce capital	6
14. Share warrants	7
15. Trusts not recognised.....	7
VARIATION OF RIGHTS	7
16. Variation of rights	7
SHARE CERTIFICATES	8
17. Issue of share certificates	8
18. Charges for and replacement of certificates	9
UNCERTIFICATED SHARES GENERAL POWERS.....	9
19. Uncertificated Shares - General Powers.....	9
UNTRACED MEMBERS	10
20. Sale of shares of untraced members	10
21. Application of proceeds of sale	11
TRANSFERS OF SHARES	11
22. Right to transfer shares.....	11
23. Transfers of uncertificated shares.....	11
24. Transfers of certificated shares.....	11
25. No fee payable.....	12
26. Registration of transfers	12
27. Notice of refusal	12
TRANSMISSION OF SHARES	12
28. Transmission on death.....	12
29. Election of person entitled by transmission.....	12
30. Rights of person entitled by transmission	13
DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS IN SHARES.....	13
31. Disclosure of interests in shares	13
GENERAL MEETINGS	15
32. General meetings.....	15
33. Meeting at more than one place or in more than one format.....	16
34. Annual general meetings	16
35. Convening of general meetings other than annual general meetings	16
36. Separate general meetings	16
PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS	17
37. Quorum.....	17

38.	Security.....	17
39.	Chair	17
40.	Right to attend and speak	18
41.	Resolutions and amendments	18
42.	Adjournment.....	19
43.	Method of voting and demand for poll.....	19
44.	How poll is to be taken.....	20
45.	Validity of meeting.....	21
	VOTES OF MEMBERS	21
46.	Voting rights.....	21
47.	Voting rights of members incapable of managing their affairs	21
48.	Objections to admissibility of votes	22
	PROXIES	22
49.	Proxies	22
50.	Form of appointment of proxy	22
51.	Receipt of proxy	22
52.	Notice of revocation of authority etc.....	23
	DIRECTORS	24
53.	Number of directors.....	24
54.	Directors need not be members	24
	ELECTION, APPOINTMENT, RETIREMENT AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS	24
55.	Election of directors by the Company	24
56.	Separate resolutions for election of each director	24
57.	The board's power to appoint directors	24
58.	Retirement of directors	25
59.	Removal of directors	25
60.	Vacation of office of director	25
61.	Executive directors	25
	ALTERNATE DIRECTORS	26
62.	Power to appoint alternate directors	26
	REMUNERATION, EXPENSES, PENSIONS and other benefits.....	27
63.	Remuneration of directors	27
64.	Special remuneration	27
65.	Expenses.....	27
66.	Pensions and other benefits	27
	POWERS OF THE BOARD	28
67.	General powers of the board to manage the Company's business.....	28
68.	Power to act notwithstanding vacancy	28
69.	Provisions for employees	28
70.	Power to borrow money	28
	DELEGATION OF BOARD'S POWERS	32
71.	Delegation to individual directors	32
72.	Committees.....	32
73.	Local managers.....	32
74.	Local boards	32
75.	Powers of attorney.....	32
	DIRECTORS' INTERESTS	33
76.	Directors' interests other than in relation to transactions or arrangements with the Company	33
77.	Declaration of interests other than in relation to transactions or arrangements with the Company	34
78.	Declaration of interests in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Company	34
79.	Declaration of interest in an existing transaction or arrangement with the Company.....	34
80.	Provisions applicable to declarations of interest	34
81.	Directors' interests and voting	35

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD.....	37
82. Board meetings.....	37
83. Notice of board meetings	37
84. Quorum.....	37
85. Chair or deputy chair to preside	37
86. Competence of board meetings	38
87. Voting.....	38
88. Telephone/electronic board meetings.....	38
89. Resolutions without meetings	38
90. Minutes.....	38
SECRETARY.....	39
91. Secretary.....	39
SEAL.....	39
92. Seal.....	39
DIVIDENDS	39
93. Declaration of dividends by the Company	39
94. Fixed and interim dividends	39
95. Calculation and currency of dividends.....	40
96. Method of payment	40
97. Dividends not to bear interest.....	41
98. Calls or debts may be deducted from dividends.....	41
99. Unclaimed dividends etc.	41
100. Uncashed dividends.....	41
101. Dividends <i>in specie</i>	42
102. Scrip dividends	42
CAPITALISATION OF RESERVES	43
103. Capitalisation of reserves	43
104. Capitalisation of reserves - employees' share schemes	44
RECORD DATES	44
105. Fixing of record dates.....	44
ACCOUNTS	45
106. Accounting records.....	45
NOTICES	45
107. Form of notices.....	45
108. Manner of giving notices.....	45
109. Notice during suspension or curtailment of postal services	46
110. When notice is deemed given.....	46
111. Record date for giving notices.....	47
112. Notice to person entitled by transmission	47
113. Returned notices	47
DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS	47
114. Destruction of documents.....	47
WINDING UP.....	48
115. Powers to distribute <i>in specie</i>	48
INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE.....	49
116. Indemnity of officers	49
117. Insurance	49

**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006
A PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES**

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

OF

THE SAGE GROUP PLC.

(adopted by special resolution passed on 4 February 2021)

PRELIMINARY

1. Standard regulations do not apply

None of the regulations in Table A in the Schedule to the Companies (Tables A to F) Regulations 1985 (or any amendments thereto) or the model articles for public companies set out in Schedule 3 to the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 shall apply to the Company.

2. Interpretation

2.1 In these articles, unless the contrary intention appears:

(a) the following definitions apply:

address, in relation to electronic communications, includes any number or address (including, in the case of any uncertificated proxy instruction permitted pursuant to article 50.2, an identification number of a participant in the relevant system concerned) used for the purposes of such communications;

these articles means these articles of association, as from time to time altered;

board means the board of directors for the time being of the Company;

CA 2006 means the Companies Act 2006 as in force from time to time;

clear days means, in relation to the period of a notice, that period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;

a **combined physical and electronic general meeting** means a general meeting held or conducted at one or more physical venues in such a way that allows persons who may not be physically present together to communicate with each other any information or opinions they may have on any particular item of business of the meeting;

committee means a committee of the board;

communication has the same meaning as in the Electronic Communications Act 2000;

the **Company** means The Sage Group Plc.;

director means a director for the time being of the Company;

Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules means the disclosure guidance and transparency rules for the time being in force, as published by the Financial Conduct Authority in the Financial Conduct Authority Handbook

electronic address has the same meaning as in the CA 2006;

electronic communication has the same meaning as in the Electronic Communications Act 2000;

electronic form has the same meaning as in the CA 2006;

electronic means has the same meaning as in the CA 2006;

hard copy form has the same meaning as in the CA 2006;

holder in relation to any share means the member whose name is entered in the register as the holder of that share;

the office means the registered office for the time being of the Company;

paid up means paid up or credited as paid up;

person entitled by transmission means a person whose entitlement to a share in consequence of the death or bankruptcy of a member or of any other event giving rise to its transmission by operation of law has been noted in the register;

a **physical general meeting** means a general meeting held or conducted at one or more physical venues (at which facilities are not available to allow for persons who are not at such physical venue to attend or participate in the meeting electronically);

a **proxy notification address** means the address or addresses (including any electronic address) specified in a notice of a meeting or in any other information issued by the Company in relation to a meeting (or, as the case may be, an adjourned meeting or a poll) for the receipt of proxy notices relating to that meeting (or adjourned meeting or poll) or, if no such address is specified, the office;

register means the register of members of the Company;

relevant system has the same meaning as in the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001 or any relevant regulations made pursuant to the CA 2006;

seal means any common seal of the Company or any official seal or securities seal which the Company may have or be permitted to have under the Statutes;

secretary means the secretary of the Company or, if there are joint secretaries, any of the joint secretaries and includes an assistant or deputy secretary and any person appointed by the board to perform any of the duties of the secretary of the Company;

Statutes means the CA 2006, the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001 and every other statute, statutory instrument, regulation or order for the time being in force concerning the Company;

treasury shares means those shares held by the Company in treasury in accordance with section 724 of the CA 2006; and

FCA means the Financial Conduct Authority;

- (b) any reference to an uncertificated share, or to a share being held in uncertificated form, means a share, title to which may be transferred by means of a relevant system, and any reference to a certificated share means any share other than an uncertificated share;
- (c) any other words or expressions defined in the CA 2006 or, if not defined in the CA 2006, in any other of the Statutes (in each case as in force on the date of adoption of these articles) have the same meaning in these articles except that the word **company** includes any body corporate;
- (d) any reference in these articles to any statute or statutory provision includes a reference to any modification or re-enactment of it for the time being in force;
- (e) words importing the singular number include the plural number and vice versa, words importing one gender include the other gender and words importing persons include bodies corporate and unincorporated associations;
- (f) any reference to writing includes a reference to any method of reproducing words in a legible form;
- (g) any reference to doing something by electronic means includes doing it by an electronic communication;
- (h) any reference to a document being sealed or executed under seal or under the common seal of any body corporate (including the Company) or any similar expression includes a reference to its being executed in any other manner which has the same effect as if it were executed under seal;
- (i) any reference to a meeting shall not be taken as requiring more than one person to be present in person if any quorum requirement can be satisfied by one person;
- (j) any reference to a show of hands includes such other method of casting votes as the board may from time to time approve;
- (k) any reference to a person who is attending or participating in a meeting electronically is a reference to a person whose attendance or participation at that meeting is enabled by a facility or facilities (whether electronic or otherwise), other than physical presence at a general meeting, which allows persons who may not be physically present together to communicate with each other any information or opinions they may have on any particular item of business of the meeting; electronic attendance and participation shall be construed accordingly;
- (l) where the Company has a power of sale or other right of disposal in relation to any share, any reference to the power of the Company or the board to authorise a person to transfer that share to or as directed by the person to whom the share has been sold or disposed of shall, in the case of an uncertificated share, be deemed to include a reference to such other action as may be necessary to enable that share to be registered in the name of that person or as directed by him; and
- (m) any reference to:
 - (i) rights attaching to any share;
 - (ii) members having a right to attend and vote at general meetings of the Company;

- (iii) dividends being paid, or any other distribution of the Company's assets being made, to members; or
- (iv) interests in a certain proportion or percentage of the issued share capital, or any class of share capital,

shall, unless otherwise expressly provided by the Statutes, be construed as though any treasury shares held by the Company had been cancelled.

2.2 Headings to these articles are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect construction.

3. Objects

Nothing in these articles shall constitute a restriction on the objects of the Company to do (or omit to do) any act and, in accordance with section 31(1) of the CA 2006, the Company's objects are unrestricted.

4. Limited liability

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

SHARE CAPITAL

5. Rights attached to shares

Subject to the provisions of the Statutes and to the rights conferred on the holders of any other shares, any share may be issued with or have attached to it such rights and restrictions as the Company may by ordinary resolution decide or, if no such resolution is in effect or so far as the resolution does not make specific provision, as the board may decide.

6. Allotment (etc.) of shares

Subject to the provisions of the Statutes, these articles and any resolution of the Company, the board may offer, allot (with or without conferring a right of renunciation), grant options over or otherwise deal with or dispose of any shares to such persons, at such times and generally on such terms as the board may decide.

7. Authority to allot shares and grant rights

The Company may from time to time pass an ordinary resolution referring to this article and authorising, in accordance with section 551 of the CA 2006, the board to exercise all the powers of the Company to allot shares in the Company or to grant rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into shares in the Company and:

- (a) on the passing of the resolution the board shall be generally and unconditionally authorised to allot such shares or grant such rights up to the maximum nominal amount specified in the resolution; and
- (b) unless previously revoked the authority shall expire on the day specified in the resolution (not being more than five years from the date on which the resolution is passed),

but any authority given under this article shall allow the Company, before the authority expires, to make an offer or agreement which would or might require shares to be allotted or rights to be granted after it expires.

8. Dis-application of pre-emption rights

8.1 Subject (other than in relation to the sale of treasury shares) to the board being generally authorised to allot shares and grant rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into shares in the Company in accordance with section 551 of the CA 2006, the Company may from time to time resolve by a special resolution referring to this article that the board be given power to allot equity securities for cash and, on the passing of the resolution, the board shall have power to allot (pursuant to that authority) equity securities for cash as if section 561 of the CA 2006 did not apply to the allotment but that power shall be limited to:

- (a) the allotment of equity securities in connection with a rights issue; and
- (b) the allotment (other than in connection with a rights issue) of equity securities having a nominal amount not exceeding in aggregate the sum specified in the special resolution,

and unless previously revoked that power shall expire on the date (if any) specified in the special resolution or, if no date is specified, 15 months after the date on which the special resolution is passed or if earlier at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company but the Company may before the power expires make an offer or agreement which would or might require equity securities to be allotted after it expires.

8.2 For the purposes of this article:

- (a) **equity securities** and **ordinary shares** have the meanings given to them in section 560 of the CA 2006;
- (b) **rights issue** means an offer or issue of equity securities open for acceptance for a period fixed by the board to or in favour of holders of ordinary shares in proportion (as nearly as may be practicable) to their existing holdings and holders of other equity securities if this is required by the rights of those securities or, if the directors consider it necessary, as permitted by the rights of those securities; but the board may make such exclusions or other arrangements as the board considers expedient in relation to treasury shares, fractional entitlements, record dates, shares represented by depository receipts, legal or practical problems under the laws in any territory or the requirements of any relevant regulatory body or stock exchange or any other matter; and
- (c) a reference to the **allotment of equity securities** includes (pursuant to sections 560(2) and 560(3) of the CA 2006) the grant of a right to subscribe for, or to convert any securities into, ordinary shares in the Company, and the sale of any ordinary shares in the Company or (as the case may be) shares of a particular class, that immediately before the sale, were held by the Company as treasury shares.

9. Power to pay commission

The Company may in connection with the issue of any shares exercise all powers of paying commission conferred or permitted by the Statutes. Subject to the provisions of the Statutes any commission may be satisfied by payment in cash or by the allotment of fully paid or partly paid shares of the Company, or partly in one way and partly in the other.

10. Power to alter share capital

10.1 The Company may exercise the powers conferred by the Statutes to:

- (a) increase its share capital by allotting new shares;

- (b) reduce its share capital;
- (c) sub-divide or consolidate and divide all or any of its share capital; and
- (d) redenominate all or any of its shares and reduce its share capital in connection with such a redenomination.

10.2 A resolution by which any share is sub-divided may determine that, as between the holders of the shares resulting from the sub-division, one or more of the shares may have such preferred or other special rights, or may have such qualified or deferred rights or be subject to such restrictions, as compared with the other or others, as the Company has power to attach to new shares.

10.3 If as a result of any consolidation and division or sub-division of shares any members would become entitled to fractions of a share, the board may deal with the fractions as it thinks fit and in particular may:

- (a) (on behalf of those members) aggregate and sell the shares representing the fractions to any person (including, subject to the provisions of the Statutes, the Company) and distribute the net proceeds of sale in due proportion among those members (except that any proceeds in respect of any holding less than a sum fixed by the board may be retained for the benefit of the Company); or
- (b) subject to the Statutes, first, allot to a member credited as fully paid by way of capitalisation of any reserve account of the Company such number of shares as rounds up the member's holding to a number which, following consolidation and division or sub-division, leaves a whole number of shares.

For the purpose of any sale under (a) above, the board may authorise some person to transfer the shares to, or as directed by the purchaser, who shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase money; nor shall his title to the shares be affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the proceedings relating to the sale.

10.4 All new shares shall be subject to the provisions of these articles with reference to payment of calls, lien, forfeiture, transfer, transmission or otherwise, and, unless otherwise provided by these articles, by the resolution creating the new shares or by the conditions of issue, the new shares shall be unclassified shares.

11. Power to issue redeemable shares

Subject to the provisions of the Statutes any share may be issued on terms that it is to be redeemed or is liable to be redeemed at the option of the Company or the holder. The terms, conditions and manner of redemption of such shares may be determined by the board before the shares are allotted.

12. Power to purchase own shares

Subject to the provisions of the Statutes and to any rights conferred on the holders of any class of shares, the Company may purchase all or any of its shares of any class, including any redeemable shares.

13. Power to reduce capital

Subject to the provisions of the Statutes and to any rights conferred on the holders of any class of shares, the Company may by special resolution reduce its share capital, any capital redemption reserve and any share premium account in any way.

14. Share warrants

- 14.1 Subject to the provisions of the Statutes and these articles the Company may issue a share warrant with respect to any fully paid share.
- 14.2 Every share warrant shall be issued under seal in the same manner as a share certificate and shall state that the bearer is entitled to the shares to which it relates and may provide by coupons or otherwise for the payment of future dividends or other moneys on the shares included in it.
- 14.3 A share included in a share warrant may be transferred by the delivery of the share warrant without any written transfer and without registration and none of the other provisions of these articles relating to the transfer of shares shall apply to any such transfer.
- 14.4 The board may determine and from time to time may vary the conditions upon which a new share warrant or coupon may be issued in the place of one defaced, worn out, lost or destroyed, but a new share warrant or coupon shall only be issued to replace one that is alleged to have been lost or destroyed if the board is satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the original share warrant or coupon has been destroyed.
- 14.5 The board may also determine and from time to time may vary the conditions upon which share warrants shall be issued and, in particular, all or any of the conditions upon which:
- (a) the bearer of a share warrant shall be entitled to obtain payment of a dividend or other moneys payable in respect of the shares included in it;
 - (b) the bearer of a share warrant shall be entitled to attend and vote at any general meeting of the Company or at any separate general meeting of the holders of any class of shares of the Company; and
 - (c) a share warrant may be surrendered for cancellation and the name of the bearer entered as a member in the register in respect of the shares included in the warrant.
- 14.6 The bearer of a share warrant shall be subject to the conditions for the time being in force in relation to share warrants, whether made before or after the issue of the share warrant, and, subject to such conditions and to the provisions of the Statutes, the bearer shall be deemed to be a member of the Company and shall be entitled to the same rights as if his name were entered in the register as the holder of the shares included in the share warrant.
- 14.7 The Company shall not be responsible for any loss or damage suffered by any person by reason of the Company entering in the register, upon the surrender of a share warrant, the name of any person who is not the true and lawful owner of that warrant.

15. Trusts not recognised

Except as required by law or these articles, no person shall be recognised by the Company as holding any share upon any trust and the Company shall not be bound by or required to recognise (even when having notice of it) any interest in or in respect of any share, except the holder's absolute right to the entirety of the share.

VARIATION OF RIGHTS

16. Variation of rights

- 16.1 Whenever the capital of the Company is divided into different classes of shares, all or any of the rights for the time being attached to any class of shares in issue may from time to time (whether or

not the Company is being wound up) be varied in such manner as those rights may provide or (if no such provisions are made) either with the consent in writing of the holders of three-fourths in nominal value of the issued shares of that class (excluding any shares of that class held as treasury shares) or with the authority of a special resolution passed at a separate general meeting of the holders of those shares.

- 16.2 All the provisions of these articles relating to general meetings of the Company or to the proceedings at general meetings shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to every such separate general meeting, except that:
- (a) the necessary quorum at any such meeting (other than an adjourned meeting) shall be two persons holding or representing by proxy at least one-third in nominal amount of the issued shares of the class in question (excluding any shares of that class held as treasury shares);
 - (b) at an adjourned meeting the necessary quorum shall be one person holding shares of the class in question or his proxy;
 - (c) every holder of shares of the class in question shall, on a poll, have one vote in respect of every share of the class held by him; and
 - (d) a poll may be demanded by any one holder of shares of the class in question whether present in person or by proxy.
- 16.3 Unless otherwise expressly provided by the rights attached to any class of shares, those rights shall not be deemed to be varied by the creation or issue of further shares ranking *pari passu* with them or by the purchase or redemption by the Company of any of its own shares.
- 16.4 Any class of shares issued without the right to vote at general meetings of the Company attached shall include the words "non-voting" in the name by which the same are designated, and if classes of shares are issued with different voting rights attached to them the names by which such classes are designated (other than the class with the most favourable voting rights attached thereto) shall include the word "limited voting".

SHARE CERTIFICATES

17. Issue of share certificates

- 17.1 A person whose name is entered in the register as the holder of any certificated shares shall be entitled (unless the conditions of issue otherwise provide) to receive one certificate for those shares, or one certificate for each class of those shares and, if he transfers part of the shares, represented by a certificate in his name, or elects to hold part in uncertificated form, to receive a new certificate for the balance of those shares.
- 17.2 In the case of joint holders, the Company shall not be bound to issue more than one certificate for all the shares in any particular class registered in their joint names, and delivery of a certificate for a share to any one of the joint holders shall be sufficient delivery to all.
- 17.3 A share certificate may be issued under seal (by affixing the seal to, or printing the seal or a representation of it on, the certificate) or signed by at least one director and the secretary or by at least two directors (which may include any signature being applied mechanically or electronically) or by any one director in the presence of a witness who attests the signature, or made effective in such other way as the directors decide. A share certificate shall specify the number and class of the shares to which it relates and the amount or respective amounts paid up on the shares. Any certificate so issued shall, as against the Company, be *prima facie* evidence of title of the person named in that certificate to the shares comprised in it.

17.4 A share certificate may be given to a member in accordance with the provisions of these articles on notices.

18. Charges for and replacement of certificates

18.1 Except as expressly provided to the contrary in these articles, no fee shall be charged for the issue of a share certificate.

18.2 Any two or more certificates representing shares of any one class held by any member may at his request be cancelled and a single new certificate issued.

18.3 If any member surrenders for cancellation a certificate representing shares held by him and requests the Company to issue two or more certificates representing those shares in such proportions as he may specify, the board may, if it thinks fit, comply with the request on payment of such fee (if any) as the board may decide.

18.4 If a certificate is damaged or defaced or alleged to have been lost, stolen or destroyed, a new certificate representing the same shares may be issued on compliance with such conditions as to evidence indemnity and security for such indemnity as the board may think fit and on payment of any exceptional expenses of the Company incidental to its investigation of the evidence and preparation of the indemnity and security and, if damaged or defaced, on delivery up of the old certificate.

18.5 In the case of joint holders of a share a request for a new certificate under any of the preceding paragraphs of this article may be made by any one of the joint holders unless the certificate is alleged to have been lost, stolen or destroyed.

UNCERTIFICATED SHARES GENERAL POWERS

19. Uncertificated Shares - General Powers

19.1 The board may permit any class of shares to be held in uncertificated form and to be transferred by means of a relevant system and may revoke any such permission.

19.2 In relation to any share which is for the time being held in uncertificated form:

(a) the Company may utilise the relevant system in which it is held to the fullest extent available from time to time in the exercise of any of its powers or functions under the Statutes or these articles or otherwise in effecting any actions and the board may from time to time determine the manner in which such powers, functions and actions shall be so exercised or effected;

(b) any provision in these articles which is inconsistent with:

(i) the holding or transfer of that share in the manner prescribed or permitted by the Statutes;

(ii) any other provision of the Statutes relating to shares held in uncertificated form; or

(iii) the exercise of any powers or functions by the Company or the effecting by the Company of any actions by means of a relevant system,

shall not apply;

(c) the Company may, by notice to the holder of that share, require the holder to change the form of such share to certificated form within such period as may be specified in the notice; and

- (d) the Company shall not issue a certificate.
- 19.3 The Company may, by notice to the holder of any share in certificated form, direct that the form of such share may not be changed to uncertificated form for a period specified in such notice.
- 19.4 For the purpose of effecting any action by the Company, the board may determine that shares held by a person in uncertificated form shall be treated as a separate holding from shares held by that person in certificated form but shares of a class held by a person in uncertificated form shall not be treated as a separate class from shares of that class held by that person in certificated form.

UNTRACED MEMBERS

20. Sale of shares of untraced members

- 20.1 The Company may sell, in such manner as the board may decide and at the best price it considers to be reasonably obtainable at that time, any share of a member, or any share to which a person is entitled by transmission, if:
 - (a) during a period of twelve years at least three cash dividends have become payable in respect of the share to be sold;
 - (b) during that period of twelve years no cash dividend payable in respect of the share has been claimed, no cheque, warrant, order or other payment for a dividend has been cashed, no dividend sent by means of a bank or other funds transfer system or other electronic system or means (including, in the case of uncertificated shares, a relevant system) has been paid and no communication has been received by the Company from the member or the person entitled by transmission to the share;
 - (c) on or after the expiry of that period of twelve years the Company has sent, or caused to be sent, a notice to the registered address or last known address the Company has for the member or other person entitled by transmission to the share, giving notice of its intention to sell the share (provided that before sending such a notice, the Company shall have made, or caused to be made, such tracing enquiries for the purpose of contacting that member or other person as the board considers to be reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances); and
 - (d) during the period of three months following the sending of the notice and after that period until the exercise of the power to sell the share, the Company has not received any communication from the member or the person entitled by transmission to the share.
- 20.2 The Company's power of sale shall extend to any further share which, on or before the sending of the notice pursuant to sub-article 20.1(c) above, is issued in right of a share to which article 20.1 applies (or in right of any share to which this article applies) if the conditions set out in sub-articles 20.1(b) to 20.1(d) above are satisfied in relation to the further share (but as if the references to a period of twelve years were references to a period beginning on the date of allotment of the original share and ending on the date of sending the notice referred to above).
- 20.3 To give effect to any sale, the board may authorise some person to transfer the share to, or as directed by, the purchaser, who shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase money; nor shall the title of the new holder to the share be affected by any irregularity in, or invalidity of, the proceedings relating to the sale.

21. Application of proceeds of sale

21.1 Subject to article 21.2 below:

- (a) the Company shall account to the person entitled to the share at the date of sale for a sum equal to the net proceeds of sale and shall be deemed to be his debtor, and not a trustee for him, in respect of them;
- (b) pending payment of the net proceeds of sale to such person, the proceeds may either be employed in the business of the Company or invested in such investments (other than shares of the Company or its holding company, if any) as the board may from time to time decide; and
- (c) no interest shall be payable in respect of the net proceeds and the Company shall not be required to account for any moneys earned on the net proceeds.

21.2 If no valid claim for the proceeds of a sale has been received by the Company during a period of two years from the date on which the relevant shares were sold pursuant to article 20, the net proceeds of that sale will be forfeited and will belong to the Company. In these circumstances, the Company will not be liable in any respect to the former member or members or other person who may or would have been entitled to the share or shares by law for the proceeds of sale, and the Company may use the proceeds of sale for any purpose as the board may decide.

TRANSFERS OF SHARES

22. Right to transfer shares

Subject to the restrictions in these articles, a member may transfer all or any of his shares in any manner which is permitted by the Statutes and is from time to time approved by the board.

23. Transfers of uncertificated shares

23.1 The Company shall maintain a record of uncertificated shares in accordance with the Statutes.

23.2 The board may, in its absolute discretion refuse to register any transfer of an uncertificated share where permitted by the Statutes.

24. Transfers of certificated shares

24.1 An instrument of transfer of a certificated share may be in any usual form or in any other form which the board may approve and shall be signed by or on behalf of the transferor and (except in the case of a fully paid share) by or on behalf of the transferee.

24.2 The board may, in its absolute discretion refuse to register any instrument of transfer of a certificated share:

- (a) which is not fully paid up but, in the case of a class of shares which has been admitted to official listing by the FCA, not so as to prevent dealings in those shares from taking place on an open and proper basis; or
- (b) on which the Company has a lien.

24.3 The board may also refuse to register any instrument of transfer of a certificated share unless it is:

- (a) left at the office, or at such other place as the board may decide, for registration; and

- (b) accompanied by the certificate for the shares to be transferred and such other evidence (if any) as the board may reasonably require to prove the title of the intending transferor or his right to transfer the shares.

24.4 All instruments of transfer which are registered may be retained by the Company, but any instrument of transfer which the board refuses to register shall (except in any case where fraud or any other crime involving dishonesty is suspected in relation to such transfer) be returned to the person presenting it.

25. No fee payable

No fee shall be charged for registration of a transfer or other document or instruction relating to or affecting the title to any share.

26. Registration of transfers

26.1 The transferor shall be deemed to remain the holder of the share until the name of the transferee is entered in the register in respect of the share.

26.2 The board may refuse to register any transfer unless it is in respect of only one class of shares.

26.3 Nothing in these articles shall preclude the board from recognising a renunciation of the allotment of any share by the allottee in favour of some other person.

26.4 Unless otherwise agreed by the board in any particular case, the maximum number of persons who may be entered on the register as joint holders of a share is four.

27. Notice of refusal

If the board refuses to register a transfer of a share it shall, as soon as practicable and in any event within two months after the date on which the instrument of transfer was lodged/or the CREST instruction was received, give to the transferee notice of the refusal together with its reasons for the refusal. The board shall provide the transferee with such further information about the reasons for the refusal as the transferee may reasonably request.

TRANSMISSION OF SHARES

28. Transmission on death

If a member dies, the survivor or survivors, where the deceased was a joint holder, and his personal representatives where he was a sole or the only surviving holder, shall be the only person or persons recognised by the Company as having any title to his shares; but nothing in these articles shall release the estate of a deceased holder from any liability in respect of any share held by him solely or jointly.

29. Election of person entitled by transmission

29.1 A person becoming entitled to a share in consequence of the death or bankruptcy of a member or of any other event giving rise to a transmission by operation of law may, on producing such evidence as the board may require and subject as provided in this article, elect either to be registered himself as the holder of the share or to have some person nominated by him registered as the holder of the share.

29.2 If he elects to be registered himself, he shall give notice to the Company to that effect. If he elects to have another person registered, he shall execute a transfer of the share to that person or shall execute

such other document or take such other action as the board may require to enable that person to be registered.

- 29.3 The provisions of these articles relating to the transfer of shares shall apply to the notice or instrument of transfer or other document or action as if it were a transfer effected by the person from whom the title by transmission is derived and the event giving rise to such transmission had not occurred.

30. Rights of person entitled by transmission

- 30.1 A person becoming entitled to a share in consequence of a death or bankruptcy or of any other event giving rise to a transmission by operation of law shall have the right to receive and give a discharge for any dividends or other moneys payable in respect of the share and shall have the same rights in relation to the share as he would have if he were the holder except that, until he becomes the holder, he shall not be entitled to attend or vote at any meeting of the Company or any separate general meeting of the holders of any class of shares in the Company.
- 30.2 The board may at any time give notice requiring any such person to elect either to be registered himself or to transfer the share and, if after ninety days the notice has not been complied with, the board may withhold payment of all dividends or other moneys payable in respect of the share (but this action shall not constitute the Company as trustee in respect of the dividends or the other moneys) until the requirements of the notice have been complied with.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS IN SHARES

31. Disclosure of interests in shares

- 31.1 This article applies where the Company gives to the holder of a share or to any person appearing to be interested in a share a notice requiring any of the information mentioned in section 793 of the CA 2006 (a **section 793 notice**).
- 31.2 If a section 793 notice is given by the Company to a person appearing to be interested in any share, a copy shall at the same time be given to the holder, but the accidental omission to do so or the non-receipt of the copy by the holder shall not prejudice the operation of the following provisions of this article.
- 31.3 If the holder of, or any person appearing to be interested in, any share has been given a section 793 notice and, in respect of that share (a **default share**), has been in default for a period of 14 days after the section 793 notice has been given in supplying to the Company the information required by the section 793 notice, the restrictions referred to below shall apply. Those restrictions shall continue for the period specified by the board, being not more than seven days after the earlier of:
- (a) the Company being notified that the default shares have been sold pursuant to an exempt transfer; or
 - (b) due compliance, to the satisfaction of the board, with the section 793 notice.

The board may waive these restrictions, in whole or in part, at any time.

- 31.4 The restrictions referred to above are as follows:

- (a) if the default shares in which any one person is interested or appears to the Company to be interested represent less than 0.25 per cent. of the issued shares of the class, the holders of the default shares shall not be entitled, in respect of those shares, to attend or to vote, either personally or by proxy, at any general meeting or at any separate general meeting of the

holders of any class of shares in the Company or to exercise any other right conferred by membership in relation to meetings of the Company; or

- (b) if the default shares in which any one person is interested or appears to the Company to be interested represent at least 0.25 per cent. of the issued shares of the class, the holders of the default shares shall not be entitled, in respect of those shares:
 - (i) to attend or to vote, either personally or by proxy, at any general meeting or at any separate general meeting of the holders of any class of shares in the Company or to exercise any other right conferred by membership in relation to meetings of the Company; or
 - (ii) to receive any dividend or other distribution; or
 - (iii) to transfer or agree to transfer any of those shares or any rights in them.

The restrictions in sub-articles 31.4 (a) and (b) above shall not prejudice the right of either the member holding the default shares or, if different, any person having a power of sale over those shares to sell or agree to sell those shares under an exempt transfer.

31.5 If any dividend or other distribution is withheld under sub-article 31.4(b) above, the member shall be entitled to receive it as soon as practicable after the restrictions contained in sub-article 31.4(b) cease to apply.

31.6 If, while any of the restrictions referred to above apply to a share, another share is allotted in right of it (or in right of any share to which this article applies), the same restrictions shall apply to that other share as if it were a default share. For this purpose, shares which the Company allots, or procures to be offered, *pro rata* (disregarding fractional entitlements and shares not offered to certain members by reason of legal or practical problems associated with issuing or offering shares outside the United Kingdom) to holders of shares of the same class as the default share shall be treated as shares allotted in right of existing shares from the date on which the allotment is unconditional or, in the case of shares so offered, the date of the acceptance of the offer.

31.7 For the purposes of this article:

- (a) an **exempt transfer** in relation to any share is a transfer pursuant to:
 - (i) a sale of the share on a recognised investment exchange in the United Kingdom or on any stock exchange outside the United Kingdom on which shares of that class are listed or normally traded; or
 - (ii) a sale of the whole beneficial interest in the share to a person whom the board is satisfied is unconnected with the existing holder or with any other person appearing to be interested in the share; or
 - (iii) acceptance of a takeover offer (as defined for the purposes of Part 28 of the CA 2006);
- (b) the percentage of the issued shares of a class represented by a particular holding shall be calculated by reference to the shares in issue at the time when the section 793 notice is given; and
- (c) a person shall be treated as appearing to be interested in any share if the Company has given to the member holding such share a section 793 notice and either (i) the member has named the person as being interested in the share or (ii) (after taking into account any response to

any section 793 notice and any other relevant information) the Company knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the person in question is or may be interested in the share.

- 31.8 The Company may exercise any of its powers under article 19 in respect of any default shares in uncertificated form.
- 31.9 The provisions of this article are without prejudice to the provisions of section 794 of the CA 2006 and, in particular, the Company may apply to the court under section 794(1) of the CA 2006 whether or not these provisions apply or have been applied.

GENERAL MEETINGS

32. General meetings

- 32.1 The board shall determine whether any general meeting is to be held as:
- (a) a physical general meeting; or
 - (b) a combined physical and electronic general meeting.
- 32.2 The board may make whatever arrangements it considers fit to allow those entitled to do so to participate in any general meeting.
- 32.3 Unless otherwise specified in the notice of meeting; decided by the board in accordance with sub-article 33.1(b); or determined by the chair of the meeting either pursuant to sub-article 33.1(c) or otherwise, a general meeting is deemed to take place at the place where the chair of the meeting is at the time of the meeting.
- 32.4 Two or more persons who may not be in the same place as each other attend a general meeting if their circumstances are such that if they have rights to speak and vote at that meeting, they are able to exercise them.
- 32.5 A person is present at a general meeting if the person attends it in accordance with the provisions of these articles.
- 32.6 A person is able to participate in a meeting if the person's circumstances are such that if the person has rights in relation to the meeting, the person is able to exercise them.
- 32.7 In determining whether persons are attending or participating in a meeting, other than a physical general meeting, it is immaterial where any of them are or how they are able to communicate with each other.
- 32.8 A person is able to exercise the right to speak at a general meeting when the chair of the meeting is satisfied that arrangements are in place so as to enable that person to communicate to all those attending the meeting, during the meeting, any information or opinions which that person has on the business of the meeting.
- 32.9 A person is able to exercise the right to vote at a general meeting when:
- (a) that person is able to vote, during the meeting, on resolutions put to the vote at the meeting; and
 - (b) that person's vote can be taken into account in determining whether or not such resolutions are passed at the same time as the votes of all the other persons attending the meeting.

33. Meeting at more than one place or in more than one format

33.1 A general meeting may be held at more than one place, or may be participated in in more than one way, if:

- (a) the notice convening the meeting so specifies; or
- (b) the board resolves, after the notice convening the meeting has been given, that:
 - (i) the meeting shall be held at one or more than one place in addition to any place or places specified in the notice; or
 - (ii) arrangements will also be made for attendance and participation electronically; or
- (c) it appears to the chair of the meeting that the place of the meeting specified in the notice convening the meeting is inadequate to accommodate all persons entitled and wishing to attend at that place.

33.2 A general meeting held at more than one place or participated in in more than one way in accordance with article 33.1 above, is duly constituted and its proceedings are valid if (in addition to the other provisions of these articles relating to general meetings being satisfied) the chair of the meeting is satisfied that facilities (whether electronic or otherwise) are available to enable each person present at each place and/or attending or participating in it electronically to participate in the business of the meeting.

33.3 Each person present at any place of the meeting or who is attending it electronically, and who would be entitled to count towards the quorum in accordance with the provisions of article 37 shall be counted in the quorum for, and shall be entitled to vote at, the meeting.

34. Annual general meetings

34.1 The board shall convene and the Company shall hold annual general meetings in accordance with the Statutes.

35. Convening of general meetings other than annual general meetings

35.1 The board may convene a general meeting other than an annual general meeting whenever it thinks fit.

35.2 A general meeting may also be convened in accordance with article 68.

35.3 A general meeting shall also be convened by the board on the requisition of members under the Statutes or, in default, may be convened by such requisitionists, as provided by the Statutes.

35.4 The board shall comply with the Statutes regarding the giving and the circulation, on the requisition of members, of notices of resolutions and of statements with respect to matters relating to any resolution to be proposed or business to be dealt with at any general meeting of the Company.

36. Separate general meetings

Subject to these articles and to any rights for the time being attached to any class of shares in the Company, the provisions of these articles relating to general meetings of the Company (including, for the avoidance of doubt, provisions relating to the proceedings at general meetings or to the rights of any person to attend or vote or be represented at general meetings or to any restrictions on these rights) shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, in relation to every separate general meeting of the holders of any class of shares in the Company.

PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

37. Quorum

- 37.1 No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless the requisite quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to business.
- 37.2 Except as otherwise provided by these articles two qualifying persons entitled to vote shall be a quorum, unless:
- (a) each is a qualifying person only because he is authorised to act as the representative of a corporation in relation to the meeting, and they are representatives of the same corporation; or
 - (b) each is a qualifying person only because he is appointed as proxy of a member in relation to the meeting, and they are proxies of the same member.
- 37.3 For the purposes of this article, a **qualifying person** means:
- (a) an individual who is a member of the Company;
 - (b) a person authorised to act as the representative of a corporation in relation to the meeting; or
 - (c) a person appointed as proxy of a member in relation to the meeting.
- 37.4 If within fifteen minutes from the time appointed for the holding of a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened on the requisition of members, shall be dissolved. In any other case, it shall stand adjourned for ten clear days (or, if that day is a Saturday, a Sunday or a holiday, to the next working day) and at the same time and place (and, if appropriate, with similar or equivalent facilities for electronic attendance and participation), as the original meeting, or, subject to article 42.7 and the provisions of the Statutes, to such other day, and at such other time and place (and, if appropriate, with such other facilities for electronic attendance and participation), as the board may decide.
- 37.5 If at an adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within fifteen minutes from the time appointed for holding the meeting, the meeting shall be dissolved.

38. Security

The board may make any physical or electronic security arrangements which it considers appropriate relating to the holding of a general meeting of the Company or a separate general meeting of the holders of any class of shares of the Company, including, without limitation, arranging for any person attending a meeting physically to be searched and for items of personal property which may be taken into a meeting to be restricted. A director or the secretary may:

- (a) refuse physical or electronic entry to a meeting to any person who refuses to comply with any such arrangements; and
- (b) physically or electronically eject from a meeting any person who causes the proceedings to become disorderly.

39. Chair

- 39.1 At each general meeting, the chair of the board or, if he is absent or unwilling, the deputy chair (if any) of the board or (if more than one deputy chair is present and willing) the deputy chair who has been longest in such office or, if no deputy chair is present and willing, that one of the other

directors who is appointed for the purpose by the board or (failing appointment by the board), by the members present, shall preside as chair of the meeting, but if no director is present within fifteen minutes after the time fixed for holding the meeting or, if none of the directors present is willing to preside, the members present and entitled to vote shall choose one of their number to preside as chair of the meeting.

39.2 Subject to the Statutes (and without prejudice to any other powers vested in the chair of a meeting) when conducting a general meeting, the chair of the meeting may make whatever arrangements and take whatever actions as the chair considers, in the chair's sole discretion, to be appropriate or conducive to the facilitation of the conduct of the business of the meeting, proportionate discussion on any item of business of the meeting, or the maintenance of good order.

39.3 If the chair of a general meeting is participating in that meeting electronically and becomes disconnected from the meeting, another person (determined in accordance with the provisions of article 39.1 above) shall preside as chair of the meeting unless and until the original chair regains electronic connection with the meeting. In the event that no replacement chair is presiding over the general meeting (and the original chair has not regained electronic connection with the meeting) 20 minutes after the original chair became disconnected from the meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned to a time and place (and, if appropriate, facilities for electronic attendance and participation) to be fixed by the board.

40. Right to attend and speak

40.1 Whether or not he is a member, a director shall be entitled to attend and speak at any general meeting of the Company and at any separate general meeting of the holders of any class of shares of the Company.

40.2 The chair may invite any person to attend and speak at any general meeting of the Company (and at any separate general meeting of the holders of any class of shares of the Company) if he considers that such person has the appropriate knowledge or experience of the Company's business to assist in the deliberations of the meeting.

41. Resolutions and amendments

41.1 Subject to the Statutes, a resolution may only be put to the vote at a general meeting if the chair of the meeting in his absolute discretion decides that the resolution may properly be regarded as within the scope of the meeting.

41.2 In the case of a resolution to be proposed as a special resolution no amendment may be made, at or before the time at which the resolution is put to the vote, to the form of the resolution as set out in the notice of meeting, except to correct a patent error or as may otherwise be permitted by law.

41.3 In the case of a resolution to be proposed as an ordinary resolution no amendment may be made, at or before the time at which the resolution is put to the vote, unless:

- (a) in the case of an amendment to the form of the resolution as set out in the notice of meeting, notice of the intention to move the amendment is received at the office at least 48 hours before the time fixed for the holding of the relevant meeting; or
- (b) in any case, the chair of the meeting in his absolute discretion otherwise decides that the amendment or amended resolution may properly be put to the vote.

The giving of notice under paragraph (a) above shall not prejudice the power of the chair of the meeting to rule the amendment out of order.

41.4 With the consent of the chair of the meeting, a person who proposes an amendment to a resolution may withdraw it before it is put to the vote.

41.5 If the chair of the meeting rules a resolution or an amendment to a resolution admissible or out of order (as the case may be), the proceedings of the meeting or the resolution in question shall not be invalidated by any error in his ruling. Any ruling by the chair of the meeting in relation to a resolution or an amendment to a resolution shall be final and conclusive

42. Adjournment

42.1 With the consent of any general meeting at which a quorum is present the chair of the meeting may (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place (and, if appropriate, facilities for electronic attendance and participation) to place (and, if appropriate, facilities for electronic attendance and participation).

42.2 In addition, the chair of the meeting may at any time without the consent of the meeting adjourn the meeting (whether or not it has commenced or a quorum is present) to another time and/or place if, in his opinion, it would facilitate the conduct of the business of the meeting to do so.

42.3 In addition, the chair of the meeting shall at any time without the consent of the meeting adjourn the meeting (whether or not it has commenced or a quorum is present) to another time and/or place (and, if appropriate, with other facilities for electronic attendance and participation) if, in the chair's opinion, the facilities (whether electronic or otherwise, and whether affecting the place (or more than one place) of the meeting or any electronic participation arrangements) are not sufficient to allow the meeting to be conducted substantially in accordance with the provisions set out in the notice of meeting.

42.4 Nothing in this article shall limit any other power vested in the chair of the meeting to adjourn the meeting.

42.5 All business conducted at a general meeting up to the time of any adjournment shall, subject to article 42.6 below, be valid.

42.6 The chair of the meeting may specify that only the business conducted at a general meeting up to a point in time which is earlier than the time of adjournment is valid if, in the chair's opinion, to do so would be more appropriate.

42.7 Whenever a meeting is adjourned for thirty days or more or *sine die*, at least fourteen clear days' notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given in the same manner as in the case of the original meeting but otherwise no person shall be entitled to any notice of an adjourned meeting or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.

42.8 No business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business which might have been transacted at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.

43. Method of voting and demand for poll

43.1 At a general meeting which is held as a physical general meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands, unless (before, or immediately after the declaration of the result of, the show of hands or on the withdrawal of any other demand for a poll) a poll is demanded by:

- (a) the chair of the meeting; or

- (b) at least five members present in person or by proxy having the right to vote on the resolution; or
- (c) a member or members present in person or by proxy representing in aggregate not less than ten per cent. of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote on the resolution (excluding any voting rights attached to any shares in the Company held as treasury shares); or
- (d) a member or members present in person or by proxy holding shares conferring the right to vote on the resolution on which an aggregate sum has been paid up equal to not less than ten per cent. of the total sum paid up on all the shares conferring that right (excluding shares in the Company conferring a right to vote on the resolution which are held as treasury shares);

and a demand for a poll by a person as proxy for a member shall be as valid as if the demand were made by the member himself.

- 43.2 No poll may be demanded on the appointment of a chair of the meeting.
- 43.3 A demand for a poll may, before the poll is taken, be withdrawn but only with the consent of the chair of the meeting and the demand so withdrawn shall not be taken to have invalidated the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made. If a poll is demanded before the declaration of the result of a show of hands and the demand is duly withdrawn, the meeting shall continue as if the demand had not been made.
- 43.4 Unless a poll is demanded (and the demand is not withdrawn), a declaration by the chair of the meeting that a resolution has been carried, or carried unanimously, or has been carried by a particular majority, or lost, or not carried by a particular majority, shall be conclusive, and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of that fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.
- 43.5 The demand for a poll shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which a poll has been demanded.
- 43.6 At a general meeting which is held as a combined physical and electronic general meeting:
- (a) a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a poll, and any such poll will be deemed to have been validly demanded at the time fixed for holding the meeting to which it relates;
 - (b) any demand for a poll which is deemed to have been made in accordance with sub-article (a) above may not be withdrawn;
 - (c) no poll may be demanded on the appointment of a chair of the meeting.

44. How poll is to be taken

- 44.1 If a poll is demanded (and the demand is not withdrawn), it shall be taken at such time (either at the meeting at which the poll is demanded or within thirty days after the meeting), at such place and in such manner (including by electronic means) as the chair of the meeting shall direct and he may appoint scrutineers (who need not be members).
- 44.2 A poll demanded on a question of adjournment shall be taken at the meeting without adjournment.
- 44.3 It shall not be necessary (unless the chair of the meeting otherwise directs) for notice to be given of a poll whether taken at or after the meeting at which it was demanded.

44.4 On a poll votes may be given either personally or by proxy and a member entitled to more than one vote need not use all his votes or cast all the votes he uses in the same way.

44.5 The result of the poll shall be deemed to be a resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.

45. Validity of meeting

All persons seeking to attend or participate in a general meeting electronically shall be responsible for maintaining adequate facilities to enable them to do so. Subject only to the requirement for the chair to adjourn a general meeting in accordance with the provisions of article 42.3, any inability of a person or persons to attend or participate in a general meeting electronically shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.

VOTES OF MEMBERS

46. Voting rights

46.1 Subject to the provisions of these articles and to any special rights or restrictions as to voting for the time being attached to any class of shares in the Company, the provisions of the CA 2006 shall apply in relation to voting rights.

46.2 Subject to article 46.3 below, on a vote on a resolution on a show of hands at a general meeting which is being held as a physical general meeting, every proxy present who has been duly appointed by one or more members entitled to vote on the resolution has one vote.

46.3 On a vote on a resolution on a show of hands at a general meeting which is being held as a physical general meeting, a proxy has one vote for and one vote against the resolution if:

(a) the proxy has been duly appointed by more than one member entitled to vote on the resolution; and

(b) the proxy has been instructed by, or exercises his discretion given by, one or more of those members to vote for the resolution and has been instructed by, or exercises his discretion given by, one or more other of those members to vote against it.

46.4 For the purposes of determining which persons are entitled to attend or vote at any general meeting, and how many votes such persons may cast, the Company must specify in the notice of the meeting a time, not more than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting, by which a person must be entered on the register in order to have the right to attend or vote at the meeting. In calculating the period mentioned, no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day. Changes to entries on the register after the time so specified shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend or vote at the meeting, notwithstanding any provisions in the Statutes or these articles to the contrary.

47. Voting rights of members incapable of managing their affairs

A member in respect of whom an order has been made by any court having jurisdiction (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) in matters concerning mental disorder may vote, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, by his receiver, *curator bonis* or other person in the nature of a receiver or *curator bonis* appointed by that court, and the receiver, *curator bonis* or other person may, on a poll, vote by proxy. Evidence to the satisfaction of the board of the authority of the person claiming the right to vote must be received at the office (or at such other address as may be specified for the receipt of proxy appointments) in accordance with article 51 below and not later than the last time by which a proxy appointment must be received in order to be valid for use at the meeting or adjourned

meeting or on the holding of the poll at or on which that person proposes to vote and, in default, the right to vote shall not be exercisable.

48. Objections to admissibility of votes

No objection shall be raised as to the admissibility of any vote except at the meeting or adjourned meeting or poll at which the vote objected to is or may be given or tendered, and every vote not disallowed at such meeting or poll shall be valid for all purposes. Any such objection made in due time shall be referred to the chair of the meeting, whose decision shall be final and conclusive. If any votes are counted which ought not to have been counted, or might have been rejected, the error shall not vitiate the results of the voting unless it is pointed out at the same meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, and it is in the opinion of the chair of the meeting of sufficient magnitude to vitiate the result of the voting.

PROXIES

49. Proxies

49.1 A proxy need not be a member of the Company and a member may appoint more than one proxy in relation to a meeting, provided that each proxy is appointed to exercise the rights attached to a different share or shares held by him.

49.2 The appointment of a proxy shall not preclude a member from attending and voting in person at the meeting or on the poll concerned.

49.3 The appointment of a proxy shall only be valid for the meeting mentioned in it and any adjournment of that meeting (including on any poll demanded at the meeting or at any adjourned meeting).

50. Form of appointment of proxy

50.1 Subject to the Statutes, the appointment of a proxy shall be in such form as is usual or common or in such other form as the board may from time to time approve or accept and shall be signed by the appointor, or his duly authorised agent in writing, or, if the appointor is a corporation, shall either be executed under its common seal or be signed by some agent or officer authorised for that purpose. The signature need not be witnessed.

50.2 Without limiting the provisions of these articles, the board may from time to time in relation to uncertificated shares approve the appointment of a proxy by means of an electronic communication in the form of an "uncertificated proxy instruction" (a properly authenticated dematerialised instruction and/or other instruction or notification, which is sent by means of the relevant system and received by such participant in that system acting on behalf of the Company as the board may prescribe, in such form and subject to such terms and conditions as the board may from time to time prescribe (subject always to the facilities and requirements of the relevant system)); and approve supplements to, or amendments or revocations of, any such uncertificated proxy instruction by the same means. In addition, the board may prescribe the method of determining the time at which any such uncertificated proxy instruction is to be treated as received by the Company or such participant and may treat any such uncertificated proxy instruction which purports to be or is expressed to be sent on behalf of a holder of a share as sufficient evidence of the authority of the person sending that instruction to send it on behalf of that holder.

51. Receipt of proxy

51.1 A proxy appointment:

- (a) must be received at a proxy notification address at least 48 hours (or such shorter time as the board decides) before the time fixed for holding the meeting at which the appointee proposes to vote; or
- (b) in the case of a poll taken more than 48 hours after it is demanded or in the case of an adjourned meeting to be held more than 48 hours after the time fixed for holding the original meeting, must be received at a proxy notification address at least 24 hours (or such shorter time as the board decides) before the time fixed for the taking of the poll or, as the case may be, the time fixed for holding the adjourned meeting; or
- (c) in the case of a poll which is not taken at the meeting at which it is demanded but is taken 48 hours or less after it is demanded, or in the case of an adjourned meeting to be held 48 hours or less after the time fixed for holding the original meeting, must be received:
 - (i) at a proxy notification address in accordance with (a) above;
 - (ii) by the chair of the meeting or the secretary or any director at the meeting at which the poll is demanded, or, as the case may be, at the original meeting; or
 - (iii) at a proxy notification address by such time as the chair of the meeting may direct at the meeting at which the poll is demanded.

51.2 In calculating the periods mentioned in article 51.1 no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.

51.3 The board may, but shall not be bound to, require reasonable evidence of the identity of the member and of the proxy, the member's instructions (if any) as to how the proxy is to vote, and where the proxy is appointed by a person acting on behalf of the member, authority of that person to make the appointment.

51.4 The board may decide, either generally or in any particular case, to treat a proxy appointment as valid notwithstanding that the appointment or any of the information required under article 51.3 above has not been received in accordance with the requirements of this article.

51.5 Subject to article 51.4 above, if the proxy appointment and any of the information required under article 51.3 above is not received in the manner set out in article 51.1 above, the appointee shall not be entitled to vote in respect of the shares in question.

51.6 If two or more valid but differing proxy appointments are received in respect of the same share for use at the same meeting or on the same poll, the one which is last received (regardless of its date or of the date of its execution) shall be treated as replacing and revoking the others as regards that share and if the Company is unable to determine which was last received, none of them shall be treated as valid in respect of that share.

52. Notice of revocation of authority etc.

52.1 A vote given, or poll demanded, by proxy or by a duly authorised representative of a corporation shall be valid notwithstanding the previous death or insanity of the principal, the previous termination of the authority of the person voting or demanding a poll, or (until entered in the register) the transfer of the share in respect of which the appointment of the relevant person was made unless notice of the death, insanity, or termination was received at a proxy notification address at least six hours before the time appointed for holding the relevant meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote is given or, in the case of a poll not taken on the same day as the meeting or of an adjourned meeting, before the time appointed for taking the poll or for the adjourned meeting.

- 52.2 A vote given by a proxy or by a representative of a corporation shall be valid notwithstanding that he has not voted in accordance with any instructions given by the member by whom he is appointed. The Company shall not be obliged to check whether the proxy or representative of a corporation has in fact voted in accordance with any such member's instructions.

DIRECTORS

53. Number of directors

The directors (other than alternate directors) shall not, unless otherwise determined by an ordinary resolution of the Company, be less than two nor more than 15 in number.

54. Directors need not be members

A director need not be a member of the Company.

ELECTION, APPOINTMENT, RETIREMENT AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS

55. Election of directors by the Company

- 55.1 Subject to the provisions of these articles, the Company may by ordinary resolution elect any person who is willing to act to be a director, either to fill a vacancy or as an additional director, but so that the total number of directors shall not exceed any maximum number fixed by or in accordance with these articles.

- 55.2 No person (other than a director retiring in accordance with these articles) shall be elected or re-elected a director at any general meeting unless:

- (a) he is recommended by the board; or
- (b) not less than seven nor more than 42 days before the date appointed for the meeting there has been given to the Company, by a member (other than the person to be proposed) entitled to vote at the meeting, notice of his intention to propose a resolution for the election of that person, stating the particulars which would, if he were so elected, be required to be included in the Company's register of directors and a notice executed by that person of his willingness to be elected.

56. Separate resolutions for election of each director

Every resolution of a general meeting for the election of a director shall relate to one named person and a single resolution for the election of two or more persons shall be void, unless a resolution that it shall be so proposed has been first agreed to by the meeting without any vote being cast against it.

57. The board's power to appoint directors

The board may appoint any person who is willing to act to be a director, either to fill a vacancy or by way of addition to their number but so that the total number of directors shall not exceed any maximum number fixed by or in accordance with these articles. Any director so appointed shall retire from office at the next annual general meeting of the Company, but shall then be eligible for election by the Company, and a director who is so elected will be treated as continuing in office without a break.

58. Retirement of directors

- 58.1 At each annual general meeting every director who held office on the date seven days before the date of notice of the annual general meeting shall retire from office. A retiring director shall be eligible for re-election and a director who is re-elected will be treated as continuing in office without a break.
- 58.2 A retiring director who is not re-elected shall retain office until the close of the meeting at which he retires.
- 58.3 If the Company, at any meeting at which a director retires in accordance with these articles, does not fill the office vacated by such director, the retiring director, if willing to act, shall be deemed to be re-elected, unless at the meeting a resolution is passed not to fill the vacancy or to elect another person in his place or unless the resolution to re-elect him is put to the meeting and lost.

59. Removal of directors

- 59.1 The Company may by special resolution, or by ordinary resolution of which special notice has been given in accordance with the Statutes, remove any director before his period of office has expired notwithstanding anything in these articles or in any agreement between him and the Company.
- 59.2 A director may also be removed from office by being given a notice to that effect signed by or on behalf of all the other directors.
- 59.3 Any removal of a director under this article shall be without prejudice to any claim which such director may have for damages for breach of any agreement between him and the Company.

60. Vacation of office of director

Without prejudice to the provisions of these articles for retirement or removal, the office of a director shall be vacated if:

- (a) he is prohibited by law from being a director; or
- (b) he becomes bankrupt or he makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally; or
- (c) a registered medical practitioner who has examined him gives a written opinion to the Company stating that he has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months and the board resolves that his office be vacated; or
- (d) for more than six months he is absent (whether or not an alternate director attends in his place), without special leave of absence from the board, from board meetings held during that period and the board resolves that his office be vacated; or
- (e) he gives to the Company notice of his wish to resign, in which event he shall vacate that office on the receipt of that notice by the Company or at such later time as is specified in the notice.

A resolution of the board pursuant to (c) or (d) above declaring a director to have vacated office as set out shall be conclusive as to the fact and grounds of vacation stated in the resolution.

61. Executive directors

- 61.1 The board may appoint one or more directors to hold any executive office under the Company (including that of chair, chief executive or managing director) for such period (subject to the

provisions of the Statutes) and on such terms as it may decide and may revoke or terminate any appointment so made without prejudice to any claim for damages for breach of any contract of service between the director and the Company.

- 61.2 The remuneration of a director appointed to any executive office shall be fixed by the board and may be by way of salary, commission, participation in profits or otherwise and either in addition to or inclusive of his remuneration as a director.
- 61.3 A director appointed as executive chair, chief executive or managing director shall automatically cease to hold that office if he ceases to be a director but without prejudice to any claim for damages for breach of any contract of service between him and the Company. A director appointed to any other executive office shall not automatically cease to hold that office if he ceases to be a director unless the contract or any resolution under which he holds office expressly states that he shall, in which case that cessation shall be without prejudice to any claim for damages for breach of any contract of service between him and the Company.
- 61.4 If any director retires at a general meeting of the Company but is re-elected by or deemed to be re-elected at the meeting at which his retirement took effect, his appointment under this article shall continue to operate after the meeting as if he had not retired.

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS

62. Power to appoint alternate directors

- 62.1 Each director may appoint another director or any other person who is willing to act as his alternate and may remove him from that office. The appointment as an alternate director of any person who is not himself a director shall be subject to the approval of a majority of the directors or a resolution of the board.
- 62.2 An alternate director shall be entitled to receive notice of all board meetings and of all meetings of committees of which the director appointing him is a member to attend and vote at any such meeting at which the director appointing him is not personally present and at the meeting to exercise and discharge all the functions, powers and duties of his appointor as a director and for the purposes of the proceedings at the meeting the provisions of these articles shall apply as if he were a director.
- 62.3 Every person acting as an alternate director shall (except as regards the power to appoint an alternate and remuneration) be subject in all respects to the provisions of these articles relating to directors and shall alone be responsible to the Company for his acts and defaults and shall not be deemed to be the agent of the director appointing him. An alternate director may be paid expenses and shall be entitled to be indemnified by the Company to the same extent as if he were a director but shall not be entitled to receive from the Company any fee in his capacity as an alternate director.
- 62.4 Every person acting as an alternate director shall have one vote for each director for whom he acts as alternate, in addition to his own vote if he is also a director, but he shall count as only one for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is present.
- 62.5 Any person appointed as an alternate director shall vacate his office as alternate director if the director by whom he has been appointed vacates his office as director (otherwise than by retirement at a general meeting of the Company at which he is re-appointed) or removes him by notice to the Company or on the happening of any event which, if he is or were a director, causes or would cause him to vacate that office.
- 62.6 Every appointment or removal of an alternate director shall be made by notice in writing signed by the appointor (or in any other manner approved by the board) and shall be effective (subject to article 62.1 above) on delivery at the office, to the secretary or at a board meeting.

REMUNERATION, EXPENSES, PENSIONS AND OTHER BENEFITS

63. Remuneration of directors

The directors (other than any director who for the time being holds an executive office or employment with the Company or a subsidiary of the Company) shall be paid out of the funds of the Company by way of remuneration for their services as directors such fees and/or other remuneration not exceeding in aggregate £1,250,000 per annum¹ (or such larger sum as the Company may, by ordinary resolution, determine) as the directors may decide to be divided among them in such proportion and manner as they may agree or, failing agreement, equally. Any fee payable under this article shall be distinct from any remuneration or other amounts payable to a director under other provisions of these articles and shall accrue from day to day.

64. Special remuneration

64.1 The board may grant special remuneration to any director who performs any special or extra services to or at the request of the Company.

64.2 Such special remuneration may be paid by way of lump sum, salary, commission, participation in profits or otherwise as the board may decide in addition to any remuneration provided for by or pursuant to any other of these articles.

65. Expenses

A director shall be paid out of the funds of the Company all travelling, hotel and other expenses properly incurred by him in and about the discharge of his duties, including his expenses of travelling to and from board meetings, committee meetings, general meetings and separate meetings of the holders of any class of securities of the Company. Subject to any guidelines and procedures established from time to time by the board, a director may also be paid out of the funds of the Company all expenses incurred by him in obtaining professional advice in connection with the affairs of the Company or the discharge of his duties as a director.

66. Pensions and other benefits

66.1 The board may exercise all the powers of the Company to:

- (a) pay, provide, arrange or procure the grant of pensions or other retirement benefits, death, disability or sickness benefits, health, accident and other insurances or other such benefits, allowances, gratuities or insurances, including in relation to the termination of employment, to or for the benefit of any person who is or has been at any time a director of the Company or in the employment or service of the Company or of any body corporate which is or was associated with the Company or of the predecessors in business of the Company or any such associated body corporate, or the relatives or dependants of any such person. For that purpose the board may procure the establishment and maintenance of, or participation in, or contribution to, any pension fund, scheme or arrangement and the payment of any insurance premiums;
- (b) establish, maintain, adopt and enable participation in any profit sharing or incentive scheme including shares, share options or cash or any similar schemes for the benefit of any director or employee of the Company or of any associated body corporate, and to lend money to any such director or employee or to trustees on their behalf to enable any such schemes to be established, maintained or adopted; and

¹ This sum was increased to £1,750,000 per annum by an ordinary resolution of the Company passed on 2 February 2023.

- (c) procure the establishment and subsidy of or subscription to and support of any institutions, associations, clubs, funds or trusts calculated to be for the benefit of any such persons mentioned in article 66.1(a) above or otherwise to advance the interests and well-being of the Company or of any such other body corporate mentioned in article 66.1(a) above, or its members, and may make or procure payments for or towards the insurance of any such persons as aforesaid and subscriptions or guarantees for charitable or benevolent objects or for any exhibition or for any public, general or useful object.

66.2 The board may procure any of the above matters to be done by the Company either alone or in conjunction with any other body corporate.

POWERS OF THE BOARD

67. General powers of the board to manage the Company's business

67.1 The business of the Company shall be managed by the board which may exercise all the powers of the Company, subject to the provisions of the Statutes, these articles and any ordinary resolution of the Company. No ordinary resolution or alteration of these articles shall invalidate any prior act of the board which would have been valid if the resolution had not been passed or the alteration had not been made.

67.2 The powers given by this article shall not be limited by any special authority or power given to the board by any other article or any resolution of the Company.

68. Power to act notwithstanding vacancy

The continuing directors or the sole continuing director at any time may act notwithstanding any vacancy in their number; but, if the number of directors is less than the minimum number fixed by or in accordance with these articles, they or he may act for the purpose of filling up vacancies or calling a general meeting of the Company, but not for any other purpose. If no director is able or willing to act, then any two members may summon a general meeting for the purpose of appointing directors.

69. Provisions for employees

The board may exercise any of the powers conferred by the Statutes to make provision for the benefit of any persons employed or formerly employed by the Company or any of its subsidiaries (other than a director or former director or shadow director) in connection with the cessation or the transfer to any person of the whole or part of the undertaking of the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

70. Power to borrow money

70.1 The board may exercise all the powers of the Company to borrow money and to mortgage or charge all or any part of its undertaking, property and assets (both present and future) and uncalled capital and to issue debentures and other securities, whether outright or as collateral security for any debt, liability or obligation of the Company or of any third party.

70.2 The board shall restrict the borrowings of the Company and exercise all voting and other rights or powers of control exercisable by the Company in relation to its subsidiary undertakings (if any) so as to secure (but as regards subsidiary undertakings only so far as by such exercise it can secure) that the aggregate principal amount outstanding at any time in respect of all borrowings by the Group (exclusive of any borrowings which are owed by one Group company to another Group company) after deducting the amount of cash deposited and cash equivalents held will not, without the previous authority of the Company in general meeting, exceed:

- (a) an amount equal to two and a half times adjusted total equity; or
- (b) any higher limit fixed by ordinary resolution of the Company which is applicable at the relevant time.

70.3 In this article:

- (a) **adjusted total equity** means the amount of total equity as shown in the relevant balance sheet but after:
 - (A) making such adjustments as may be appropriate in respect of:
 - I. any variation in the amounts of the paid up share capital, the share premium account or capital redemption reserve since the date of the relevant balance sheet and so that for this purpose if any proposed allotment of shares by the Company for cash has been underwritten or agreed to be subscribed then these shares shall be deemed to have been allotted and the amount (including any premium) of the subscription monies payable (not being monies payable later than six months after the date of allotment) shall be deemed to have been paid up on the date when the issue of the shares was underwritten or agreed to be subscribed (or if the underwriting or subscription agreement was conditional, the date on which it became unconditional); and
 - II. any undertaking which was not a subsidiary undertaking at the date of the relevant balance sheet but which would be a subsidiary undertaking if group accounts were prepared as at the relevant time (and as if such time were the end of the Company's financial year) or any undertaking which was a subsidiary undertaking but which would no longer be so if group accounts were to be so prepared at the relevant time; and
 - III. any variation in the interest of the Company in another Group company since the date of the relevant balance sheet.
 - (B) excluding minority and other outside interests in any subsidiary undertaking;
 - (C) adding the amount of any equity instruments deducted in arriving at the amount of total equity; and
 - (D) making such other adjustments (if any) as the auditors may consider appropriate or necessary/board may consider appropriate or necessary and as are approved by the auditors;
- (b) **borrowings** include the following except in so far as otherwise taken into account:
 - (i) the principal amount of any debenture (whether secured or unsecured) of a Group company;
 - (ii) the outstanding amount raised by acceptances under an acceptance credit or bills facility opened by a bank or acceptance house on behalf of or in favour of a Group company, excluding acceptances of trade bills relating to goods purchased in the ordinary course of trading;
 - (iii) the nominal amount of any share capital and the principal amount of any debenture or borrowing, the beneficial interest in which is not owned by a Group company, to

the extent that their payment or repayment is the subject of a guarantee or indemnity by a Group company;

- (iv) the principal amount of any share capital (not being equity share capital) of any subsidiary undertaking owned otherwise than by a Group company;
- (v) any fixed or minimum premium payable on final repayment of any borrowing or deemed borrowing; and
- (vi) any fixed amount in respect of a finance lease payable by any Group company which would be shown at the relevant time as an obligation in a balance sheet and prepared in accordance with the accounting principles used in the preparation of the relevant balance sheet and for this purpose **finance lease** means a contract between a lessor and a Group company as lessee or sub-lessee where substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset leased or sub-leased are to be borne by the lessee or sub-lessee,

but exclude the following:

- (A) borrowings incurred by a Group company in the ordinary course of business and which are repayable on demand or at any time on seven days' notice or less or which have a fixed maturity or tenor of 35 days or less;
 - (B) borrowings incurred by a Group company for the purpose of repaying within six months of the borrowing all or part of any borrowings made by it or another Group company, pending their application for that purpose during that period;
 - (C) borrowing incurred by a Group company to finance a contract where a part of the price receivable under the contract by that or another Group company is guaranteed or insured by any government, governmental agency or body or by a person (not being a Group Company) carrying on the business of providing credit insurance up to an amount equal to that part of the price which is guaranteed or insured;
 - (D) a proportionate amount of the borrowings of a Group company which is not a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company corresponding to the minority or outside interest in it; and
 - (E) borrowings of an undertaking which was not a subsidiary undertaking at the date of the relevant balance sheet, to the extent that those borrowings were outstanding on the date when it became a Group company and borrowings of any person other than a Group company which were secured by any mortgage or other security over an asset acquired by a Group company and which were outstanding on the date of the acquisition, but only until six months after the date on which the undertaking became a subsidiary undertaking or the asset was acquired; and
- (c) **cash deposited** means an amount equal to the aggregate for the time being of all cash deposits with any bank or other person (not being a Group company), (whether on current account or otherwise), the realisable value of certificates of governments and companies or other readily realisable deposits owned by any Group company except that in the case of any such items owned by a Group company which is not a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, there shall be excluded a proportionate amount of those items corresponding to the minority or outside interests in it;
- (d) **Group** means the Company and its subsidiary undertakings for the time being;

- (e) **Group company** means any undertaking in the Group; and
- (f) **relevant balance sheet** means most recent audited consolidated balance sheet of the Group at the relevant time.

70.4 For the purposes of any calculation under this article:

- (a) a borrowing denominated or repayable, in a currency other than sterling shall be translated into sterling:
 - (i) at the London exchange rate for the date as at which the calculation is being made; or
 - (ii) if it would result in a lower figure, at the London exchange rate on the date of the relevant balance sheet,

and for this purpose the **London exchange rate** for any date is the spot rate of exchange, quoted at or about 11.00 a.m. on the business day before that date by a first class bank in London selected by the board; and

- (b) where under the terms of any borrowing the amount of money that would be required to discharge its principal amount in full if it fell to be repaid (at the option of the borrower or by reason of default) on the date as at which the calculation is being made is less than the amount that would otherwise be taken into account in respect of that borrowing for the purpose of this article, the amount of the borrowing to be taken into account shall be the lesser amount.

70.5 The limit imposed under article 70.2 above shall be deemed not to have been breached until the amount of borrowings has exceeded that limit for 30 consecutive days. This paragraph overrides all other provisions of this article 70.

70.6 A certificate or report by the Company's auditors:

- (a) as to the amount of adjusted total equity or the amount of borrowings; or
- (b) to the effect that the limit imposed under this article was not exceeded or breached at a particular date; or
- (c) to the effect that (subject to any assumptions described in the certificate or report) the limit will not be exceeded or breached at a particular date or as a result of a particular transaction,

shall be conclusive evidence (subject to any such assumptions) as to that amount or fact.

70.7 If the Company has joint auditors, references in this article to the Company's auditors are to any of the joint auditors.

70.8 No lender or other person dealing with any Group company need enquire whether the limit imposed under article 70.2 above has been or will be complied with.

70.9 A borrowing or security resulting in a breach of the limit shall not be void nor shall it be voidable at the instance of the Company or any other Group company.

DELEGATION OF BOARD'S POWERS

71. Delegation to individual directors

The board may entrust to and confer upon any director any of its powers, authorities and discretions (with power to sub-delegate) on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit and may revoke or vary all or any of them, but no person dealing in good faith shall be affected by any revocation or variation.

72. Committees

72.1 The board may delegate any of its powers, authorities and discretions (with power to sub-delegate) to any committee consisting of such person or persons (whether directors or not) as it thinks fit, provided that the majority of the members of the committee are directors and that no meeting of the committee shall be quorate for the purpose of exercising any of its powers, authorities or discretions unless a majority of those present are directors. The board may make any such delegation on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit and may revoke or vary any such delegation and discharge any committee wholly or in part, but no person dealing in good faith shall be affected by any revocation or variation. Any committee so formed shall, in the exercise of the powers, authorities and discretions so delegated, conform to any regulations that may be imposed on it by the board.

72.2 The proceedings of a committee with two or more members shall be governed by any regulations imposed on it by the board and (subject to such regulations) by the provisions of these articles regulating the proceedings of the board so far as they are capable of applying.

73. Local managers

The board may provide for the management and transaction of the affairs of the Company in or from any specified locality, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, in such manner as it thinks fit, and the provisions contained in articles 74 and 75 shall be without prejudice to the general powers conferred by this article.

74. Local boards

74.1 The board may establish any local or divisional board or agency for managing any of the affairs of the Company whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere and may appoint any persons to be members of a local or divisional board, or to be managers or agents, and may fix their remuneration.

74.2 The board may delegate to any local or divisional board, manager or agent any of its powers, authorities and discretions (with power to sub-delegate) and may authorise the members of any local or divisional board or any of them to fill any vacancies and to act notwithstanding vacancies.

74.3 Any appointment or delegation under this article may be made on such terms and subject to such conditions as the board thinks fit and the board may remove any person so appointed, and may revoke or vary any delegation, but no person dealing in good faith shall be affected by the revocation or variation.

75. Powers of attorney

The board may by power of attorney or otherwise appoint any person to be the agent of the Company on such terms (including terms as to remuneration) as it may decide and may delegate to any person so appointed any of its powers, authorities and discretions (with power to sub-delegate). A power of attorney may contain provisions for the protection and convenience of persons dealing with the attorney as the board may think fit. The board may remove any person appointed under this

article and may revoke or vary the delegation, but no person dealing in good faith shall be affected by the revocation or variation.

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS

76. Directors' interests other than in relation to transactions or arrangements with the Company

76.1 If a situation (a **Relevant Situation**) arises 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 (including, without limitation, in relation to the exploitation of any property, information or opportunity, whether or not the Company could take advantage of it but excluding any situation which cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest) the following provisions shall apply if the conflict of interest does not arise in relation to a transaction or arrangement with the Company:

- (a) if the Relevant Situation arises from the appointment or proposed appointment of a person as a director of the Company, the directors (other than the director, and any other director with a similar interest, who shall not be counted in the quorum at the meeting and shall not vote on the resolution) may resolve to authorise the appointment of the director and the Relevant Situation on such terms as they may determine;
- (b) if the Relevant Situation arises in circumstances other than in paragraph (a) above, the directors (other than the director and any other director with a similar interest who shall not be counted in the quorum at the meeting and shall not vote on the resolution) may resolve to authorise the Relevant Situation and the continuing performance by the director of his duties on such terms as they may determine.

76.2 Any reference in article 76.1 above to a conflict of interest includes a conflict of interest and duty and a conflict of duties.

76.3 Any terms determined by directors under sub-articles 76.1(a) or 76.1(b) above may be imposed at the time of the authorisation or may be imposed or varied subsequently and may include (without limitation):

- (a) whether the interested directors may vote (or be counted in the quorum at a meeting) in relation to any resolution relating to the Relevant Situation;
- (b) the exclusion of the interested directors from all information and discussion by the Company of the Relevant Situation; and
- (c) (without prejudice to the general obligations of confidentiality) the application to the interested directors of a strict duty of confidentiality to the Company for any confidential information of the Company in relation to the Relevant Situation.

76.4 An interested director must act in accordance with any terms determined by the directors under sub-articles 76.1(a) or 76.1(b) above.

76.5 Except as specified in article 76.1 above, any proposal made to the directors and any authorisation by the directors in relation to a Relevant Situation shall be dealt with in the same way as any other matter may be proposed to and resolved upon by the directors in accordance with the provisions of these articles.

76.6 Any authorisation of a Relevant Situation given by the directors under article 76.1 above may provide that, where the interested director obtains (other 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 it to the

Company or to use it in relation to the Company's affairs in circumstances where to do so would amount to a breach of that confidence.

77. Declaration of interests other than in relation to transactions or arrangements with the Company

A director shall declare the nature and extent of his interest in a Relevant Situation within sub-articles 76.1(a) or 76.1(b) to the other directors.

78. Declaration of interests in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Company

If a director is in any way, directly or indirectly, interested in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Company, he must declare the nature and extent of that interest to the other directors.

79. Declaration of interest in an existing transaction or arrangement with the Company

Where a director is in any way, directly or indirectly, interested in a transaction or arrangement that has been entered into by the Company, he must declare the nature and extent of his interest to the other directors, unless the interest has already been declared under article 78 above.

80. Provisions applicable to declarations of interest

80.1 The declaration of interest must (in the case of article 79) and may, but need not (in the case of article 77 or 78) be made:

- (a) at a meeting of the directors; or
- (b) by notice to the directors in accordance with:
 - (i) section 184 of the CA 2006 (notice in writing); or
 - (ii) section 185 of the CA 2006 (general notice).

80.2 If a declaration of interest proves to be, or becomes, inaccurate or incomplete, a further declaration must be made.

80.3 Any declaration of interest required by article 77 above must be made as soon as is reasonably practicable. Failure to comply with this requirement does not affect the underlying duty to make the declaration of interest.

80.4 Any declaration of interest required by article 78 above must be made before the Company enters into the transaction or arrangement.

80.5 Any declaration of interest required by article 79 above must be made as soon as is reasonably practicable. Failure to comply with this requirement does not affect the underlying duty to make the declaration of interest.

80.6 A declaration in relation to an interest of which the director is not aware, or where the director is not aware of the transaction or arrangement in question, is not required. For this purpose, a director is treated as being aware of matters of which he ought reasonably to be aware.

80.7 A director need not declare an interest:

- (a) if it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest;

- (b) if, or to the extent that, the other directors are already aware of it (and for this purpose the other directors are treated as aware of anything of which they ought reasonably to be aware); or
- (c) if, or to the extent that, it concerns terms of his service contract that have been or are to be considered:
 - (i) by a meeting of the directors; or
 - (ii) by a committee of the directors appointed for the purpose under the articles.

81. Directors' interests and voting

81.1 Subject to the Statutes and to declaring his interest in accordance with article 77, 78 or 79 above, a director may:

- (a) enter into or be interested in any transaction or arrangement with the Company, either with regard to his tenure of any office or position in the management, administration or conduct of the business of the Company or as vendor, purchaser or otherwise;
- (b) hold any other office or place of profit with the Company (except that of auditor) in conjunction with his office of director for such period (subject to the Statutes) and upon such terms as the board may decide and be paid such extra remuneration for so doing (whether by way of salary, commission, participation in profits or otherwise) as the board may decide, either in addition to or in lieu of any remuneration under any other provision of these articles;
- (c) act by himself or his firm in a professional capacity for the Company (except as auditor) and be entitled to remuneration for professional services as if he were not a director;
- (d) be or become a member or director of, or hold any other office or place of profit under, or otherwise be interested in, any holding company or subsidiary undertaking of that holding company or any other company in which the Company may be interested. The board may cause the voting rights conferred by the shares in any other company held or owned by the Company or exercisable by them as directors of that other company to be exercised in such manner in all respects as it thinks fit (including the exercise of voting rights in favour of any resolution appointing the directors or any of them as directors or officers of the other company or voting or providing for the payment of any benefit to the directors or officers of the other company); and
- (e) be or become a director of any other company in which the Company does not have an interest if that cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest at the time of his appointment as a director of that other company.

81.2 A director shall not, by reason of his holding office as director (or of the fiduciary relationship established by holding that office), be liable to account to the Company for any remuneration, profit or other benefit resulting from:

- (a) any Relevant Situation authorised under article 76.1; or
- (b) any interest permitted under article 81.1 above,

and no contract shall be liable to be avoided on the grounds of any director having any type of interest authorised under article 76.1 or permitted under article 81.1 above.

- 81.3 A director shall not vote (or be counted in the quorum at a meeting) in respect of any resolution concerning his own appointment (including fixing or varying its terms), or the termination of his own appointment, as the holder of any office or place of profit with the Company or any other company in which the Company is interested but, where proposals are under consideration concerning the appointment (including fixing or varying its terms), or the termination of the appointment, of two or more directors to offices or places of profit with the Company or any other company in which the Company is interested, those proposals may be divided and a separate resolution may be put in relation to each director and in that case each of the directors concerned (if not otherwise debarred from voting under this article) shall be entitled to vote (and be counted in the quorum) in respect of each resolution unless it concerns his own appointment or the termination of his own appointment.
- 81.4 A director shall also not vote (or be counted in the quorum at a meeting) in relation to any resolution relating to any transaction or arrangement with the Company in which he has an interest which may reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest and, if he purports to do so, his vote shall not be counted, but this prohibition shall not apply and a director may vote (and be counted in the quorum) in respect of any resolution concerning any one or more of the following matters:
- (a) any transaction or arrangement in which he is interested by virtue of an interest in shares, debentures or other securities of the Company or otherwise in or through the Company;
 - (b) the giving of any guarantee, security or indemnity in respect of:
 - (i) money lent or obligations incurred by him or by any other person at the request of, or for the benefit of, the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings; or
 - (ii) a debt or obligation of the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings for which he himself has assumed responsibility in whole or in part (either alone or jointly with others) under a guarantee or indemnity or by the giving of security;
 - (c) any issue or offer of shares, debentures or other securities of the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings in respect of which he is or may be entitled to participate in his capacity as a holder of any such securities or as an underwriter or sub-underwriter;
 - (d) any transaction or arrangement concerning any other company in which he does not hold, directly or indirectly as shareholder, or through his direct or indirect holdings of financial instruments (within the meaning of Chapter 5 of the Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules) voting rights representing one per cent. or more of any class of shares in the capital of that company;
 - (e) any arrangement for the benefit of employees of the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings which does not accord to him any privilege or benefit not generally accorded to the employees to whom the arrangement relates;
 - (f) the purchase or maintenance of insurance for the benefit of directors or for the benefit of persons including directors; and
 - (g) indemnification (including loans made in connection with it) by the Company in relation to the performance of his duties on behalf of the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings.
- 81.5 In the case of an alternate director, an interest of his appointor shall be treated as an interest of the alternate in addition to any interest which the alternate otherwise has.

- 81.6 If any question arises at any meeting as to whether an interest of a director (other than the chair of the meeting) may reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest or as to the entitlement of any director (other than the chair of the meeting) to vote in relation to a transaction or arrangement with the Company and the question is not resolved by his voluntarily agreeing to abstain from voting, the question shall be referred to the chair of the meeting and his ruling in relation to the director concerned shall be final and conclusive except in a case where the nature or extent of the interest of the director concerned, so far as known to him, has not been fairly disclosed. If any question shall arise in respect of the chair of the meeting and is not resolved by his voluntarily agreeing to abstain from voting, the question shall be decided by a resolution of the board (for which purpose the chair shall be counted in the quorum but shall not vote on the matter) and the resolution shall be final and conclusive except in a case where the nature or extent of the interest of the chair of the meeting, so far as known to him, has not been fairly disclosed.
- 81.7 Subject to the Statutes, the Company may by ordinary resolution suspend or relax the provisions of this article to any extent or ratify any transaction or arrangement not duly authorised by reason of a contravention of this article.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD

82. Board meetings

The board may meet for the despatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate its meetings as it thinks fit. A director at any time may, and the secretary at the request of a director at any time shall, summon a board meeting.

83. Notice of board meetings

Notice of a board meeting may be given to a director personally or by word of mouth or given in hard copy form or in electronic form to the director at such address as the director may from time to time specify for this purpose (or if the director does not specify an address, at the director's last known address). A director may waive notice of any meeting either prospectively or retrospectively. A director will be treated as having waived entitlement to notice unless the director has supplied the Company with the information necessary to ensure that the director receives notice of a meeting before it takes place.

84. Quorum

The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the board may be fixed by the board and, unless so fixed at any other number, shall be two. Subject to the provisions of these articles, any director who ceases to be a director at a board meeting may continue to be present and to act as a director and be counted in the quorum until the end of the board meeting if no other director objects and if otherwise a quorum of directors would not be present.

85. Chair or deputy chair to preside

- 85.1 The board may appoint a chair and one or more deputy chair or chairs upon such terms as to remuneration (subject to article 63) and otherwise as it may think fit and may at any time revoke any such appointment.
- 85.2 The chair, or failing him any deputy chair (the longest in office taking precedence, if more than one is present), shall, if present and willing, preside at all board meetings but, if no chair or deputy chair has been appointed, or if he is not present within five minutes after the time fixed for holding the meeting or is unwilling to act as chair of the meeting, the directors present shall choose one of their number to act as chair of the meeting.

86. Competence of board meetings

A board meeting at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all the powers, authorities and discretions for the time being vested in or exercisable by the board.

87. Voting

Questions arising at any board meeting shall be determined by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes the chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

88. Telephone/electronic board meetings

88.1 A board meeting may consist of a conference between directors some or all of whom are in different places provided that each director may participate in the business of the meeting whether directly, by telephone or by any other means (whether electronically or otherwise) which enables him:

- (a) to hear (or otherwise receive real time communications made by) each of the other participating directors addressing the meeting; and
- (b) if he so wishes, to address all of the other participating directors simultaneously (or otherwise communicate in real time with them).

88.2 A quorum is deemed to be present if at least the number of directors required to form a quorum, subject to the provisions of article 68, may participate in the manner specified above in the business of the meeting.

88.3 A board meeting held in this way is deemed to take place at the place where the largest group of participating directors is assembled or, if no such group is readily identifiable, at the place from where the chair of the meeting participates.

89. Resolutions without meetings

A resolution which is signed or approved by all the directors entitled to vote on that resolution (and whose vote would have been counted) shall be as valid and effective as if it had been passed at a board meeting duly called and constituted. The resolution may be contained in one document or electronic communication or in several documents or electronic communications in like form, each signed or approved by one or more of the directors concerned. For the purpose of this article:

- (a) the signature or approval of an alternate director (if any) shall suffice in place of the signature of the director appointing him; and
- (b) the approval of a director or alternate director must be given in writing or by electronic means.

90. Minutes

The board shall cause minutes to be made in books kept for the purpose:

- (a) of all appointments of officers made by the board;
- (b) of the names of all the directors present at each meeting of the board and of any committee; and
- (c) of all resolutions and proceedings of all meetings of the Company and of any class of members, and of the board and of any committee.

SECRETARY

91. Secretary

- 91.1 The secretary shall be appointed by the board for such term, at such remuneration and on such conditions as it thinks fit, and the board may remove from office any person so appointed (without prejudice to any claim for damages for breach of any contract between him and the Company).
- 91.2 Any provision of the Statutes or these articles required or authorised to be done by the secretary may, if the office is vacant or there is for any other reason no secretary capable of acting, be done by or to any assistant or deputy secretary or, if there is no assistant or deputy secretary capable of acting, by or to any officer of the Company authorised generally or specifically in that behalf by the board.

SEAL

92. Seal

- 92.1 The board shall provide for the safe custody of every seal of the Company.
- 92.2 A seal shall be used only by the authority of the board or a duly authorised committee but that authority may consist of an instruction or approval given in writing or by electronic means by a majority of the directors or of the members of a duly authorised committee.
- 92.3 The board may determine who shall sign any instrument to which a seal is applied, either generally or in relation to a particular instrument or type of instrument, and may also determine, either generally or in any particular case, that such signatures shall be dispensed with or affixed with some mechanical means.
- 92.4 Unless otherwise decided by the board:
- (a) certificates for shares, debentures or other securities of the Company issued under seal need not be signed; and
 - (b) every other instrument to which a seal is applied shall be signed by at least one director and the secretary or by at least two directors or by one director in the presence of a witness who attests the signature.

DIVIDENDS

93. Declaration of dividends by the Company

The Company may, by ordinary resolution, declare a dividend to be paid to the members, according to their respective rights and interests in the profits, and may fix the time for payment of such dividend, but no dividend shall exceed the amount recommended by the board.

94. Fixed and interim dividends

The board may pay such interim dividends as appear to the board to be justified by the financial position of the Company and may also pay any dividend payable at a fixed rate at intervals settled by

the board whenever the financial position of the Company, in the opinion of the board, justifies its payment. If the board acts in good faith, none of the directors shall incur any liability to the holders of shares conferring preferred rights for any loss such holders may suffer in consequence of the payment of an interim dividend on any shares having non-preferred or deferred rights.

95. Calculation and currency of dividends

95.1 Except insofar as the rights attaching to, or the terms of issue of, any share otherwise provide:

- (a) all dividends shall be declared and paid according to the amounts paid up on the shares in respect of which the dividend is paid, but no amount paid up on a share in advance of calls shall be treated for the purposes of this article as paid up on the share;
- (b) all dividends shall be apportioned and paid *pro rata* according to the amounts paid up on the shares during any portion or portions of the period in respect of which the dividend is paid; and
- (c) dividends may be declared or paid in any currency.

95.2 The board may agree with any member that dividends which may at any time or from time to time be declared or become due on his shares in one currency shall be paid or satisfied in another, and may agree the basis of conversion to be applied and how and when the amount to be paid in the other currency shall be calculated and paid and for the Company or any other person to bear any costs involved.

96. Method of payment

96.1 The Company may pay any dividend or other sum payable in respect of a share by such method as the board may decide. The board may decide to use different methods of payment for different holders or groups of holders. Without limiting any other method of payment which the board may decide upon, the board may decide that payment can be made, wholly or partly and exclusively or optionally:

- (a) by cheque or dividend warrant payable to the holder (or, in the case of joint holders, the holder whose name stands first in the register in respect of the relevant share) or to such other person as the holder (or, in the case of joint holders, all the joint holders) may notify to the Company for the purpose; or
- (b) by a bank or other funds transfer system or by such other electronic means as the board may decide (including, in the case of an uncertificated share, a relevant system) to such account as the holder (or, in the case of joint holders, all the joint holders) may notify to the Company for the purpose; or
- (c) in such other way as may be agreed between the Company and the holder (or, in the case of joint holders, all such holders).

96.2 If the board decides that any dividend or other sum payable in respect of a share will be made exclusively by one or more of the methods referred to in sub-article 96.1(b) above to an account, but no such account is nominated by the holder (or, in case of joint holders, all the joint holders) or if an attempted payment into a nominated account is rejected or refunded, the Company may treat that dividend or other sum payable as unclaimed.

96.3 Any such cheque or dividend warrant may be sent by post to the registered address of the holder (or, in the case of joint holders, to the registered address of that person whose name stands first in the

register in respect of the relevant share) or to such other address as the holder (or, in the case of joint holders, all the joint holders) may notify to the Company for the purpose.

96.4 Every cheque or warrant is sent, and payment in any other way is made, at the risk of the person or persons entitled to it and the Company will not be responsible for any sum lost or delayed when it has sent or transmitted the sum in accordance with these articles. Clearance of a cheque or warrant or transmission of funds through a bank or other funds transfer system or by such other electronic means as is permitted by these articles shall be a good discharge to the Company.

96.5 Any joint holder or other person jointly entitled to any share may give an effective receipt for any dividend or other sum paid in respect of the share.

96.6 Any dividend or other sum payable in respect of any share may be paid to a person or persons entitled by transmission to that share as if he or they were the holder or joint holders of that share and his address (or the address of the first named of two or more persons jointly entitled) noted in the register were the registered address.

97. Dividends not to bear interest

No dividend or other moneys payable by the Company on or in respect of any share shall bear interest as against the Company unless otherwise provided by the rights attached to the share.

98. Calls or debts may be deducted from dividends

The board may deduct from any dividend or other moneys payable to any person (either alone or jointly with another) on or in respect of a share all such sums as may be due from him (either alone or jointly with another) to the Company on account of calls or otherwise in relation to shares of the Company.

99. Unclaimed dividends etc.

(a) All unclaimed dividends, interest or other sums payable may be invested or otherwise made use of by the board for the benefit of the Company until claimed. All dividends and any other such monies unclaimed for a period of six years after having been declared shall be forfeited and cease to remain owing by the Company.

(b) If the Company exercises its power of sale in accordance with article 20, all dividends and other such monies payable on that share shall be forfeited and cease to remain owing by the Company.

(c) The payment of any unclaimed dividend, interest or other sum payable by the Company on or in respect of any share into a separate account shall not constitute the Company a trustee in respect of it.

100. Uncashed dividends

If:

(a) a payment for a dividend or other sum payable in respect of a share sent by the Company to the person entitled to it in accordance with these articles is left uncashed or is returned to the Company or a payment has failed (including where the payment has been rejected or refunded) and, after reasonable enquiries, the Company is unable to establish any new address or, with respect to a payment to be made by a funds transfer system, a new account, for that person; or

- (b) such a cheque, warrant or order is left uncashed or returned to the Company or fails (including where the payment has been rejected or refunded) on two consecutive occasions,

the Company shall not be obliged to send any dividends or other sums payable in respect of that share due to that person until he notifies the Company of an address or, where the payment is to be made by a funds transfer system, details of the account, to be used for the purpose.

101. Dividends *in specie*

- 101.1 With the authority of an ordinary resolution of the Company and on the recommendation of the board payment of any dividend may be satisfied wholly or in part by the distribution of specific assets and in particular of paid up shares or debentures of any other company.
- 101.2 Where any difficulty arises with the distribution, the board may settle the difficulty as it thinks fit and, in particular, may issue fractional certificates (or ignore fractions), fix the value for distribution of the specific assets or any part of them, determine that cash payments be made to any members on the basis of the value so fixed in order to secure equality of distribution and vest any of the specific assets in trustees on such trusts for the persons entitled to the dividend as the board may think fit and no valuation, adjustment or arrangement made in accordance with this article shall be questioned by any member.

102. Scrip dividends

- 102.1 The board may, if authorised by an ordinary resolution of the Company, offer any holders of ordinary shares the right to elect to receive further ordinary shares, credited as fully paid, instead of cash in respect of all (or some part) of any dividend specified by the ordinary resolution (a **scrip dividend**) in accordance with the following provisions of this article.
- 102.2 The ordinary resolution may specify a particular dividend (whether or not already declared) or may specify all or any dividends declared within a specified period, but such period may not end later than five years after the date of the meeting at which the ordinary resolution is passed.
- 102.3 The basis of allotment shall be decided by the board so that, as nearly as may be considered convenient, the value of the further ordinary shares, including any fractional entitlement, is equal to the amount of the cash dividend which would otherwise have been paid (disregarding the amount of any associated tax credit).
- 102.4 For the purposes of article 102.3 above the value of the further ordinary shares shall be:
- (a) calculated by reference to the middle-market quotation for a fully paid ordinary share, as shown in the London Stock Exchange Daily Official List, for the day on which such shares are first quoted "ex" the relevant dividend and the four subsequent dealing days; or
 - (b) calculated in such manner as may be determined by or in accordance with the ordinary resolution.
- 102.5 The board shall give notice to the ordinary shareholders of their rights of election in respect of the scrip dividend and shall specify the procedure to be followed in order to make an election.
- 102.6 The dividend or that part of it in respect of which an election for the scrip dividend is made shall not be paid and instead further ordinary shares shall be allotted in accordance with elections duly made and the board shall capitalise a sum equal to the aggregate nominal amount of the shares to be allotted out of such sums available for the purpose as the board may consider appropriate.

- 102.7 The further ordinary shares so allotted shall rank *pari passu* in all respects with the fully paid ordinary shares then in issue except as regards participation in the relevant dividend.
- 102.8 The board may decide that the right to elect for any scrip dividend shall not be made available to shareholders resident in any territory where, in the opinion of the board, compliance with local laws or regulations would be unduly onerous.
- 102.9 The board may do all acts and things as it considers necessary or expedient to give effect to the provisions of a scrip dividend election and the issue of any ordinary shares in accordance with the provisions of this article, and may make such provisions as it thinks fit for the case of shares becoming distributable in fractions (including provisions under which, in whole or in part, the benefit of fractional entitlements accrues to the Company rather than to the members concerned). To the extent that the entitlement of any holder of ordinary shares in respect of any dividend is less than the value of one new ordinary share (as determined for the basis of any scrip dividend) the board may also from time to time establish or vary a procedure for such entitlement to be accrued and aggregated with any similar entitlement for the purposes of any subsequent scrip dividend.
- 102.10 The board may from time to time establish or vary a procedure for election mandates, under which a holder of ordinary shares may, in respect of any future dividends for which a right of election pursuant to this article is offered, elect to receive ordinary shares in lieu of such dividend on the terms of such mandate.
- 102.11 The board shall not make a scrip dividend available unless the Company has sufficient undistributed profits or reserves to give effect to elections which could be made to receive that scrip dividend.
- 102.12 The board may decide at any time before the further ordinary shares are allotted that such shares shall not be allotted and pay the relevant dividend in cash instead. Such decision may be made before or after any election has been made by holders of ordinary shares in respect of the relevant dividend

CAPITALISATION OF RESERVES

103. Capitalisation of reserves

- 103.1 The board may, with the authority of an ordinary resolution of the Company:
- (a) resolve to capitalise any sum standing to the credit of any reserve account of the Company (including share premium account and capital redemption reserve) or any sum standing to the credit of profit and loss account not required for the payment of any preferential dividend (whether or not it is available for distribution); and
 - (b) appropriate that sum as capital to the holders of ordinary shares in proportion to the nominal amount of the ordinary share capital held by them respectively and apply that sum on their behalf in paying up in full any shares or debentures of the Company of a nominal amount equal to that sum and allot the shares or debentures credited as fully paid to those members, or as they may direct, in those proportions or in paying up the whole or part of any amounts which are unpaid in respect of any issued shares in the Company held by them respectively, or otherwise deal with such sum as directed by the resolution provided that the share premium account, the capital redemption reserve, any redenomination reserve and any sum not available for distribution in accordance with the Statutes may only be applied in paying up shares to be allotted credited as fully paid up.
- 103.2 Where any difficulty arises in respect of any distribution of any capitalised reserve or other sum, the board may settle the difficulty as it thinks fit and in particular may make such provisions as it thinks fit in the case of shares or debentures becoming distributable in fractions (including provisions under

which, in whole or in part, the benefit of fractional entitlements accrues to the Company rather than the members concerned) or ignore fractions and may fix the value for distribution of any fully paid up shares or debentures and may determine that cash payments be made to any members on the basis of the value so fixed in order to secure equality of distribution, and may vest any shares or debentures in trustees upon such trusts for the persons entitled to share in the distribution as the board may think fit.

103.3 The board may also authorise any person to sign on behalf of the persons entitled to share in the distribution a contract for the acceptance by those persons of the shares or debentures to be allotted to them credited as fully paid under a capitalisation and any such contract shall be binding on all those persons.

104. Capitalisation of reserves - employees' share schemes

104.1 This article (which is without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of the immediately preceding article) applies where, pursuant to an employees' share scheme:

- (a) a person is granted a right to acquire shares in the Company for no payment or at a price less than their nominal value; or
- (b) the terms on which any person is entitled to acquire shares in the Company are adjusted so that the price payable to acquire them is less than their nominal value,

and the relevant shares are to be subscribed.

104.2 In any such case the board:

- (a) may, without requiring any further authority of the Company in general meeting, at any time transfer to a reserve account a sum (the **reserve amount**) which is equal to the amount required to pay up the nominal value of the shares in full, after taking into account the amount (if any) payable by the person from the profits or reserves of the Company which are available for distribution and not required for the payment of any preferential dividend; and
- (b) (subject to article **Error! Reference source not found.** below) will not apply the reserve amount for any purpose other than paying up the nominal value on the allotment of the relevant shares.

104.3 Whenever the Company allots shares to a person pursuant to a right described in article 104.1, the board will (subject to the Statutes) appropriate to capital the amount of the reserve amount necessary to pay up the nominal value of those shares in full, after taking into account the amount (if any) payable by the person, apply that amount in paying up the nominal value of those shares in full and allot those shares credited as fully paid to the person entitled to them.

104.4 If any person ceases to be entitled to acquire shares as described in article 104.1, the restrictions on the reserve amount will cease to apply in relation to the part of that amount (if any) applicable to those shares.

RECORD DATES

105. Fixing of record dates

105.1 Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, but without prejudice to any rights attached to any shares, the Company or the board may fix a date as the record date by reference to which a dividend will be declared or paid or a distribution, allotment or issue made, and that date may be

before, on or after the date on which the dividend, distribution, allotment or issue is declared, paid or made.

- 105.2 In the absence of a record date being fixed, entitlement to any dividend, distribution, allotment or issue shall be determined by reference to the date on which the dividend is declared or the distribution, allotment or issue is made.

ACCOUNTS

106. Accounting records

- 106.1 The board shall cause accounting records of the Company to be kept in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes.
- 106.2 No member (as such) shall have any right of inspecting any account, book or document of the Company, except as conferred by law or authorised by the board or by any ordinary resolution of the Company.

NOTICES

107. Form of notices

- 107.1 Except where otherwise expressly stated, any notice to be given to or by any person under these articles shall be in writing or, to the extent permitted by the Statutes and subject to article 107.2, contained in an electronic communication.
- 107.2 The board may from time to time specify the form and manner in which a notice may be given to the Company by electronic means, including one or more addresses for the receipt of an electronic communication, and may prescribe such procedures as it thinks fit for verifying the authenticity or integrity of any such electronic communication. A notice may be given to the Company by electronic means only if it is given in accordance with the requirements specified by the board.

108. Manner of giving notices

- 108.1 A notice in writing, document or other communication may be given to or served by the Company to any member either personally or by sending it through the post addressed to the member at his registered address or by leaving it at that address addressed to the member or by any other means authorised by the member concerned.
- 108.2 Subject to the Statutes (and other rules applicable to the Company), a notice, document or other communication may be given by the Company to any member by electronic means to such address as may from time to time be authorised by the member concerned or by publishing it on a website and notifying the member concerned, in accordance with the Statutes (and other rules applicable to the Company), that it has been so published.
- 108.3 In the case of joint holders of a share, any notice, document or other communication given or served by the Company in any manner permitted by these articles to the joint holder who is named first in the register in respect of the joint holding shall be deemed to be given to all other holders of the share.
- 108.4 A member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom shall not be entitled to receive any notice from the Company unless he gives the Company a postal address within the United Kingdom at which notices may be given to him.

109. Notice during suspension or curtailment of postal services

- 109.1 If at any time by reason of the suspension or curtailment of postal services within the United Kingdom (or some part of the United Kingdom) the Company is unable effectively to give notice of a general meeting to some or all of its members or directors then, subject to complying with article 109.2 below, the Company need only give notice of the meeting to those members or directors to whom the Company is entitled, in accordance with the Statutes, to give notice by electronic means.
- 109.2 In the circumstances described in article 109.1, the Company must:
- (a) advertise the general meeting by a notice which appears on its website and in at least one national newspaper complying with the notice period requirements set out in the Statutes; and
 - (b) send confirmatory copies of the notice (or, as the case may be, the notification of the website notice) by post to those members and directors to whom notice (or notification) cannot be given by electronic means if at least six clear days before the meeting the posting of notices (and notifications) to addresses throughout the United Kingdom again becomes practicable.
- 109.3 The accidental omission to give confirmatory copies of notices (and confirmatory notifications of website notices) of meetings sent pursuant to sub-article 109.2(b) to, or the non-receipt of confirmatory copies and notifications by, any person entitled to receive them shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.

110. When notice is deemed given

- 110.1 Any notice in writing, document or other communication if sent by first class post, shall be deemed to have been given on the day following that on which the envelope containing it is put into the post, or, if sent by second class post, shall be deemed to have been given on the second day following that on which the envelope containing it is put into the post and in proving that a notice, document or other communication has been given it shall be sufficient to prove that the letter, envelope or wrapper containing the notice, document or other communication was properly addressed, prepaid and put into the post.
- 110.2 Any notice in writing, document or other communication not sent by post but left at a registered address or address at which a notice, document or other communication may be given shall be deemed to have been given on the day it was so left.
- 110.3 Any notice, document or other communication, if sent by electronic means (including through any relevant system), shall be deemed to have been given on the day following that on which the electronic communication was sent by or on behalf of the Company.
- 110.4 If the Company receives a delivery failure notification following a communication by electronic means in accordance with article 110.3 above, the Company shall send or supply the document or information in hard copy or electronic form (but not by electronic means) to the member either personally or by post addressed to the member at his registered address or by leaving it at that address. This shall not affect when the document or information was deemed to be received in accordance with article 110.3 above.
- 110.5 Where a document or information is sent or supplied by means of a website, it shall be deemed to have been given:
- (a) when the material was first made available on the website, or

- (b) if later, when the recipient was deemed to have been given notice of the fact that the material was available on the website.

110.6 A member present, either in person or by proxy, at any meeting of the Company or class of members of the Company shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where requisite, of the purposes for which the meeting was convened.

110.7 Every person who becomes entitled to a share shall be bound by every notice (other than a notice in accordance with section 793 of the CA 2006) in respect of that share which before his name is entered in the register was given to the person from whom he derives his title to the share.

111. Record date for giving notices

111.1 For the purposes of giving notices of meetings, documents or other communications, whether under section 310(1) of the CA 2006, any other Statute, a provision in these articles or any other instrument, the Company may determine that persons entitled to receive such notices, documents or other communications are those persons entered on the register at the close of business on a day determined by it.

111.2 The day determined by the Company under article 111.1 above may not be more than 15 days before the day that the notice of the meeting, document or other communication is given.

112. Notice to person entitled by transmission

Where a person is entitled by transmission to a share, any notice or other communication shall be given to him, as if he were the holder of that share and his address noted in the register were his registered address. In any other case, any notice or other communication given to any member pursuant to these articles shall, notwithstanding that the member is then dead or bankrupt or that any other event giving rise to the transmission of the share by operation of law has occurred and whether or not the Company has notice of the death, bankruptcy or other event, be deemed to have been properly given in respect of any share registered in the name of that member as sole or joint holder.

113. Returned notices

A member shall not be entitled to receive any notice, cheque or other instrument of payment from the Company if two consecutive notices, cheques or other instruments of payment addressed to that member, and properly given under these articles, have been returned to the Company undelivered but a member shall again become entitled to receive notices, cheques or other instruments of payment following notice from that member to the Company of a new or corrected registered address (or, in the case of a member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom, a new postal address within the United Kingdom at which notices may be given). Nothing in this article shall entitle the Company to cease sending any cheques, dividend warrants or otherwise to cease making any payments for dividends or other moneys payable in respect of shares, unless it is so entitled under article 100.

DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

114. Destruction of documents

114.1 The board may authorise or arrange the destruction of documents held by the Company as follows:

- (a) at any time after the expiration of six years from the date of registration, all instruments of transfer of shares and all other documents transferring or purporting to transfer shares or representing or purporting to represent the right to be registered as the holder of shares on the faith of which entries have been made in the register;

- (b) at any time after the expiration of one year from the date of cancellation, all registered share certificates which have been cancelled;
- (c) at any time after the expiration of two years from the date of recording them, all dividend mandates and notifications of change of address; and
- (d) at any time after the expiration of one year from the date of actual payment, all paid dividend warrants and cheques.

114.2 It shall conclusively be presumed in favour of the Company that:

- (a) every entry in the register purporting to have been made on the basis of an instrument of transfer or other document so destroyed was duly and properly made;
- (b) every instrument of transfer so destroyed was a valid and effective instrument duly and properly registered;
- (c) every share certificate so destroyed was a valid certificate duly and properly cancelled;
- (d) every other document mentioned in article 114.1 above so destroyed was a valid and effective document in accordance with the particulars of it recorded in the books and records of the Company; and
- (e) every paid dividend warrant and cheque so destroyed was duly paid.

114.3 The provisions of article 114.2 above shall apply only to the destruction of a document in good faith and without notice of any claim (regardless of the parties to it) to which the document might be relevant.

114.4 Nothing in this article shall be construed as imposing on the Company or the board any liability in respect of the destruction of any document earlier than as stated in article 114.1 above or in any other circumstances in which liability would not attach to the Company or the board in the absence of this article.

114.5 References in this article to the destruction of any document include references to its disposal in any manner.

WINDING UP

115. Powers to distribute *in specie*

If the Company is in liquidation, the liquidator may, with the authority of a special resolution of the Company and any other authority required by the Statutes:

- (a) divide among the members *in specie* the whole or any part of the assets of the Company and, for that purpose, value any assets and determine how the division shall be carried out as between the members or different classes of members; or
- (b) vest the whole or any part of the assets in trustees upon such trusts for the benefit of members as the liquidator, with the like authority, shall think fit but no member shall be compelled to accept any assets upon which there is any liability.

INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

116. Indemnity of officers

Except to the extent prohibited or restricted by the Statutes, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a director or other officer may otherwise be entitled, the Company may indemnify:

- (a) every director or other officer (excluding an auditor) of the Company or of an associated company out of the assets of the Company against all liabilities incurred by him in the actual or purported execution or discharge of his duties or the exercise or purported exercise of his powers or otherwise in relation to or in connection with his duties, powers or office; and
- (b) a director of a company that is a trustee of an occupational pension scheme for employees of the Company or of an associated company against liability incurred in connection with the company's activities as trustee of the scheme.

117. Insurance

Except to the extent prohibited or restricted by the Statutes, the board may purchase and maintain for or for the benefit of any person who holds or has at any time held a relevant office insurance against any liability incurred by him in respect of any act or omission in the actual or purported discharge of his duties or in the exercise or purported exercise of his powers or otherwise in relation to his holding of a relevant office; and for this purpose **relevant office** means that of director, officer (excluding an auditor) or employee in relation to the Company or any company which is or was a subsidiary undertaking of or associated with the Company or any predecessor in business of the Company or any such subsidiary undertaking or associated company, or that of trustee of any pension fund or retirement, death or disability scheme for the benefit of any employee of the Company or any such subsidiary undertaking or associated company.