

Company No: SC364753

**THE COMPANIES ACTS 1985 TO 2006**  
**A PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**of**

**ELAND OIL & GAS PLC**

**(Amended by Special Resolution passed on 19 June 2015)**

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**THE COMPANIES ACTS 1985 TO 2006  
A PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

of

**Eland Oil & Gas PLC  
(amended by special resolution on 19 June 2015)**

**PRELIMINARY**

**1. Table A and Model Articles not to apply**

The regulations contained in Model Articles of Association applicable to the Company under or pursuant to the 2006 Act or in Table A in the Schedule to the Companies (Tables A to F) Regulations 1985 shall not apply to the Company.

Any model articles of association promulgated under the 2006 Act shall not apply to the Company.

**2. Interpretation**

**2.1** In these articles, unless the contrary intention appears:

(a) the following definitions apply:

<b>"2006 Act"</b>	means the Companies Act 2006;
<b>"acting in concert"</b>	has the meaning given to it in the City Code published by the Takeover Panel (as amended from time to time);
<b>"address"</b>	means in relation to electronic communications any number or address used for the purpose of such communications;
<b>"Admission"</b>	the admission of the entire issued ordinary share capital of the Company to trading on AIM becoming effective (as described in paragraph 6 of the AIM Rules);
<b>"Affiliate"</b>	means in relation to a non-voting right ordinary shareholder:  (i) any person that directly or indirectly

controls, is controlled by, or is under common control of the non-voting right ordinary shareholder (but excluding the Company and any person or entity controlled by the Company);

- (ii) any person holding shares as nominee for the non-voting right ordinary shareholder (but only in relation to the shares so held); and
- (iii) any person holding shares which represent an identifiable, distinct partnership interest of the non-voting right ordinary shareholder (but only in relation to the shares so held),

and, for the purposes of this definition, "control", when used with respect to any person, means the power to direct the management and policies of such person, directly or indirectly, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise (and "controlled" shall be construed accordingly);

<b>"AIM"</b>	the market of that name operated by the London Stock Exchange;
<b>"AIM Rules"</b>	the AIM rules for companies published by the London Stock Exchange plc (as amended from time to time) which govern the admission to trading on, and regulation of AIM;
<b>"board"</b>	means the board of directors for the time being of the Company;
<b>"business day"</b>	means a day (other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday) when clearing banks in Aberdeen and the City of London are open for the transaction of normal banking business;
<b>"City Code"</b>	means the UK City Code on Takeovers and Mergers as published by the Takeover Panel (as amended from time to time);

<b>"clear days"</b>	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;
<b>"committee"</b>	means a committee of the board;
<b>"communication"</b>	has the same meaning as in the Electronic Communications Act 2000;
<b>"Company"</b>	means Eland Oil & Gas PLC;
<b>"controlling interest"</b>	means an interest in shares giving to the holder or holders control of the Company within the meaning of section 840 of ICTA;
<b>"Deferred Shares"</b>	means the deferred shares of £0.90 each in the capital of the Company with the rights set out in article 20;
<b>"director"</b>	means a director of the Company;
<b>"electronic address"</b>	any address or number used for the purpose of sending or receiving notices, documents or information by electronic means;
<b>"electronic communication"</b>	any document or information sent or supplied in electronic form within the meaning of section 1168 of the 2006 Act;
<b>"electronic form"</b>	has the same meaning as in section 1168 of the 2006 Act;
<b>"electronic means"</b>	has the same meaning as in section 1168 of the 2006 Act;
<b>"hard copy"</b>	has the same meaning as in the 2006 Act;
<b>"holder"</b>	in relation to any share means the member whose name is entered in the register as the holder of that share and "member" shall be construed accordingly;
<b>"ICTA"</b>	means the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988;
<b>"listing"</b>	means the successful application and admission of all or any of the shares in the capital of the Company, or representing such shares (including American depositary receipts, American depositary shares and/or

other instruments to the Official List of the UK Listing Authority or on AIM, the Nasdaq National Stock Market of the Nasdaq Stock Market Inc., or to any recognised investment exchange (as defined in section 285 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as amended));

**"London Stock Exchange"**

London Stock Exchange plc;

**"Maximum Voting Percentage"**

means such percentage as would, in the event of a non-voting right ordinary shareholder (or any of its Affiliates) subsequently acquiring one additional ordinary share, result in a non-voting right ordinary shareholder (or any of its Affiliates) being required to make a mandatory offer for the Company under Rule 9 of the City Code;

**"non-voting right ordinary shares"**

means the non-voting right ordinary shares of £1.00 each in the capital of the Company;

**"non-voting right ordinary shareholder"**

means a holder of non-voting right ordinary shares;

**"office"**

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

**"ordinary shares"**

the ordinary shares of £1.00 each in the capital 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;

**"register"**

means the register of members of the Company;

**"regulations"**

means the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001 (SI 2001 No. 3755) and any modification thereof or any regulations in substitution therefor for the time being in force;

<b>"relevant system"</b>	means any computer based system, and procedures, permitted by the regulations and the rules of the UK Listing Authority, which enable title to units of a security to be evidenced and transferred without a written instrument and which facilitate supplementary and incidental matters;
<b>"sale"</b>	means the acquisition of such shares as gives a controlling interest by any person (or by persons who are acting in concert);
<b>"seal"</b>	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;
<b>"secretary"</b>	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;
<b>"Statutes"</b>	means the Companies Acts, as defined by section 2 of the 2006 Act and every other statute, statutory instrument, regulation or order for the time being in force concerning companies and affecting the Company;
<b>"subsidiary"</b>	means a subsidiary and/or subsidiary undertaking of the Company as each of the terms are defined in the 2006 Act;
<b>"Takeover Panel"</b>	means the UK Panel on Takeovers and Mergers;
<b>"these articles"</b>	means these articles of association, as from time to time altered;
<b>"working day"</b>	has the same meaning as in the 2006 Act; and
<b>"year"</b>	means calendar year.

- (b) any reference to an uncertificated share, or to a share being held in uncertificated form, means a share which is for the time being recorded on the register as being held in uncertificated form, and any reference to a certificated share means any share other than an uncertificated share;

- (c) any other words or expressions defined in any 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 elsewhere 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 and documents and information sent or supplied in electronic form or made available on a website are in 'writing' for the purposes of these articles;
- (g) any reference to doing something by electronic means includes doing it by an electronic communication;
- (h) any reference to a signature or to something being signed or executed includes an electronic signature or other means of verifying the authenticity of an electronic communication which the board may from time to time approve, a signature printed or reproduced by mechanical or other means or any stamp or other distinctive marking made by or with the authority of the person required to sign the document to indicate it is approved by such person;
- (i) 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;
- (j) 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;
- (k) any reference to a show of hands includes such other method of casting votes as the board may from time to time approve; and
- (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.

2.2 Subject to the Statutes, a special resolution shall be effective for any purpose for which an ordinary resolution is expressed to be required.

- 2.3 Headings to these articles are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect construction or interpretation.

## **SHARE CAPITAL**

### **3. Rights attached to shares**

Subject to the Statutes and without prejudice to the rights conferred on the holders of any shares (which rights shall not be varied or abrogated except with any consent or sanction as required by article 22), any share in the Company 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.

### **4. Allotment of shares**

Subject to 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 in the Company to such persons, at such times and generally on such terms as the board may decide.

### **5. Power to pay commission and brokerage**

The Company may in connection with the issue of any shares exercise all powers of paying commission and brokerage conferred or permitted by the Statutes (which may include the making of such payments in cash and/ or by the allotment of shares in the Company).

### **6. Power to increase, consolidate, sub-divide and cancel shares**

6.1 The Company may by ordinary resolution:

- (a) consolidate and divide all or any of its share capital into shares of a larger amount than its existing shares; and
- (b) subject to the provisions of the Statutes, sub-divide its shares, or any of them, into shares of smaller nominal amount, but so that the proportion between the amount paid up and the amount (if any) not paid up on each reduced share shall be the same as it was in the case of the share from which the reduced share is derived.

6.2 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.

6.3 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. In particular, the board may:

- (a) (on behalf of those members) aggregate and sell the shares representing the fractions to any person (including, subject to the Statutes, the Company) for the best price reasonably obtainable and distribute the net proceeds of sale in due proportion among those members entitled to such shares in due proportion (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 such minimum number of shares as rounds up his holding to a number which, following consolidation and division or sub-division, leaves a whole number of shares. The transferor of any share shall remain the holder of the share concerned until the name of the transferee is entered in the register in respect of that share.

6.4 For the purpose of a sale under article 6.3(a) above, the board may authorise a 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 and the title of the new holder to the shares shall not be affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the proceedings relating to the sale.

#### **7. Power to issue redeemable shares**

Subject to 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 and conditions and manner of redemption of any of those shares may be determined by the board provided that this is done before the shares are allotted.

#### **8. Power to purchase own shares**

Subject to 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.

#### **9. Power to reduce capital**

Subject to 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, share premium account or redenomination reserve in any way.

#### **10. 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.

### **NON-VOTING RIGHT ORDINARY SHARES**

#### **11. Rights attaching to the non-voting right ordinary shares**

Except as set out below, the non-voting right ordinary shares rank *pari passu* with the ordinary shares (and any other non-voting right ordinary shares issued on

substantially equivalent terms to the non-voting right ordinary shares) in all respects and no action may be taken by the Company in relation to, or offer made by the Company to the holders of, the ordinary shares (or any other non-voting right ordinary shares issued on substantially equivalent terms to the non-voting right ordinary shares) unless the same action is taken in respect of, or the same offer is made to the non-voting right ordinary shareholders.

## 12. **Voting at general meetings or annual general meetings**

- 12.1 A non-voting right ordinary shareholder shall be entitled to receive notice of, and to attend and speak at, any general meeting or annual general meeting of the Company, but shall not be entitled to vote in respect of any non-voting right ordinary shares held.
- 12.2 The rights attaching to the non-voting right ordinary shares shall not be, and shall not be deemed to be, varied or abrogated in any way by the creation, allotment or issue of any ordinary shares and the rights attaching to the ordinary shares shall not be, and shall not be deemed to be, varied or abrogated in any way by the creation, allotment or issue of any non-voting right ordinary shares.

## 13. **Income**

On a distribution of profits (whether by cash dividend, dividend in specie, scrip dividend, capitalisation issue or otherwise), the non-voting right ordinary shares shall rank *pari passu* with the rights to distributions of profits attaching to the ordinary shares.

## 14. **Capital**

On a return of capital, whether on a winding-up or otherwise, the non-voting right ordinary shares shall rank *pari passu* with the rights to the assets of the Company attaching to the ordinary shares.

## 15. **Conversion**

- 15.1 Upon a transfer of non-voting right ordinary shares by any person (the "**transferor**") to a person who is not a non-voting right ordinary shareholder or an Affiliate of any such non-voting right ordinary shareholder, the person receiving such non-voting right ordinary shares (the "transferee") may elect to convert such non-voting right ordinary shares into ordinary shares in accordance with article 15.2 if the transferee:
- (a) gives notice in writing to the Company at the time of such transfer confirming that the transferee has elected to convert the number of non-voting right ordinary shares being transferred to it by the transferor into ordinary shares (subject to article 19 on a one-for-one basis); and
  - (b) provides the Company with an original certificate signed by the transferor and the transferee confirming that the transferee is not an Affiliate of and is not acting in concert with the transferor,

whereupon the Company (or its registrar) shall register the transfer in the register of members of the Company.

15.2 Upon:

- (a) a transfer of non-voting right ordinary shares by any person to a person who is not a non-voting right ordinary shareholder or an Affiliate of, or acting in concert with, such non-voting right ordinary shareholder and who has elected to convert the non-voting right ordinary shares so transfers such non-voting right ordinary shares in accordance with article 15.1; or
- (b) any issue of further ordinary shares by the Company or conversion of non-voting right ordinary shares as referred to in article 16 below, as a result of which such non-voting right ordinary shareholder's voting shareholding is reduced below the Maximum Voting Percentage,
- (c) such number of non-voting right ordinary shares as, immediately following conversion, will result in such non-voting right ordinary shareholder's voting shareholding being equal to the Maximum Voting Percentage, shall convert into ordinary shares (subject to article 19 on a one-for-one basis) subject to receipt by the Company of an original certificate signed by the relevant shareholder confirming the number of non-voting right ordinary shares which should convert in order for its voting shareholding, together with the voting shareholding of any Affiliate and/or persons acting in concert with it, to be equal to or less than the Maximum Voting Percentage, whereupon the Company (or its registrar) shall register the conversion of such non-voting right ordinary shares into ordinary shares (subject to article 19 on a one-for-one basis).

16. **Conversion at the instance of a non-voting right ordinary shareholder (or any of its Affiliates)**

At any time, a non-voting right ordinary shareholder (or any of its Affiliates) shall be entitled (but shall not be bound) to require the Company to convert non-voting right ordinary shares held by such non-voting right ordinary shareholder (or such Affiliate) into ordinary shares (subject to article 19 on a one-for-one basis), so long as such conversion does not result in the non-voting right ordinary shareholder's voting shareholding together with the voting shareholding of such Affiliate and/or persons acting in concert with it, being more than the Maximum Voting Percentage and subject to receipt by the Company of an original certificate signed by the relevant non-voting right ordinary shareholder confirming that its voting shareholding, together with the voting shareholding of any Affiliate and/or persons acting in concert with it, immediately following such conversion, will not be more than the Maximum Voting Percentage.

17. **Conversion following a pre-emptive offer**

If the Company makes an offer of non-voting right ordinary shares in accordance with the provisions of these Articles, it shall be entitled to convert into ordinary shares with voting rights, subject to article 19 on a one-for-one basis, any non-voting right ordinary shares issued to persons other than a non-voting right ordinary shareholder or any of its Affiliates in connection with such offer.

## 18. **General**

- 18.1 Within 21 days after the conversion of any non-voting right ordinary shares into ordinary shares, the Company shall forward to the relevant non-voting right ordinary shareholder (or its Affiliate), at its own risk, free of charge, a definitive certificate for the appropriate number of fully paid up ordinary shares and a new certificate for any unconverted non-voting right ordinary shares comprised in the certificate surrendered by it. Pending the despatch of definitive certificates, transfers shall be certified against the register of members of the Company.
- 18.2 The Company shall use best endeavours to procure that the ordinary shares arising on conversion of the non-voting right ordinary shares are admitted to AIM.
- 18.3 No admission to listing or admission to trading shall be sought for the non-voting right ordinary shares whilst they remain non-voting right ordinary shares.

## 19. **Consolidation, Sub-Division or Reduction**

In the event of a consolidation, sub-division or reduction of the ordinary share capital or the non-voting right ordinary share capital, the conversion ratio shall be adjusted to such extent (if any) as the auditors for the time being of the Company certify in writing to the Company to be in their opinion fair and reasonable in consequence of such event.

## 20. **Rights attaching to the Deferred Shares**

- 20.1 As regards income, the holders of the Deferred Shares shall not be entitled to receive any dividend out of the profits of the Company available for distribution and resolved to be distributed in respect of any financial year or any other income or right to participate therein.
- 20.2 As regards capital on a distribution of assets on a winding-up or other return of capital (otherwise than on conversion or redemption on purchase by the Company of any of its shares), the holders of the Deferred Shares shall be entitled to receive the amount paid up on their shares after there shall have been distributed (in cash or in specie) to the holders of the ordinary shares the amount of £100,000,000 in respect of each ordinary share held by them respectively. For this purpose distributions in currency other than sterling shall be treated as converted into sterling, and the value for any distribution in specie shall be ascertained in sterling, in each case in such manner as the directors of the Company in general meeting may approve. The Deferred Shares shall not entitle the holders thereof to any further or other right of participation in the assets of the Company.
- 20.3 As regards voting, the holders of Deferred Shares shall not be entitled to receive notice of or to attend (either personally or by proxy) any general meeting of the Company or to vote (either personally or by proxy) on any resolution to be proposed thereat.
- 20.4 The rights attached to the Deferred Shares shall not be deemed to be varied or abrogated by the creation or issue of any new shares ranking in priority to or pari passu with or subsequent to such shares. In addition, neither the passing by the

Company of any resolution for the cancellation of the Deferred Shares for no consideration by means of a reduction of capital requiring the confirmation of the court nor the obtaining by the Company nor the making by the court of any order confirming any such reduction of capital nor the becoming effective of any such order shall constitute a variation, modification or abrogation of the rights attaching to the Deferred Shares and accordingly the Deferred Shares may at any time be cancelled for no consideration by means of a reduction of capital effected in accordance with applicable legislation without sanction on the part of the holders of the Deferred Shares.

- 20.5 Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Company shall have the power and authority at any time to purchase all or any of the Deferred Shares for an aggregate consideration of £1.
- 20.6 The Company shall have irrevocable authority to appoint any person to execute on behalf of the holders of the Deferred Shares a transfer/cancellation of the Deferred Shares and/or an agreement to transfer/cancel the same, without making any payment to the holders of the Deferred Shares to such person or persons as the Company may determine as custodian thereof and, pending such transfer and/or cancellation and/or purchase, to retain the certificate(s) if any, for such shares.
- 20.7 The Company may, at its option and subject to compliance with the provisions of applicable legislation, at any time after the adoption of this article, cancel such shares by way of reduction of capital for no consideration.
- 20.8 Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, and unless specifically required by the provisions of applicable legislation, the Company shall not be required to issue any certificates or other documents of title in respect of the Deferred Shares. The Deferred Shares may not be transferred without the prior consent of the directors.

## **UNCERTIFICATED SHARES - GENERAL POWERS**

### **21. Uncertificated shares- general powers**

- 21.1 The board may permit any class of shares to be held in uncertificated form (unless the Statutes or UK Listing Authority state otherwise) and to be transferred by means of a relevant system and may revoke any such permission.
- 21.2 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.
- 21.3 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.
- 21.4 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.
- 21.5 The Company shall enter on the register how many shares are held by each member in uncertificated form and in certificated form and shall maintain the register in each case as required by the regulations and the relevant system concerned.
- 21.6 The Company shall be entitled, in accordance with regulation 32(2)(c) of the regulations, to require the conversion of an uncertificated share into certificated form to enable it to deal with that share in accordance with any provision in these articles.

## **VARIATION OF RIGHTS**

### **22. Variation of rights**

- 22.1 Whenever the capital of the Company is divided into different classes of shares, all or any of the rights or privileges 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 or abrogated in such manner as those rights may provide or (if no such provision is 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 or annual general meeting of the holders of those shares.
- 22.2 The provisions of chapter 3 of part 13 of the 2006 Act (save as stated in section 334(2) to (3)) and the provisions of these articles relating to general meetings and annual general meetings of the Company or to the proceedings at general meetings and annual general meetings shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to every such separate general meeting and annual general meeting, except that:
- (a) the 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

value of the issued shares of the class (excluding any shares of that class held as treasury shares). For the avoidance of doubt, where a member has appointed several proxies only one such proxy shall count towards the quorum and he is treated as holding only the shares in respect of which those proxies are authorised to exercise voting rights;

- (b) at an adjourned meeting the quorum shall be one person holding shares of the class or his proxy;
- (c) every holder of shares of the class 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 whether present in person or by proxy.

22.3 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.

## **TRANSFERS OF SHARES**

### **23. 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 UK Listing Authority and is from time to time approved by the board.

### **24. Transfers of uncertificated shares**

24.1 The Company shall register the transfer of any shares held in uncertificated form in accordance with the Statutes.

24.2 The board may, in its absolute discretion and without giving any reason for its decision, refuse to register any transfer of an uncertificated share where permitted by the Statutes.

### **25. Transfers of certificated shares**

25.1 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.

25.2 The board may, in its absolute discretion and without giving any reason for its decision, 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 trading on AIM, 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.

- 25.3 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.
- 25.4 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.
26. **Other provisions relating to transfers**
- 26.1 No fee shall be charged for registration of a transfer or other document or instruction relating to or affecting the title to any share.
- 26.2 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.
- 26.3 The board may refuse to register any transfer unless it is in respect of only one class of shares.
- 26.4 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.
- 26.5 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, within two months after the date on which the instrument of transfer was lodged with the Company or the operator instruction was received, give to the transferee notice of the refusal together with reasons for the refusal.

## **TRANSMISSION OF SHARES**

28. **Transmission on death**

If a member dies, the survivor, where the deceased was a joint holder, or 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 reasonably 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 reasonably 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 Save as otherwise provided by or in accordance with these articles, 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 general meeting or annual general meeting of the Company or to any of the rights and privileges of a member (except with the authority of the board).
- 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 after that withhold payment of all dividends or other moneys payable in respect of the share 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 2006 Act (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. (in nominal value) 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 annual general meeting 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. (in nominal value) of the issued shares of the class, the holders of the default shares shall not be entitled, in respect of those shares:
  - (c) to attend or to vote, either personally or by proxy, at any general meeting or annual general meeting of the Company; or
  - (d) to receive any dividend or other distribution; or
  - (e) to transfer or agree to transfer any of those shares or any rights in them.
- (f) The restrictions in subparagraphs (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 article 31.4(b) above, the member shall be entitled to receive it as soon as practicable after the restriction ceases 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 paragraph 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 as defined in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 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 2006 Act);
- (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 provisions of this article are without prejudice to the provisions of section 794 of the 2006 Act and, in particular, the Company may apply to the court under section 794(1) of the 2006 Act whether or not these provisions apply or have been applied.

## **GENERAL MEETINGS**

### **32. Annual general meetings**

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

### **33. General meetings**

All general meetings other than annual general meetings shall be called general meetings.

### **34. Convening of general meetings**

34.1 The board may convene a general meeting whenever and wherever it thinks fit.

34.2 A general meeting may also be convened in accordance with article 77.

34.3 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.

34.4 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.

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

### **NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

36. **Length and form of notice**

36.1 An annual general meeting and all other general meetings of the Company shall be called by at least such minimum period of notice as is prescribed under the Statutes.

36.2 Every notice of meeting of the Company shall:

- (a) specify the time, date and place of the meeting;
- (b) state the general nature of the business to be dealt with at the meeting;
- (c) with reasonable prominence state that a member may appoint:
  - (i) a proxy to exercise all or any of the member's rights to attend, speak and vote at the meeting; and
  - (ii) more than one proxy in relation to the meeting if each proxy is appointed to exercise the rights attached to a different share or shares held by the member;
- (d) if the meeting is called to consider a special resolution, include the text of the resolution and the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution.

36.3 Notice of every general meeting or annual general meeting shall be given to all members other than any who, under these articles or the terms of issue of the shares they hold, are not entitled to receive such notices from the Company, and also to the auditors of the Company (or, if more than one, each of them) and to each director and will inform Members of their right to appoint proxies as required by the Statutes.

36.4 Where the Company has given an electronic address in any notice of meeting, any document or information relating to proceedings at the meeting may be sent by electronic means to that address subject to any conditions or limitations specified in the relevant notice of meeting.

- 36.5 If on three consecutive occasions any notice, document or other information has been sent or supplied (whether through the post or in electronic form) to any member at his registered address or his address for service of notices but has been returned undelivered (in the case of an item sent or supplied in electronic form, it will be treated as undelivered if the Company receives notification that it was not delivered to the address to which it was sent), such member shall not thereafter be entitled to receive notices, documents or information from the Company until he shall have communicated with the Company and supplied in writing to the office a new registered address or address for service.
- 36.6 A notice calling an annual general meeting shall state that the meeting is an annual general meeting and a notice convening a meeting to pass a special resolution shall specify the intention to propose the resolution as such and shall include the text of the resolution.

37. **Omission or non-receipt of notice**

To the fullest extent permitted by law the accidental omission to give notice of a general meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice by, any person entitled to receive the notice shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting but this is subject to the exceptions prescribed by the 2006 Act.

### **PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

38. **Quorum**

- 38.1 No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless the requisite quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to business.
- 38.2 Except as otherwise provided by these articles two members holding ordinary shares present in person or by proxy or by a duly authorised representative (where such member is a corporation) and entitled to vote on a poll shall be a quorum. For the avoidance of doubt, where a member has appointed several proxies only one such proxy shall count towards the quorum.
- 38.3 Subject to section 307A of the 2006 Act, if within fifteen minutes from the time fixed for holding a general meeting (or such longer interval not exceeding one hour as the chairman of the meeting may decide) a quorum is not present or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting, if convened on the requisition of members, shall be dissolved. In any other case, it shall stand adjourned to at least 10 clear days later after the date of the original meeting (or, if that day is not a working day, to the next working day) and at the same time and place as the original meeting, or, subject to article 34.4, to such other day, and at such other time and place, as the board may decide.
- 38.4 If at an adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within fifteen minutes (or such longer interval not exceeding one hour as the chairman of the meeting may decide) from the time fixed for holding the meeting, the meeting shall be dissolved.

39. **Security**

The board may make any security arrangements which it considers appropriate relating to the holding of a general meeting of the Company including, without limitation, arranging for any person attending a meeting 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 entry to a general meeting to any person who refuses to comply with any such arrangements; and
- (b) eject from a meeting any person who causes the proceedings to become disorderly.

40. **Chairman**

At each general meeting, the chairman (if any) of the board or, if he is absent or unwilling, the deputy chairman (if any) of the board or (if more than one deputy chairman is present and willing) the deputy chairman who has been longest in such office shall preside as chairman of the meeting. If neither the chairman nor deputy chairman is present and willing within 15 minutes after the time fixed for holding the meeting, one of the other directors selected for the purpose by the directors present or, if only one director is present and willing, that director, shall preside as chairman of the meeting. 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 as chairman of the meeting, the members present (in person or by proxy) and entitled to vote shall choose one of their number to preside as chairman of the meeting.

41. **Right to attend and speak**

- 41.1 A director shall be entitled to attend and speak at any general meeting of the Company whether or not he is a member.
- 41.2 The chairman may invite any person to attend and speak at any general meeting 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.

42. **Resolutions and amendments**

- 42.1 Subject to the Statutes, a resolution may only be put to the vote at a general meeting if the chairman of the meeting in his absolute discretion decides that the resolution may properly be regarded as within the scope of the meeting.
- 42.2 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 Jaw.
- 42.3 In the case of a resolution to be proposed as an ordinary resolution no amendment may be made (except to correct a patent error or as may otherwise be permitted by law), 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 no later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the holding of the relevant meeting; or
- (b) in any case, the chairman 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 article 42.3(a) above shall not prejudice the power of the chairman of the meeting to rule the amendment out of order.

- 42.4 With the consent of the chairman of the meeting, a person who proposes an amendment to a resolution may withdraw it before it is put to the vote.
- 42.5 If the chairman 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 on the resolution in question shall not be invalidated by any error in his ruling. Any ruling by the chairman of the meeting in relation to a resolution or an amendment to a resolution shall be final and conclusive.

#### **43. Adjournment**

- 43.1 With the consent of any general meeting at which a quorum is present the chairman of the meeting may (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place.
- 43.2 In addition, the chairman 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.
- 43.3 Nothing in this article shall limit any other power vested in the chairman of the meeting to adjourn the meeting.
- 43.4 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.
- 43.5 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.

#### **44. Meeting at more than one place**

A general meeting may be held at more than one place if:

- (a) the notice convening the meeting specifies that it shall be held at more than one place; or

- (b) the board resolves, after the notice convening the meeting has been given, that the meeting shall be held at more than one place; or
  - (c) it appears to the chairman 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.
- 44.2 A general meeting held at more than one place 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 chairman of the meeting is satisfied that facilities (whether by electronic means or otherwise) are available to enable each person present at each place to participate in the business of the meeting simultaneously.
- 44.3 Each person present at each place in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on a poll shall be counted in the quorum for, and shall be entitled to vote at, the meeting. The meeting is deemed to take place at the place at which the chairman of the meeting is present.
- 44.4 Under no circumstance will a failure (for any reason) of communication equipment, or any other failure in the arrangements for participation in the meeting at more than one place affect the validity of such meeting or any business conducted thereat, or any action taken pursuant thereto.

**45. Method of voting and demand for poll**

- 45.1 At a 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 chairman of the meeting; or
  - (b) at least five members present in person or by proxy (or being a duly authorised representative of a corporation which is a member) having the right to vote on the resolution; or
  - (c) a member or members present in person or by proxy (or being a duly authorised representative of a corporation which is a member) representing in aggregate not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote on the resolution (excluding any voting rights attached to shares in the Company which are held over treasury shares); or
  - (d) a member or members present in person or by proxy (or being a duly authorised representative of a corporation which is a member) holding shares conferring the right to vote on the resolution on which an aggregate sum has been paid up equal to not less than one-tenth of the total sum paid up on all the shares conferring that right (excluding any voting rights attached to shares in the Company which are held over 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.

- 45.2 No poll may be demanded on the appointment of a chairman of the meeting.
- 45.3 A demand for a poll may, before the poll is taken, be withdrawn but only with the consent of the chairman 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.
- 45.4 Unless a poll is demanded (and the demand is not withdrawn), a declaration by the chairman 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.
- 45.5 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.

46. **How poll is to be taken**

- 46.1 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 clear days after the date of the meeting), at such place and in such manner (including by electronic means) as the chairman of the meeting shall direct and he may appoint scrutineers (who need not be members).
- 46.2 A poll demanded on a question of adjournment shall be taken at the meeting without adjournment.
- 46.3 It shall not be necessary (unless the chairman 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.
- 46.4 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.
- 46.5 The result of the poll shall be deemed to be a resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.

47. **Casting vote**

In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or a poll, the chairman of the meeting shall not be entitled to a second or casting vote.

## VOTES OF MEMBERS

### 48. Voting rights

48.1 Subject to 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:

- (a) on a show of hand every member present in person shall have one vote;
- (b) (i) on a show of hands every proxy present who has been duly appointed by one or more members shall have one vote;

This is subject to (ii) below:

- (ii) on a show of hands, 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 a discretion given by, one or more of those members to vote for the resolution and has been instructed by, or exercises a discretion given by, one or more other of those members to vote against it;
- (c) on a poll every member who is present in person or by proxy (or being a corporation) by a duly authorised representative shall have one vote for every share of which he is the holder; and
- (d) for the avoidance of doubt, the Company itself is prohibited (to the extent specified by the Statutes) from exercising any rights to attend or vote at meetings in respect of any shares held by it as treasury shares.

48.2 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 may 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. 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.

### 49. Representation of corporations

Any corporation which is a member of the Company may, by resolution of its board or other governing body, authorise any person or persons to act as its representative or representatives at any general meeting of the Company and the representative or representatives shall be entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the corporation which he or they represents as that corporation could exercise if it were an individual member present at the meeting in person, including (without limitation) power to vote on a show of hands or on a poll, to demand or concur in demanding a

poll and to speak at the meeting. Where the corporation authorises more than one person, the provisions of section 323(3) and (4) of the 2006 Act apply.

The board or any director or the secretary may (but shall not be bound to) require evidence of the authority of any such representative or representatives.

**50. Voting rights of joint holders**

If more than one of the joint holders of a share tenders a vote on the same resolution, whether in person or by proxy, the vote of the senior holder who tenders a vote whether in person or by proxy shall be accepted to the exclusion of the vote(s) of the other joint holder(s); and for this purpose seniority shall be determined by the order in which the names stand in the register in respect of the relevant share.

**51. Voting rights of members incapable of managing their affairs**

A member in respect of whom an order has been made by any court or official 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 or official, and the receiver, curator bonis or other person may 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) 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.

**52. Voting rights suspended where sums overdue**

Unless the board otherwise decides, a member shall not be entitled to vote, either in person or by proxy or in the case of a corporate member by a duly authorised representative, at any general meeting of the Company in respect of any share held by him unless all calls and other sums presently payable by him in respect of that share have been paid.

**53. Objections to admissibility of votes**

53.1 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 chairman of the meeting, whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

53.2 Whether a proxy or corporate representative has voted in accordance with any instructions given by the member who has appointed such proxy or corporate representative need not be verified by the Company or any other person and any vote (whether on a show of hands or a poll) given by such proxy or corporate representative will be valid for all purposes notwithstanding any failure to follow such instructions.

## **PROXIES**

### **54. Proxies**

- 54.1 A proxy need not be a member of the Company and a member may appoint more than one proxy to attend on the same occasion. If he does so he shall specify the number of shares held by him in respect of which each proxy is entitled to exercise rights. References in these articles to an appointment of proxy include references to an appointment of proxy and include references to an appointment of multiple proxies. The member is entitled to appoint proxies to exercise all or any of his rights to attend and speak and vote at a meeting of the Company.
- 54.2 The appointment of a proxy shall not preclude a member from attending and voting in person at the meeting at a show of hands or on the poll concerned. In the event that, and to the extent that, a member personally votes his shares, his proxy or proxies shall not be entitled to vote and any vote cast by a proxy in such circumstances shall be ignored.
- 54.3 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 any adjourned meeting).

### **55. Issue of proxy**

The directors must send or supply proxy forms to all persons entitled to notice of, and to attend and vote at, any general meeting or at any separate meeting of the holders of any class of shares in the Company.

### **56. Content of proxy**

Such proxy forms shall provide for at least two-way voting on all resolutions to be proposed at that meeting other than resolutions relating to the procedure of the meeting and may either be in blank or may nominate in the alternative any one or more of the directors or any other person.

### **57. Accidental omission to send proxy**

The accidental omission to send an appointment of proxy or the non-receipt of such appointment by any member entitled to attend and vote at a meeting shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

### **58. Appointment of proxy**

- 58.1 The appointment of a proxy may be in such form as is usual or common or in such other form as the board may from time to time approve (including in electronic form subject to any conditions or limitations as the directors may specify) and shall be signed by the appointor, or his duly authorised agent, or, if the appointor is a corporation, shall either be executed under its common seal or be signed by an agent or officer authorised for that purpose. The signature need not be witnessed.
- 58.2 Where the Company has given an electronic address in any instrument of proxy or invitation to appoint a proxy, any documentation or information relating to proxies for

the meeting (including any document necessary to show the validity of, or otherwise relating to, an appointment of proxy, or notice of termination of the authority of a proxy) may be sent by electronic means to that address, subject to any conditions or limitations specified in the relevant notice of meeting.

**59. Receipt of proxy**

**59.1 A proxy appointment:**

- (a) which is in hard copy form, must be received at such address as may be specified in the notice convening the meeting or in any other information issued by the Company in relation to the meeting (or if no such address is specified, at the office) not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for holding the meeting at which the appointee proposes to vote;
- (b) which is in electronic form, must be received at the electronic address specified in the notice convening the meeting or in any appointment of proxy or invitation to appoint a proxy sent out or made available by the Company in relation to the meeting, not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the appointment of proxy proposes to vote;
- (c) 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 such address as may be specified in the notice convening the meeting or in any other information issued by the Company in relation to the poll or meeting (or if no such address is specified, at the office) not less than 24 hours 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
- (d) 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 either be received by the chairman 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 be received at such address and by such time as the chairman of the meeting may direct at the meeting at which the poll is demanded.

**59.2** In calculating the periods referred to in article 59.1, no account shall be taken of any part of any day which is not a working day.

**59.3** In the case of a proxy appointment signed by an agent of a member who is not a corporation, the authority under which the appointment is signed or a copy of it certified in such manner as shall be specified in the notice of the relevant meeting or in any other information issued by the Company in relation to the relevant meeting, or such other information as shall be so specified, must also be received by the Company in the manner set out in article 59.1 above.

- 59.4 In the case of a proxy appointment signed by an officer or other agent of a corporation, the board may also require the receipt, in the manner set out in article 59.1 above, of the authority under which the appointment is signed or a copy of it certified in such manner as shall be specified in the notice of the relevant meeting or in any other information issued by the Company in relation to the relevant meeting, or of such other authorities or information as shall be so specified.
- 59.5 The board may, but shall not be bound to, require such further evidence as it thinks fit of the authenticity or integrity of any signature on a proxy appointment and, if the signatory is an agent or, where the appointor is a corporation, an officer, of his authority.
- 59.6 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 articles 59.3, 59.4 or 59.5 above has not been received in accordance with the requirements of this article.
- 59.7 Subject to article 59.6 above, if the proxy appointment and any of the information required under articles 59.3, 59.4 or 59.5 above are not received in the manner required above, the appointee shall not be entitled to vote in respect of the shares in question.
- 59.8 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.

**60. Notice of revocation of authority**

A vote given or poll demanded by proxy or by a representative of a corporation shall be valid notwithstanding 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 termination was received at the office (or at such other address at which the proxy appointment was duly received) at least six hours before the time fixed for holding the relevant meeting or adjourned meeting or, in the case of a poll not taken on the same day as the meeting or adjourned meeting, before the time fixed for taking the poll.

## **DIRECTORS**

**61. Number of directors**

The directors (other than alternate directors) shall not, unless otherwise determined by an ordinary resolution of the Company, be less than 6 nor more than 9 in number.

**62. Directors need not be members**

A director need not be a member of the Company.

## **APPOINTMENT, RETIREMENT AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS**

### **63. Appointment of directors by the Company**

63.1 Subject to these articles, the Company may by ordinary resolution appoint any person who is permitted by the Statutes and who is willing to act to be a director, either to fill a casual 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.

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

- (a) he is recommended by the board; or
- (b) not less than seven nor more than forty-two 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 appointment of that person, stating the particulars which would, if he were so appointed, be required to be included in the Company's register of directors and a notice executed by that person of his willingness to be appointed.

### **64. Separate resolutions for appointment of each director**

Except as otherwise authorised by section 160 of the 2006 Act, every resolution of a general meeting for the appointment of a director shall relate to one named person and a single resolution for the appointment 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.

### **65. The board's power to appoint directors**

The board may by ordinary resolution 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.

### **66. Persons eligible as directors**

No person, other than a director retiring at the meeting, is eligible for appointment as a director at any general meeting unless:

- (a) he is recommended by the directors; or
- (b) not less than seven nor more than 42 days before the date appointed for the meeting there has been left at the office notice in writing signed by some member (other than the person to be proposed) duly qualified to attend and vote at the meeting for which such notice is given of his intention to propose such person for appointment and also notice in writing signed by the person to be proposed of his willingness to be appointed and stating all such details of him as would, on his appointment, be required to be included in the Company's register of directors and register of directors' residential addresses.

**67. Retirement of directors**

67.1 At each annual general meeting any director then in office who has been appointed by the board since the previous annual general meeting shall retire from office but shall be eligible for re-appointment.

67.2 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-appointed, unless at the meeting a resolution is passed not to fill the vacancy or to appoint another person in his place or unless the resolution to re-appoint him is put to the meeting and lost. In the event of the vacancy not being filled at such meeting, it may be filled by the directors as a casual vacancy in accordance with article 65.

**68. Retirement by rotation**

68.1 At each annual general meeting a minimum number equal to one-third of the number of relevant directors (or, if their number is not a multiple of three, the number nearest to but not greater than one-third) shall retire from office. For the purposes of this article 68, "relevant directors" means all the directors for the time being excluding any directors who are due to retire at that annual general meeting under article 67.1.

68.2 The directors to retire by rotation pursuant to article 68.1 shall include (so far as necessary to obtain the minimum number required) any relevant director who wishes to retire and not to offer himself for re-election. Any further directors to retire shall be those of the other relevant directors who have been longest in office since their last re-election or appointment and so that, as between persons who became or were last re-elected directors on the same day, those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot. A retiring director shall be eligible for re-election.

**69. Removal of directors**

69.1 The Company may 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.

69.2 A director may also be removed from office by giving him notice to that effect signed by or on behalf of all the other directors (or their alternates).

69.3 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.

**70. 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) he is, or may be, suffering from mental disorder and in relation to that disorder either he is admitted to hospital for treatment or an order is made by a court (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) for his detention or for the appointment of some person to exercise powers with respect to his property or affairs and, in either case, the board resolves that his office be vacated; or
- (d) for more than six months both he and any alternate director appointed by him are absent, 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 writing, 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.

## 71. **Executive directors**

- 71.1 Subject to the provisions of the Statutes, the board may appoint one or more directors to hold any executive office with the Company (including that of chairman, 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.
- 71.2 The board may entrust to and confer upon a managing director or such executive director any of the powers and discretions exercisable by them upon such terms and conditions and with such restrictions as they may think fit, and either collaterally with or to the exclusion of their own powers and discretions and may from time to time revoke, withdraw, alter or vary all or any of such powers or discretions. Any such delegation shall, in the absence of express provision to the contrary in the terms of the delegation, be deemed to include authority to sub-delegate to one or more directors (whether or not acting as a committee) or to any employee or agent of the Company all or any of the powers and discretions delegated and may be made subject to such conditions as the board may specify and may be revoked or altered.
- 71.3 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.
- 71.4 A director appointed as executive chairman, 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.

## **ALTERNATE DIRECTORS**

### **72. Power to appoint alternate directors**

- 72.1 Each director (other than an alternative director) may appoint by notice in writing 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.
- 72.2 An alternate director (subject to his giving to the Company an address within the United Kingdom at which notices may be served upon him) 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 and be counted in the quorum at 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 these articles shall apply as if he were a director. If the alternate director is a director or if he shall attend a meeting as an alternate for more than one director his voting rights shall be cumulative but he may be counted only once in a quorum.
- 72.3 Every person acting as an alternate director shall (except as regards power to appoint an alternate and remuneration) be subject in all respects to 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.
- 72.4 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.
- 72.5 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.
- 72.6 Every appointment or removal of an alternate director shall be made by notice in writing and shall be effective (subject to article 72.1 above) on receipt by the secretary of the notice.

## **REMUNERATION, EXPENSES AND PENSIONS**

### **73. 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 being those appropriate for a company admitted to trading on AIM and in line with the recommendations of the Company's remuneration committee (or as the Company may, by ordinary resolution, determine) and the directors may decide how such fees shall 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.

**74. Special remuneration**

74.1 In line with the recommendations of the Company's remuneration committee, the board may grant special remuneration to any director who performs any special or extra services to or at the request of the Company.

74.2 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 payable under or pursuant to any other of these articles.

**75. Expenses**

In line with the recommendations of the Company's remuneration committee, a director shall be paid out of the funds of the Company all reasonable 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 and general meetings. 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.

**76. Pensions and other benefits**

76.1 The board may, in line with the recommendations of the Company's remuneration committee, exercise all the powers of the Company to pay, provide or procure the grant of pensions or other retirement or superannuation benefits and death, disability or other benefits, allowances or gratuities to 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 company which is or was a subsidiary of or associated with the Company or of the predecessors in business of the Company or any such subsidiary or associated company or the spouses, civil partners, former spouses, former civil partners, children and other relatives and dependants of any such person. For that purpose the board may procure the establishment and maintenance of, or participate in, or contribute to, any non-contributory or contributory pension or superannuation fund, scheme or arrangement and pay any insurance premiums, in line with the recommendations of the Company's remuneration committee.

76.2 Without prejudice to any other provisions of these articles, the directors may exercise all the powers of the Company to purchase and maintain insurance for or for the benefit of any persons who are or were at any time directors of the Company, or of any other body (whether or not incorporated) which is or was its parent undertaking or another subsidiary undertaking of any such parent undertaking (together "Group

Companies") or otherwise associated with the Company or any Group Company or in which the Company or any such Group Company has or had any interest, whether direct or indirect, or of any predecessor in business of any of the foregoing, or who are or were at any time trustees of (or directors of trustees of) any pension, superannuation or similar fund, trust or scheme or any employees' share scheme or other scheme or arrangement in which any employees of the Company or of any such other body are interested, including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) insurance against any costs, charges, expenses, losses or liabilities suffered or incurred by such persons in respect of any act or omission in the actual or purported execution and/or discharge of their duties and/or the actual or purported exercise of their powers and discretions and/or otherwise in relation to or in connection with their duties, powers or offices in relation to the Company or any such other body, fund, trust, scheme or arrangement.

- 76.3 Without prejudice to any other provisions of these articles, in line with the recommendations of the Company's remuneration committee, the directors may exercise all the powers of the Company to establish, maintain, and contribute to any scheme for encouraging or facilitating the holding of shares in the Company or in any connected company by or for the benefit of current or former directors of the Company or any connected company or any company otherwise allied or associated with the Company or connected company or the spouses, civil partners, former spouses, former civil partners, families, connections or dependants of any such persons and, in connection with any such scheme, to establish, maintain and contribute to a trust for the purpose of acquiring and holding shares in the Company or any connected company and to lend money to the trustees of any such trust or to any individual referred to above.

## **POWERS OF THE BOARD**

### **77. General powers of the board to manage the Company's business**

- 77.1 The business of the Company shall be managed by the board which may exercise all the powers of the Company, subject to the Statutes, these articles and any resolution of the Company. No 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.

- 77.2 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.

### **78. 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.

79. **Provisions for employees**

- 79.1 The board may exercise, with the prior sanction of a special resolution, 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 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.
- 79.2 If at any time the capital of the Company is divided into different classes of shares, the exercise of such power as aforesaid shall be deemed to be a variation of the rights attached to each class of shares in issue and shall accordingly require either (i) the prior consent in writing of the holders of at least three-quarters of the nominal value of the issued shares or (ii) the prior sanction of a special resolution passed at a separate general meeting of the holders of the shares of each class, in accordance with the provisions of article 21.

80. **Power to borrow money**

- 80.1 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, subject to the Statutes, 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.
- 80.2 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 will not, without the previous sanction of the Company in general meeting, exceed:
- (a) an amount equal to 2 times adjusted capital and reserves; or
  - (b) any higher limit fixed by ordinary resolution of the Company which is applicable at the relevant time.
- 80.3 In this article:
- (a) **"adjusted capital and reserves"** means the aggregate of:
    - (i) the amount paid up on the allotted share capital of the Company; and
    - (ii) the amounts standing to the credit of the reserves of the Group (including share premium account and capital redemption reserve),after adding or deducting any balance standing to the credit or debit of the Group's profit and loss account or retained earnings account, all as shown in the relevant audited balance sheet but after adding a sum equal to the amount of goodwill arising on the acquisition of any undertaking or business after the

date of adoption of these articles and remaining part of the Group to the extent that it has been written off against reserves;

- (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 redeemable 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:

- (i) 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;
- (ii) borrowings 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;

- (iii) 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;
  - (iv) borrowings of an undertaking which was not a subsidiary undertaking at the date of the relevant balance sheet, to the extent that those borrowings do not exceed its borrowings outstanding on the date when it became a Group company but only until six months after the date on which the undertaking became a subsidiary undertaking; and
  - (v) amounts payable under any hire-purchase agreement, credit sale agreement, operating lease or similar agreement which is not a finance lease for the purposes of article 80.3(f) above;
- (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 from time to time;
- (e) **"Group company"** means any undertaking in the Group; and
- (f) **"relevant balance sheet"** means the audited consolidated balance sheet dealing with the state of affairs of the Company and its subsidiary undertakings comprised in the latest group accounts; and if the Company should prepare its main consolidated balance sheet on the basis of one accounting convention and a supplementary balance sheet on the basis of another, the main one shall be taken as the relevant balance sheet.

80.4 For the purposes of any calculation under this article:

- (a) subject to subparagraph (b) below, a borrowing denominated or repayable, or any cash deposited, 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;

- (b) a borrowing denominated or repayable, or any cash deposited, in a currency other than sterling, in respect of which the Company has entered into hedging arrangements, shall be translated into sterling at the exchange rate at which such borrowing or cash has been hedged; and
  - (c) 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 less amount.
- 80.5 The limit imposed under article 80.2 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.
- 80.6 A certificate or report by the Company's auditors:
- (a) as to the amount of adjusted capital and reserves 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 shall be conclusive evidence as to that amount or fact.
- 80.7 If the Company has joint auditors, references in this article to the Company's auditors are to any of the joint auditors.
- 80.8 No lender or other person dealing with any Group company need enquire whether the limit imposed under article 80.2 above has been or will be complied with.
- 80.9 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**

### **81. 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.

### **82. Committees**

- 82.1 The board may delegate any of its powers, authorities and discretions (with power to sub-delegate if the directors resolve so) 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.

82.2 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 these articles regulating the proceedings of the board so far as they are capable of applying.

### 83. **Local boards**

83.1 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.

83.2 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.

83.3 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. Subject to this, the proceedings of any local board shall be governed by such of these articles as regulate the proceedings of the directors so far as they are capable of applying.

### 84. **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). 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**

### 85. **Directors' interests and power of the board to authorise conflicts**

85.1 For the purpose only of this article 85:

- (i) a conflict of interest includes a conflict of interest and duty and a conflict of duties;
- (ii) an interest means a direct or an indirect interest; and
- (iii) an interest, transaction or arrangement of which a director is aware includes an interest, transaction or arrangement of which that director ought reasonably to be aware.

85.2 For the purposes of section 175 of the 2006 Act, the board may authorise any matter proposed to it in accordance with these articles which would, if not so authorised, involve a breach by a director of his duty to avoid conflicts of interest under the section, including, without limitation, any matter which relates to a situation (a "relevant situation") in which a director has, or can have, an interest which conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interest of the Company or 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.

- (a) Any such authorisation will be effective only if:
  - (i) any requirement as to quorum at the meeting at which the matter is considered is met without counting the director in question or any other interested director; and
  - (ii) the matter was agreed to without their voting or would have been agreed to if their votes had not been counted.
- (b) The board may (whether at the time of the giving of the authorisation or subsequently) make any such authorisation subject to any limits or conditions it expressly imposes but such authorisation is otherwise given to the fullest extent permitted.
- (c) The board may vary or terminate any such authorisation at any time.

85.3 If a matter, or office, employment or position, has been authorised by the board in accordance with this article 85 then:

- (a) the director shall not be required to disclose any confidential information relating to such matter, or such office, employment or position, to the Company if to make such a disclosure would result in a breach of a duty or obligation of confidence owed by him in relation to or in connection with that matter, or that office, employment or position;
- (b) the director may absent himself from meetings of the board at which anything relating to that matter, or that office, employment or position, will or may be discussed; and
- (c) the director may make such arrangements as such director thinks fit for board and committee papers to be received and read by a professional adviser on behalf of that director.

85.4 A director shall not, by reason of his office, be accountable to the Company for any benefit which he derives from any matter, or from any office employment or position, which has been approved by the board pursuant to article 85 (subject in each case to any terms, limits or conditions (if any) attaching to that authorisation).

## 86. **Directors' interests and voting**

### 86.1 Declaration of interests

- (a) A director who is aware that he is in any way interested in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Company must declare the nature and extent of that interest to the other directors.
- (b) A director who is aware that he is in any way interested in a transaction or arrangement that has been entered into by the Company must declare the nature and extent of his interest to the other directors, unless the interest has already been declared under article 86.1(a)
- (c) The declaration of interest must (in the case of article 86.1(b)) and may, but need not (in the case of article 86.1(a)), be made:
  - (i) at a meeting of the directors; or
  - (ii) by notice to the directors in accordance with:
    - (A) section 184 of the 2006 Act (notice in writing); or
    - (B) section 185 of the 2006 Act (general notice).
- (d) For the purposes of this article, a general notice given to the board by a director to the effect that:
  - (i) he is a member of a specified company or firm and is to be regarded as interested in any other contract which may after the date of the notice be made with that company or firm; or
  - (ii) he is to be regarded as interested in any contract which may after the date of the notice be made with a specified person who is connected with him,shall be deemed to be a sufficient declaration of interest under this article in relation to any such contract but no such notice shall be effective unless either it is given at a board meeting or the director takes reasonable steps to secure that it is brought up and read at the next board meeting after it is given.
- (e) If a declaration of interest, or deemed declaration of interest, proves to be, or becomes, inaccurate or incomplete, a further disclosure must be made.
- (f) Any declaration of interest required by article 86.1(b) above must be made as soon as reasonably practicable. Failure to comply with this requirement does not affect the underlying duty to make the declaration of interest.
- (g) Any declaration of interest required by article 86.1(a) above must be made before the Company enters into the transaction or arrangement.
- (h) For the purposes of articles 86.1(a) and 86.1(b), a director need not declare an interest:

- (i) if it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest;
- (ii) if, or to the extent that, the other directors are already aware of it; or
- (iii) if, or to the extent that, it concerns terms of his service contract that have been or are to be considered:
  - (A) by a meeting of the directors; or
  - (B) by a committee of the directors appointed for the purpose under these articles.

86.2 Subject to the Statutes, a director shall not be disqualified by his office from entering into any contract 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. Subject to the interest of the director being duly declared in accordance with article 86.1, a contract entered into by or on behalf of the Company in which any director is in any way interested shall not be liable to be avoided, nor shall any director so interested be liable to account to the Company for any benefit resulting from the contract, by reason of the director holding that office or of the fiduciary relationship established by his holding that office.

86.3 Subject to the interest of the directors being duly declared and authorised in accordance with article 86.1, a director may 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 may 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.

86.4 Subject to the interest being duly declared and authorised in accordance with article 85.1, a director may be or become a member or employee or director of, or hold any other office or place of profit under, or a party to any contract, transaction or arrangement with, or otherwise be interested in, any other company in which the Company may be interested (directly or indirectly) as a holder or otherwise or any parent undertaking or subsidiary undertaking of any parent undertaking of the Company, and shall not be liable to account to the Company, by reason of his office, for any benefit received by him as a member or employee or director of, or holder of any other office or place of profit under, or a party to any contract, transaction or arrangement with, or from his membership or other interest in, that company or undertaking and nor shall the receipt of such benefit by him constitute a breach of his duty under section 176 of the 2006 Act not to accept benefits from third parties. No such office, employment, contract, transaction or arrangement or interest shall be liable to be avoided on the ground of any such interest or benefit.

86.5 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).

- 86.6 Subject to the interest being duly declared in accordance with article 86.1 a director may act by himself or his firm in a professional capacity for the Company (except as auditor) and he or his firm shall be entitled to remuneration for professional services as if he were not a director.
- 86.7 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 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.

**87. Directors' Voting**

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.

A director shall also not vote (or be counted in the quorum at a meeting) in relation to any resolution relating to any contract or arrangement or other proposal in which he has an interest which (together with any interest of any connected person of his) has to his knowledge a material 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 contract 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 contract concerning any other company in which he and any connected persons do not to his knowledge hold an interest in shares (within the meaning of Part 22 of the 2006 Act) representing one per cent. or more of any class of the equity share capital of that company or of the voting rights available to members 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) any proposal concerning the funding of expenditure by one or more directors on defending proceedings against him or them or doing anything to enable such directors incurring such expenditure.

87.2 For the purposes of this paragraph a person is a "connected person" in relation to a director if that person is deemed to be connected with that director within the meaning of section 252 of the 2006 Act.

87.3 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.

87.4 If any question arises at any meeting as to whether the interest of a director (other than the chairman of the meeting) shall reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest or as to the entitlement of any director (other than the chairman of the meeting) to vote or be counted in a quorum and the question is not resolved by his voluntarily agreeing to abstain from voting, the question shall be referred to the chairman 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 chairman of the meeting and is not resolved by his voluntarily agreeing to abstain from voting or counting in the quorum, the question shall be decided by a resolution of the board (for which purpose the chairman shall not be counted in the quorum and 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 chairman, so far as known to him, has not been fairly disclosed.

- 87.5 Subject to the Statutes the Company may by ordinary resolution suspend or relax the provisions of this article to any extent or ratify any contract not duly authorised by reason of a contravention of this article.

## **PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD**

### **88. Board meetings**

Subject to the provisions of these articles, 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.

### **89. Notice of board meetings**

Notice of a board meeting may be given to a director personally or by word of mouth or given in writing or by electronic means to him at such address as he may from time to time specify for this purpose (or if he does not specify an address, at his last known address). A director may waive notice of any meeting either prospectively or retrospectively. A director absent or intending to be absent from the United Kingdom may request that notices of meetings of the directors shall during his absence be sent in writing to him to such address given by him to the Company for this purpose, whether or not out of the United Kingdom, or be sent by electronic means to such address (if any) for the time being notified by him to the Company for that purpose. If no such request is made to the directors, it shall not be necessary to send notice of a meeting of the directors to any director who is for the time being absent from the United Kingdom.

### **90. Quorum**

- 90.1 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 not being less than two, shall be two.

- 90.2 Subject to 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.

### **91. Chairman or deputy chairman to preside**

- 91.1 The board may appoint a chairman and one or more deputy chairman or chairmen on such terms and for such periods (subject to the Statutes and any retirement from office under article 67 (Retirement of directors)) as it may determine and may at any time revoke any such appointment.

- 91.2 The chairman, or failing him any deputy chairman (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 chairman or deputy chairman 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 chairman of the meeting, the directors present shall choose one of their number to act as chairman of the meeting.

**92. 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.

**93. Voting**

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

**94. Telephone board meeting**

94.1 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 electronic means which enables him:

- (a) to hear each of the other participating directors addressing the meeting; and
- (b) if he so wishes, to address all of the other participating directors simultaneously.

94.2 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 90, may participate in the manner specified above in the business of the meeting.

94.3 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 chairman of the meeting participates.

**95. Resolutions without meetings**

95.1 A resolution which is signed or approved by all the directors entitled to vote on that resolution or a duly appointed committee for the time being shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a board meeting duly called and constituted. The resolution may be contained in one document (including faxes) or electronic communication or in several documents (including faxes) or electronic communications in like form, each signed or approved by one or more of the directors concerned provided that all those signing or agreeing to the resolution would have formed a quorum at such a meeting. 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 shall be given in writing or by electronic means;

- (c) a written instrument is executed when the person executing it signs it;
- (d) an electronic communication is executed when the person executing it sends it provided that it has been authenticated in such manner (if any) as the secretary shall prescribe;
- (e) a resolution shall be effective when the secretary certifies that sufficient evidence has been received by him that the resolution has been executed in accordance with this article.

96. **Validity of acts of directors in spite of formal defect**

All acts bona fide done by a meeting of the board, or of a committee, or by any person acting as a director or a member of a committee, shall, notwithstanding that it is afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of any member of the board or committee or of the person so acting, or that they or any of them were disqualified or had vacated office or were not entitled to vote, be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed and qualified to be a director and had continued to be a director or member of the committee and had been entitled to vote.

97. **Minutes**

97.1 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.

98. **Statutory books**

Any register, index, minute book, book of account or other book required by these articles or the Statutes to be kept by or on behalf of the Company may, subject to the Statutes, be kept either by making entries in bound books or by recording them in any other manner. In any case in which bound books are not used, the directors shall take adequate precautions for guarding against falsification and for facilitating its discovery.

**SECRETARY**

99. **Secretary**

Subject to the Statutes, 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).

## SHARE CERTIFICATES

### 100. Issue of share certificates

- 100.1 A person whose name is entered in the register as the holder of any certificated shares shall be entitled (unless the conditions of issue or the Statutes 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.
- 100.2 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.
- 100.3 A share certificate may be issued under seal 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). 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.
- 100.4 A share certificate may be given to a member in accordance with the provisions of these articles on notices.
- 100.5 Every certificate must be issued within two months (or such longer period as the terms of issue shall provide) after allotment or within fourteen days after lodgement with the Company of the transfer of the shares provided that this is not a transfer which the Company is for any reason entitled to refuse to register and does not register.
- 100.6 Where only some of the shares comprised in a share certificate are transferred the old certificate shall be cancelled and a new certificate for the balance of such shares shall be issued in lieu without charge.

### 101. Charges for and replacement of certificates

- 101.1 Except as expressly provided to the contrary in these articles, no fee shall be charged for the issue of a share certificate.
- 101.2 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 in lieu.
- 101.3 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.
- 101.4 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 free of charge 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.

- 101.5 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.

## **LIEN ON SHARES**

### **102. Lien on partly paid shares**

102.1 The Company shall have a first and paramount lien on every share (not being a fully paid share) (and to the extent permitted by the Statutes) for all amounts payable (whether or not due) in respect of that share. The lien shall extend to every amount payable in respect of that share.

102.2 The board may at any time either generally or in any particular case declare any share to be wholly or partly exempt from this article. Unless otherwise agreed, the registration of a transfer of a share shall operate as a waiver of the Company's lien (if any) on that share.

### **103. Enforcement of lien**

103.1 The Company may sell any share subject to a lien in such manner as the board may decide if an amount payable on the share is due and is not paid within fourteen clear days after a notice has been given to the holder or any person entitled by transmission to the share demanding payment of that amount and giving notice of intention to sell in default.

103.2 To give effect to any sale under this article, the board may authorise some person to transfer the share sold to, or as directed by, the purchaser. Subject to payment of any stamp or other duty due, the purchaser shall be entered in the register as the holder of the shares comprised in any such transfer, the purchaser 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.

103.3 The net proceeds of the sale, after payment of the costs, shall be applied in or towards satisfaction of the amount due and any residue shall (subject to a like lien for any amounts not presently due as existed on the share before the sale), on surrender of the certificate for the shares sold, be paid to the holder or person entitled by transmission to the share immediately before the sale.

## **CALLS ON SHARES**

### **104. Calls**

104.1 Subject to the terms of allotment and to the provisions of these articles, the board may make calls on the members in respect of any moneys unpaid on their shares (whether in respect of nominal amount or premium) and each member shall (subject to his receiving at least fourteen clear days' notice specifying when and where payment is to

be made) pay to the Company as required by the notice the amount called on his shares. A call may be revoked or postponed as the board may decide.

104.2 Any call may be made payable in one sum or by instalments and shall be deemed to be made at the time when the resolution of the board authorising that call is passed.

104.3 A person on whom a call is made shall remain liable for it notwithstanding the subsequent transfer of the share in respect of which the call is made.

104.4 The joint holders of a share shall be jointly and severally liable for the payment of all calls in respect of that share.

105. **Interest on calls**

If a call is not paid before or on the due date for payment, the person from whom it is due shall pay interest on the amount unpaid, from the due date for payment to the date of actual payment, at such rate as the board may decide, but the board may waive payment of the interest, wholly or in part.

106. **Sums treated as calls**

A sum (whether on account of the nominal value of the share or by way of premium) which by the terms of allotment of a share is payable on allotment, or at a fixed time, or by instalments at fixed times, shall for all purposes of these articles be deemed to be a call duly made and payable on the date or dates fixed for payment and, in case of non-payment, these articles shall apply as if that sum had become payable by virtue of a call.

107. **Power to differentiate**

On any issue of shares the board may make arrangements for a difference between the allottees or holders of the shares in the amounts and times of payment of calls on their shares.

108. **Payment of calls in advance**

The board may, if it thinks fit, receive all or any part of the moneys payable on a share beyond the sum actually called up on it if the holder is willing to make payment in advance and, on any moneys so paid in advance, may (until they would otherwise be due) pay interest at such rate as may be agreed between the board and the member paying the sum in advance.

## **FORFEITURE OF SHARES**

109. **Notice of unpaid calls**

109.1 If the whole or any part of any call or instalment remains unpaid on any share after the due date for payment, the board may at any time after such date give a notice to the holder requiring him to pay so much of the call or instalment as remains unpaid, together with any accrued interest.

109.2 The notice shall state a further day, being not less than fourteen clear days from the date of the notice, on or before which, and the place where, payment is to be made and shall state that, in the event of non-payment on or before the day and at the place appointed, the share in respect of which the call was made or instalment is payable will be liable to be forfeited.

109.3 The board may accept a surrender of any share liable to be forfeited.

#### **110. Forfeiture on non-compliance with notice**

110.1 If the requirements of a notice given under the preceding article are not complied with, any share in respect of which notice was given may (before the payment required by the notice is made) be forfeited by a resolution of the board to that effect. The forfeiture shall include all dividends declared and other moneys payable in respect of the forfeited share and not actually paid before the forfeiture.

110.2 If a share is forfeited, notice of the forfeiture shall be given to the person who was the holder of the share or (as the case may be) the person entitled to the share by transmission, and an entry that notice of the forfeiture has been given, with the relevant date, shall be made in the register; but no forfeiture shall be invalidated by any omission to give such notice or to make such entry.

#### **111. Power to annul forfeiture or surrender**

The board may, at any time before the forfeited or surrendered share has been sold, re-allotted or otherwise disposed of, annul the forfeiture or surrender upon payment of all calls and interest due on or incurred in respect of the share and on such further conditions (if any) as it thinks fit.

#### **112. Disposal of forfeited or surrendered shares**

112.1 Every share which is forfeited or surrendered shall become the property of the Company and (subject to the Statutes) may be sold, re-allotted or otherwise disposed of, upon such terms and in such manner as the board shall decide either to the person who was before the forfeiture the holder of the share or to any other person and whether with or without all or any part of the amount previously paid up on the share being credited as so paid up. The board may if they consider it necessary for the purposes of a disposal authorise some person to transfer the forfeited or surrendered share to, or in accordance with the directions of, any person to whom the same has been disposed of.

112.2 A statutory declaration by a director or the secretary that a share has been forfeited or surrendered on a specified date shall, as against all persons claiming to be entitled to the share, be conclusive evidence of the facts stated in it and shall (subject to the execution of any necessary transfer) constitute a good title to the share. The person to whom the share has been disposed of shall not be bound to see to the application of the consideration for the disposal (if any) nor shall his title to the share be affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the proceedings connected with the forfeiture, surrender, sale, re-allotment or disposal of the share.

**113. Arrears to be paid notwithstanding forfeiture or surrender**

A person whose shares have been forfeited or surrendered shall cease to be a member in respect of the forfeited or surrendered share and shall surrender to the Company for cancellation any certificate for the share forfeited or surrendered, but shall remain liable (unless payment is waived in whole or in part by the board) to pay to the Company all moneys payable by him on or in respect of that share at the time of forfeiture or surrender, together with interest from the time of forfeiture or surrender until payment at such rate as the board shall decide, in the same manner as if the share had not been forfeited or surrendered. He shall also be liable to satisfy all the claims and demands (if any) which the Company might have enforced in respect of the share at the time of forfeiture or surrender. No deduction or allowance shall be made for the value of the share at the time of forfeiture or surrender or for any consideration received on its disposal, but his liability shall cease if and when the Company shall have received payment in full of all such moneys in respect of the shares.

**114. Effects of forfeiture**

The forfeiture or surrender of a share shall involve the extinction at the time of forfeiture or surrender of all interest in and all claims and demands against the Company in respect of the share and all other rights and liabilities incidental to the share as between the holder whose share is forfeited or surrendered and the Company, except only such of those rights and liabilities as are by these articles expressly saved, or as are by the Statutes given or imposed in the case of past members.

**SEAL**

**115. Seal**

115.1 The Company may exercise the powers conferred by the Statutes with regard to having official seals and those powers shall be vested in the board.

115.2 The board shall provide for the safe custody of every seal of the Company.

115.3 Subject to article 115.3 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.

115.4 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.

115.5 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 a director in the presence of a witness.

115.6 Where the Statutes so permit, any instrument signed by one director and the secretary or by two directors or by a director in the presence of a witness who attests to the signature and expressed, in whatever words, to be executed by the company shall have the same effect as if executed under the seal, provided that no instrument shall be so signed which makes it clear on its face that it is intended by the person or persons making it to be a deed without the authority of the board or a committee authorised by the board in that behalf. The board may by resolution determine that such signatures or either of them shall be affixed by some mechanical or electronic method or system.

## **DIVIDENDS**

### **116. Declaration of dividends by the Company**

Subject to the provisions of the Statutes, 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. For the avoidance of doubt, no dividend shall be payable to the Company itself in respect of any shares held by it as treasury shares (except to the extent permitted by the Statutes).

### **117. 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 (provided that at the time of the declaration no preferential dividend is in arrears).

### **118. Calculation and currency of dividends**

118.1 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; and
- (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.

118.2 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.

## 119. Method of payment

119.1 Any dividend or other sum payable in respect of a share can be paid by such methods as the board, in their absolute discretion, may decide. Different methods of payment may apply to different holders or groups of holders. Without limiting any other method of payment which the Company may adopt, the board may decide that payment can be made wholly or partly:

- (a) by interbank transfer, electronic form, or by such other electronic means approved by the board (including, in the case of an uncertified share, a relevant system) directly to an account (of a type approved by the directors) nominated in writing by the holder or the joint holders; or
- (b) by cheque or dividend warrant made payable to the holder who is entitled to it and sent direct to his registered address or, in the case of joint holders, to the holder who is first named in the register and sent direct to his registered address, 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.

119.2 If the board decide that payments will be made by electronic transfer to an account (of a type approved by the board) nominated by the holder (or, in the case of joint holders nominated by all the joint holders) but no such account is nominated or an electronic transfer into a nominated account is rejected or refunded, the Company may credit the amount payable to an account of the Company to be held until the holder nominates a valid account.

119.3 An amount credited to an account under article 119.2 is to be treated as having been paid to the holder at the time it is credited to that account. The Company will not be a trustee of the money and no interest will accrue on the money.

119.4 Payment by electronic transfer, cheque or dividend warrant, or 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 dividend warrant or transmission of funds through a bank or other funds transfer system or of such a cheque or dividend warrant or by such other means as is permitted by these articles shall be a good discharge to the Company.

119.5 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.

119.6 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.

## 120. 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.

**121. 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.

**122. Unclaimed dividends etc**

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 unclaimed for a period of twelve years after having been declared/become due for payment shall be forfeited and cease to remain owing by the Company. 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.

**123. Uncashed dividends**

If:

- (a) at least two consecutive payments 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 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; and
- (b) such payments are left uncashed or returned to the Company on both consecutive occasions, the Company shall not be obliged to send any dividends or other sums payable in respect of that share 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.

**124. Dividends in specie**

124.1 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.

124.2 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.

**125. Scrip dividends**

125.1 The board may, with the authority of an ordinary resolution of the Company, offer any holders of any particular class of shares (excluding, for the avoidance of doubt,

the Company itself to the extent that it is such a holder by virtue only of its holding any shares as treasury shares) the right to elect to receive further shares whether or not of that class, 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.

- 125.2 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.
- 125.3 The basis of allotment shall be decided by the board so that, as nearly as may be considered convenient, the value of the further 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).
- 125.4 For the purposes of article 125.3 above the value of the further shares shall be:
- (a) equal to the average middle-market quotation for a fully paid share of the relevant class, adjusted if necessary for the proposed dividend, as shown in the London Stock Exchange Daily Official List or as established from such other source as the board considers appropriate for the five business days immediately preceding or following the announcement of the cash dividend to which the scrip dividend relates, as the board may decide; or
  - (b) calculated in such manner as may be determined by or in accordance with the ordinary resolution.
- 125.5 A certificate or report by the auditors of the Company as to the value of the further shares in respect of any dividend (if required) shall be conclusive evidence of that amount and in giving such a certificate or report the auditors of the Company may rely on advice or information from brokers or other sources of information as they think fit.
- 125.6 The board shall give notice in writing to the holders of shares 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.
- 125.7 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 shares of the relevant class 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.
- 125.8 The further shares so allotted shall rank *pari passu* in all respects with the fully paid shares of the same class then in issue except as regards participation in the relevant dividend.
- 125.9 The board may decide that the right to elect for any scrip dividend shall not be made available to members resident in any territory where, in the opinion of the board, compliance with local laws or regulations would be unduly onerous.

125.10 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 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 shares in respect of any dividend is less than the value of one new share of the relevant class (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.

125.11 The board may from time to time establish or vary a procedure for election mandates, under which a holder of shares may, in respect of any future dividends for which a right of election pursuant to this article is offered, elect to receive shares in lieu of such dividend on the terms of such mandate.

125.12 The board shall not make a scrip dividend available unless the Company has sufficient new shares and undistributed profits or reserves to give effect to elections which could be made to receive that scrip dividend.

## **CAPITALISATION OF RESERVES**

### **126. Capitalisation of reserves**

126.1 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 or retained earnings 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 new 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 and the capital redemption reserve and any sum not available for distribution in accordance with the Statutes may only be applied in paying up new shares to be allotted credited as fully paid up. The directors may resolve that any shares so allocated to any member in respect of a holding by him of any partly paid shares shall, so long as such shares remain partly paid, rank for dividend only to the extent that the latter shares rank for dividend.

126.2 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.

126.3 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.

#### **127. Capitalisation of reserves- employees' share schemes**

127.1 This article (which is without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of the immediately preceding article) applies:

- (a) where a person is granted pursuant to an employees' share scheme a right to subscribe for shares in the Company in cash at a subscription price less than their nominal value; and
- (b) where, pursuant to an employees' share scheme, the terms on which any person is entitled to subscribe in cash for shares in the Company are adjusted as a result of a capitalisation issue, rights issue or other variation of capital so that the subscription price is less than their nominal value.

127.2 In any such case the board:

- (a) shall transfer to a reserve account a sum equal to the deficiency between the subscription price and the nominal value of the shares (the "cash deficiency") 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 127.4 below) shall not apply that reserve account for any purpose other than paying up the cash deficiency upon the allotment of those shares.

127.3 Whenever the Company is required to allot shares pursuant to such a right to subscribe, the board shall (subject to the Statutes) appropriate to capital out of the reserve account an amount equal to the cash deficiency applicable to those shares, apply that amount in paying up the deficiency on the nominal value of those shares and allot those shares credited as fully paid to the person entitled to them.

127.4 If any person ceases to be entitled to subscribe for shares as described above, the restrictions on the reserve account shall cease to apply in relation to such part of the account as is equal to the amount of the cash deficiency applicable to those shares.

127.5 No right shall be granted under any employees' share scheme under article 127.1(a) above and no adjustment shall be made as mentioned in article 127.1(b) above unless

there are sufficient profits or reserves of the Company available for distribution and not required for the payment of any preferential dividend to permit the transfer to a reserve account in accordance with this article of an amount sufficient to pay up the cash deficiency applicable to the shares concerned.

## **RECORD DATES**

### **128. Fixing of record dates**

128.1 Notwithstanding any other 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.

128.2 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**

### **129. Accounting records**

129.1 The board shall cause accounting records of the Company to be kept in accordance with the Statutes.

129.2 No member (as such) shall have any right of inspecting any account, book or document of the Company, except as conferred by the Statutes or authorised by the board or by any ordinary resolution of the Company or under the Court of competent jurisdiction.

## **NOTICES**

### **130. Form of notices**

130.1 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 130.2 below, contained in an electronic communication.

130.2 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.

### **131. Manner of giving notices**

131.1 A notice in writing, document or other communication may be given 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 if the member has no registered address to

the postal address, if any, supplied by him to the Company as his address for the service of notices) or by leaving it at that address.

131.2 Subject to the Statutes, 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 web site where:

- (a) the Company and that member have agreed to the use of electronic communication for sending copies of documents to the member and:
  - (i) the documents are documents to which the agreement applies; and
  - (ii) copies of the documents are sent using electronic communication to such address (or to one of such addresses if more than one) as may for the time being be notified by the member to the Company for that purpose; or
  - (iii) the Company and that member have agreed to that member having access to documents on a website (instead of documents being sent to him); and:
    - (A) the member has agreed (generally or specifically) that the notice, document or other communication may be sent or supplied to him by being made available on a website (and has not revoked that agreement), or the member has been asked by the Company to agree that the Company may send or supply notices, documents and other communications generally, or the notice, document or other communication in question, to him by making it available on a website and the Company has not received a response within the period of 28 days beginning on the date on which the Company's request was sent and the member is therefore taken to have so agreed (and has not revoked that agreement);
    - (B) the member is sent a notification of the presence of the notice, document or communication on a website, the address of that website, the place on that website where it may be accessed, how it may be accessed and any other information prescribed by the Statutes ("notification of availability");
    - (C) in the case of a notice of meeting, the notification of availability states that it concerns a notice of a company meeting, specifies the place, time and date of the meeting, and states whether it will be an annual general meeting; and
    - (D) the notice, document or communication continues to be published on that website, in the case of a notice of meeting, throughout the period beginning with the date of the notification of availability and ending with the conclusion of the meeting and in all other cases throughout the period specified by any applicable provision of the Statutes, or, if no

such period is specified, throughout the period of 28 days beginning with the date on which the notification of availability is sent to the member, save that if the notice, document or communication is made available for part only of that period then failure to make it available throughout that period shall be disregarded where such failure is wholly attributable to circumstances which it would not be reasonable to have expected the Company to prevent or avoid.

- 131.3 A member of the Company which is itself a company shall be deemed to have agreed that the Company may send a notice or other document in accordance with article 131.2(a) above if the member is deemed by a provision in the Statutes to have agreed that the notice or document may be so sent.
- 131.4 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. The agreement of the first named holder that notices, documents and other communications may be given, sent or supplied in electronic form or by being made available on a website shall be binding on all the joint holders.
- 131.5 A member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the Company an address within the United Kingdom (not being an electronic address) at which notices may be given to him shall be entitled to have notices given to him at that address but, unless he does so, shall not be entitled to receive any notice from the Company.
- 131.6 For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of this article 131 are subject to article 36.

**132. Notice in event failure of postal services**

If at any time by reason of the suspension or curtailment of postal services within the United Kingdom or any part of the United Kingdom, or of services for delivery by electronic means, the Company is unable in the opinion of the board effectively to convene a general meeting or annual general meeting by notices sent through the post (or by notification by post as to the availability of the notice of meeting on a website) or (in the case of those members in respect of whom an address has for the time being been notified to the Company, in a manner specified by the board, for the purpose of giving notices by electronic means) by electronic means, the board may decide that the only persons to whom notice of the affected general meeting or annual general meeting must be sent are:

- (a) the board;
- (b) the Company's auditors;
- (c) those members to whom notice to convene the general meeting or annual general meeting can validly be sent by electronic means; and

- (d) those members to whom notice to convene the general meeting or annual general meeting can validly be sent by means of a website and to whom notification as to the availability of the notice of meeting on a website can validly be sent by electronic means.

In any such case the Company shall:

- (i) send confirmatory copies of the notice (or a confirmatory notification as to the availability of the notice on the Company's website in the case of those members to whom notice to convene the general meeting or annual general meeting can validly be sent by means of a website but to whom notification as to the availability of the notice of the meeting on a website cannot validly be sent by electronic means) by post or (as the case may be) by electronic means if, at least seven days prior to the date of the general meeting or annual general meeting, the posting of notices to addresses throughout the United Kingdom or (as the case may be) the sending of notices by electronic means again becomes, in the opinion of the board, practicable;
- (ii) advertise the notice of meeting in at least one national newspaper; and
- (iii) make the notice of meeting available on its website from the day the notice was sent until the conclusion of the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

### **133. When notice is deemed given**

- 133.1 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.
- 133.2 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.
- 133.3 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. Proof that a notice, document or other information in electronic form was sent will be sufficient to prove that the notice, document or other information was properly addressed subject to the provisions of section 1147(4) of the 2006 Act as to deemed delivery of documents or information by means of a website.
- 133.4 Any notice, document or other communication that has been made available on a website shall be deemed to have been received on the date on which notification of

availability on the website is deemed to have been received in accordance with this article or, if later, the date on which it is first made available on the website.

133.5 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.

133.6 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 2006 Act) 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.

**134. Record date for giving notices**

134.1 For the purposes of giving notices of meetings, documents or other communications, whether under the Statutes, 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.

134.2 The day determined by the Company under article 134.1 above may not be more than fifteen days before the day that the notice of the meeting, document or other communication is given.

**135. 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.

**UNTRACED MEMBERS**

**136. Sale of shares of untraced members**

136.1 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 and have been sent by the Company in accordance with these articles;
- (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 funds transfer

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 published advertisements both in a national newspaper and in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the last known address of the member or person entitled by transmission to the share or the address at which notices may be given in accordance with these articles is located, in each case giving notice of its intention to sell the share; and
- (d) during the period of three months following the publication of those advertisements 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.

136.2 The Company's power of sale shall extend to any further share which, on or before the date of publication of the first of any advertisement pursuant to article 136.1(c) above, is issued in right of a share to which article 136.1 applies (or in right of any share to which this paragraph applies) if the conditions set out in articles 136.1(b) to (d) 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 further share and ending on the date of publication of the first of the advertisements referred to above).

136.3 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.

### 137. **Application of proceeds of sale**

137.1 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.

137.2 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.

137.3 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.

## **DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS**

### 138. **Destruction of documents**

138.1 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 two years 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;
- (d) at any time after the expiration of two years from the date of actual payment, all paid dividend warrants and cheques;
- (e) at any time after the expiration of one year from the date of use if it was used for a poll, or after one month from the end of the meeting to which it relates if it was not used for a poll, all proxy forms;
- (f) any other document on the basis of which any entry in the register is made, at any time after the expiry of six years from the date of its registration; and
- (g) all notifications of change of name or address after the expiry of one year from the date on which they are recorded.

138.2 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 138.1 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.

138.3 The provisions of article 138.2 above shall apply only to the destruction of a document in good faith and without express notice of any claim (regardless of the parties to it) to which the document might be relevant.

138.4 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 138.1 above or in any other circumstances in which liability would not attach to the Company or the board in the absence of this article.

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

## **INDEMNITY**

### **139. Indemnity of officers**

Subject to the Statutes, every person who is or was a director or other officer (excluding an auditor) of the Company or any associated company, directly or indirectly, shall be indemnified 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 but:

- (a) this indemnity shall not apply to any liability to the extent that it is recovered from any other person; and
- (b) the indemnity is subject to such officer taking all reasonable steps to effect such recovery, to the intent that the indemnity shall not apply where an alternative right of recovery is available and capable of being enforced.

### **140. Indemnity for qualifying pension scheme**

Subject to the Statutes, the Company may indemnify to any extent any person who is or was a director of an associated company that is a trustee of an occupational pension scheme, directly or indirectly (including by funding any expenditure incurred or to be incurred by him) against any liability incurred by him in connection with the Company's activities as trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the 2006 Act).

### **141. Funds incurred in officer's defence**

Subject to the Statutes, the Company may at the discretion of the board provide every director or other officer (excluding an auditor) of the Company with funds to meet expenditure incurred or to be incurred by him (or to enable such director or officer to avoid incurring such expenditure) in defending any civil or criminal proceedings, any regulatory actions or investigations or in connection with any application under the provisions referred to in section 205(5) of the 2006 Act.

### **142. 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.