

Company No: ~~3276063~~[03276063](#)

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

OXFORD TECHNOLOGY VENTURE CAPITAL TRUST PLC

PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

(adopted by special resolution on [~~•~~] ~~July 2020~~[2021](#))

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ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

of

OXFORD TECHNOLOGY VENTURE CAPITAL [TRUST](#) PLC

(THE "COMPANY")

Interpretation

1 EXCLUSION OF MODEL ARTICLES

No articles set out in any statute, or in any statutory instrument or other subordinate legislation made under any statute, concerning companies shall apply as the articles of the Company.

2 DEFINITIONS

In these articles unless the context otherwise requires:

"address"	includes a number or address used for the purposes of sending or receiving documents or information by electronic means;
"assets attributable to the B Shares"	the net cash proceeds (after all expenses relating thereto) of any issue of the B Shares as invested in or represented by investments or cash or other assets from time to time less such proportion of the Company's expenses and liabilities as the directors shall reasonably allocate to the assets attributable to the B Shares;
"assets attributable to the Ordinary Shares"	the assets of the Company attributable to the Ordinary Shares being the assets of the Company less (a) the assets attributable to the B Shares and (b) such proportion of the Company's assets and liabilities as the directors shall reasonably allocate to the assets attributable to the Ordinary Shares;
"these articles"	means these articles of association as altered from time to time and the expression "this article" shall be construed accordingly;
"the auditors"	means the auditors from time to time of the Company or, in the case of joint auditors, any one of them;
"B Shares"	the B ordinary shares of one penny each in the capital of the Company;
"the Bank of England base rate"	means the base lending rate most recently set by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England in connection with its responsibilities under Part 2 of the Bank of England Act 1998;
"the board"	means the board of directors from time to time of the Company or the directors present at a meeting of the directors at which a quorum is present;

“Business Day”	for this purpose means any day on which banks are open for business in London (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays);
“certificated share”	means a share which is not an uncertificated share and references in these articles to a share being held in certificated form shall be construed accordingly;
“clear days”	in relation to the period of a notice means that period excluding the day when the notice is served or deemed to be served and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;
“the Companies Acts”	means every statute (including any orders, regulations or other subordinate legislation made under it) from time to time in force concerning companies in so far as it applies to the Company;
“Calculation Date”	means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the date when the latest published net asset value per Ordinary Share (calculated in accordance with the Company’s usual accounting policies) is less than 5p per Ordinary Share if the board determines that it is in the interests of the members of the Company as a whole for Conversion to commence; or (b) the Business Day next following the sanction of a special resolution proposed by the board (and passed at a separate class meeting of the holders of Ordinary Shares convened and held in accordance with the provisions of these articles) that notwithstanding the condition in (a) above not being met, it is in the interests of the members of the Company as a whole for Conversion to commence.
“Conversion”	the conversion (and, where relevant, subdivision) of Ordinary Shares in accordance with article 10;
“Conversion Date”	means the close of business on such Business Day as selected by the directors (in their absolute discretion) provided that such day shall not be more than 10 Business Days after the Calculation Date;
“Conversion Deferred Shares”	means conversion deferred shares of one penny each in the capital of the Company arising on Conversion;
“Conversion Ratio”	means the ratio at the Calculation Date to be used to determine the number of New B Shares and Conversion Deferred Shares arising on Conversion, being the ratio of the Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share to the Net Asset Value per B Share at the Calculation Date, calculated to eight decimal places (with 0.000000005 being rounded upwards) more particularly being: $\frac{A}{B}$

Where $A = \frac{(C-D)}{E}$ and $B = \frac{(F-G)}{H}$

Where:

“C” is the aggregate of:

- (i) the value of all the investments of the Company attributable to the Ordinary Shares valued in accordance with the Company's normal accounting policies subject to such adjustments as the directors may deem appropriate; and
- (ii) the amount which in the directors' opinion fairly reflects at the Calculation Date the value of the current assets of the Company attributable to the Ordinary Shares (excluding the investments valued at (i) above but including cash and deposits with or balances at bank and any accrued income less accrued expenses and other items of a revenue nature);

“D” is the amount (to the extent not otherwise deducted in the calculation of 'C') which in the directors' opinion fairly reflects the amount of the liabilities and expenses attributable to the Ordinary Shares at the Calculation Date (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any declared but unpaid interim dividend in respect of the Ordinary Shares);

“E” is the number of Ordinary Shares in issue at the Calculation Date;

“F” is the aggregate of:

- (i) the value of all the investments of the Company attributable to the B Shares valued in accordance with the Company's normal accounting policies, subject to such adjustments as the directors may deem appropriate; and
- (ii) the amount which, in the directors' opinion, fairly reflects at the Calculation Date the value of current assets of the Company attributable to the B Shares (excluding the investments valued under (i) above but including cash and deposits with or balances at bank and any accrued income less accrued expenses and other items of a revenue nature);

“G” is the amount which (to the extent not otherwise deducted in the calculation of F) in the directors' opinion fairly reflects the amount of the liabilities and expenses of the Company attributable to the Existing B Shares at the Calculation Date including for the avoidance of doubt all expenses of the issue

of B Shares attributable to the B Shares and any declared but unpaid interim dividend in respect of the B Shares; and

“H” is the aggregate of the number of B Shares (excluding any B Shares held in treasury) in issue at the Calculation Date,

provided that the directors shall be entitled to make such adjustments to the value or amount of A or B as the auditors shall state, in their opinion, is appropriate having regard inter alia (a) to the assets of the Company immediately prior to the date on which the B Shares are issued and (b) to the reasons for the issue of the B Shares set out in any prospectus relating to the B Shares;

“CREST”	means the computerised settlement system operated by Euroclear which facilitates the transfer of shares;
“Deferred 2020 Shares”	means deferred shares of 9 pence each in the capital of the Company;
“electronic communication”	means any document or information sent or supplied in electronic form within the meaning of Section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006.
“Existing B Shares”	the B Shares of one penny each in the capital of the Company in issue prior to the relevant Conversion Date;
“the holder”	in relation to any shares means the member whose name is entered in the register as the holder of those shares;
“the London Stock Exchange”	means London Stock Exchange Plc;
“member”	means a member of the Company;
“New B Shares”	means the new B Shares arising upon Conversion;
“the office”	means the registered office from time to time of the Company;
“Ordinary Shares”	means ordinary shares of one penny <u>10p</u> each in the capital of the Company;
“overseas shareholders”	means holders of ordinary shares who are resident in, or citizens of, countries outside the United Kingdom and who have not supplied an address in the United Kingdom for the service of notices;
“paid up”	means paid up or credited as paid up;
“participating class”	means a class of shares title to which is permitted by an operator of the relevant electronic system to be transferred by means of a relevant system;
“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;

“present”	means for the purposes of physically held meetings, present in person or, for the purposes of electronically held meetings, present by electronic means;
“principal place”	has the meaning given to it in article 58;
“prior charges”	include all loans and overdrafts that are to be used for investment purposes;
“Properly Authenticated Dematerialised Instruction”	has the meaning given to that expression in the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001;
“qualifying shareholders”	means holders of Ordinary Shares or B Shares (as the context requires) on the register of members of the Company on the record date, other than certain overseas shareholders;
<u>“Reclassification Date”</u>	<u>means the date on which any Ordinary Shares are reclassified as Deferred 2020 Shares;</u>
“the register”	means the registers of members of the Company;
“the registrar”	means the registrar for the time being of the Company;
“relevant electronic system”	means the facilities and requirements of CREST;
“Relevant Interest”	has the meaning given to it in article 104;
“restriction notice”	has the meaning given to it in article 19;
“seal”	means any common or official seal that the Company may be permitted to have under the Companies Acts;
“the secretary”	means the secretary, or (if there are joint secretaries) any one of the joint secretaries, of the Company and includes an assistant or deputy secretary and any person appointed by the board to perform any of the duties of the secretary;
“share”	a share of any class in the Company;
“subsidiary chairman”	has the meaning given to it in article 58;
“subsidiary location”	has the meaning given to it in article 58;
“the uncertificated securities rules”	means any provision of the Companies Acts relating to the holding, evidencing of title to, or transfer of uncertificated shares and any legislation, rules or other arrangements made under or by virtue of such provision;
“uncertificated share”	means a share of a class which is at the relevant time a participating class title to which is recorded on the register as being held in

uncertificated form and references in these articles to a share being held in uncertificated form shall be construed accordingly;

“United Kingdom” means Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

Headings are included only for convenience and shall not affect meaning.

LIMITED LIABILITY

3 LIMITED LIABILITY

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

OBJECTS

4 OBJECTS

The Company's objects are to carry on (for so long as qualifying status is maintained) as a venture capital trust within Part 6 of the Income Tax Act 2007, and for such purposes to re-invest the funds of the Company in and to subscribe for (either absolutely or conditionally) or otherwise acquire and hold either in the name of the Company or in that of any nominee and whether or not as co-investor with any other party or parties, shares, stocks, debentures, debenture stock, bonds, notes, certificates of deposit, commercial paper, obligations, bankers' acceptances and instruments or evidence of indebtedness, warrants, options (including, without limitation, put and call options written by the Company) or securities issued or guaranteed by any company wherever incorporated, or issued or guaranteed by any government, sovereign, ruler, commissioners, public body or authority supreme, municipal, local or otherwise in any part of the world or any right or interest therein or annuities for any period or periods, whether certain or uncertain or on the life or lives of any person or persons or any right or interest therein, or interests in mutual or money market funds, including (without limitation) hedge funds and funds of hedge funds, currencies, futures and forward contracts (and options thereon) relating to stock indices, currencies and any other financial instruments including commodities and from time to time to vary such investments.

NAME

5 CHANGE OF NAME

The Company may change its name by resolution of the board.

SHARE CAPITAL

6 SHARE CAPITAL

The share capital of the Company shall be divided into Ordinary Shares, B Shares, Conversion Deferred Shares and Deferred 2020 Shares. The names of each class of share (but not the rights attaching thereto) may be amended by resolution of the board.

7 ORDINARY SHARES

Subject to the superior rights of any other class or classes of shares that are, or may be, issued by the Company, the rights and restrictions attaching to the Ordinary Shares as regards participation in the profits and assets of the Company shall be as follows:

(A) Income

Any profits attributable to the assets attributable to the Ordinary Shares which the Company may determine to distribute in respect of any financial year shall be distributed among the holders of the Ordinary Shares.

(B) Capital

The capital and assets attributable to the Ordinary Shares on a winding-up or other return of capital shall be distributed to the holders of Ordinary Shares pro rata according to the amounts paid up or credited as paid up on the Ordinary Shares held by them.

(C) Voting

The holders of Ordinary Shares are entitled to receive notice of and to attend or vote at any general meeting of the Company. The voting rights of holders of Ordinary Shares will be the same as holders of B Shares as if the B Shares and the Ordinary Shares were a single class.

8 **B SHARES**

Subject to the superior rights of any other class or classes of shares that are, or may be, issued by the Company, the rights and restrictions attaching to the B Shares as regards participation in the profits and assets of the Company shall be as follows:

(A) Income

Any profits attributable to the assets attributable to the B Shares which the Company may determine to distribute in respect of any financial year shall be distributed among the holders of the B Shares.

(B) Capital

The capital and assets attributable to the B Shares on a winding-up or other return of capital shall be distributed to the holders of B Shares pro rata according to the amounts paid up or credited as paid up on the B Shares held by them.

(C) Voting

The holders of B Shares are entitled to receive notice of and to attend or vote at any general meeting of the Company. The voting rights of holders of B Shares will be the same as holders of Ordinary Shares as if the B Shares and the Ordinary Shares were a single class.

9 **CONVERSION DEFERRED SHARES & DEFERRED 2020 SHARES**

Subject to the superior rights of any other class or classes of shares that are, or may be, issued by the Company, the rights and restrictions attaching to the Conversion Deferred Shares and the Deferred 2020 Shares as regards participation in the profits and assets of the Company shall be as follows:

(A) Income

The Conversion Deferred Shares and the Deferred 2020 Shares (to the extent that they are in issue and extant) shall [entitle the holders thereof to a cumulative dividend at a](#)

fixed rate of 0.001 per cent, per annum of the nominal amount of the Conversion Deferred Shares or Deferred 2020 Shares (as applicable) held by the holders (the "Deferred Dividend") payable on the date six months after the Conversion Date or Reclassification Date (as applicable) to the holders thereof on the register of members on that date as holders of Conversion Deferred Shares or Deferred 2020 Shares (as applicable), and thereafter at six monthly intervals, but shall confer no other right on the holders thereof to share in the profits of the Company. The Deferred Dividend shall not become payable in any way until the date six months after the Conversion Date or the Reclassification Date (as applicable) and shall then only be payable to those holders of Conversion Deferred Shares or Deferred 2020 Shares (as applicable) registered in the register of members of the Company as holders of Conversion Deferred Shares or Deferred 2020 Shares (as applicable) on the date six months after the Conversion Date or Reclassification Date (as applicable).

(B) Capital

On a winding up and in priority to any payment to holders of Ordinary Shares and holders of B Shares, if there are for the time being Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares in issue, each holder of Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares shall be paid one penny in respect of his entire holding.

(C) Voting

The Conversion Deferred Shares and/or the Deferred 2020 Shares shall carry no voting rights or rights to receive notice or attend any general meeting.

(D) Redemption or Repurchase

Each holder of Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares grants an unconditional and irrevocable authority to the Company to appoint at any time thereafter any person (as attorney and/or agent) to execute on behalf of the holders a transfer thereof (and/or an agreement to transfer the same) to such person(s) as the Company may determine as custodian thereof and/or to redeem or repurchase the same itself (in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Acts), in any such case for one penny (in aggregate) for all such Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares held by ~~any member~~ all such members, without obtaining any further sanction of the holder or holders thereof. Subject to the Companies Acts, the Company shall redeem or repurchase (as applicable) all of the relevant Conversion Deferred Shares (as soon as practicable following Conversion) and/or Deferred 2020 Shares (as soon as practicable following Conversion, ~~the Reclassification Date~~ or sooner if determined by the board), at a price of one penny (in aggregate) for all such Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares held by ~~any member~~ such members and redeemed or repurchased (as applicable) at any one time and the provisions of this article shall be deemed to constitute notice to each holder of Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares (and any person or persons having rights to acquire or acquiring Conversion Deferred Shares on or after the Calculation Date) that the Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares shall be so redeemed or repurchased (as applicable) and the Company shall not be obliged to account to any holder of Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares for the redemption

or repurchase (as applicable) proceeds arising in respect of such Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares.

(E) Cancellation

Each holder of Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares grants an unconditional and irrevocable authority to the Company to cancel all and any Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares held by him and appoint at any time any person to execute on behalf of the holders of such Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares any document as the Company may determine to cancel any and all Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares (in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act), without obtaining any further sanction of the holder or holders thereof. Subject to the Companies Act, the Company may cancel any and all Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares then in issue, and the provisions of this article shall be deemed to constitute notice to each holder of Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares that the Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares shall be so cancelled and the Company shall not be obliged to account to any holder of Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares in respect of any such capital in respect of such cancellation.

(F) Certificates

The Company shall not be obliged to issue share certificates to the holders of Conversion Deferred Shares and/or Deferred 2020 Shares in respect of such shares.

10 CONVERSION OF ORDINARY SHARES

- 10.1 The Ordinary Shares for the time being in issue shall be converted into New B Shares on the Conversion Date in accordance with the following provisions of this article.
- 10.2 The directors shall procure that within 10 Business Days of the Calculation Date:
- (a) the Company shall calculate the Conversion Ratio as at the Calculation Date and the numbers of Ordinary Shares and Conversion Deferred Shares to which each holder of Ordinary Shares shall be entitled on Conversion, and
 - (b) the auditors shall state, whether, in their opinion such calculations have been performed in accordance with these articles and are arithmetically accurate whereupon such calculations shall become final and binding upon the Company and all shareholders.
- 10.3 The directors shall procure that as soon as practicable following such confirmation and in any event within 10 Business Days of the Calculation Date an announcement through a Regulatory Information Service is made stating the Conversion Date, the Conversion Ratio and the numbers of New B Shares and Conversion Deferred Shares which will arise upon Conversion.
- 10.4 On the Conversion Date each Ordinary Share shall automatically subdivide ~~into ten conversion shares of one penny each and such conversion shares of one penny each arising upon subdivision shall automatically~~ and convert into such number of New B Shares and Conversion Deferred Shares (if applicable) as shall be necessary to ensure that, upon such Conversion being completed:

- (a) the aggregate number of conversion shares of one penny each which are converted into New B Shares equals the number of Ordinary Shares in issue at the Calculation Date multiplied by the Conversion Ratio (rounded down to the nearest whole New B Share), and
- (b) each conversion share of one penny each which does not so convert into a New B Share shall convert into one Conversion Deferred Share.

10.5 The New B Shares and Conversion Deferred Shares arising upon Conversion shall be divided amongst the former holders of Ordinary Shares pro rata according to their respective former holdings of Ordinary Shares (provided always that the directors may deal in such manner as they think fit with fractional entitlements to New B Shares and Conversion Deferred Shares arising upon Conversion including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the right to sell any such fractional entitlements and retain the proceeds for the benefit of the Company) and for such purposes any director is authorised as agent on behalf of the former holders of Ordinary Shares, in the case of a share in certificated form, to execute any stock transfer form and to do any other act or thing as may be required to give effect to the same, or in the case of a share in uncertificated form, the giving of directions to or on behalf of the former holders of Ordinary Shares who shall be bound by them.

10.6 Following Conversion, any share certificates relating to the Ordinary Shares shall be cancelled and the Company shall issue to each former holder of Ordinary Shares who held Ordinary Shares in certificated form new certificates in respect of the New B Shares which have arisen upon Conversion. Share certificates in respect of the Conversion Deferred Shares will not be issued.

10.7 Forthwith upon Conversion:

- (a) the rights attaching to the Ordinary Shares as set out in these articles shall lapse; and
- (b) the Company shall at the absolute discretion of the directors redeem all the Conversion Deferred Shares arising upon Conversion in accordance with article 9(D).

10.8 The directors shall be authorised to make such non-material adjustments to the terms and timing of Conversion as they shall in their discretion consider fair and reasonable having regard to the interests of all shareholders.

10.9 The Company shall use its reasonable endeavours to procure that on Conversion the New B Shares arising on Conversion are admitted to the premium segment of the Official List and to trading on the London Stock Exchange's Main Market.

10.10 For the avoidance of doubt, no act undertaken by the Company in accordance with this article shall amount to the variation, alteration or abrogation of the rights attaching to any class of share in the Company.

11 **UNDERTAKINGS**

Without prejudice to its obligations under the Companies Acts, the Company shall until Conversion:

(a) procure that the Company's records and bank accounts and those of any nominees of the Company shall be operated so that the assets and liabilities attributable to:

(i) Ordinary Shares; and

(ii) B Shares,

can, at all times, be separately identified and, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Company shall procure that separate cash accounts, broker settlement accounts and investment ledger accounts and such other separate accounts as may, in the opinion of the directors, be desirable for the purpose shall be created and maintained in the books of the Company for the assets attributable to:

(i) Ordinary Shares; and separately

(ii) B Shares

(b) allocate costs, fees, charges and expenses of the Company between the assets attributable to the Ordinary Shares and the assets attributable to the B Shares on such basis as appears fair and reasonable to the board and in accordance with the term of any prospectus, information memorandum or similar in relation to the offer for subscription of the B Shares.

12 **RIGHTS ATTACHED TO SHARES**

Subject to any rights attached to existing shares, any share may be issued with or have attached to it such rights and restrictions as the Company may by ordinary resolution decide or, if no such resolution has been passed or so far as the resolution does not make specific provision, as the board may decide. Such rights and restrictions shall apply to the relevant shares as if the same were set out in these articles.

13 **REDEEMABLE SHARES**

Subject to any rights attached to existing shares, any share may be issued which is to be redeemed, or is liable to be redeemed at the option of the Company or the holder. The board may determine the terms, conditions and manner of redemption of any redeemable share so issued. Such terms and conditions shall apply to the relevant shares as if the same were set out in these articles.

14 **VARIATION OF RIGHTS**

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts, all or any of the rights attached to any existing class of shares may from time to time (whether or not the Company is being wound up) be varied either with the consent in writing of the holders of not less than 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 sanction of a special resolution passed at a separate general meeting of the holders of those shares. All the provisions of these articles as to general meetings of the Company shall, with any necessary modifications, apply to any such separate general meeting, but so that the necessary quorum shall be two persons entitled to vote and holding or representing by proxy not less than one-third in nominal value of the issued shares of the class (excluding any shares of that class held as treasury shares), (but so that at any adjourned meeting one holder entitled to vote and present in person or by proxy (whatever the number of

shares held by him) shall be a quorum), and that any holder of shares of the class present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote may demand a poll. The foregoing provisions of this article shall apply to the variation of the special rights attached to some only of the shares of any class as if each group of shares of the class differently treated formed a separate class and their special rights were to be varied.

15 **PARI PASSU ISSUES**

The rights conferred upon the holders of any shares shall not, unless otherwise expressly provided in the rights attaching to those shares, be deemed to be varied by the creation or issue of further shares ranking *pari passu* with them.

16 **SHARES**

Subject to the provisions of these articles and to any resolution passed by the Company and without prejudice to any rights attached to existing shares, the board may offer, allot, grant options over or otherwise deal with or dispose of shares in the Company to such persons, at such times and for such consideration and upon such terms as the board may decide.

17 **PAYMENT OF COMMISSION**

The Company may in connection with the issue of any shares or the sale for cash of treasury shares exercise all powers of paying commission and brokerage conferred or permitted by the Companies Acts. Any such commission or brokerage may be satisfied by the payment of cash or by the allotment of fully or partly-paid shares or other securities or partly in one way and partly in the other.

18 **TRUSTS NOT RECOGNISED**

Except as ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction or as required by law, 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 in any way to recognise (even when having notice of it) any interest in any share or (except only as by these articles or by law otherwise provided) any other right in respect of any share other than an absolute right to the whole of the share in the holder.

19 **SUSPENSION OF RIGHTS WHERE NON-DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

(A) Where the holder of any shares in the Company, or any other person appearing to be interested in those shares, fails to comply within the relevant period with any statutory notice in respect of those shares or, in purported compliance with such a notice, has made a statement which is false or inadequate in a material particular, the Company may give the holder of those shares a further notice (a "**restriction notice**") to the effect that from the service of the restriction notice those shares will be subject to some or all of the relevant restrictions, and from service of the restriction notice those shares shall, notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, be subject to those relevant restrictions accordingly. For the purpose of enforcing the relevant restriction referred to in sub-article (iii) of the definition of "**relevant restrictions**", the board may give notice to the relevant member requiring the member to change the relevant shares held in uncertificated form to certificated form by the time stated in the notice and to keep them in certificated form for as long as the board requires. The notice may also state that the member may not change any of the relevant shares held in certificated form to uncertificated form. If the member does not comply with the notice, the board may

authorise any person to instruct the operator of the relevant electronic system to change the relevant shares held in uncertificated form to certificated form.

- (B) If after the service of a restriction notice in respect of any shares the board is satisfied that all information required by any statutory notice relating to those shares or any of them from their holder or any other person appearing to be interested in the shares the subject of the restriction notice has been supplied, the Company shall, within seven days, cancel the restriction notice. The Company may at any time at its discretion cancel any restriction notice or exclude any shares from it. The Company shall cancel a restriction notice within seven days after receipt of a notice in writing that the relevant shares have been transferred pursuant to an arm's length sale.
- (C) Where any restriction notice is cancelled or ceases to have effect in relation to any shares, any moneys relating to those shares which were withheld by reason of that notice shall be paid without interest to the person who would but for the notice have been entitled to them or as he may direct.
- (D) Any new shares in the Company issued in right of any shares subject to a restriction notice shall also be subject to the restriction notice, and the board may make any right to an allotment of the new shares subject to restrictions corresponding to those which will apply to those shares by reason of the restriction notice when such shares are issued.
- (E) Any holder of shares on whom a restriction notice has been served may at any time request the Company to give in writing the reason why the restriction notice has been served, or why it remains uncanceled, and within 14 days of receipt of such a notice the Company shall give that information accordingly.
- (F) If a statutory 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 failure or omission to do so or the non-receipt of the copy by the holder shall not invalidate such notice.
- (G) This article is in addition to, and shall not in any way prejudice or affect, the statutory rights of the Company arising from any failure by any person to give any information required by a statutory notice within the time specified in it. For the purpose of this article a statutory notice need not specify the relevant period, and may require any information to be given before the expiry of the relevant period.
- (H) In this article:

a sale is an "**arm's length sale**" if the board is satisfied that it is a bona fide sale of the whole of the beneficial ownership of the shares to a party unconnected with the holder or with any person appearing to be interested in such shares and shall include a sale made by way of or in pursuance of acceptance of a takeover offer and a sale made through a recognised investment exchange or any other stock exchange outside the United Kingdom. For this purpose an associate (within the definition of that expression in any statute relating to insolvency in force at the date of adoption of this article) shall be included amongst the persons who are connected with the holder or any person appearing to be interested in such shares;

"**person appearing to be interested**" in any shares shall mean any person named in a response to a statutory notice or otherwise notified to the Company by a member

as being so interested or shown in any register or record kept by the Company under the Companies Acts as so interested or, taking into account a response or failure to respond in the light of the response to any other statutory notice and any other relevant information in the possession of the Company, any person whom the Company knows or has reasonable cause to believe is or may be so interested;

“person with a 0.25 per cent. interest” means a person who holds, or is shown in any register or record kept by the Company under the Companies Acts as having an interest in, shares in the Company which comprise in total at least 0.25 per cent. in number or nominal value of the shares of the Company (calculated exclusive of any shares held as treasury shares), or of any class of such shares (calculated exclusive of any shares of that class held as treasury shares), in issue at the date of service of the restriction notice;

“relevant period” means a period of 14 days following service of a statutory notice;

“relevant restrictions” means in the case of a restriction notice served on a person with a 0.25 per cent. interest that:

- (i) the shares shall not confer on the holder any right to attend or vote either personally or by proxy at any general meeting of the Company or at any separate general meeting of the holders of any class of shares in the Company or to exercise any other right conferred by membership in relation to general meetings;
- (ii) the board may withhold payment of all or any part of any dividends or other moneys payable in respect of the shares and the holder shall not be entitled to receive shares in lieu of dividend;
- (iii) the board may decline to register a transfer of any of the shares which are certificated shares, unless such a transfer is pursuant to an arm's length sale

and in any other case mean only the restriction specified in sub-paragraph (i) of this definition; and

“statutory notice” means a notice served by the Company under the Companies Acts requiring particulars of interests in shares or of the identity of persons interested in shares.

20 **UNCERTIFICATED SHARES**

- (A) Pursuant and subject to the uncertificated securities rules, the board may permit title to shares of any class to be evidenced otherwise than by a certificate and title to shares of such a class to be transferred by means of a relevant system and may make arrangements for a class of shares (if all shares of that class are in all respects identical) to become a participating class. Title to shares of a particular class may only be evidenced otherwise than by a certificate where that class of shares is at the relevant time a participating class. The board may also, subject to compliance with the uncertificated securities rules, determine at any time that title to any class of shares may from a date specified by the board no longer be evidenced otherwise than by a certificate or that title to such a class shall cease to be transferred by means of any particular relevant system.

(B) In relation to a class of shares which is a participating class and for so long as it remains a participating class, no provision of these articles shall apply or have effect to the extent that it is inconsistent in any respect with:

- (i) the holding of shares of that class in uncertificated form;
- (ii) the transfer of title to shares of that class by means of a relevant system; and
- (iii) any provision of the uncertificated securities rules,

and, without prejudice to the generality of this article, no provision of these articles shall apply or have effect to the extent that it is in any respect inconsistent with the maintenance, keeping or entering up by the operator of the relevant electronic system, so long as that is permitted or required by the uncertificated securities rules, of an operator register of securities in respect of that class of shares in uncertificated form.

(C) Shares of a class which is at the relevant time a participating class may be changed from uncertificated to certificated form, and from certificated to uncertificated form, in accordance with and subject as provided in the uncertificated securities rules.

(D) If, under these articles or the Companies Acts, the Company is entitled to sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of, forfeit, re-allot, accept the surrender of or otherwise enforce a lien over an uncertificated share, then, subject to these articles and the Companies Acts, such entitlement shall include the right of the board to:

- (i) require the holder of that uncertificated share by notice in writing to change that share from uncertificated to certificated form within such period as may be specified in the notice and keep it as a certificated share for as long as the board requires;
- (ii) appoint any person to take such other steps, by instruction given by means of a relevant system or otherwise, in the name of the holder of such share as may be required to effect the transfer of such share and such steps shall be as effective as if they had been taken by the registered holder of that share; and
- (iii) take such other action that the board considers appropriate to achieve the sale, transfer, disposal, forfeiture, re-allotment or surrender of that share or otherwise to enforce a lien in respect of that share.

(E) Unless the board otherwise determines, shares which a member holds in uncertificated form shall be treated as separate holdings from any shares which that member holds in certificated form. However shares held in uncertificated form shall not be treated as forming a class which is separate from certificated shares with the same rights.

(F) Unless the board otherwise determines or the uncertificated securities rules otherwise require, any shares issued or created out of or in respect of any uncertificated shares shall be uncertificated shares and any shares issued or created out of or in respect of any certificated shares shall be certificated shares.

(G) The Company shall be entitled to assume that the entries on any record of securities maintained by it in accordance with the uncertificated securities rules and regularly

reconciled with the relevant operator register of securities are a complete and accurate reproduction of the particulars entered in the operator register of securities and shall accordingly not be liable in respect of any act or thing done or omitted to be done by or on behalf of the Company in reliance on such assumption; in particular, any provision of these articles which requires or envisages that action will be taken in reliance on information contained in the register shall be construed to permit that action to be taken in reliance on information contained in any relevant record of securities (as so maintained and reconciled).

21 RIGHT TO SHARE CERTIFICATES

Every person (except a person to whom the Company is not by law required to issue a certificate) whose name is entered in the register as a holder of any certificated shares shall be entitled, without payment, to receive within the time limits prescribed by the Companies Acts (or, if earlier, within any prescribed time limit or within a time specified when the shares were issued) one certificate for all those shares of any one class. In the case of a certificated share held jointly by several persons, the Company shall not be bound to issue more than one certificate and delivery of a certificate to one of several joint holders shall be sufficient delivery to all. A member who transfers some but not all of the shares comprised in a certificate shall be entitled to a certificate for the balance without charge to the extent the balance is to be held in certificated form.

22 REPLACEMENT OF SHARE CERTIFICATES

If a share certificate is defaced, worn out, lost or destroyed, it may be replaced on such terms (if any) as to evidence and indemnity as the board may decide and, where it is defaced or worn out, after delivery of the old certificate to the Company. Any two or more certificates representing shares of any one class held by any member shall at his request be cancelled and a single new certificate for such shares issued in lieu. Any certificate representing shares of any one class held by any member may at his request be cancelled and two or more certificates for such shares may be issued instead. The board may require the payment of any exceptional out-of-pocket expenses of the Company incurred in connection with the issue of any certificates under this article. Any one of two or more joint holders may request replacement certificates under this article.

23 EXECUTION OF SHARE CERTIFICATES

Every share certificate shall be executed under a seal or in such other manner as the board having regard to the terms of issue and any listing requirements may authorise, and shall specify the number and class of the shares to which it relates and the amount or respective amounts paid up on the shares. The board may by resolution decide, either generally or in any particular case or cases, that any signatures on any share certificates need not be autographic but may be applied to the certificates by some mechanical or other means or may be printed on them or that the certificates need not be signed by any person.

24 SHARE CERTIFICATES SENT AT HOLDER'S RISK

Every share certificate sent in accordance with these articles will be sent at the risk of the member or other person entitled to the certificate. The Company will not be responsible for any share certificate lost or delayed in the course of delivery.

LIEN

25 COMPANY'S LIEN ON SHARES NOT FULLY PAID

The Company shall have a first and paramount lien on every share (not being a fully paid share) for all amounts payable to the Company (whether presently or not) in respect of that share. The Company's lien on a share shall extend to every amount payable in respect of it. The board may at any time either generally or in any particular case waive any lien that has arisen or declare any share to be wholly or in part exempt from the provisions of this article.

26 ENFORCING LIEN BY SALE

The Company may sell, in such manner as the board may decide, any share on which the Company has a lien if a sum in respect of which the lien exists is presently payable and is not paid within fourteen clear days after a notice has been served on the holder of the share or the person who is entitled by transmission to the share, demanding payment and stating that if the notice is not complied with the share may be sold. For giving effect to the sale the board may authorise some person to sign an instrument of transfer of the share sold to or in accordance with the directions of the purchaser. The transferee shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase money, nor shall his title to the share be affected by any irregularity or invalidity in relation to the sale.

27 APPLICATION OF PROCEEDS OF SALE

The net proceeds, after payment of the costs, of the sale by the Company of any share on which it has a lien shall be applied in or towards payment or discharge of the debt or liability in respect of which the lien exists so far as it is presently payable, and any residue shall (subject to a like lien for debts or liabilities not presently payable as existed upon the shares prior to the sale and upon surrender, if required by the Company, for cancellation of the certificate for the share sold) be paid to the person who was entitled to the share at the time of the sale.

CALLS ON SHARES

28 CALLS

Subject to the terms of issue, the board may from time to time make calls upon the members in respect of any moneys unpaid on their shares (whether on account of the nominal amount of the shares or by way of premium) and not payable on a date fixed by or in accordance with the terms of issue, and each member shall (subject to the Company serving upon him 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 made payable by instalments. A call may be revoked or postponed, in whole or in part, as the board may decide. A person upon whom a call is made shall remain liable jointly and severally with the successors in title to his shares for all calls made upon him notwithstanding the subsequent transfer of the shares in respect of which the call was made.

29 TIMING OF CALLS

A call shall be deemed to have been made at the time when the resolution of the board authorising the call was passed.

30 **LIABILITY OF JOINT HOLDERS**

The joint holders of a share shall be jointly and severally liable to pay all calls in respect of the share.

31 **INTEREST DUE ON NON-PAYMENT**

If a call remains unpaid after it has become due and payable, the person from whom it is due and payable shall pay interest on the amount unpaid from the day it is due and payable to the time of actual payment at such rate (not exceeding the Bank of England base rate by more than five percentage points) as the board may decide, and all expenses that have been incurred by the Company by reason of such non-payment, but the board shall be at liberty in any case or cases to waive payment of the interest or expenses wholly or in part.

32 **SUMS DUE ON ALLOTMENT TREATED AS CALLS**

Any amount which becomes payable in respect of a share on allotment or on any other date fixed by or in accordance with the terms of issue, whether in respect of the nominal amount of the share or by way of premium or as an instalment of a call, shall be deemed to be a call and, if it is not paid, all the provisions of these articles shall apply as if the sum had become due and payable by virtue of a call.

33 **POWER TO DIFFERENTIATE**

The board may on or before the issue of shares differentiate between the allottees or holders as to the amount of calls to be paid and the times of payment.

34 **PAYMENT OF CALLS IN ADVANCE**

The board may, if it thinks fit, receive from any member who is willing to advance them all or any part of the moneys uncalled and unpaid upon any shares held by him and on all or any of the moneys so advanced may (until they would, but for the advance, become presently payable) pay interest at such rate (not exceeding the Bank of England base rate by more than five percentage points, unless the Company by ordinary resolution shall otherwise direct) as the board may decide.

FORFEITURE OF SHARES

35 **NOTICE IF CALL OR INSTALMENT NOT PAID**

If any call or instalment of a call remains unpaid on any share after the day appointed for payment, the board may at any time serve a notice on the holder requiring payment of so much of the call or instalment as is unpaid, together with any interest which may have accrued and any expenses incurred by the Company by reason of such non-payment.

36 **FORM OF NOTICE**

The notice shall name a further day (not being less than fourteen clear days from the date of the notice) on or before which, and the place where, the payment required by the notice 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 shares in respect of which the call has been made or instalment is payable will be liable to be forfeited.

37 **FORFEITURE FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICE**

If the notice is not complied with, any share in respect of which it was given may, at any time before payment of all calls or instalments and interest and expenses due in respect of it have been made, be forfeited by a resolution of the board to that effect and the forfeiture shall include all dividends declared and other moneys payable in respect of the forfeited shares and not paid before the forfeiture. The board may accept the surrender of any share liable to be forfeited and, in that event, references in these articles to forfeiture shall include surrender.

38 **NOTICE AFTER FORFEITURE**

When any share has been forfeited, notice of the forfeiture shall be served upon the person who was before forfeiture the holder of the share but no forfeiture shall be invalidated by any omission or neglect to give the notice.

39 **SALE OF FORFEITED SHARES**

Until cancelled in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Acts, a forfeited share shall be deemed to be the property of the Company and may be sold or otherwise disposed of either to the person who was, before forfeiture, the holder or to any other person upon such terms and in such manner as the board shall decide. The board may for the purposes of the disposal authorise some person to sign an instrument of transfer to the designated transferee. The Company may receive the consideration (if any) given for the share on its disposal. At any time before a sale or disposition the forfeiture may be cancelled by the board on such terms as the board may decide.

40 **ARREARS TO BE PAID NOTWITHSTANDING FORFEITURE**

A person whose shares have been forfeited shall cease to be a member in respect of them and shall surrender to the Company for cancellation the certificate for the forfeited shares but shall remain liable to pay to the Company all moneys which at the date of the forfeiture were payable by him to the Company in respect of those shares with interest thereon at such rate (not exceeding the Bank of England base rate by more than five percentage points) as the board may decide) from the date of forfeiture until payment, and the Company may enforce payment without being under any obligation to make any allowance for the value of the shares forfeited or for any consideration received on their disposal.

41 **STATUTORY DECLARATION AS TO FORFEITURE**

A statutory declaration that the declarant is a director of the Company or the secretary and that a share has been forfeited on a specified date shall be conclusive evidence of the facts stated in it as against all persons claiming to be entitled to the share. The declaration shall (subject to the signing of an instrument of transfer if necessary) constitute a good title to the share and the person to whom the share is sold or otherwise disposed of shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase money (if any) nor shall his title to the share be affected by any irregularity or invalidity in the proceedings relating to the forfeiture, sale or disposal.

TRANSFER OF SHARES

42 **TRANSFER**

(A) Subject to such of the restrictions of these articles as may be applicable:-

- (i) any member may transfer all or any of his uncertificated shares by means of a relevant system in such manner provided for, and subject as provided in, the uncertificated securities rules, and accordingly no provision of these articles shall apply in respect of an uncertificated share to the extent that it requires or contemplates the effecting of a transfer by an instrument in writing or the production of a certificate for the share to be transferred; and
 - (ii) any member may transfer all or any of his certificated shares by an instrument of transfer in any usual form or in any other form which the board may approve.
- (B) The transferor of a share shall be deemed to remain the holder of the share concerned until the name of the transferee is entered in the register in respect of it.

43 **SIGNING OF TRANSFER**

The instrument of transfer of a certificated share shall be signed by or on behalf of the transferor and (in the case of a partly paid share) the transferee. All instruments of transfer, when registered, may be retained by the Company.

44 **RIGHTS TO DECLINE REGISTRATION OF PARTLY PAID SHARES**

The board can decline to register any transfer of any share which is not a fully paid share.

45 **OTHER RIGHTS TO DECLINE REGISTRATION**

- (A) Registration of a transfer of an uncertificated share may be refused in the circumstances set out in the uncertificated securities rules, and where, in the case of a transfer to joint holders, the number of joint holders to whom the uncertificated share is to be transferred exceeds four.
- (B) The board may decline to register any transfer of a certificated share unless:
 - (i) the instrument of transfer is duly stamped or duly certified or otherwise shown to the satisfaction of the board to be exempt from stamp duty and is left at the office or such other place as the board may from time to time determine accompanied (save in the case of a transfer by a person to whom the Company is not required by law to issue a certificate and to whom a certificate has not been issued) by the certificate for the share to which it relates and such other evidence as the board may reasonably require to show the right of the person signing the instrument of transfer to make the transfer and, if the instrument of transfer is signed by some other person on his behalf, the authority of that person so to do;
 - (ii) the instrument of transfer is in respect of only one class of share; and
 - (iii) in the case of a transfer to joint holders, the number of joint holders to whom the share is to be transferred does not exceed four.
- (C) For all purposes of these articles relating to the registration of transfers of shares, the renunciation of the allotment of any shares by the allottee in favour of some other person

shall be deemed to be a transfer and the board shall have the same powers of refusing to give effect to such a renunciation as if it were a transfer.

46 **NO FEE FOR REGISTRATION**

No fee shall be charged by the Company for registering any transfer, document or instruction relating to or affecting the title to any share or for making any other entry in the register.

47 **TRANSFER OF SECURITIES WITHOUT A WRITTEN INSTRUMENT**

Title to any securities of the Company may be evidenced and transferred without a written instrument in accordance with statutory regulations from time to time made under the Companies Acts and the board shall have power to implement any arrangements it may think fit for such evidencing and transfer which accord with those regulations.

48 **UNTRACED SHAREHOLDERS**

(A) The Company may sell any certificated shares in the Company on behalf of the holder of, or person entitled by transmission to, the shares at the best price reasonably obtainable at the time of sale if:

- (i) the shares have been in issue either in certificated or uncertificated form throughout the qualifying period and at least three cash dividends have become payable on the shares during the qualifying period;
- (ii) no cash dividend payable on the shares has either been claimed by presentation to the paying bank of the relevant cheque or warrant or been satisfied by the transfer of funds to a bank account designated by the holder of, or person entitled by transmission to, the shares or by the transfer of funds by means of a relevant system at any time during the relevant period;
- (iii) so far as any director of the Company at the end of the relevant period is then aware, the Company has not at any time during the relevant period received any communication from the holder of, or person entitled by transmission to, the shares; and
- (iv) the Company has caused two advertisements to be published, one in a newspaper with a national circulation and the other in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the last known postal address of the holder of, or person entitled by transmission to, the shares or the postal address at which service of notices may be effected under these articles is located, giving notice of its intention to sell the shares and a period of three months has elapsed from the date of publication of the advertisements or of the last of the two advertisements to be published if they are published on different dates.

(B) The Company shall also be entitled to sell at the best price reasonably obtainable at the time of sale any additional certificated shares in the Company issued either in certificated or uncertificated form during the qualifying period in right of any share to

which paragraph (A) of this article applies (or in right of any share so issued), if the criteria in articles (A)(ii) to (iv) are satisfied in relation to the additional shares.

(C) To give effect to any sale of shares pursuant to this article the board may authorise some person to transfer the shares in question and an instrument of transfer signed by that person shall be as effective as if it had been signed by the holder of, or person entitled by transmission to, the shares. The purchaser shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase moneys nor shall his title to the shares be affected by any irregularity or invalidity in the proceedings relating to the sale. The net proceeds of sale shall belong to the Company and, upon their receipt, the Company shall become indebted to the former holder of, or person entitled by transmission to, the shares for an amount equal to the net proceeds. No trust shall be created in respect of the debt and no interest shall be payable in respect of it and the Company shall not be required to account for any moneys earned from the net proceeds which may be employed in the business of the Company or as it thinks fit.

(D) For the purpose of this article:

“the qualifying period” means the period of 6 years immediately preceding the date of publication of the advertisements referred to in paragraph (A)(iv) above or of the first of the two advertisements to be published if they are published on different dates; and

“the relevant period” means the period beginning at the commencement of the qualifying period and ending on the date when all the requirements of paragraph (A)(i) to (iv) above have been satisfied.

TRANSMISSION OF SHARES

49 TRANSMISSION ON DEATH

If a member dies, the survivor or survivors, where he was a joint holder, and his personal representatives, where he was a sole holder or the only survivor of joint holders, shall be the only persons recognised by the Company as having any title to his shares; but nothing contained 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 with other persons.

50 ENTRY OF TRANSMISSION IN REGISTER

Where the entitlement of a person to a certificated 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 is proved to the satisfaction of the board, the board shall within two months after proof cause the entitlement of that person to be noted in the register.

51 ELECTION OF PERSON ENTITLED BY TRANSMISSION

Any person entitled by transmission to a share may, subject as provided elsewhere in these articles, elect either to become the holder of the share or to have some person nominated by him registered as the holder. 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, and the share is a certificated share, he shall sign an instrument of transfer of the share to that person. If he elects to have himself or another person registered and the share is an uncertificated share, he shall take any action the board may require (including, without limitation, the signing of any document

and the giving of any instruction by means of a relevant system) to enable himself or that person to be registered as the holder of the share. The board may at any time require the person to elect either to be registered himself or to transfer the share and if the requirements are not complied with within 60 days of being issued the board may withhold payment of all dividends and other moneys payable in respect of the share until the requirements have been complied with. All the provisions of these articles relating to the transfer of, and registration of transfers of, shares shall apply to the notice or transfer as if the death or bankruptcy of the member or other event giving rise to the transmission had not occurred and the notice or transfer was given or signed by the member.

52 **RIGHTS OF PERSON ENTITLED BY TRANSMISSION**

Where a person becomes entitled by transmission to a share, the rights of the holder in relation to that share shall cease, but the person entitled by transmission to the share may give a good discharge for any dividends or other moneys payable in respect of it and shall have the same rights in relation to the share as he would have had if he were the holder of it save that, until he becomes the holder, he shall not be entitled in respect of the share (except with the authority of the board) to receive notice of, or to attend or vote at any general meeting of the Company or at any separate general meeting of the holders of any class of shares in the Company or to exercise any other right conferred by membership in relation to general meetings.

ALTERATION OF SHARE CAPITAL

53 **SUB-DIVISION**

Any resolution authorising the Company to sub-divide its shares or any of them may determine that, as between the shares resulting from the sub-division, any of them may have any preference or advantage or be subject to any restriction as compared with the others.

54 **FRACTIONS**

Whenever as a result of a consolidation, consolidation and sub-division or sub-division of shares any holders would become entitled to fractions of a share, the board may deal with the fractions as it thinks fit including by aggregating and selling them or by dealing with them in some other way. For the purposes of effecting any such sale, the board may arrange for the shares representing the fractions to be entered in the register as certificated shares. The board may sell shares representing fractions to any person, including the Company and may authorise some person to transfer or deliver the shares to, or in accordance with the directions of, the purchaser. The person to whom any shares are transferred or delivered shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase money nor shall his title to the shares be affected by any irregularity in, or invalidity of, the proceedings relating to the sale.

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

55 **CONTENTS OF NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING**

(A) Subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts, the notice shall specify:

- (i) whether the meeting shall be a physical or electronic general meeting or a combination of both;
- (ii) for physical general meetings, the time, date and place of the meeting (including without limitation any meeting at any subsidiary

location (as defined in article 58), which shall be identified as such in the notice); and

- (iii) for electronic general meetings, the time, date and electronic platform for the meeting, which electronic platform may vary from time to time and from meeting to meeting as the board, in its sole discretion, sees fit,

and the general nature of the business to be dealt with

- (B) There shall appear with reasonable prominence in every such notice a statement that a member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy or (if he holds more than one share) proxies to attend, speak (or communicate by other means) and vote instead of him and that a proxy need not be a member of the Company.
- (C) In the case of an annual general meeting, the notice shall also specify the meeting as such.
- (D) For the purposes of determining which persons are entitled to attend or vote at a meeting and how many votes such person 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. In calculating the 48 hour period no account is to be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.

56 **OMISSION OR NON-RECEIPT OF NOTICE**

- (A) The accidental omission to give any notice of a meeting or the accidental omission to send or supply any document or other information relating to any meeting to, or the non-receipt (even if the Company becomes aware of such non-receipt) of any such notice, document or other information by, any person entitled to receive the notice, document or other information shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.
- (B) A member present in person or by proxy at a meeting shall be deemed to have received proper notice of that meeting and, where applicable, of the purpose of that meeting.

57 **POSTPONEMENT OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

If the board, in its absolute discretion, considers that it is impractical or undesirable for any reason to hold a general meeting on the date or at the time or place specified in the notice calling the general meeting, it may postpone or move the general meeting to another date, time and/or place. The board shall take reasonable steps to ensure that notice of the date, time and place of the rearranged meeting is given to any member trying to attend the meeting at the original time and place. Notice of the date, time and place of the rearranged meeting shall, if practicable, also be placed in at least two national newspapers in the United Kingdom. Notice of the business to be transacted at such rearranged meeting shall not be required. If a meeting is rearranged in this way, the appointment of a proxy will be valid if it is received as required by these articles not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the rearranged meeting. The board may also postpone or move the rearranged meeting under this article.

PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

58 CONVENING GENERAL MEETINGS

The directors may from time to time and in their absolute discretion, make such arrangements as they see fit in connection with the organisation and administration of any general meeting. Such arrangements may govern admission to the meeting, or admission to a particular location from which people participate in the meeting. Any such arrangements shall only be made on a basis that they are intended to be fair and equitable as between all members and proxies otherwise entitled to attend the meeting. The entitlement of any member or proxy to attend a general meeting, or to participate in it at a particular place or by a particular means, shall be subject to such arrangements as may be for the time being in force and are by the notice of meeting stated to apply to that meeting.

In the case of a general meeting where the directors determine that participation in the meeting shall be possible at more than one place the directors shall direct that the meeting be held at a place specified in the notice ("**principal place**") at which the chairman of the meeting shall preside, and also make provision for participation in the meeting at other places ("**subsidiary locations**") by members and proxies. In any such case, the directors shall cause arrangements to be made to ensure that all persons attending the meeting (in whatever place or location) are able to participate (if entitled to do so) in the business of the meeting and (so far as possible) are able to see and hear anyone else attending the meeting while that person is addressing the meeting. In any such case, the directors may also make arrangements of the type described above in the previous paragraph of this article regarding attendance at, and admission to, a particular place or location, provided that any such arrangements shall operate (so far as possible) so that any members and proxies entitled to attend the meeting are able to do so at one or other place or location.

For the purposes of all other provisions of these articles any meeting which has a principal place and one or more subsidiary locations or is in addition an electronic meeting shall be treated as being held and taking place at the principal place and as attended by members and duly appointed proxies who are present at the principal place or at one of the subsidiary locations or, as the case may require, by electronic means. 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 at the principal place, or any business conducted thereat, or any action taken pursuant thereto.

A person ("**subsidiary chairman**") shall preside at each one of the subsidiary locations (if any). Each subsidiary chairman shall be appointed by the directors, or by some person to whom they have delegated the task. Every subsidiary chairman shall have the powers vested in him by or under these articles.

The directors, and also the secretary, may take any action before the commencement of any general meeting, or any meeting of a class of members in the Company, which they or he may think fit to ensure the security of the meeting, the safety of people attending the meeting, the future orderly conduct of the meeting or the functionality or availability of any electronic platform. Any decision made in good faith under this paragraph shall be final, and rights to attend and participate in the meeting concerned shall be subject to such decision.

The directors may resolve to enable persons entitled to attend a general meeting hosted on an electronic platform to do so by simultaneous attendance by electronic means (and if such meeting is not combined with a physical meeting) with no member necessarily in physical

attendance at the general meeting. The members or their proxies present shall be counted in the quorum for, and entitled to vote at, the general meeting in question, and that meeting shall be duly constituted and its proceedings valid if the chairman of the general meeting is satisfied that adequate facilities are available throughout the meeting to ensure that members or their proxies attending the meeting may, by electronic means attend and speak at it and vote either in advance or at the meeting.

The directors may make arrangements for persons entitled to attend a general meeting or an adjourned general meeting to be able to view and hear the proceedings of the general meeting or adjourned general meeting and to speak at the meeting (whether by the use of microphones, loudspeakers, audio-visual communications equipment or otherwise) by attending at a venue anywhere in the world not being a principal place or a subsidiary location. If the general meeting is only held as a physical meeting (and not also as an electronic meeting), those attending at any such venue shall not be regarded as present at the general meeting or adjourned general meeting and shall not be entitled to vote at the meeting at or from that venue. The inability for any reason of any member present in person or by proxy at such a venue to view or hear all or any of the proceedings of the meeting or to speak at the meeting shall not in any way affect the validity of the proceedings of the meeting.

For the purposes of these articles in relation to physical general meetings or electronic general meetings, the right of a member to participate in the business of any general meeting shall include without limitation the right to speak, vote on a poll, be represented by a proxy and have access (including electronic access) to all documents which are required by the Companies Acts or these articles to be made available at the meeting. A member shall only be entitled to vote on a show of hands at a general meeting which is only a physical general meeting.

The directors in advance of any electronic meeting and, the chairman at any electronic meeting may make any arrangement and impose any requirement or restriction as is necessary to ensure the proper identification of those taking part and the security of the electronic communication. Accordingly, the Company is able to authorise the use of any facility for electronic general meetings or electronic voting system as it sees appropriate.

59 **QUORUM**

No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to business, but the absence of a quorum shall not preclude the choice or appointment of a chairman of the meeting which shall not be treated as part of the business of the meeting. Save as otherwise provided by these articles, two members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote shall be a quorum for all purposes.

60 **PROCEDURE IF QUORUM NOT PRESENT**

If within five minutes (or such longer time not exceeding one hour as the chairman of the meeting may decide to wait) after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting a quorum is not present, or if during the meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting:

- (i) if convened by or upon the requisition of members, shall be dissolved; and
- (ii) in any other case it shall stand adjourned to such other day (being not less than ten days later, excluding the day on which the meeting is adjourned and the day for which it is reconvened) and at such other time or place as the chairman of the meeting may decide. At

any adjourned meeting one member present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote (whatever the number of shares held by him) shall be a quorum and any notice of an adjourned meeting shall state that one member present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote (whatever the number of shares held by him) shall be a quorum.

61 SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

The board may direct that persons wishing to attend any general meeting should submit to such searches or other security arrangements or restrictions as the board shall consider appropriate in the circumstances and shall be entitled in its absolute discretion to, or to authorise some one or more persons who shall include a director or the secretary or the chairman of the meeting to, refuse entry to, or to eject from, such general meeting any person who fails to submit to such searches or otherwise to comply with such security arrangements or restrictions.

62 CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL MEETING

The chairman (if any) of the board or, in his absence, the deputy chairman (if any) shall preside as chairman at every general meeting. If more than one deputy chairman is present they shall agree amongst themselves who is to take the chair or, if they cannot agree, the deputy chairman who has been in office as a director longest shall take the chair. If there is no chairman or deputy chairman, or if at any meeting neither the chairman nor any deputy chairman is present within five minutes after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, or if neither the chairman nor any deputy chairman is willing to act as chairman, the directors present shall choose one of their number to act, or if one director only is present he shall preside as chairman of the meeting if willing to act. If no director is present, or if each of the directors present declines to take the chair, the persons present and entitled to vote shall appoint one of their number to be chairman of the meeting. Nothing in these articles shall restrict or exclude any of the powers or rights of a chairman of a meeting which are given by law.

63 ORDERLY CONDUCT

The chairman of the meeting shall take such action or give directions for such action to be taken as he thinks fit to promote the orderly conduct of the business of the meeting as laid down in the notice of the meeting. The chairman's decision on points of order, matters of procedure or arising incidentally from the business of the meeting shall be final as shall be his determination as to whether any point or matter is of such a nature.

64 ENTITLEMENT TO ATTEND AND SPEAK

Each director shall be entitled to attend and speak at any general meeting of the Company. The chairman of the meeting may invite any person to attend and speak at any general meeting of the Company where he considers that this will assist in the deliberations of the meeting.

65 ADJOURNMENTS

The chairman of the meeting may at any time without the consent of the meeting adjourn any meeting (whether or not it has commenced or a quorum is present) either sine die or to another time or place where it appears to him that (a) the members entitled to vote and wishing to attend cannot be conveniently accommodated in the place appointed for the meeting (b) the conduct of persons present prevents or is likely to prevent the orderly continuation of business or (c) an adjournment is otherwise necessary so that the business of the meeting may be properly conducted. In addition, the chairman of the meeting may at any time with the consent of any

meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn the meeting either sine die or to another time or place. When a meeting is adjourned sine die the time and place for the adjourned meeting shall be fixed by the board. No business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting except business which might properly have been transacted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place. Any meeting may be adjourned more than once.

66 NOTICE OF ADJOURNMENT

If the continuation of an adjourned meeting is to take place three months or more after it was adjourned or if business is to be transacted at an adjourned meeting the general nature of which was not stated in the notice of the original meeting, notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of an original meeting. Except as provided in this article, it shall not be necessary to give any notice of an adjourned meeting or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.

AMENDMENTS

67 AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTIONS

In the case of a resolution duly proposed as a special resolution no amendment thereto (other than an amendment to correct a patent error) may be considered or voted upon and in the case of a resolution duly proposed as an ordinary resolution no amendment thereto (other than an amendment to correct a patent error) may be considered or voted upon unless either at least two working days prior to the date appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which such ordinary resolution is to be proposed notice in writing of the terms of the amendment and intention to move the same has been received by the Company or the chairman of the meeting in his absolute discretion decides that it may be considered or voted upon. With the consent of the chairman of the meeting, an amendment may be withdrawn by its proposer before it is put to the vote.

68 AMENDMENTS RULED OUT OF ORDER

If an amendment shall be proposed to any resolution under consideration but shall be ruled out of order by the chairman of the meeting the proceedings on the substantive resolution shall not be invalidated by any error in such ruling.

VOTING

69 VOTES OF MEMBERS

Subject to any special terms as to voting upon which any shares may be issued or may at the relevant time be held and to any other provisions of these articles, members shall be entitled to vote at a general meeting whether on a show of hands or on a poll as provided in the Companies Acts. For this purpose, where a proxy is given discretion as to how to vote on a show of hands, this shall be treated as an instruction by the relevant member to vote in the way that the proxy elects to exercise that discretion.

70 METHOD OF VOTING

At any general meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) a poll is demanded. A poll may be demanded by:-

- (i) the chairman of the meeting; or
- (ii) at least five persons present and entitled to vote on the resolution; or
- (iii) any member or members present in person or by proxy and representing in the aggregate not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote on the resolution; or
- (iv) any member or members present in person or by proxy and holding shares conferring a right to vote on the resolution on which there have been paid up sums in the aggregate equal to not less than one-tenth of the total sum paid up on all the shares conferring that right.

The chairman of the meeting can also demand a poll before a resolution is put to the vote on a show of hands.

Unless a poll is so demanded and the demand is not withdrawn, a declaration by the chairman of the meeting that a resolution on a show of hands has been carried or carried unanimously or by a particular majority or not carried by a particular majority or lost shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded for or against the resolution.

71 PROCEDURE IF POLL DEMANDED

If a poll is properly demanded it shall be taken in such manner as the chairman of the meeting shall direct. The result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.

72 WHEN POLL TO BE TAKEN

A poll demanded on the election of a chairman of the meeting, or on a question of adjournment, shall be taken forthwith. A poll demanded on any other question shall be taken either forthwith or on such date (being not later than thirty days after the date of the demand) and at such time and place as the chairman of the meeting shall direct. It shall not be necessary (unless the chairman of the meeting otherwise directs) for notice to be given of a poll.

73 CONTINUANCE OF OTHER BUSINESS AFTER POLL DEMAND

The demand for a poll (other than on the election of a chairman of the meeting or on a question of adjournment) shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll was demanded, and it may be withdrawn with the consent of the chairman of the meeting at any time before the close of the meeting or the taking of the poll, whichever is the earlier, and in that event shall not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made.

74 VOTES OF JOINT HOLDERS

In the case of joint holders of a share the vote of the senior who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, shall be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders and, for this purpose, seniority shall be determined by the order in which the names stand in the register in respect of the joint holding.

75 **VOTING ON BEHALF OF INCAPABLE MEMBER**

A member in respect of whom an order has been made by any competent court or official on the ground that he is or may be suffering from mental disorder or is otherwise incapable of managing his affairs may vote at any general meeting of the Company and may exercise any other right conferred by membership in relation to general meetings by or through any person authorised in such circumstances to do so on his behalf (and that person may vote by proxy), provided that evidence to the satisfaction of the board of the authority of the person claiming to exercise the right to vote or such other right has been received by the Company not later than the last time at which appointments of proxy should have been received in order to be valid for use at that meeting or on the holding of that poll.

76 **NO RIGHT TO VOTE WHERE SUMS OVERDUE ON SHARES**

No member shall, unless the board otherwise decides, be entitled in respect of any share held by him to attend or vote (either personally or by proxy) at any general meeting of the Company or upon a poll or to exercise any other right conferred by membership in relation to general meetings unless all calls or other sums presently payable by him in respect of that share have been paid.

77 **OBJECTIONS OR ERRORS IN VOTING**

If:

- (i) any objection shall be raised to the qualification of any voter, or
- (ii) any votes have been counted which ought not to have been counted or which might have been rejected, or
- (iii) any votes are not counted which ought to have been counted,

the objection or error shall not vitiate the decision of the meeting or adjourned meeting or poll on any resolution unless it is raised or pointed out at the meeting or, as the case may be, the adjourned meeting or poll at which the vote objected to is given or tendered or at which the error occurs. Any objection or error shall be referred to the chairman of the meeting and shall only vitiate the decision of the meeting on any resolution if the chairman decides that the same may have affected the decision of the meeting. The decision of the chairman on such matters shall be conclusive.

PROXIES

78 **APPOINTMENT OF PROXIES: WRITING**

(A) A proxy may be appointed by an instrument in writing in any usual or common form, or in any other written form which the directors may approve, and:

- (i) in the case of an appointor who is a natural person shall be signed by the appointor or his agent lawfully authorised in writing; and
- (ii) in the case of an appointor which is a corporation shall be either given under its common seal or signed on its behalf by an agent lawfully authorised in writing or by a duly authorised officer of the corporation.

The signature on such an instrument appointing a proxy need not be witnessed.

- (B) Such an instrument appointing a proxy must be left at such place or one of such places (if any) as may be specified for the purpose in or by way of note to or in any document accompanying the notice convening the meeting (or, if no place is so specified, at the registered office of the Company) not less than forty-eight hours (or such shorter time as the directors may determine) before the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which it is to be used (or, in the case of a poll taken otherwise than at or on the same day as the meeting or adjourned meeting, it must be so left in advance of the time appointed for the taking of the poll) and in default shall not be treated as valid. Calculation of any such forty-eight hour period shall take no account of any part of a day that is not a working day.
- (C) Where an instrument appointing a proxy is signed on behalf of the appointor by an agent lawfully authorised in writing, the authority under which the agent is appointed or a duly certified copy thereof must (failing previous registration with the Company) be lodged with the instrument of proxy in the manner directed above, failing which the instrument may be treated as invalid.

79 MEANS OF APPOINTING PROXIES: ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

- (A) A proxy may be appointed by electronic communication to such address as may be notified by or on behalf of the Company for that purpose, or by any other lawful means from time to time authorised by the directors. Any means of appointing a proxy which is authorised by or under this paragraph shall be subject to any terms, limitations, conditions or restrictions that the directors may from time to time prescribe.
- (B) An appointment of a proxy by electronic communication where an address including an identification number of a participant in a relevant system has been specified for the purpose of receiving appointments by electronic communication:
 - (i) in the notice convening the meeting; or
 - (ii) in any instrument of proxy sent out by the Company in relation to the meeting; or
 - (iii) in any invitation contained in an electronic communication to appoint a proxy issued by the Company in relation to the meeting; or
 - (iv) on a website maintained by or on behalf of the Company and identified the Company.

must be received at such address not less than forty-eight hours (or such shorter time as the directors may determine) before the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which it is to be used (or, in the case of a poll taken otherwise than at or on the same day as the meeting or adjourned meeting, it must be so received in advance of the time appointed for the taking of the poll) and in default shall not be treated as valid. Calculation of any such forty-eight hour period shall take no account of any part of a day that is not a working day.

- (C) Without limiting the foregoing provisions of this article, in relation to any shares which are uncertificated shares, the directors may from time to time permit appointments of a proxy to be made by means of an electronic communication in the form of an uncertificated proxy instruction, (that is, a Properly Authenticated Dematerialised Instruction, and/or other instruction or notification, which is sent by means of the

relevant system concerned and received by such participant in that system acting on behalf of the Company as the directors may prescribe, in such form and subject to such terms and conditions as may from time to time be prescribed by the directors (subject always to the facilities and requirements of the relevant system concerned)); and may in a similar manner permit supplements to, or amendments or revocations of, any such uncertificated proxy instruction to be made by like means. The directors may in addition prescribe the method of determining the time at which any such Properly Authenticated Dematerialised Instruction (and/or other instruction or notification) is to be treated as received by the Company or such participant. The directors may treat any such uncertificated proxy instruction which purports to be or is expressed to be sent on behalf of a holder of a share as sufficient evidence of the authority of the person sending that instruction to send it on behalf of that holder.

80 RECEIPT OF PROXIES

- (A) The appointment of a proxy must:-
- (i) in the case of an appointment made in hard copy form, be received at the office (or such other place in the United Kingdom as may be specified by the Company for the receipt of appointments of proxy in hard copy form) not less than 48 hours (or such shorter time as the board may determine) before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote together with (if required by the board) any authority under which it is made or a copy of the authority, certified notarially or in accordance with the Powers of Attorney Act 1971 or in some other manner approved by the board;
 - (ii) in the case of an appointment made by electronic means, be received at the address specified by the Company for the receipt of appointments of proxy by electronic means not less than 48 hours (or such shorter time as the board may determine) before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote. Any authority pursuant to which such an appointment is made or a copy of the authority, certified notarially or in accordance with the Powers of Attorney Act 1971 or in some other manner approved by the board, must, if required by the board, be received at such address or at the office (or such other place in the United Kingdom as may be specified by the Company for the receipt of such documents) not less than 48 hours (or such shorter time as the board may determine) before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote;
 - (iii) in the case of a poll taken more than 48 hours after it was demanded, be received as aforesaid not less than 24 hours (or such shorter time as the board may determine) before the time appointed for the taking of the poll;
 - (iv) in the case of a poll taken following the conclusion of a meeting or adjourned meeting but not more than 48 hours after it was

demanded, be received as aforesaid before the end of the meeting at which it was demanded (or at such later time as the board may determine).

and an appointment of a proxy which is not or in respect of which the authority or copy thereof is not, received in a manner so permitted shall be invalid. When two or more valid but differing appointments of a proxy are received in respect of the same share for use at the same meeting or poll, the one which is last received (regardless of its date or of the date of its signature) shall be treated as replacing and revoking the others as regards that share; if the Company is unable to determine which was last received, none of them shall be treated as valid in respect of that share. The appointment of a proxy shall not preclude a member from attending and voting in person at the meeting or poll concerned. The proceedings at a general meeting shall not be invalidated where an appointment of a proxy in respect of that meeting is sent in electronic form as provided in these articles, but because of a technical problem it cannot be read by the recipient.

(B) The board may at its discretion determine that in calculating the periods mentioned in this article no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.

81 **MAXIMUM VALIDITY OF PROXY**

No appointment of a proxy shall be valid after twelve months have elapsed from the date of its receipt save that, unless the contrary is stated in it, an appointment of a proxy shall be valid for use at an adjourned meeting or a poll after a meeting or an adjourned meeting even after 12 months, if it was valid for the original meeting.

82 **FORM OF PROXY**

The appointment of a proxy shall be in any usual form or in such other form as the board may approve. The appointment of a proxy shall be deemed to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll and to vote on any amendment of a resolution put to, or any other business which may properly come before, the meeting for which it is given as the proxy thinks fit. The appointment of a proxy shall, unless the contrary is stated in it, be valid as well for any adjournment of the meeting as for the meeting to which it relates.

83 **CANCELLATION OF PROXY'S AUTHORITY**

A vote given or poll demanded by a proxy or by the duly authorised representative of a corporation shall be valid notwithstanding the previous determination of the authority of the person voting or demanding a poll, unless notice in writing of the determination was received by the Company at the office (or such other place or address as was specified by the Company for the receipt of appointments of proxy) not later than the last time at which an appointment of a proxy should have been received in order to be valid for use at the meeting or on the holding of the poll at which the vote was given or the poll taken.

CLASS MEETING

84 **SEPARATE GENERAL MEETING**

The provisions of these articles relating to general meetings shall apply, with any necessary modifications, to any separate general meeting of the holders of shares of a class convened otherwise than in connection with the variation or abrogation of the rights attached to the shares

of that class. For this purpose, a general meeting at which no holder of a share other than an ordinary share may, in his capacity as a member, attend or vote shall also constitute a separate general meeting of the holders of the ordinary shares.

APPOINTMENT, RETIREMENT AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS

85 NUMBER OF DIRECTORS

Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution of the Company, the directors (disregarding alternate directors) shall be not less than two and not more than eight in number.

86 DIRECTORS' SHAREHOLDING QUALIFICATION

No shareholding qualification for directors shall be required.

87 POWER OF COMPANY TO APPOINT DIRECTORS

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

88 POWER OF BOARD TO APPOINT DIRECTORS

Subject to the provisions of these articles, the board may appoint any person who is willing to act to be a director, either to fill a vacancy or as an addition to the existing board, but so that the total number of directors shall not at any time exceed any maximum number fixed by or in accordance with these articles. Any director so appointed shall retire at the next annual general meeting and shall then be eligible for re-appointment.

89 RETIREMENT OF DIRECTORS BY ROTATION

At every annual general meeting any director:

- (i) who has been appointed by the board since the last annual general meeting, or
- (ii) who held office at the time of the two preceding annual general meetings and who did not retire at either of them, or
- (iii) who has held office with the Company, other than employment or executive office, for a continuous period of nine years or more at the date of the meeting,

shall retire from office and may offer himself for re-appointment by the members.

90 FILLING VACANCIES

Subject to the provisions of these articles at the meeting at which a director retires the Company can pass an ordinary resolution to re-appoint the director or to elect some other eligible person in his place.

91 **POWER OF REMOVAL BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION**

In addition to any power of removal conferred by the Companies Acts, the Company may by special resolution remove any director before the expiration of his period of office and may (subject to these articles) by ordinary resolution appoint another person who is willing to act to be a director in his place.

92 **PERSONS ELIGIBLE AS DIRECTORS**

No person other than a director retiring at the meeting shall be appointed or re-appointed a director at any general meeting unless:

- (i) he is recommended by the board; or
- (ii) not less than seven nor more than forty two clear days before the day appointed for the meeting, notice in writing by a member qualified to vote at the meeting (not being the person to be proposed) has been given to the secretary of the intention to propose that person for appointment or re-appointment together with confirmation in writing by that person of his willingness to be appointed or re-appointed.

93 **POSITION OF RETIRING DIRECTORS**

A director who retires at an annual general meeting may, if willing to continue to act, be re-appointed. If he is re-appointed he is treated as continuing in office throughout. If he is not re-appointed, he shall retain office until the end of the meeting or (if earlier) when a resolution is passed to appoint someone in his place or when a resolution to re-appoint the director is put to the meeting and lost.

94 **VACATION OF OFFICE BY DIRECTORS**

Without prejudice to the provisions for retirement contained in these articles, the office of a director shall be vacated if:-

- (i) he resigns his office by notice in writing sent to or received at the office or at an address specified by the Company for the purposes of communication by electronic means or tendered at a meeting of the board; or
- (ii) by notice in writing sent to or received at the office or at an address specified by the Company for the purposes of communication by electronic means or tendered at a meeting of the board, he offers to resign and the board resolves to accept such offer; or
- (iii) by notice in writing sent to or received at the office or at an address specified by the Company for the purposes of communication by electronic means or tendered at a meeting of the board, his resignation is requested by all of the other directors and all of the other directors are not less than three in number; or
- (iv) he is or has been suffering from mental or physical ill health and the board resolves that his office is vacated; or

- (v) he is absent without the permission of the board from meetings of the board (whether or not an alternate director appointed by him attends) for six consecutive months and the board resolves that his office is vacated; or
- (vi) he becomes bankrupt or compounds with his creditors generally; or
- (vii) he is prohibited by law from being a director; or
- (viii) he ceases to be a director by virtue of the Companies Acts or is removed from office pursuant to these articles.

If the office of a director is vacated for any reason, he shall cease to be a member of any committee or sub-committee of the board.

95 **ALTERNATE DIRECTORS**

- (A) Each director may appoint any person to be his alternate and may at his discretion remove an alternate director so appointed. If the alternate director is not already a director, the appointment, unless previously approved by the board, shall have effect only upon and subject to its being so approved. Any appointment or removal of an alternate director shall be effected by notice in writing signed by the appointor and sent to or received at the office or at an address specified by the Company for the purpose of communication by electronic means or tendered at a meeting of the board, or in any other manner approved by the board. An alternate director shall be entitled to receive notice of all meetings of the board or of committees of the board of which his appointor is a member. He shall also be entitled to attend and vote as a director at any such meeting at which the director appointing him is not personally present and at such meeting to exercise and discharge all the functions, powers, rights and duties of his appointor as a director and for the purposes of the proceedings at such meeting the provisions of these articles shall apply as if he were a director.
- (B) Every person acting as an alternate director shall (except as regards power to appoint an alternate and remuneration) be subject in all respects to the provisions of these articles relating to directors and shall during his appointment be an officer of the Company. An alternate director shall alone be responsible to the Company for his acts and defaults and shall not be deemed to be the agent of or for 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. An alternate director shall not be entitled to receive from the Company any fee in his capacity as an alternate director but the Company shall, if so requested in writing by the appointor, pay to the alternate director any part of the fees or remuneration otherwise due to the appointor.
- (C) A director or any other person may act as an alternate director to represent more than one director. 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 purposes of determining whether a quorum is present. Signature by an alternate director of any resolution in writing of the board or a committee of the board shall, unless the notice of his appointment provides to the contrary, be as effective as signature by his appointor.
- (D) An alternate director shall cease to be an alternate director:

- (i) if his appointor ceases for any reason to be a director except that, if at any meeting any director retires but is re-appointed at the same meeting, any appointment made by him pursuant to this article which was in force immediately before his retirement shall remain in force as though he had not retired; or
- (ii) on the happening of any event which if he were a director would cause him to vacate his office as director; or
- (iii) if he resigns his office by notice in writing to the Company.

96 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS**

The board or any committee authorised by the board may from time to time appoint one or more directors to hold any employment or executive office with the Company for such period and upon such other terms as the board or any committee authorised by the board may in its discretion decide and may revoke or terminate any appointment so made. Any revocation or termination of the appointment shall be without prejudice to any claim for damages that the director may have against the Company or the Company may have against the director for any breach of any contract of service between him and the Company which may be involved in the revocation or termination. A director so appointed shall receive such remuneration (whether by way of salary, commission, participation in profits or otherwise) as the board or any committee authorised by the board may decide in lieu of his remuneration as a director.

FEES, REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

97 **DIRECTORS' FEES**

Each of the directors (other than any executive director) shall be entitled to receive such remuneration for his services as the board may determine provided always that the aggregate remuneration (exclusive of any employer's national insurance and/or VAT) of all directors shall not exceed in aggregate £75,000 per annum or such higher amount as may from time to time be decided by ordinary resolution of the Company.

98 **ADDITIONAL REMUNERATION**

Any director who performs services which in the opinion of the board or any committee authorised by the board go beyond the ordinary duties of a director may be paid such extra remuneration (whether by way of salary, commission, participation in profits or otherwise) as the board or any committee authorised by the board may in its discretion decide in addition to any remuneration provided for by or pursuant to any other article.

99 **EXPENSES**

Each director may be paid his reasonable travelling, hotel and incidental expenses of attending and returning from meetings of the board or committees of the board or general meetings of the Company or any other meeting which as a director he is entitled to attend and shall be paid all other costs and expenses properly and reasonably incurred by him in the conduct of the Company's business or in the discharge of his duties as a director. The Company may also fund a director's or former director's expenditure and that of a director or former director of any holding company of the Company for the purposes permitted under the Companies Acts and may do anything to enable a director or former director or a director or former director of any

holding company of the Company to avoid incurring such expenditure as provided in the Companies Acts.

100 PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES FOR DIRECTORS

The board or any committee authorised by the board may exercise all the powers of the Company to provide benefits, either by the payment of gratuities or pensions or by insurance or in any other manner whether similar to the foregoing or not, for any director or former director or the relations, or dependants of, or persons connected to, any director or former director provided that no benefits (except such as may be provided for by any other article) may be granted to or in respect of a director or former director who has not been employed by, or held an executive office or place of profit under, the Company or any body corporate which is or has been its subsidiary undertaking or any predecessor in business of the Company or any such body corporate without the approval of an ordinary resolution of the Company. No director or former director shall be accountable to the Company or the members for any benefit provided pursuant to this article and the receipt of any such benefit shall not disqualify any person from being or becoming a director of the Company.

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS

101 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST REQUIRING BOARD AUTHORISATION

- (A) The board may, subject to the quorum and voting requirements set out in this article, authorise any matter which would otherwise involve a director breaching his duty under the Companies Acts to avoid conflicts of interest ("**Conflict**").
- (B) A director seeking authorisation in respect of a Conflict shall declare to the board the nature and extent of his interest in a Conflict as soon as is reasonably practicable. The director shall provide the board with such details of the relevant matter as are necessary for the board to decide how to address the Conflict together with such additional information as may be requested by the board.
- (C) Any director (including the relevant director) may propose that the relevant director be authorised in relation to any matter the subject of a Conflict. Such proposal and any authority given by the board shall be effected in the same way that any other matter may be proposed to and resolved upon by the board under the provisions of these articles save that:
 - (i) the relevant director and any other director with a similar interest shall not count towards the quorum nor vote on any resolution giving such authority; and
 - (ii) the relevant director and any other director with a similar interest may, if the other members of the board so decide, be excluded from any board meeting while the Conflict is under consideration.
- (D) Where the board gives authority in relation to a Conflict, or where any of the situations described in this article apply in relation to a director ("**Relevant Situation**"):
 - (i) the board may (whether at the relevant time or subsequently) (a) require that the relevant director is excluded from the receipt of information, the participation in discussion and/or the making of decisions (whether at meetings of the board or otherwise) related to

the Conflict or Relevant Situation; and (b) impose upon the relevant director such other terms for the purpose of dealing with the Conflict or Relevant Situation as it may determine;

- (ii) the relevant director will be obliged to conduct himself in accordance with any terms imposed by the board in relation to the Conflict or Relevant Situation;
- (iii) the board may provide that where the relevant director obtains (otherwise than through his position as a director of the Company) information that is confidential to a third party, the director will not be obliged to disclose that information to the Company, or to use or apply the information in relation to the Company's affairs, where to do so would amount to a breach of that confidence;
- (iv) the terms of the authority shall be recorded in writing (but the authority shall be effective whether or not the terms are so recorded); and
- (v) the board may revoke or vary such authority at any time but this will not affect anything done by the relevant director prior to such revocation in accordance with the terms of such authority.

102 OTHER CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- (A) If a director is in any way directly or indirectly interested in a proposed contract with the Company or a contract that has been entered into by the Company, he must declare the nature and extent of that interest to the directors in accordance with the Companies Acts.
- (B) Provided he has declared his interest in accordance with paragraph (A), a director may:
 - (i) (be party to, or otherwise interested in, any contract with the Company or in which the Company has a direct or indirect interest;
 - (ii) 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 and upon such terms, including as to remuneration, as the board may decide;
 - (iii) act by himself or through a firm with which he is associated in a professional capacity for the Company or any other company in which the Company may be interested (otherwise than as auditor);
 - (iv) be or become a director or other officer of, or employed by or otherwise be interested in any holding company or subsidiary company of the Company or any other company in which the Company may be interested; and
 - (v) be or become a director of any other company in which the Company does not have an interest and which cannot reasonably be regarded as giving rise to a conflict of interest at the time of his appointment as a director of that other company.

103 **BENEFITS**

A director shall not, by reason of his office or of the fiduciary relationship thereby established, be liable to account to the Company or the members for any remuneration, profit or other benefit realised by reason of his having any type of interest authorised under article 101 or permitted under article 102 and no contract shall be liable to be avoided on the grounds of a director having any type of interest authorised under article 101 or permitted under article 102

104 **QUORUM AND VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

- (A) A director shall not vote on or be counted in the quorum in relation to any resolution of the board concerning his own appointment, or the settlement or variation of the 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.
- (B) Where proposals are under consideration concerning the appointment, or the settlement or variation of the 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, a separate resolution may be put in relation to each director and in that case each of the directors concerned shall be entitled to vote and be counted in the quorum in respect of each resolution unless it concerns his own appointment or the settlement or variation of the terms or the termination of his own appointment or the appointment of another director to an office or place of profit with a company in which the Company is interested and the director seeking to vote or be counted in the quorum has a Relevant Interest in it.
- (C) A director shall not vote on, or be counted in the quorum in relation to, any resolution of the board in respect of any contract in which he has an interest and, if he shall do so, his vote shall not be counted, but this prohibition shall not apply to any resolution where that interest cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest or where that interest arises only from one or more of the following matters:
- (i) the giving to him of any guarantee, indemnity or security in respect of money lent or obligations undertaken by him or by any other person at the request of or for the benefit of the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings;
 - (ii) the giving to a third party of any guarantee, indemnity or security in respect of 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 under a guarantee or indemnity or by the giving of security;
 - (iii) the giving to him of any other indemnity where all other directors are also being offered indemnities on substantially the same terms;
 - (iv) the funding by the Company of his expenditure on defending proceedings or the doing by the Company of anything to enable him to avoid incurring such expenditure where all other directors are being offered substantially the same arrangements;
 - (v) where the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings is offering securities in which offer the director is or may be entitled to

participate as a holder of securities or in the underwriting or sub-underwriting of which the director is to participate;

- (vi) any contract in which he is interested by virtue of his interest in shares or debentures or other securities of the Company or by reason of any other interest in or through the Company;
 - (vii) any contract concerning any other company (not being a company in which the director has a Relevant Interest) in which he is interested directly or indirectly whether as an officer, shareholder, creditor or otherwise howsoever;
 - (viii) any contract concerning the adoption, modification or operation of a pension fund, superannuation or similar scheme or retirement, death or disability benefits scheme or employees' share scheme which relates both to directors and employees of the Company or of any of its subsidiary undertakings and does not provide in respect of any director as such any privilege or advantage not accorded to the employees to which the fund or scheme relates;
 - (ix) any contract for the benefit of employees of the Company or of any of its subsidiary undertakings under which he benefits in a similar manner to the employees and which does not accord to any director as such any privilege or advantage not accorded to the employees to whom the contract relates; and
 - (x) any contract for the purchase or maintenance of insurance against any liability for, or for the benefit of, any director or directors or for, or for the benefit of, persons who include directors.
- (D) A company shall be deemed to be one in which a director has a Relevant Interest if and so long as (but only if and so long as) he is to his knowledge (either directly or indirectly) the holder of or beneficially interested in one per cent. or more of any class of the equity share capital of that company (calculated exclusive of any shares of that class in that company held as treasury shares) or of the voting rights available to members of that company. In relation to an alternate director, an interest of his appointor shall be treated as an interest of the alternate director without prejudice to any interest which the alternate director has otherwise.
- (E) Where a company in which a director has a Relevant Interest is interested in a contract, he also shall be deemed interested in that contract.
- (F) If any question shall arise at any meeting of the board as to the interest of a director (other than the chairman of the meeting) in a contract and whether it is 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 the quorum and the question is not resolved by his voluntarily agreeing to abstain from voting or not to be counted in the quorum, the question shall be referred to the chairman of the meeting and his ruling in relation to the director concerned shall be conclusive except in a case where the nature or extent of the director's interest (so far as it is known to him) has not been fairly disclosed to the board. If any question shall arise in respect of the chairman of the meeting, the question shall be decided by a resolution of the board (for which purpose the chairman of the meeting shall be counted in the quorum but shall not vote on the matter) and the

resolution shall be conclusive except in a case where the nature or extent of the interest of the chairman of the meeting (so far as it is known to him) has not been fairly disclosed to the board.

- (G) Subject to these articles, the board may also cause any voting power conferred by the shares in any other company held or owned by the Company or any power of appointment to be exercised in such manner in all respects as it thinks fit, including the exercise of the voting power or power of appointment in favour of the appointment of the directors or any of them as directors or officers of the other company, or in favour of the payment of remuneration to the directors or officers of the other company. Subject to these articles, a director may also vote on and be counted in the quorum in relation to any of such matters.

105 **GENERAL**

- (A) References in these articles to
- (i) a contract includes references to any proposed contract and to any transaction or arrangement or proposed transaction or arrangement whether or not constituting a contract; and
 - (ii) a conflict of interest includes a conflict of interest and duty and a conflict of duties.
- (B) The Company may by ordinary resolution suspend or relax the provisions of these articles to any extent or ratify any contract not properly authorised by reason of a contravention of any of the provisions of these articles.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

106 **GENERAL POWERS OF COMPANY VESTED IN BOARD**

Subject to these articles and to any directions given by the Company in general meeting by special resolution, the business of the Company shall be managed by the board which may exercise all the powers of the Company whether relating to the management of the business of the Company or not. No alteration of these articles and no special resolution shall invalidate any prior act of the board which would have been valid if that alteration had not been made or that resolution had not been passed. The powers given by this article shall not be limited by any special power given to the board by any other article.

107 **AGENTS**

- (A) The board can appoint anyone as the Company's attorney by granting a power of attorney or by authorising them in some other way. Attorneys can either be appointed directly by the board or the board can give someone else the power to select attorneys. The board or the persons who are authorised by it to select attorneys can decide on the purposes, powers, authorities and discretions of attorneys. But they cannot give an attorney any power, authority or discretion which the board does not have under these articles.
- (B) The board can decide how long a power of attorney will last for and attach any conditions to it. The power of attorney can include any provisions which the board decides on for the protection and convenience of anybody dealing with the attorney.

The power of attorney can allow the attorney to grant any or all of his power, authority or discretion to any other person.

(C) The board can:

- (i) delegate any of its authority, powers or discretions to any manager or agent of the Company;
- (ii) allow managers or agents to delegate to another person;
- (iii) remove any people it has appointed in any of these ways: and
- (iv) cancel or change anything that it has delegated, although this will not affect anybody who acts in good faith who has not had any notice of any cancellation or change.

Any appointment or delegation by the board which is referred to in this article can be on any conditions decided on by the board.

(D) The ability of the board to delegate under this article applies to all its powers and is not limited because certain articles refer to powers being exercised by the board or by a committee authorised by the board while other articles do not.

108 **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) upon such terms and conditions and with such restrictions as it thinks fit, and either collaterally with, or to the exclusion of, its own powers, authorities and discretions and may from time to time revoke or vary all or any of them but no person dealing in good faith and without notice of the revocation or variation shall be affected by it. The power to delegate contained in this article shall be effective in relation to the powers, authorities and discretions of the board generally and shall not be limited by the fact that in certain articles, but not in others, express reference is made to particular powers, authorities or discretions being exercised by the board or by a committee authorised by the board.

109 **REGISTERS**

The Company may keep an overseas or local or other register in any place and the board may make and vary such regulations as it may think fit respecting the keeping of the register.

110 **PROVISION FOR EMPLOYEES**

The board may exercise any power conferred by the Companies Acts to make provision for the benefit of 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 that subsidiary.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD

111 **BOARD MEETINGS**

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

112 **NOTICE OF BOARD MEETINGS**

Notice of a board meeting shall be deemed to be properly given to a director if it is given to him personally or by word of mouth or sent in writing to him at his last known address or any other address given by him to the Company for this purpose. A director may waive his entitlement to notice of any meeting either prospectively or retrospectively and any retrospective waiver shall not affect the validity of the meeting or of any business conducted at the meeting.

113 **QUORUM**

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

114 **DIRECTORS BELOW MINIMUM THROUGH VACANCIES**

The continuing directors or a sole continuing director may act notwithstanding any vacancy in their number but, if and so long as the number of directors is reduced below the minimum number fixed by or in accordance with these articles or is below the number fixed by or in accordance with these articles as the quorum or there is only one continuing director, the continuing directors or director may act for the purpose of filling vacancies or of summoning general meetings of the Company but not for any other purpose. If there are no directors or director able or willing to act, then any two members (excluding any member holding shares as treasury shares) may summon a general meeting for the purpose of appointing directors.

115 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

The board may appoint a director to be the chairman or a deputy chairman of the board, and may at any time remove him from that office. The chairman of the board or failing him a deputy chairman shall act as chairman at every meeting of the board. If more than one deputy chairman is present they shall agree amongst themselves who is to take the chair or, if they cannot agree, the deputy chairman who has been in office as a director longest shall take the chair. But if no chairman of the board or deputy chairman is appointed, or if at any meeting neither the chairman nor any deputy chairman is present within five minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the directors present may choose one of their number to be chairman of the meeting. References in these articles to a deputy chairman include, if no one has been appointed to that title, a person appointed to a position with another title which the board designates as equivalent to the position of deputy chairman.

116 **COMPETENCE OF MEETINGS**

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

117 **VOTING**

Questions arising at any 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.

118 **DELEGATION TO COMMITTEES**

- (A) The board may delegate any of its powers, authorities and discretions (with power to sub-delegate) to any committee, consisting of such person or persons (whether a member or members of its body or not) as it thinks fit provided that the majority of persons on any committee or sub-committee must be directors. References in these articles to committees include sub-committees permitted under this article.
- (B) Any committee so formed shall, in the exercise of the powers, authorities and discretions so delegated, conform to any regulations which may be imposed on it by the board. The meetings and proceedings of any committee consisting of two or more members shall be governed by the provisions contained in these articles for regulating the meetings and proceedings of the board so far as the same are applicable and are not superseded by any regulations imposed by the board.
- (C) The power to delegate contained in this article shall be effective in relation to the powers, authorities and discretions of the board generally and shall not be limited by the fact that in certain articles, but not in others, express reference is made to particular powers, authorities or discretions being exercised by the board or by a committee authorised by the board.

119 **PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS**

All or any of the members of the board may participate in a meeting of the board by means of a conference telephone or any communication equipment which allows all persons participating in the meeting to speak to and hear each other. A person so participating shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be entitled to vote and be counted in a quorum accordingly.

120 **RESOLUTION IN WRITING**

- (A) A resolution executed by the directors, or by the members of a committee constituted under these articles, entitled to vote thereon, shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the directors, or (as the case may be) at a meeting of that committee, which in every case was duly convened and held.
- (B) For the purposes of this article:
 - (i) a resolution shall consist of one or more written instruments (including faxes) or one or more electronic communications sent to an address specified for the purpose by the secretary, or a combination of them, provided that each such written instrument and electronic communication (if more than one) is to the same effect;
 - (ii) a written instrument is executed when the person executing it signs it;
 - (iii) 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;
 - (iv) the directors, or (as the case may be) members of a committee constituted under these articles, need not execute the same written instrument or electronic communication;

- (v) 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 120; and
- (vi) unless the directors have previously otherwise resolved, such a resolution need not be executed by all the directors entitled to vote thereon and can be passed by execution (indicating approval) by a majority of the directors so entitled and the chairman of the meeting shall, in the case of equality of votes of all the directors so entitled, have a second or casting vote.

121 **VALIDITY OF ACTS OF BOARD OR COMMITTEE**

All acts done by the board or by any committee or by any person acting as a director or 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 person so acting or that they or any of them were disqualified from holding office or had vacated office or were not entitled to vote, be as valid as if each such member or person had been properly appointed and was qualified and had continued to be a director or member of the committee and had been entitled to vote.

SEALS

122 **USE OF SEALS**

The board shall provide for the custody of every seal of the Company. A seal shall only be used by the authority of the board or of a committee of the board authorised by the board in that behalf. Subject as otherwise provided in these articles, and to any resolution of the board or committee of the board dispensing with the requirement for any counter-signature on any occasion, any instrument to which the common seal is applied shall be signed by at least one director and the secretary, or by at least two directors or by one director in the presence of a witness who attests the signature or by such other person or persons as the board may approve. Any instrument to which an official seal is applied need not, unless the board otherwise decides or the law otherwise requires, be signed by any person.

CERTIFYING DOCUMENTS

123 **CERTIFYING COPIES OF DOCUMENTS**

- (A) Any director or the secretary (including for the avoidance of doubt any assistant or deputy secretary) has power to authenticate any of the following things and to certify copies of or extracts from them as true copies or extracts:
 - (i) documents relating to the constitution of the Company;
 - (ii) resolutions passed by the members or a class of members, or by the board or a board committee; and
 - (iii) books, documents, records or accounts which relate to the business of the Company.

The board can also delegate this power to others.

- (B) A document which appears to be a copy of a resolution or an extract from the minutes of a meeting and which is certified as a true copy or extract as described in this article is conclusive evidence for a person who deals with the Company on the strength of the document that the resolution has been properly passed or the extract is a true and accurate record of the proceedings of a valid meeting.

DIVIDENDS AND OTHER PAYMENTS

124 DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS BY COMPANY

The Company may by ordinary resolution from time to time declare dividends in accordance with the respective rights of the members, but no dividend shall exceed the amount recommended by the board.

125 PAYMENT OF INTERIM AND FIXED DIVIDENDS BY BOARD

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, it shall not incur any liability to the holders of any shares for any loss they may suffer in consequence of the payment of an interim or fixed dividend on any other class of shares ranking *pari passu* with or after those shares.

126 CALCULATION AND CURRENCY OF DIVIDENDS

Except in so far as the rights attaching to, or the terms of issue of, any share otherwise provide:

- (i) 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;
- (ii) all dividends shall be apportioned and paid *pro rata* according to the amounts paid up on the shares during any portion or portions of the period in respect of which the dividend is paid; and
- (iii) dividends may be declared or paid in any currency.

The board may decide the basis of conversion for any currency conversions that may be required and how any costs involved are to be met.

127 AMOUNTS DUE ON SHARES MAY BE DEDUCTED FROM DIVIDENDS

The board may deduct from any dividend or other moneys payable to a member by the Company on or in respect of any shares all sums of money (if any) presently payable by him to the Company on account of calls or otherwise in respect of shares of the Company. Sums so deducted can be used to pay amounts owing to the Company in respect of the shares.

128 NO INTEREST ON DIVIDENDS

Subject to the rights attaching to, or the terms of issue of, any shares, no dividend or other moneys payable by the Company on or in respect of any share shall bear interest against the Company.

129 **PAYMENT PROCEDURE**

- (A) Any dividend or other sum payable in cash by the Company in respect of a share may, subject to (B) below, be paid by one or more of the following means:
- (i) by transfer to a bank or building society account as the holder or joint holders may in writing direct;
 - (ii) by sending a cheque, warrant or similar financial instrument by post addressed to the holder at his registered address, or in the case of joint holders, addressed to the holder whose name stands first in the register in respect of the shares as appearing in the register or, in any other case, to such person and at such address as the holder or joint holders may in writing direct;
 - (iii) by sending a cheque by post to such person at such address as the holder or joint holders may in writing direct;
 - (iv) by means of a relevant system in respect of shares in uncertificated form in such manner as may be consistent with the facilities and requirements of the relevant system; or
 - (v) by any electronic or other means as the directors may decide, to an account, or in accordance with such details as the holder or joint holders may in writing direct.
- (B) In respect of the payment of any dividend or other sum payable in cash by the Company in respect of a share, the directors may decide, and notify the holder or joint holders, that:
- (i) one or more of the means described in above will be used for payment and the holder or joint holders may elect to receive the payment by one of the means so notified in the manner prescribed by the directors;
 - (ii) one or more of such means will be used for the payment unless the holder or joint holders elect otherwise in the manner prescribed by the directors;
 - (iii) one or more of such means will be used for the payment and the holder or joint holders will not be able to elect otherwise.
- The directors may, for this purpose, decide that different methods of payment may apply to different holders or joint holders or groups of holders or joint holders.
- (C) Payment of any dividend or other sum payable in cash by the Company in respect of a share is made at the risk of the holder or joint holders. The Company shall have no responsibility for any sums lost or delayed in the course of payment by any systems or such other means as set out above and where it has acted on any such directions. Payment, in accordance with these articles, of any cheque, warrant or similar financial instrument by the bank upon which it is drawn, or the transfer of funds by any means, or in respect of shares in uncertificated form, the making of payment by means of a relevant system, shall be a good discharge to the Company.

(D) In the event that:

- (i) the holder or joint holders (1) do not specify an address, (2) do not specify an account of a type prescribed by the directors, or (3) do not specify other details necessary in order to make a payment of a dividend or other sum payable in cash by the Company in respect of a share by the means by which the directors have decided, in accordance with this article, that a payment is to be made, or by which the holder or joint holders have elected to receive payment, and such address or details are necessary in order for the Company to make the relevant payment in accordance with such decision or election; or
- (ii) if payment cannot be made by the Company using the details provided by the holder or joint holders,

then the dividend or other sum payable in cash by the Company in respect of a share shall be treated as unclaimed.

130 **UNCASHED DIVIDENDS**

(A) The Company may cease to:

- (i) send any cheque, warrant or similar financial instrument through the post;
- (ii) make a transfer of funds by any means; or
- (iii) in respect of shares in uncertificated form, make a payment by means of a relevant system,

(as applicable) for any dividend payable on any shares in the Company which is normally paid in that manner and on those shares if, in respect of at least two consecutive dividends payable on those shares, the cheques, warrants or similar financial instruments have been returned undelivered or remain uncashed during or at the end of the period for which the same are valid, that transfer of funds has failed or that making of payment by means of a relevant system has failed.

(B) In addition, the Company may cease to:

- (i) send any cheque, warrant or similar financial instrument through the post;
- (ii) make a transfer of funds by any means; or
- (iii) in respect of shares in uncertificated form, make a payment by means of a relevant system,

(as applicable) if, in respect of one dividend payable on those shares, the cheque, warrant or similar financial instrument has been returned undelivered or remains uncashed during or at the end of the period for which the same is valid, that transfer of funds has failed or that making of payment

by means of a relevant system has failed and reasonable enquiries have failed to establish any new postal address or account of the holder.

- (C) Subject to the provisions of these articles, the Company must recommence sending cheques, warrants or similar financial instruments, transferring funds and making payments by means of a relevant system in respect of dividends payable on those shares if the holder or joint holders or person entitled by transmission requests such recommencement in writing.

131 **FORFEITURE OF UNCLAIMED DIVIDENDS**

All dividends or other sums payable on or in respect of any shares which remain unclaimed may be invested or otherwise made use of by the board for the benefit of the Company until claimed. Any dividend or other sum unclaimed after a period of six years from the date when it was declared or became due for payment shall be forfeited and shall revert to the Company unless the board decides otherwise and the payment by the board of any unclaimed dividend or other sum payable on or in respect of a share into a separate account shall not constitute the Company a trustee in respect of it.

132 **DIVIDENDS NOT IN CASH**

Any general meeting declaring a dividend may, upon the recommendation of the board, by ordinary resolution direct, and the board may in relation to any interim dividend direct, that it shall be satisfied wholly or partly by the distribution of assets, and in particular of paid up shares or debentures of any other company, and where any difficulty arises in regard to the distribution the board may settle it as it thinks expedient, and in particular may authorise any person to sell and transfer any fractions or may ignore fractions altogether, and may fix the value for distribution purposes of any assets or any part thereof to be distributed and may determine that cash shall be paid to any members upon the footing of the value so fixed in order to secure equality of distribution and may vest any assets to be distributed in trustees as may seem expedient to the board.

133 **SCRIP DIVIDENDS**

The board may, if authorised by an ordinary resolution of the Company, offer any holders of ordinary shares (excluding any member holding shares as treasury shares) the right to elect to receive ordinary shares, credited as fully paid, instead of cash in respect of the whole (or some part, to be determined by the board) of any dividend specified by the ordinary resolution. The following provisions shall apply:

- (i) an ordinary resolution may specify some or all of a particular dividend (whether or not already declared) or may specify some or all of any dividends declared or paid within a specified period, but such period may not end later than the fifth anniversary of the date of the meeting at which the ordinary resolution is passed;
- (ii) the entitlement of each holder of ordinary shares to new ordinary shares shall be such that the relevant value of the entitlement shall be as nearly as possible equal to (but not greater than) the cash amount (disregarding any tax credit) of the dividend that such holder elects to forego. For this purpose "relevant value" shall be calculated by reference to the average of the middle market quotations for the Company's ordinary shares on the London Stock

Exchange as derived from the Daily Official List, (or any other publication of a recognised investment exchange showing quotations for the company's ordinary shares) on such five consecutive dealing days as the board shall determine provided that the first of such days shall be on or after the day on which the ordinary shares are first quoted "ex" the relevant dividend, or in such other manner as may be determined by or in accordance with the ordinary resolution. A certificate or report by the auditors as to the amount of the relevant value in respect of any dividend shall be conclusive evidence of that amount and in giving such a certificate or report the auditors may rely on advice or information from brokers or other sources of information as they think fit;

- (iii) no fraction of any ordinary share shall be allotted. The board may make such provisions as it thinks fit for any fractional entitlements including provisions whereby, in whole or in part, the benefit thereof accrues to the Company and/or under which fractional entitlements are accrued and/or retained and in each case accumulated on behalf of any holder of ordinary shares and such accruals or retentions are applied to the allotment by way of bonus to or cash subscription on behalf of such holder of fully paid ordinary shares and/or provisions whereby cash payments may be made to such holders in respect of their fractional entitlements;
- (iv) the board, if it intends to offer an election in respect of any dividend, shall give notice to the holders of ordinary shares of the right of election offered to them, and specify the procedure to be followed which, for the avoidance of doubt, may include an election by means of a relevant system and the place at which, and the latest time by which elections must be lodged in order for elections to be effective; no such notice need be given to holders of ordinary shares who have previously given election mandates in accordance with this article and whose mandates have not been revoked; the accidental omission to give notice of any right of election to, or the non-receipt (even if the Company becomes aware of such non-receipt) of any such notice by, any holder of ordinary shares entitled to the same shall neither invalidate any offer of an election nor give rise to any claim, suit or action;
- (v) the board shall not proceed with any election unless the Company has sufficient reserves or funds that may be capitalised, and the board has authority to allot sufficient shares, to give effect to it after the basis of allotment is determined;
- (vi) the board may exclude from any offer or make other arrangement in relation to any holders of ordinary shares where the board believes that such exclusion or arrangement is necessary or expedient in relation to legal or practical problems under the laws of, or the requirements of any recognised regulatory body or any stock exchange in, any territory, or the board believes that for any other reason the offer should not be made to them;

- (vii) the dividend (or that part of the dividend in respect of which a right of election has been offered) shall not be payable on ordinary shares in respect of which an election has been made (for the purposes of this article “**the elected ordinary shares**”) and instead additional ordinary shares shall be allotted to the holders of the elected ordinary shares on the basis of allotment calculated as stated. For such purpose the board shall capitalise, out of any amount standing to the credit of any reserve or fund (including the profit and loss account or retained earnings) at the relevant time whether or not the same is available for distribution as the board may determine, a sum equal to the aggregate nominal amount of the additional ordinary shares to be allotted on that basis and apply it in paying up in full the appropriate number of unissued ordinary shares for allotment and distribution to the holders of the elected ordinary shares on that basis. The board may do all acts and things considered necessary or expedient to give effect to any such capitalisation;
- (viii) the additional ordinary shares when allotted shall rank *pari passu* in all respects with the fully-paid ordinary shares then in issue except that they will not be entitled to participation in the relevant dividend;
- (ix) unless the board otherwise determines, or unless the uncertificated securities rules otherwise require, the new ordinary share or shares which a member has elected to receive instead of cash in respect of the whole (or some part) of the specified dividend declared or paid in respect of his elected ordinary shares shall be in uncertificated form (in respect of the member’s elected ordinary shares which were in uncertificated form on the date of the member’s election) and in certificated form (in respect of the member’s elected ordinary shares which were in certificated form on the date of the member’s election);
- (x) the board may also from time to time establish or vary a procedure for election mandates, which, for the avoidance of doubt, may include an election by means of a relevant system, under which a holder of ordinary shares may elect in respect of future rights of election offered to that holder under this article until the election mandate is revoked or deemed to be revoked in accordance with the procedure;
- (xi) the board may decide how any costs relating to making new shares available in place of a cash dividend will be met, including deciding to deduct an amount from the entitlement of a shareholder under this article; and
- (xii) at any time before new ordinary shares are allotted instead of cash in respect of any part of a dividend, the board may determine that such new ordinary shares will not be allotted. Any such determination may be made before or after any election has been made by holders of ordinary shares in respect of the relevant dividend.

134 **CAPITAL RESERVE**

- (A) The board shall establish a reserve to be called the “capital reserve” and shall either carry to the credit of such reserve from time to time, or apply in providing for depreciation or contingencies, all surpluses arising on the realisation of investments. Any losses arising on the realisation of the investments shall be carried to the debit of the capital reserve except in so far as the board may in its discretion decide to make good the same out of other funds of the Company.
- (B) The board may determine whether any amount received by the Company is to be dealt with as income or capital or partly one and partly the other. The board may determine whether any cost, liability or expense (including any costs incurred or sums expended in connection with the management of the assets of the Company or any interest charge) is to be treated as a cost, liability or expense chargeable to capital or to revenue or partly one and partly the other, having regard, inter alia, to the investment objectives of the Company, and to the extent the board determines that any such cost, liability or expense should reasonably and fairly be apportioned to capital the board may debit or charge the same to the capital reserve.
- (C) All sums carried and standing to the capital reserve may be applied for any of the purposes to which sums standing to any reserve of the Company are applicable.

CAPITALISATION OF RESERVES

135 **POWER TO CAPITALISE RESERVES AND FUNDS**

The Company may, upon the recommendation of the board, at any time and from time to time pass an ordinary resolution to the effect that it is desirable to capitalise all or any part of any amount standing to the credit of any reserve or fund (including retained earnings) at the relevant time whether or not the same is available for distribution and accordingly that the amount to be capitalised be set free for distribution among the members or any class of members who would be entitled to it if it were distributed by way of dividend and in the same proportions, on the footing that it is applied either in or towards paying up the amounts unpaid at the relevant time on any shares in the Company held by those members respectively or in paying up in full shares, debentures or other obligations of the Company to be allotted and distributed credited as fully paid up among those members, or partly in one way and partly in the other, but so that, for the purposes of this article: (i) a share premium account and a capital redemption reserve, and any reserve or fund representing unrealised profits, may be applied only in paying up in full shares of the Company that are to be allotted and distributed as fully paid up; and (ii) where the amount capitalised is applied in paying up in full shares that are to be allotted and distributed as fully paid up, the Company will also be entitled to participate in the relevant distribution in relation to any shares of the relevant class held by it as treasury shares and the proportionate entitlement of the relevant class of members to the distribution will be calculated accordingly. The board may authorise any person to enter into an agreement with the Company on behalf of the persons entitled to participate in the distribution and the agreement shall be binding on those persons.

136 **SETTLEMENT OF DIFFICULTIES IN DISTRIBUTION**

Where any difficulty arises in regard to any distribution of any capitalised reserve or fund the board may settle the matter as it thinks expedient and in particular may authorise any person to sell and transfer any fractions or may resolve that the distribution should be as nearly as may be practicable in the correct proportion but not exactly so or may ignore fractions altogether,

and may determine that cash payments shall be made to any members in order to adjust the rights of all parties, as may seem expedient to the board.

RECORD DATES

137 POWER TO CHOOSE ANY RECORD DATE

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Company or the board may fix any date as the record date for any dividend, distribution, allotment or issue and such record date may be on or at any time before or after any date on which the dividend, distribution, allotment or issue is declared, paid or made. The power to fix any such record date shall include the power to fix a time on the chosen date.

LIABILITY FOR LOSS OF FINANCIAL ASSETS HELD IN CUSTODY

138 POWER OF BOARD TO DISCHARGE DEPOSITARY FROM CERTAIN LIABILITIES

The board, at its discretion, may allow a depositary appointed to safe-keep the Company's assets to avail of a contractual discharge of liability for loss of such assets, provided always that all other conditions for such discharge have been met.

ACCOUNTING RECORDS AND STRATEGIC REPORT

139 INSPECTION OF RECORDS

No member in his capacity as such shall have any right of inspecting any accounting record or book or document of the Company except as conferred by law, ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction or authorised by the board or by ordinary resolution of the Company.

140 STRATEGIC REPORT

The Company may send or supply strategic reports and supplementary material to members of the Company instead of copies of its full accounts and reports.

SERVICE OF NOTICES, DOCUMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

141 METHOD OF SERVICE

(A) Any notice, document (including a share certificate) or other information may be served on or sent or supplied to any member by the Company:

- (i) personally;
- (ii) by sending it through the post addressed to the member at his registered address or by leaving it at that address addressed to the member;
- (iii) by means of a relevant system:
- (iv) where appropriate, by sending or supplying it in electronic form to an address notified by the member to the Company for that purpose;
- (v) where appropriate, by making it available on a website and notifying the member of its availability in accordance with this article; or
- (vi) by any other means authorised in writing by the member.

In the case of joint holders of a share, service, sending or supply of any notice, document or other information on or to one of the joint holders shall for all purposes be deemed a sufficient service on or sending or supplying to all the joint holders.

- (B) In the case of joint holders of a share, anything to be agreed or specified in relation to any notice, document or other information to be served on or sent or supplied to them may be agreed or specified by any one of the joint holders and the agreement or specification of the senior shall be accepted to the exclusion of that of the other joint holders and, for this purpose, seniority shall be determined by the order in which the names stand in the register in respect of the joint holding.
- (C) If on three consecutive occasions any notice, document or other information served on or sent or supplied to a member has been returned undelivered, such member shall not thereafter be entitled to receive notices, documents or other information from the Company until he shall have communicated with the Company and supplied to the Company (or its agent) a new registered address, or a postal address within the United Kingdom for the service of notices and the despatch or supply of documents and other information, or shall have informed the Company of an address for the service of notices and the despatch or supply of documents and other information in electronic form. For these purposes, any notice, document or other information sent by post shall be treated as returned undelivered if the notice, document or other information is served, sent or supplied back to the Company (or its agents) and a notice, document or other information served, sent or supplied in electronic form shall be treated as returned undelivered if the Company (or its agents) receives notification that the notice, document or other information was not delivered to the address to which it was sent.
- (D) The Company may at any time and in its sole discretion choose to serve, send or supply notices, documents or other information in hard copy form alone to some or all members.

142 **RECORD DATE FOR SERVICE**

Any notice, document or other information may be served, sent or supplied by the Company by reference to the register as it stands at any time not more than 15 days before the date of service, sending or supply. No change in the register after that time shall invalidate that service, sending or supply. Where any notice, document or other information is served on or sent or supplied to any person in respect of a share in accordance with these articles, no person deriving any title or interest in that share shall be entitled to any further service, sending or supply of that notice or document or other information.

143 **MEMBERS RESIDENT ABROAD**

Any member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the Company a postal address within the United Kingdom at which notices, documents or other information may be served upon, or sent or supplied to, him shall be entitled to have notices or documents or other information served on or sent or supplied to him at that address or, where applicable, by making them available on a website and notifying the holder at that address. Any member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the Company an address for the purposes of communications by electronic means may, subject to these articles, have notices, documents or other information served on or sent or supplied to him at that address or, where applicable, by making them available on a website and notifying

the holder at that address. Otherwise, a member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom shall not be entitled to receive any notice, document or other information from the Company.

144 **SERVICE OF NOTICE ON PERSON ENTITLED BY TRANSMISSION**

A person who is entitled by transmission to a share, upon supplying the Company with a postal address within the United Kingdom for the service of notices and the despatch or supply of documents and other information shall be entitled to have served upon or sent or supplied to him at such address any notice, document or other information to which he would have been entitled if he were the holder of that share or, where applicable, to be notified at that address of the availability of the notice, document or other information on a website. A person who is entitled by transmission to a share, upon supplying the Company with an address for the purposes of communications by electronic means for the service of notices and the despatch or supply of documents and other information may have served on, sent or supplied to him at such address any notice, document or other information to which he would have been entitled if he were the holder of that share or, where applicable, may be notified at that address of the availability of the notice, document or other information on a website. In either case, such service, sending or supply shall for all purposes be deemed a sufficient service, sending or supply of such notice, document or other information on all persons interested (whether jointly with or as claimants through or under him) in the share. Otherwise, any notice, document or other information served on or sent or supplied 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 served, sent or supplied in respect of any share registered in the name of that member as sole or joint holder.

145 **DEEMED DELIVERY**

- (A) Any notice, document or other information, if served, sent or supplied by the Company by post, shall be deemed to have been received on the day following that on which it was posted if first class post was used or 48 hours after it was posted if first class post was not used and, in proving that a notice, document or other information was served, sent or supplied, it shall be sufficient to prove that the notice, document or other information was properly addressed, prepaid and put in the post.
- (B) Any notice, document or other information not served, sent or supplied by post but left by the Company at a registered address or at an address (other than an address for the purposes of communications by electronic means) notified to the Company in accordance with these articles by a person who is entitled by transmission to a share shall be deemed to have been received on the day it was so left.
- (C) Any notice, document or other information served, sent or supplied by the Company by means of a relevant system shall be deemed to have been received when the Company or any sponsoring system-participant acting on its behalf sends the issuer-instruction relating to the notice, document or other information.
- (D) Any notice, document or other information served, sent or supplied by the Company using electronic means shall be deemed to have been received on the day on which it was sent notwithstanding that the Company subsequently sends a hard copy of such notice, document or information by post. Any notice, document or other information

made available on a website shall be deemed to have been received on the day on which the notice, document or other information was first made available on the website or, if later, when a notice of availability is received or deemed to have been received pursuant to this article. In proving that a notice, document or other information served, sent or supplied by electronic means was served, sent or supplied, it shall be sufficient to prove that it was properly addressed.

- (E) Any notice, document or other information served, sent or supplied by the Company by any other means authorised in writing by the member concerned shall be deemed to have been received when the Company has carried out the action it has been authorised to take for that purpose.

146 **NOTICE WHEN POST NOT AVAILABLE**

If there is a suspension or curtailment of postal services within the United Kingdom or some part of the United Kingdom, the Company need only give notice of a general meeting to those members with whom the Company can communicate by electronic means and who have provided the Company with an address for this purpose. The Company shall also advertise the notice in at least one newspaper with a national circulation and make it available on its website from the date of such advertisement until the conclusion of the meeting or any adjournment thereof. If at least six clear days prior to the meeting the sending or supply of notices by post in hard copy form has again become generally possible, the Company shall send or supply confirmatory copies of the notice by post to those members who would otherwise receive the notice in hard copy form.

DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

147 **PRESUMPTIONS WHERE DOCUMENTS DESTROYED**

If the Company destroys or deletes:

- (i) any share certificate which has been cancelled at any time after a period of one year has elapsed from the date of cancellation, or
- (ii) any instruction concerning the payment of dividends or other moneys in respect of any share or any notification of change of name or address at any time after a period of two years has elapsed from the date the instruction or notification was recorded by the Company, or
- (iii) any instrument of transfer of shares or operator-instruction for the transfer of shares which has been registered by the Company at any time after a period of six years has elapsed from the date of registration, or
- (iv) any instrument of proxy which has been used for the purposes of a poll at any time after a period of one year has elapsed from the date of use, or
- (v) any instrument of proxy which has not been used for the purposes of a poll at any time after a period of one month has elapsed from the end of the meeting to which the instrument of proxy relates, or

- (vi) any other document on the basis of which any entry is made in the register at any time after a period of six years has elapsed from the date the entry was first made in the register in respect of it

and the Company destroys or deletes the document or instruction in good faith and without express notice that its preservation was relevant to a claim, it shall be presumed irrebuttably in favour of the Company that every share certificate so destroyed was a valid certificate and was properly cancelled, that every instrument of transfer or operator-instructions so destroyed or deleted was a valid and effective instrument of transfer or instruction and was properly registered and that every other document so destroyed was a valid and effective document and that any particulars of it which are recorded in the books or records of the Company were correctly recorded. If the documents relate to uncertificated shares, the Company must comply with any requirements of the uncertificated securities rules which limit its ability to destroy these documents. Nothing contained in this article shall be construed as imposing upon the Company any liability which, but for this article, would not exist or by reason only of the destruction of any document of the kind mentioned above before the relevant period mentioned in this article has elapsed or of the fact that any other condition precedent to its destruction mentioned above has not been fulfilled. References in this article to the destruction of any document include references to its disposal in any manner.

INDEMNITY

148 INDEMNITY OF DIRECTORS

To the extent permitted by the Companies Acts, the Company may indemnify any director or former director of the Company or of any associated company against any liability and may purchase and maintain for any director or former director of the Company or of any associated company insurance against any liability. No director or former director of the Company or of any associated company shall be accountable to the Company or the members for any benefit provided pursuant to this article and the receipt of any such benefit shall not disqualify any person from being or becoming a director of the Company.

VOLUNTARY WINDING UP

149 VOLUNTARY WINDING UP

The board shall procure that at the annual general meeting of the Company held after the fifth anniversary of the last allotment of shares (from time to time) in the Company (and at three yearly intervals thereafter) an ordinary resolution will be proposed to the effect that the Company shall continue in being as a venture capital trust.

If, at any such meeting, such resolution is not passed, the board shall within four months of such meeting convene a general meeting of the Company at which the following resolutions shall be proposed:

- (i) a special resolution for the re-organisation or reconstruction of the Company; and
- (ii) if the special resolution referred to above shall not be passed, a special resolution requiring the Company to be wound-up voluntarily.

In the case of a special resolution relating to voluntary winding up only, any member may demand a poll and each holder of shares present in person or by proxy and who votes in favour of the special resolution shall have one vote in respect of each share held by him. If the special resolutions referred to in this article are not passed, the Company shall continue as a venture capital trust.

BORROWING

150 BORROWING

150.1 Subject to these Articles and the Companies Acts, the Board may exercise all the powers of the Company to:

150.1.1 borrow money;

150.1.2 indemnify and guarantee;

150.1.3 mortgage or charge all or any part of the undertaking, property and assets (present and future) and uncalled capital of the Company;

150.1.4 create and issue debentures and other securities; and

150.1.5 give security either outright or as collateral security for any debt, liability or obligation of the Company or of any third party.

150.2 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 (as regards the subsidiary undertakings, so far as by such exercise they can secure) that the aggregate of the amounts borrowed by the Group and remaining outstanding at any time (excluding intra-Group borrowings) shall not without the previous sanction of an ordinary resolution of the Company exceed an amount equal to 50 per cent of the Adjusted Capital and Reserves.

150.3 For the purpose of this Article:

150.3.1 **Group** means the Company and its subsidiary undertakings for the time being;

150.3.2 **relevant balance sheet** means the most recent audited consolidated balance sheet of the Group at the relevant time;

150.3.3 **Adjusted Capital and Reserves** means a sum equal to the aggregate, as shown by the relevant balance sheet, of the amount paid up or credited or deemed to be paid up on the issued or allotted share capital of the Company and the amount standing to the credit of the reserves (including, without limitation, the profit and loss account and any share premium account or capital redemption reserve) of the Company and its subsidiary undertakings included in the consolidation in the relevant balance sheet but after:

(a) making such adjustment as may be appropriate to reflect the profit or loss of the Company since the relevant balance sheet;

(b) excluding any amount set aside for taxation (including any deferred taxation) or any amounts attributable to outside shareholders in subsidiary undertakings of the Company;

(c) making such adjustments as may be appropriate in respect of any variation in the amount of such paid up share capital and or any reserves (other than the profit and loss account) after the date of the relevant balance sheet. For this purpose, if any issue or proposed issue of shares by the Company for cash has been underwritten then such shares shall be deemed to have been issued and the amount (including any premium) of the subscription monies paid for them (other than money to be paid more than six months after the allotment date) shall to the extent so underwritten be deemed to have been paid up on the date when the issue of such shares was underwritten (or, if such underwriting was conditional, on the date when it became unconditional);

(d) making such adjustments as may be appropriate in respect of any distribution declared, recommended, made or paid by the Company or its subsidiary

undertakings (to the extent not attributable directly or indirectly to the Company) out of profits earned up to and including the date of the relevant balance sheet to the extent such distribution is not provided for in such balance sheet;

(e) making such adjustments as may be appropriate in respect of any variation in the interests of the Company in its subsidiary undertakings (including a variation where an undertaking ceases to be a subsidiary undertaking) since the date of the relevant balance sheet; and

(f) making such adjustments as the auditors of the Company may consider appropriate.

150.3.4 **minority proportion** means a proportion equal to the proportion of the issued share capital of a partly-owned subsidiary undertaking which is not attributable to a member of the Group.

150.4 Borrowings shall be deemed to include the following except in so far as otherwise taken into account:

150.4.1 the nominal amount of any issued and paid up share capital (other than equity share capital) of any subsidiary undertaking of the Company owned otherwise than by a member of the Group;

150.4.2 the nominal amount of any other issued and paid up share capital and the principal amount of any debentures or borrowed moneys which is not at the relevant time beneficially owned by a member of the Group, the redemption or repayment of which is the subject of a guarantee or indemnity by a member of the Group or which any member of the Group may be required to buy;

150.4.3 the principal amount of any debenture (whether secured or unsecured) of a member of the Group beneficially owned otherwise than by a member of the Group;

150.4.4 the outstanding amount raised by acceptances by any bank or accepting house under any acceptance credit opened by or on behalf of any member of the Group;

150.4.5 the minority proportion of moneys borrowed by a member of the Group and owing to a partly-owned subsidiary undertaking.

150.5 Borrowings shall not include and shall be deemed not to include:

150.5.1 borrowings incurred by any member of the Group for the purpose of repaying within six months of the borrowing the whole or any part (with or without premium) of any borrowings of that or other member of the Group then outstanding, pending their application for such purpose within such period;

150.5.2 the minority proportion of moneys borrowed by a partly owned subsidiary undertaking and not owing to another member of the Group.

150.6 When the aggregate principal amount of borrowings required to be taken into account on any particular date is being ascertained, any particular borrowing then outstanding which is denominated or repayable in a currency other than sterling shall be notionally converted into sterling at the rate of exchange prevailing in London on the last business day before that date or, if it would result in a lower figure, at the rate of exchange prevailing in London on the last business day six months before that date. For these purposes the rate of exchange shall be taken to be the spot rate in London recommended by a London clearing bank, selected by the Board, as being the most appropriate rate for the purchase by the company of the currency in question for sterling on the day in question.

150.7 A certificate or report by the auditors of the Company as to the amount of any borrowings or to the effect that the limit imposed by this Article has not been or will not be exceeded at any particular time or times, shall be conclusive evidence of such amount or fact for the purposes of this Article. Nevertheless the Board may at any time rely on a bona fide estimate of the aggregate of the borrowings. If, in consequence, the limit on borrowings set out in this Article is

inadvertently exceeded, the amount of borrowings equal to the excess may be disregarded for 90 days after the date on which by reason of a determination of the auditors of the Company or otherwise the Board becomes aware that such a situation has or may have arisen.

- 150.8 No person dealing with the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings shall be concerned to see or enquire whether the said limit is observed and no debt incurred or security given in excess of such limit shall be invalid or ineffectual unless the lender or recipient of the security had, at the time the debt was incurred or security given, express notice that the said limit had been or would be exceeded.