

LIQ03

Notice of progress report in voluntary winding up



Companies House

For further information, please
refer to our guidance at
www.gov.uk/companieshouse

1 Company details

Company number 0 3 5 2 9 2 8 2

Company name in full Bassrock Limited

→ Filling in this form
Please complete in typescript or in
bold black capitals.

2 Liquidator's name

Full forename(s) Mark Jonathan

Surname Botwood

3 Liquidator's address

Building name/number Regent House

Street Bath Avenue

Post town Wolverhampton

County/Region

Postcode W V 1 4 E G

Country

4 Liquidator's name ①

Full forename(s)

Surname

① Other liquidator
Use this section to tell us about
another liquidator.

5 Liquidator's address ②

Building name/number

Street

Post town

County/Region

Postcode

Country

② Other liquidator
Use this section to tell us about
another liquidator.

LIQ03

Notice of progress report in voluntary winding up

6 Period of progress report

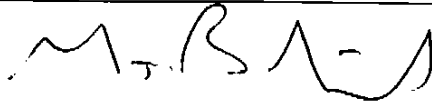
From date	^d 2	^d 7	^m 0	^m 2	^y 2	^y 0	^y 2	^y 0
To date	^d 2	^d 6	^m 0	^m 2	^y 2	^y 0	^y 2	^y 1

7 Progress report☐ The progress report is attached**8** Sign and date

Liquidator's signature

Signature

X



X

Signature date

^d 1	^d 2	^m 0	^m 4	^y 2	^y 0	^y 2	^y 1
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LIQ03

Notice of progress report in voluntary winding up

**Presenter information**

You do not have to give any contact information, but if you do it will help Companies House if there is a query on the form. The contact information you give will be visible to searchers of the public record.

Contact name **Mark Jonathan Botwood**

Company name **Muras Baker Jones Ltd**

Address **Regent House**

Bath Avenue

Post town **Wolverhampton**

County/Region

Postcode **W V 1 4 E G**

Country

DX

Telephone **01902 393000**

**Checklist**

We may return forms completed incorrectly or with information missing.

Please make sure you have remembered the following:

- ☐ The company name and number match the information held on the public Register.
- ☐ You have attached the required documents.
- ☐ You have signed the form.

**Important information**

All information on this form will appear on the public record.

**Where to send**

You may return this form to any Companies House address, however for expediency we advise you to return it to the address below:

The Registrar of Companies, Companies House,
Crown Way, Cardiff, Wales, CF14 3UZ.
DX 33050 Cardiff.

**Further information**

For further information please see the guidance notes on the website at www.gov.uk/companieshouse or email enquiries@companieshouse.gov.uk

This form is available in an alternative format. Please visit the forms page on the website at www.gov.uk/companieshouse

Bassrock Limited
(In Liquidation)
Liquidator's Summary of Receipts & Payments

Declaration of Solvency £	From 27/02/2020 To 26/02/2021 £	From 27/02/2020 To 26/02/2021 £
	ASSET REALISATIONS	
	Bank Interest Gross	24.92
1,067,308.00	Cash at Bank	1,068,223.59
360,000.00	Freehold Land & Property	360,000.00
6,750.00	Motor Vehicles	3,592.37
607.00	VAT Refund	607.09
		<u>1,432,447.97</u>
	COST OF REALISATIONS	
	Accountancy re Corp. Tax	950.00
	Bank Charges	30.00
	General Legal Advice	5,225.00
	Insolvency Bond	760.00
	Legal Disbursements - Land Reg Scotl	247.00
	Liquidators Remuneration	5,000.00
	London Gazette Advertising	257.55
	Postage	4.95
		<u>(12,474.50)</u>
	UNSECURED CREDITORS	
(40,000.00)	Contingent Provision	NIL
	Director's Loan Account	599.00
	HMRC Corp Tax	699.96
(2,300.00)	Trade & Expense Creditors	2,300.00
		<u>(3,598.96)</u>
	DISTRIBUTIONS	
	1st dist @ £5.49618 per share 9.3.2020	360,000.00
	2nd dist @ £15.13 per share 10.3.2020	991,015.00
	3rd Dist 1.4.2020 @ 5.4845p per share	3,592.37
	4th Dist 19.2.2021 @ £0.61 per share	40,000.00
		<u>(1,394,607.37)</u>
1,392,365.00		21,767.14
	REPRESENTED BY	
	Interest Bearing Current Account	19,670.14
	VAT Receivable	2,097.00
		<u>21,767.14</u>

Note:

The above figures are shown net of VAT

Dividend Information

1. A first capital distribution of £5.49618 per share, by distribution on specie, was declared on 9 March 2020 to the sole shareholder holding 65,500 ordinary £1 shares.

The distribution related to 2 properties held by the company which were subject to valuation by a RICS Registered Valuer on 14 February 2020

2. A second capital distribution of £15.13 per share was declared on 10 March 2020 to the sole shareholder holding 65,500 ordinary £1 shares


3. A third capital distribution of 5.4845344p per share, by distribution in specie, was declared on 1 April 2020.

The distribution relates to a vehicle, the valuation is that received from an online valuation site less repair costs incurred and paid post liquidation by the sole shareholder.

4. A fourth capital distribution of £0.61068 per share was declared on 19 February 2021 to the sole shareholder holding 65,500 ordinary £1 shares

Bassrock Limited
(In Liquidation)
Liquidator's Summary of Receipts & Payments

Declaration of Solvency £	From 27/02/2020 To 26/02/2021 £	From 27/02/2020 To 26/02/2021 £
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Mark Jonathan Bolwood
Liquidator

Bassrock Limited – In Members' Voluntary Liquidation

LIQUIDATORS' PROGRESS REPORT TO MEMBERS

For the year ending 26 February 2021

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Company name:	Bassrock Limited
Registered office:	3rd Floor, Regent House Bath Avenue Wolverhampton WV1 4EG
Former registered office:	Falcon House 29 Long Street Wheaton Aston Staffs ST19 9NF
Registered number:	03529282
Liquidator's name:	Mark Jonathan Botwood
Liquidator's address:	Regent House, Bath Avenue, Wolverhampton, WV1 4EG
Liquidator's date of appointment:	27 February 2020

LIQUIDATOR'S ACTIONS SINCE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF LIQUIDATION

On appointment I reviewed the information provided by the company and accountant to confirm that the declaration of solvency showed an accurate reflection of the company's solvency at the date of liquidation.

Notice of my appointment was filed at Companies House and advertised in the London Gazette. I also published in the London Gazette a notice to creditors to submit claims by 2 April 2020. No claims were received.

Prior to the liquidation, the company had entered legal proceedings against parties in relation to a dispute concerning management and service charges concerning a property owned by the Company based in Scotland. The prolonged proceedings continued following the Company's liquidation and overseen by the liquidator. The liquidator continued the engagement of Solicitors MacPhee & Partners and was concluded successfully in July 2020.

A first dividend to the sole shareholder holding 65,500 ordinary £1 share was declared and distributed in specie on 9 March 2020. The distribution being that of two properties.

A second dividend to the sole shareholder holding 65,500 ordinary £1 share was declared and paid on 10 March 2020 with funds reserved to meet the costs of liquidation prior to the issue of a further dividends.

A third dividend to the sole shareholder holding 65,500 ordinary £1 share was declared and distributed in specie on 1 April 2020. The distribution being that of a vehicle

A fourth dividend to the sole shareholder holding 65,500 ordinary £1 share was declared and paid on 19 February 2021 with funds reserved to meet the costs of liquidation prior to the issue of a further dividends.

On 3 March 2020 creditors were notified of the liquidation. The director's loan account was repaid on 3 April 2020. On 21 July 2020 a notice of intended dividend was issued to creditors setting a claims date of 14 August 2020. No further claims were received.

The company was registered for VAT and PAYE scheme, The final pre liquidation VAT return was submitted on behalf of the company and a request for deregistration submitted. The company was deregistered for VAT purposes on 5 July 2020. A refund of £607 was due to the company in relation to the final pre-liquidation and received March 2020.

I instructed Michael Martin Accountants to complete the accounts and company tax return for the period to 26 February 2020. The pre appoint corporation tax of £699.96 was paid on 26 June 2020

Notification from HMRC and submission of final claim has been delayed due to Covid. This remains outstanding and be finalised after the reporting period.

In addition to the case specific information set out above there is certain work that I am required by the insolvency legislation to undertake in connection with the liquidation that provides no financial benefit for the members. A description of the routine work undertaken since my appointment is contained in Appendix 1.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

My Receipts & Payments Account for the year from 27 February 2020 to 26 February 202 is attached. All amounts are shown net of VAT. I have reconciled the account against the financial records that I am required to maintain.

The balance of funds are held in an interest bearing estate bank account.

ASSETS

Freehold Property

Book Value:	£360,000	Realised	£360,000
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Two properties known as Harbourmaster House and Quayside were valued by Gary P Duff a RICS qualified valuer prior to the liquidation on 14 February 2020. The properties were distributed in specie to the sole shareholder on 9 March 2020. MacPhee & Partners solicitors were engaged to complete the transfer and the liquidator completed the disposition on March 2020.

Motor Vehicles

Book Value:	£6750	Realised	£3592.37
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The Land Rover Freelander was distributed in specie to the sole shareholder on 1 April 2020. A

valuation was obtained from an online valuation website of £5929 and allowance made for repair costs of £2336 undertaken and paid for by the sole shareholder. The book value was an estimated value.

VAT Refund

Book Value:	£607	Realised	£607.09
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The Vat refund related to a claim for VAT submitted prior to the liquidation Payment was received on 5 March 2020.

Cash at Bank

Book Value	£1,067,308	Realised	£1,068,223
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The balance received is that remaining in the company bank account plus final interest accrued prior to the liquidation. This was received into the estate bank account on 2nd and 3rd March 2020.

Bank Interest Received

This is the interest received on the post liquidation bank account operated by the liquidator.

LIABILITIES

Secured Creditors

An examination of the Company's mortgage register held by the Registrar of Companies, showed that the Company has no current charges over its assets.

Preferential Creditors

The Declaration of Solvency anticipated £Nil in respect of preferential creditors. Claims totaling £Nil have been received.

Crown Creditors

The Declaration of Solvency included £Nil owed to HMRC. A final period corporation tax return has been submitted and payment of £699.06 made on 26 June 2020. HMRC's final claim is believed to be £nil although this has yet to be received. In addition statutory interest is payable on the tax paid.

Non-preferential unsecured Creditors

The Declaration of Solvency included two non-preferential unsecured creditors with an estimated total liability of £42300. This included a contingent provision of £40,000 in respect of legal proceedings. Legal proceedings were successful completed during the year. I have received claims from two creditors at a total of £2,899 including £599 for payment of director's loan account that had been omitted from the declaration of Solvency. In addition I received a claim for pre appointment costs of the liquidator. These were paid on 1 April 2020 and 29 April 2020 respectively. Payment of statutory interest has been waived. There are no claims remaining from any creditors with original estimated claims in the Declaration of Solvency.

Share Capital

All creditors have been paid in full subject to statutory interest and the following distributions were made to the Members holding ordinary shares

Date	Amount distribution	Rate of distribution per share
9 March 2020	£360,000	£5.49618 per share
10 March 2020	£991,015	£15.13 per share
1 April 2020	£3,592.37	£0.05484 per share
19 February 2021	£40,000	£0.61068 per share

PRE-APPOINTMENT REMUNERATION

The Board previously authorised the payment of a fee of £2,300 plus VAT for preparing the Declaration of Solvency, producing and circulating the notices for the meeting of Members

The fee for preparing the Declaration of Solvency and convening the meeting was paid on appointment, and is included in the enclosed Receipts and Payments Account within the payments made to unsecured creditors.

LIQUIDATOR'S REMUNERATION

My remuneration was previously authorised by Members at a meeting held on 27 February 2020 to be drawn on a time cost basis. My total time costs to 26 February 2021 amount to £11,908.40 representing 55.90 hours of work at a blended charge out rate of £213.03 per hour.

I have drawn £5,000 to 26 February 2021.

A detailed schedule of my time costs incurred to date is attached at Appendix B

A copy of 'A Members' Guide to Liquidators' Fees', together with an explanatory note which shows Muras Baker Jones Ltd's fee policy are enclosed.

LIQUIDATOR'S EXPENSES

Expenses are any payments from the estate which are neither an office holder's remuneration nor a distribution to a creditor or a member. Expenses also includes disbursements. Disbursements are payments which are first met by the office holder and then reimbursed to the office holder from the estate. Expenses are split into:

- category 1 expenses, which are payments to persons providing the service to which the expense relates who are not an associate of the office holder; and
- category 2 expenses, which are payments to associates or which have an element of shared costs. Before being paid category 2 expenses require approval in the same manner as an office holder's remuneration.

I have incurred total expenses of £7,474.50 and I have drawn £7,474.50 to 26 February 2021

I have used the following professional advisors in the reporting period:

Professional Advisor	Nature of Work	Basis of Fees
Michael Martin Partnership	Accountants	Time costs
MacPhee & Partners LLP	Solicitors	Time costs

The choice of professionals used was based on my perception of their experience and ability to perform this type of work, the complexity and nature of the assignment and the basis of my fee arrangement with them. I also confirmed that they hold appropriate regulatory authorisations. I have reviewed the fees they have charged and am satisfied that they are reasonable in the circumstances of this case.

With member agreement Michael Martin Partnership prepared the cessation accounts to 26 February 2020 and prepared and submitted the corporation tax return.

With member agreement MacPhee & Partners LLP continued their engagement in respect of legal proceedings in relation to the Housing Association dispute, including correspondence with all parties including counsel, attendance at hearing, drafting and finalising joint motion and liaising with sheriff court. They also prepared the Deeds and dispositions in transfer of property titles by way of in-specie distribution.

I have incurred the following expenses in the period since the commencement of the Liquidation

Type of expense	Amount incurred/ accrued in the reporting period
Insolvency Bond	£760.00
Accountancy - CT	£950.00
Legal Advice	£5225.00
Legal Disbursements	£247.00
Postage	£4.95
London Gazette Advertising	£257.55
Bank Charges	£30.00

Details of the category 1 expenses that I have paid to date) are included in the receipts and payments account attached.

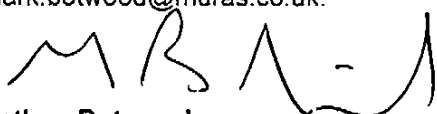
FURTHER INFORMATION

A Member may, with the permission of the court or with at least 5% of the total voting rights of all the Members having the right to vote at general meetings of the company request further details of the Liquidator's remuneration and expenses, within 21 days of receipt of this report.

A Member may, with the permission of the court or with at least 10% of the total voting rights of all the Members having the right to vote at general meetings of the company, apply to Court to challenge the amount of remuneration charged by the Liquidator as being excessive, and/or the basis of the Liquidator's remuneration, and/or the amount of the expenses incurred as being excessive, within 8 weeks of their receipt of this report.

The Liquidation will remain open until HMRC final claim and agreement to close has been received I estimate that this will take approximately 3 months and once resolved the Liquidation will be finalised and our files will be closed.

If members have any queries regarding the conduct of the Liquidation, or if they want hard copies of any of the documents made available on-line, they should contact Mark Botwood on 01902 393000, or by email at mark.botwood@murac.co.uk.



Mark Jonathan Botwood
LIQUIDATOR

Mark Botwood is licenced to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in the UK by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales

Bassrock Limited
(In Liquidation)
Liquidator's Summary of Receipts & Payments
To 26/02/2021

Dec of Sol £		£	£
	ASSET REALISATIONS		
360,000.00	Freehold Land & Property	360,000.00	
6,750.00	Motor Vehicles	3,592.37	
607.00	VAT Refund	607.09	
1,067,308.00	Cash at Bank	1,068,223.59	
	Bank Interest Gross	24.92	
			1,432,447.97
	COST OF REALISATIONS		
	Insolvency Bond	760.00	
	Liquidators Remuneration	5,000.00	
	Accountancy re Corp. Tax	950.00	
	General Legal Advice	5,225.00	
	Legal Disbursements - Land Reg Scotl	247.00	
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	London Gazette Advertising	257.55	
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			(12,474.50)
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(2,300.00)	Trade & Expense Creditors	2,300.00	
	Director's Loan Account	599.00	
	HMRC Corp Tax	699.96	
(40,000.00)	Contingent Provision	NIL	
			(3,598.96)
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	3rd Dist 1.4.2020 @ 5.4845p per share	3,592.37	
	4th Dist 19.2.2021 @ £0.61 per share	40,000.00	
			(1,394,607.37)
1,392,365.00			21,767.14
	REPRESENTED BY		
	VAT Receivable		2,097.00
	Interest Bearing Current Account		19,670.14
			21,767.14

Note:

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Dividend Information

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**Bassrock Limited
(In Liquidation)
Liquidator's Summary of Receipts & Payments
To 26/02/2021**

Dec of Sol £	£	£
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4. A fourth capital distribution of £0.61068 per share was declared on 19 February 2021 to the sole shareholder holding 65,500 ordinary £1 shares



Mark Jonathan Botwood
Liquidator

Appendix A

1. Administration

This represents the work involved in the routine administrative functions of the case by the office holder and their staff, together with the control and supervision of the work done on the case by the office holder. It does not give direct financial benefit to the members, but has to be undertaken by the office holder to meet his requirements under the insolvency legislation and the Statements of Insolvency Practice, which set out required practice that office holders must follow

- Case planning - devising an appropriate strategy for dealing with the case and giving instructions to the staff to undertake the work on the case.
- Setting up physical and electronic case files
- Setting up the case on the practice's electronic case management system and entering data.
- Issuing the statutory notifications to creditors and other required on appointment as office holder, including gazetting the office holder's appointment.
- Obtaining a specific penalty bond.
- Dealing with all routine correspondence and emails relating to the case.
- Opening, maintaining and managing the office holder's estate bank account.
- Creating, maintaining and managing the office holder's cashbook.
- Undertaking regular bank reconciliations of the bank account containing estate funds.
- Reviewing the adequacy of the specific penalty bond on a quarterly basis.
- Undertaking periodic reviews of the progress of the case.
- Overseeing and controlling the work done on the case by case administrators.
- Filing returns at Companies House.
- Preparing and filing VAT returns.
- Preparing and filing Corporation Tax returns.
-

2. Creditors

Claims of creditors - the office holder needs to maintain up to date records of the names and addresses of creditors, together with the amounts of their claims as part of the management of the case. The office holder also needs to deal with correspondence and queries received from creditors regarding their claims and dividend prospects as they are received. The office holder is required to undertake this work as part of his statutory functions.

Distributions - the office holder has to undertake certain statutory formalities in order to enable him to make a distribution to creditors. This include writing to all creditors who have not lodged proofs of debt and reviewing the claims and supporting documentation lodged by creditors in order to formally agree their claims, which may involve requesting additional information and documentation from the creditors.

- Obtaining information from the case records about employee claims.
- Corresponding with employees regarding their claims.
- Dealing with creditor correspondence, emails and telephone conversations regarding their claims.
- Maintaining up to date creditor information on the case management system.
- Issuing a notice of intended dividend and placing an appropriate gazette notice.
- Reviewing proofs of debt received from creditors, adjudicating on them and formally admitting them for the payment of a dividend.
- Requesting additional information from creditors in support of their proofs of debt in order to adjudicate on their claims.
- Calculating and paying a dividend to creditors

BASSROCK LTD TIME ANALYSIS TO 26 FEBRUARY 2021

HOURS RECORDED

Classification of Work Functions	Director	Senior Staff	Support Staff	Total Hours	Time Costs	Average hourly rate (£)
Administration & Planning	7.60	36.20		43.80	9,115.70	208.12
Investigations						
Realisation of Assets	3.70	4.80		8.50	2,067.60	243.25
Creditors		2.40		2.40	444.30	185.13
Case Specific	0.40	0.80		1.20	280.80	234.00
Total Hours	11.70	44.20	0.00	55.90		
Total Fees Claimed (£)	3802.00	8106.40			11,908.40	213.03

MURAS BAKER JONES LIMIED

PRACTICE FEE RECOVERY POLICY

Introduction

This sheet explains the alternative fee bases allowed by the insolvency legislation when acting as office holder in insolvency appointments. The legislation allows different fee bases to be used for different tasks within the same appointment. The fee basis, or combination of bases, set for a particular appointment is/are subject to approval, generally by a committee if one is appointed by the creditors, failing which the creditors in general meeting, or the Court. The report accompanying the request to fix the basis of remuneration will indicate the basis, or bases, being requested in that particular case and will make it clear what work is to be undertaken in respect of each basis.

Further information about creditors' rights can be obtained by visiting the creditors' information micro-site published by the Association of Business Recovery Professionals (R3) at <http://www.creditorinsolvencyguide.co.uk/>. Details about how an office holder's fees may be approved for each case type are available in a series of guides issued with Statement of Insolvency Practice 9 (SIP 9) "Payments to Insolvency Office Holders and their Associates from an Estate" and can be accessed at <https://www.r3.org.uk/technical-library/england-wales/technical-guidance/fees/more/29114/page/1/guide-to-liquidators-fees/>

Alternatively, a hard copy may be requested from Muras Baker Jones Limited, Regent House, Bath Avenue, Wolverhampton, WV1 4EG. Please note that we have provided further details in this policy document.

SIP 9 also contains various requirements that the office holder has to comply with in connection with their remuneration, both when seeking approval and when reporting to creditors and other interested parties after approval. One of the matters that an office holder has to comply with is that they must also seek approval for any payments that could reasonably be perceived as representing a threat to the office holder's objectivity or independence by virtue of a professional or personal relationship, including to an associate. Where it is anticipated that such payments will be made in a case they will be separately identified when seeking approval for the basis of the office holder's remuneration.

Other than in respect of Voluntary Arrangements an office holder is required to record the time spent on casework in all cases, even if they are being remunerated for that work on a basis other than time costs. Time is recorded directly to the relevant case and the nature of the work undertaken is recorded at that time. The work is generally recorded under the following categories:

- Case Administration (including statutory reporting).
- Realisation of Assets.
- Investigations.
- Creditors (claims and distributions).
- Trading
- Case specific matters.

Time cost basis

When charging fees on a time costs basis we use charge out rates appropriate to the skills and experience of a member of staff and the work that they perform. This is combined with the amount of time that they work on each case, recorded in 6 minute units with supporting narrative to explain the work undertaken.

Charge out Rates

Grade of staff	Current charge-out rate per hour, effective from 1 July 2020	Previous charge-out rate per hour, effective from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020
	£	£
Director – appointment taker	340	324
Case Administrator	190	181
Support Staff	36	36

Where necessary and appropriate, members of staff from other departments of the practice will undertake work on a case. They will be charged at their normal charge out rates for undertaking such work, as follows:

Grade of staff	Current charge-out rate per hour, effective from 1 July 2020	Previous charge-out rate per hour, effective from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020
	£	£
Tax Director	298	284
Assistant tax manager	127	150
Corporate Services Manager	126	120
Payroll assistant	57	54

In cases where these staff undertake work, specific approval will be sought for the payment of the fees incurred.

These charge-out rates charged are reviewed on 1 July each year and are adjusted to take account of inflation and the firm's overheads.

When we seek time costs approval, we have to set out a fees estimate. That estimate acts as a cap on our time costs so that we cannot draw fees of more than the estimated time costs without further approval from those who approved our fees. When seeking approval for our fees, we will disclose the work that we intend to undertake, the hourly rates we intend to charge for each part of the work, and the time that we think each part of the work will take. We will summarise that information in an average or "blended" rate for all of the work being carried out within the estimate, and by reference to each separate category of work. The blended rate is calculated as the prospective average cost per hour, based upon the estimated time to be expended by each grade of staff at their specific charge out rate. We will also say whether we anticipate needing to seek approval to exceed the estimate and, if so, the reasons that we think that may be necessary.

A report accompanying the request to fix the basis of remuneration will include the fees estimate, as well as details of the expenses that will be, or are likely to be, incurred. Further information about expenses is given in a separate section below.

The disclosure that we make should include sufficient information about the insolvency appointment to enable you to understand how the proposed fee reflects the complexity (or otherwise) of the case,

any responsibility of an exceptional kind falling on the office holder, the effectiveness with which the office holder has carried out their functions, and the value and nature of the property with which the office holder has to deal.

If we subsequently need to seek authority to draw fees in excess of the estimate, we will say why we have exceeded, or are likely to exceed the estimate; any additional work undertaken, or proposed to be undertaken; the hourly rates proposed for each part of the work; and the time that the additional work is expected to take. As with the original estimate, we will summarise that information in an average or "blended" rate for all of the work being carried out within the estimate, and by reference to each separate category of work, and will also say whether we anticipate needing further approval and, if so, why we think it may be necessary to seek further approval.

Percentage basis

The legislation allows fees to be charged on a percentage of the value of the property with which the office holder has to deal (realisations and/or distributions). Different percentages can be used for different assets or types of assets. A report accompanying the request to fix the basis of remuneration will set out the potential assets in the case, the remuneration percentage proposed in respect of any realisations and the work covered by that remuneration, which may solely relate to work undertaken in connection with the realisation of the assets, but might also include other categories of work as listed above. The report will also include details of the expenses that will be, or are likely to be, incurred. Further information about expenses is given in a separate section below.

The percentage approved in respect of realisations will be charged against the assets realised, and where approval is obtained on a mixture of bases, any fixed fee and time costs will then be charged against the funds remaining in the liquidation after the realisation percentage has been deducted.

A percentage of distributions made to unsecured creditors may also be requested, in order to cover the work associated with the agreement of claims and making the distribution.

The disclosure that we make will include sufficient information about the insolvency appointment to enable you to understand how the proposed fee reflects the complexity (or otherwise) of the case, any responsibility of an exceptional kind falling on the office holder, the effectiveness with which the office holder has carried out their functions, and the value and nature of the property with which the office holder has to deal. In order to meet the requirements of SIP 9 it will also explain why the basis requested is expected to produce a fair and reasonable reflection of the work that we anticipate will be undertaken on the case.

If the basis of remuneration has been approved on a percentage basis then an increase in the amount of the percentage applied can only be approved by the committee or creditors (depending upon who approved the basis of remuneration) in cases where there has been a material and substantial change in the circumstances that were taken into account when fixing the original level of the percentage applied. If there has not been a material and substantial change in the circumstances, then an increase can only be approved by the Court.

Fixed fee

The legislation allows fees to be charged at a set amount. Different set amounts can be used for different tasks. A report accompanying the request to fix the basis of remuneration will set out the set fee that we proposed to charge and the work covered by that remuneration, as well as details of the expenses that will be, or are likely to be, incurred. Further information about expenses is given in a separate section below.

The disclosure that we make will include sufficient information about the insolvency appointment to enable you to understand how the proposed fee reflects the complexity (or otherwise) of the case, any responsibility of an exceptional kind falling on the office holder, the effectiveness with which the office holder has carried out their functions, and the value and nature of the property with which the office holder has to deal. In order to meet the requirements of SIP 9 we will also explain why the basis

requested is expected to produce a fair and reasonable reflection of the work that we anticipate will be undertaken on the case.

If the basis of remuneration has been approved on a fixed fee basis then an increase in the amount of the fixed fee can only be approved by the committee or creditors (depending upon who approved the basis of remuneration) in cases where there has been a material and substantial change in the circumstances that were taken into account when fixing the original level of the fixed fee. If there has not been a material and substantial change in the circumstances, then an increase can only be approved by the Court.

Direct Costs

Where we seek approval on a percentage and/or fixed fee basis, in order to meet the requirements of SIP 9 we also have to disclose the direct costs that are included within the remuneration that will be charged on those bases in respect of the work undertaken. The direct costs that will be included in respect of work undertaken in respect of each of the standard categories of work listed below where the office holder is to be remunerated for such work on either a percentage or fixed fee basis are all costs incurred in administering the estate apart from those expenses charged to the estate as Category 1 expenses and category 2 expenses

- Case Administration (including statutory reporting)
- Realisation of Assets
- Investigations
- Creditors (claims and distributions)

Mixed basis

If remuneration is to be sought on a mixed basis, we will make it clear in the report accompanying the request to fix the basis of remuneration which basis will be charged for each category of work that is to be undertaken on the case.

Members' voluntary liquidations and Voluntary Arrangements

The legislation is different for members' voluntary liquidations (MVL), Company Voluntary Arrangements (CVA) and Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVA). In MVLs, the company's members set the fee basis, often as a fixed fee, and SIP 9 does not apply unless the members specifically request it. In CVAs and IVAs, the fee basis is set out in the proposals and creditors approve the fee basis when they approve the arrangement.

All fee bases

With the exception of IVAs and CVAs, which are usually VAT exempt, the office holder's remuneration invoiced to the insolvent estate will be subject to VAT at the prevailing rate.

Expenses

As already indicated, a report will accompany the request to fix the basis of remuneration and that will include details of expenses to be incurred, or likely to be incurred. When reporting to the committee and creditors during the course of the insolvency appointment the actual expenses incurred will be compared with the original estimate provided.

Expenses are any payments from the insolvent estate that are neither an office holder's remuneration nor a distribution to a creditor, or a member. Expenses also include disbursements. Disbursements are payments that are first paid by the office holder and then reimbursed from the insolvent estate.

Expenses are divided into those that do not need approval before they are charged to the estate (Category 1) and those that do (Category 2).

Category 1 expenses are payments to persons providing the service to which the expense relates who are not an associate of the office holder. They can be paid by the office holder without obtaining prior approval. . Examples of costs that may amount to Category 1 expenses are professional advisors (who are not associates), statutory advertising, external meeting room hire (where the room is only hired for that meeting), external storage, specific penalty bond insurance, insolvency case management software fees charged on a per case basis, and Company search fees.

Category 2 expenses are either payments to associates, or payments in respect of expenses that have an element of shared costs, such as photocopying and mileage. Category 2 expenses require approval in the same manner as an office holder's remuneration before they can be paid.'

The practice intends to seek approval to recover the following Category 2 expenses that include an element of shared costs:

Mileage	45p per mile
Photocopying	7.5p per sheet

Professional advisors may be instructed to assist the office holder on the case where they consider that such assistance is necessary to enable them to appropriately administer the case. The fees charged by any professional advisors used will be recharged at cost to the case. Where the professional advisor is not an associate of the office holder it will be for the office holder to agree the basis of their fees. Where the professional advisor is an associate of the office holder it will be for those responsible for fixing the basis of the office holder's remuneration to approve payments to them. The fees of any professional advisors are subject to the rights of creditors to seek further information about them or challenge them as summarised below. Professional advisors that may be instructed on a case include:

- Solicitors/Legal Advisors;
- Auctioneers/Valuers;
- Accountants;
- Quantity Surveyors;
- Estate Agents;
- Pension specialists;
- Employment Claims specialists; and
- GDPR/Cyber Security specialists.

Reporting and rights to challenge

Once the basis of the office holder's remuneration has been approved, a periodic report will be provided to any committee and also to each creditor. The report will provide a breakdown of the remuneration charged by the office holder in the period covered by the report, i.e., the amount that the office holder is entitled to draw, together with the amount of remuneration actually drawn. If approval has been obtained for remuneration on a time costs basis, the time costs incurred will also be disclosed, whether drawn or not, together with the "blended" rates of such costs. The report will also compare the actual time costs incurred with those included in the fees estimate prepared when fixing the basis of the remuneration, and indicate whether the fees estimate is likely to be exceeded. If the fees estimate has been exceeded, or is likely to be exceeded, the report will explain why that is the case.

The report will also provide information about expenses incurred in the period covered by the report, together with those actually paid, together with a comparison with the estimated expenses. If the expenses incurred, or anticipated to be incurred, have exceeded the estimate provided the report will explain why that is the case.

Under the insolvency legislation the report must also include a statement of the legislative rights of creditors to request further information about the remuneration charged and expenses incurred in the

period covered by the report, or to challenge them on the grounds that they are excessive. Extracts of the relevant insolvency rules dealing with these rights are set out below. Once the time period to seek further information about the office holder's remuneration and/or expenses for the period covered by the report has elapsed, then a Court Order is required to compel the office holder to provide further information about the remuneration and expenses. A Court order is required to challenge the office holder's remuneration and/or expenses for the period covered by the report. Once that period has elapsed, then a separate Court Order is required to allow an application out of time.

Under rule 18.9 of the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2006, an unsecured creditor may, with the permission of the court or with the concurrence of 5% in value of the unsecured creditors (including the creditor in question) request further details of the office holder's remuneration and expenses, within 21 days of receipt of any report for the period. Any secured creditor may request the same details in the same time limit.

Under rule 18.34, an unsecured creditor may, with the permission of the court or with the concurrence of 10% in value of the unsecured creditors (including the creditor in question), apply to court to challenge the amount and/or basis of the office holder's fees and the amount of any proposed expenses or expenses already incurred, within 8 weeks of receipt of any report for the period. Any secured creditor may make a similar application to court within the same time limit.

Under some old legislation, which still applies for insolvency appointments commenced before 6 April 2010, there is no equivalent mechanism for fees to be challenged.

LIQUIDATION - A MEMBERS' GUIDE TO FEES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

1 Introduction

- 1.1 When a Company goes into Members' Voluntary Liquidation, the costs of the proceedings are paid out of its assets. A declaration of solvency is sworn by the directors indicating that the creditors will be paid in full with statutory interest from the Company's assets, with the remaining assets being distributed to the members. As a result, it is the members who have a direct interest in the level of costs, and in particular the remuneration of the Insolvency Practitioner appointed to act as Liquidator. The insolvency legislation recognises this interest by providing a mechanism for members to fix the basis of the Liquidator's fees. This guide is intended to help members be aware of their rights to approve and monitor fees, explains the basis on which fees are fixed and how members can seek information about expenses incurred by the Liquidator and challenge those they consider to be excessive.

2 Liquidation procedure

- 2.1 Liquidation (or 'winding up') is the most common type of corporate insolvency procedure. Liquidation is the formal winding up of a Company's affairs entailing the realisation of its assets and the distribution of the proceeds in a prescribed order of priority. Liquidation may be either voluntary, when it is instituted by resolution of the shareholders, or compulsory, when it is instituted by order of the Court.
- 2.2 Voluntary Liquidation is the more common of the two. A solvent voluntary liquidation is called a Members' Voluntary Liquidation (often abbreviated to 'MVL'). In this type of liquidation an Insolvency Practitioner acts as Liquidator throughout and the members appoint the Liquidator at a general meeting of the Company.
- 2.3 In an MVL all creditors must be paid in full with statutory interest within the period stated in the declaration of solvency otherwise the Liquidator will have to convene a meeting of creditors and convert it to a Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation, i.e. an insolvent liquidation.

3 Fixing the Liquidator's remuneration

3.1 Basis

The basis for fixing the Liquidator's remuneration is set out in Rule 18.16 of The Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016. The Rule states that the remuneration shall be fixed:

- as a percentage of the value of the assets which are realised or distributed or both,

- by reference to the time properly given by the Liquidator and his staff in attending to matters arising in the liquidation, or
- as a set amount.

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

3.2 Who fixes the remuneration?

Rule 18.19 indicates that it is for the members at a general meeting of the Company to determine on which of these bases, or combination of bases, the remuneration is to be fixed. Where it is fixed as a percentage, it is for the members to determine the percentage or percentages to be applied and Rule 18.16(9) says that in arriving at their decision the members shall have regard to the following matters:

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

3.3 A resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated may be taken at the general meeting of the Company which appoints the Liquidator.

3.4 If the remuneration is not fixed as above, it will be fixed by the Court on application by the Liquidator, but the Liquidator may not make such an application unless he has first tried to get his or her remuneration fixed by the members as described above, and in any case not later than 18 months after his or her appointment.

4 Review of remuneration

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

5 What information should be provided by the Liquidator?

5.1 General principles

5.1.1 The Liquidator should provide those responsible for approving his or her remuneration with sufficient information to them to make an informed

judgement about the reasonableness of the Liquidator's request. The information should be presented in a manner which is transparent, consistent throughout the life of the case and useful to members, while being proportionate to the circumstances of the case.

5.1.2 The Liquidator should disclose:

- payments, remuneration and expenses arising from the administration paid to the Liquidator or his or her associates;
- any business or personal relationships with parties responsible for approving the Liquidator's remuneration or who provide services to the Liquidator in respect of the insolvency appointment where the relationship could give rise to a conflict of interest.

The Liquidator should inform members of their rights under insolvency legislation, and should advise them how they may access suitable information setting out their rights within the first communication with them and in each subsequent report.

5.1.3 Where the Liquidator sub-contracts out work that could otherwise be carried out by the Liquidator or his or her staff, this should be drawn to the attention of members with an explanation of why it is being done.

5.2 Key issues

5.2.1 The key issues of concern to those with a financial interest in the level of payments from the insolvency estate will commonly be:

- the work the Liquidator anticipates will be done, and why that work is necessary;
- the anticipated cost of that work, including any expenses expected to be incurred in connection with it;
- whether it is anticipated that the work will provide a financial benefit to members, and if so what benefit (or if the work provided no direct financial benefit, but was required by statute);
- the work actually done and why that work was necessary;
- the actual costs of the work, including any expenses incurred in connection with it, as against any estimate provided;
- whether the work has provided a financial benefit to members, and if so what benefit (or if the work provided no direct financial benefit, but was required by statute).

When providing information about payments, fees and expenses, the Liquidator should do so in a way which facilitates clarity of understanding of these key issues. Narrative explanations should be provided to support any numerical information supplied.

5.2.2 When approval for a fixed amount or a percentage basis is sought, the Liquidator should explain why the basis requested is expected to produce a fair and

reasonable reflection of the work that the Liquidator anticipates will be undertaken.

5.3 Disbursements

5.3.1 Costs met by and reimbursed to the Liquidator in connection with the liquidation will fall into two categories:

- Category 1 disbursements: These are payments to independent third parties where there is specific expenditure directly referable to the liquidation. Category 1 disbursements can be drawn without prior approval, although the Liquidator should be prepared to disclose information about them in the same way as any other expenses.
- Category 2 disbursements: These are costs that are directly referable to the liquidation but not to a payment to an independent third party. They may include shared or allocated costs that may be incurred by the Liquidator or their firm, and that can be allocated to the liquidation on a proper and reasonable basis.

When seeking approval, the Liquidator should explain, for each category of cost, the basis on which the charge is being made. If the Liquidator has obtained approval for the basis of Category 2 disbursements, that basis may continue to be used in a sequential appointment where further approval of the basis of remuneration is not required, or where the Liquidator is replaced.

5.3.2 The following are not permissible as disbursements:

- a charge calculated as a percentage of remuneration;
- an administration fee or charge additional to the Liquidator's remuneration;
- recovery of basic overhead costs such as office and equipment rental, depreciation and finance charges.

6. Progress reports and requests for further information

6.1 The Liquidator is required to send annual progress reports to members. In addition to the items described above and especially those in paragraph 5.2.1, the reports must include:

- details of the basis fixed for the fee of the liquidator (or if not fixed at the date of the report, the steps taken during the period of the report to fix it);
- if the basis has been fixed, the fee charged during the period of the report, irrespective of whether it was actually paid during that period (except where it is fixed as a set amount, in which case it may be shown as that amount without any apportionment for the period of the report);
- if the report is the first to be made after the basis has been fixed, the fee charged during the periods covered by the previous reports, together with a

description of the things done during those periods, irrespective of whether payment was actually made during the period of the report;

- a statement of the expenses incurred by the liquidator during the period of the report, irrespective of whether payment was actually made during that period;
- details of progress during the period of the report, including a summary of the receipts and payments during the period;
- details of what remains to be done;
- where appropriate, a statement setting out whether, at the date of the report:
 - the expenses incurred or expected to be incurred are likely to exceed, or have exceeded, the details given to the creditors prior to the determination of the basis of fees; and
 - the reason for that excess.
- a statement of the members' rights to request further information, as explained in paragraph 6.2, and their right to challenge the Liquidator's fees and expenses.

6.2 Within 21 days of receipt of a progress report, a member may request the Liquidator to provide further information about the remuneration and expenses set out in the report. A request must be in writing, and may be made by a member or members representing at least 5% in value of the total voting rights of members (including himself), or any member with the permission of the Court.

6.3 The Liquidator must provide the requested information within 14 days, unless he or she considers that:

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

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

6.4 Any member may apply to the Court within 21 days of the Liquidator's refusal to provide the requested information, or the expiry of the 14 days' time limit for the provision of the information.

7. Provision of information – additional requirements

- 7.1 The Liquidator must provide certain information about the time spent on the case, free of charge, upon request by any creditor, director or member of the Company. The information which must be provided is –
- the total number of hours spent on the case by the Liquidator or staff assigned to the case;
 - for each grade of staff, the average hourly rate at which they are charged out;
 - the number of hours spent by each grade of staff in the relevant period.
- 7.2 The period for which the information must be provided is the period from appointment to the end of the most recent period of six months reckoned from the date of the Liquidator's appointment, or where he has vacated office, the date that he vacated office.
- 7.3 The information must be provided within 28 days of receipt of the request by the Liquidator, and requests must be made within two years from vacation of office.

8 What if a member is dissatisfied?

- 8.1 If a member believes that the basis of the Liquidator's remuneration is inappropriate, or the remuneration charged or expenses incurred by the Liquidator are in all the circumstances excessive he may, provided certain conditions are met, apply to the Court.
- 8.2 Application may be made to the Court by any member or members representing at least 10 per cent in value of voting rights (including himself), or by any member with the permission of the Court. Any such application must be made within 8 weeks of the applicant receiving the Liquidator's progress report in which the charging of the remuneration or incurring of the expenses in question is first reported (see paragraph 6.1 above). If the Court does not dismiss the application (which it may if it considers that insufficient cause is shown), the applicant must give the Liquidator a copy of the application and supporting evidence at least 14 days before the hearing.
- 8.3 If the Court considers the application well founded, it may order that the remuneration be reduced, the basis be changed, or the expenses be disallowed or repaid. Unless the Court orders otherwise, the costs of the application must be paid by the applicant and not out of the assets of the Company being wound up.

9. What if the Liquidator is dissatisfied?

- 9.1 If the Liquidator considers that the remuneration fixed by the members is insufficient or that the basis used to fix it is inappropriate, he or she may apply to the Court for the amount or rate to be increased or the basis changed.
- 9.2 If he or she decides to apply to the Court he must give at least 14 days' notice to the members, or such one or more of the members as the Court may direct, to appear or be represented at the Court hearing. The Court may order the costs of the application or of any member appearing at the Court hearing to be paid out of the assets.

10. Other matters relating to remuneration

- 10.1 Where two (or more) joint Liquidators are appointed, it is for them to agree between themselves how the remuneration payable should be apportioned. Any dispute between them may be referred to the Court or a meeting of members.
- 10.2 If the appointed Liquidator is a solicitor and employs his or her own firm to act in the winding up, profit costs may not be paid unless authorised by the members or the Court.
- 10.3 If a new Liquidator is appointed in place of another, any determination or Court order which was in effect immediately before the replacement continues to have effect in relation to the remuneration of the new Liquidator until a further determination by the members, or Court order, is made.
- 10.4 Where the basis of the remuneration is a set amount, and the Liquidator ceases to act before the time has elapsed or the work has been completed for which the amount was set, application may be made for a determination of the amount that should be paid to the outgoing Liquidator. The application must be made to the same body as approved the remuneration, i.e. either to the members or the Court. Where the outgoing Liquidator and the incoming Liquidator are from the same firm, they will usually agree the apportionment between themselves.
- 10.5 There may also be occasions when members will agree to make funds available themselves to pay for the Liquidator to carry out tasks which cannot be paid for out of the assets, either because they are deficient or because it is uncertain whether the work undertaken will result in any benefit to members. Arrangements of this kind are sometimes made to fund litigation. Any arrangements of this nature will be a matter for agreement between the Liquidator and the members concerned and will not be subject to the statutory rules relating to remuneration.

11. Effective date

This guide applies where a Liquidator is appointed on or after 1 October 2015, or where information is provided by the Liquidator about fees, expenses or other payments after 6 April 2017.