

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 3 9 8 3 2

Company name in full Wardell Armstrong Limited

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

2 Liquidator's name

Full forename(s) Charles

Surname MacMillan

3 Liquidator's address

Building name/number St George's House

Street 215-219 Chester Road

Post town Manchester

County/Region

Postcode M 1 5 4 J E

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

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6 Period of progress report

From date	^d 3	^d 0	^m 0	^m 3	^y 2	^y 0	^y 2	^y 1
To date	^d 2	^d 9	^m 0	^m 3	^y 2	^y 0	^y 2	^y 2

7 Progress report

☒ The progress report is attached

8 Sign and date

Liquidator's signature

Signature

X



X

Signature date

^d 1	^d 6	^m 0	^m 5	^y 2	^y 0	^y 2	^y 2
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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	Neil Clarke
Company name	Beever and Struthers
Address	St George's House 215-219 Chester Road
Post town	Manchester
County/Region	
Postcode	M 1 5 4 J E
Country	
DX	
Telephone	0161 832 4901

**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

**Wardell Armstrong Limited – in Liquidation
("the Company")**

Annual Progress Report

Charles MacMillan
Liquidator

**BEEVER
AND
STRUTHERS**

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND BUSINESS ADVISORS

Contents

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1. Executive Summary

I confirm that I was appointed Liquidator of the Company on 30 March 2021. This is my progress report covering the period from 30 March 2021 to 29 March 2022. A Summary of key information in this report is detailed below. Attached at appendix 1 is a summary of statutory information regarding the Company and the Liquidation.

Asset Realisations

Asset	Estimated to realise per Declaration of Solvency	Realisations to date	Anticipated future realisations	Total anticipated realisations
Balance at Bank	602,854.61	675,106.82	nil	675,106.82
Corporation Tax Refund	72,067.03	nil	nil	nil
Bank Interest	nil	1.36	unknown	unknown

Expenses

Expense	Expense incurred to date	Anticipated future expense to closure	Total anticipated expense
Bank Charges	64.17	60.00	124.17

Distributions

Creditor class	Distribution/dividend paid to date	Anticipated distribution/dividend based upon the above
Ordinary shareholders	674,106.82	674,984.01

2. Administration and Planning

Statutory Information

Statutory Information may be found at Appendix I.

As Liquidator, I am required to meet a considerable number of statutory and regulatory obligations. Whilst many of these tasks do not have a direct benefit in enhancing realisations for the insolvent estate, they assist in the efficient and compliant progressing of the administration of the case, which ensures that work is carried out to high professional standards. A detailed list of these tasks may be found in Appendix III.

3. Asset Realisations

The receipts and payments account for the period 30 March 2021 to 29 March 2022 is attached at Appendix II.

Detailed below is key information about asset realisation and strategy, however, more details about the work undertaken may be found at Appendix III.

According to the Declaration of Solvency lodged in these proceedings, the assets of the Company had an estimated value of £602,854.61, which comprised principally of Balance at Bank..

Balance at Bank

The sum of £602,854.61 was held in the Royal Bank of Scotland bank account according to the declaration of solvency. Prior to transferring the amount held in the bank account to the Liquidation account, the Corporation Tax Refund was received. As a result, the total amount transferred from the Company account to the Liquidation bank account following my appointment was £675,106.82.

Corporation Tax Refund

Listed on the Declaration of Solvency was a Corporation Tax Refund of £72,067.03. The amount actually realised was £72,143.19 together with interest of £109.02 as detailed above.

Bank Interest

A total of £1.36 has been received in respect of the funds held in the Liquidation bank account.

4. Creditors

The key tasks carried out in this category are detailed at Appendix III.

HM Revenue & Customs

I have issued a number of requests to H M Revenue & Customs in order to seek their confirmation that there are no outstanding issues and that they are agreeable to the Liquidation of the Company being finalised. Confirmation has been received from the Corporation Tax team within HMRC, however the MVL team is unable to provide confirmation, until the Company has been removed from the VAT group. This removal is being dealt with by Wardell Armstrong LLP and once I receive confirmation of its removal, I will ask the MVL team to confirm that I may close the liquidation.

Other Creditors

A notice to creditors requiring them to submit claims was also published in the London Gazette on 6 April 2021. No additional claims have been notified to me.

5. Distributions to Shareholders

The following distributions have been made to shareholders:

Date of distribution	[£/p] per share distributed	Total amount distributed (cash) £	Total amount distributed (in specie) £
01/03/2021	337,553.41	674,106.82	Nil

A further final distribution to shareholders is expected to be paid in approximately six months' time when clearance has been obtained from HM Revenue and Customs.

6. Ethics

Please be advised that Charles MacMillan is bound by the Insolvency Code of Ethics when carrying out all professional work relating to an insolvency appointment.

General ethical considerations

Prior to the Liquidator's appointment, a review of ethical issues was undertaken, and no ethical threats were identified. A further review has been carried out and no threats have been identified in respect of the management of the insolvency appointment over the Review Period.

7. Costs and Expenses

The payments shown on the Receipts and Payments Account at Appendix II are in the main self-explanatory.

Liquidator's Remuneration and Disbursements

The members authorised the fee of £10,000 plus VAT for assisting the directors in placing the Company into Liquidation and with preparing the Declaration of Solvency on 30 March 2021. This fee has been paid in full by Wardell Armstrong LLP.

Liquidator's Disbursements

The following category 1 disbursements have been incurred and have been invoiced to Wardell Armstrong LLP:

Statutory Advertising	£270.00
Insolvency Bond	£330.00

Other expenses

Bank Charges

A total of £64.17 has been incurred in respect of bank charges in the period 30 March 2021 to 29 March 2022.

8. Further information

Members of the Company with at least 5% of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote at general meetings of the Company, or any member with the permission of the court, may request further details of the Joint Liquidators' remuneration and expenses, within 21 days of receipt of this report.

Members of the Company with at least 10% of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote at general meetings of the Company, or any member with the permission of the court, may apply to court to challenge the amount and/or basis of the Liquidators' fees and the amount of any proposed expenses or expenses already incurred on the grounds that they are excessive or inappropriate, within 8 weeks of receipt of this report. administration of the case will be continuing to finalise the following outstanding matters that are preventing this case from being closed:

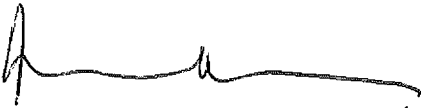
9. Conclusion

The Administration of the liquidation will continue in order to finalise the following outstanding matters:

- Receipt of clearance to close the Liquidation from HMRC
- Further distribution of capital to members of the Company

If you require any further information, please contact Neil Clarke at this office.

Yours faithfully



Charles MacMillan
Liquidator

Appendix I: Statutory Information

Statutory Information

Company Name	Wardell Armstrong Limited
Previous Names	Wardell Armstrong Limited until 4 March 2004 Wardarm Limited until 13 January 2006
Company Number	03539832
Registered Office	St. George's House, 215 – 219 Chester Road, Manchester, M15 4JE
Former Registered Offices	Sir Henry Doulton House, Forge Lane, Etruria, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, ST1 5BD
Office Holder	Charles MacMillan
Office Holder's Address	Beever and Struthers St George's House, 215-219 Chester Road Manchester, M15 4JE
Date of Appointment	30 March 2021

Appendix II: Receipts and Payments account

Wardell Armstrong Limited - In Liquidation Receipts and Payments Account

DOS Value £		£
		30 March 2021 to 29 March 2022
	Asset Realisations	
602,854.61	Balance at Bank	675,106.82
	Bank Interest	1.36
		<u>675,108.18</u>
	Payments	
	Bank Charges	(64.17)
	Total Costs & Charges Paid	<u>(64.17)</u>
	Equity	
	First interim distribution - £337,553.41 per share	(674,106.82)
		<u>(674,106.82)</u>
	Balance	<u>937.19</u>
	Represented By	
	RBS Interest Bearing Account	937.19
		<u>937.19</u>

Appendix III: Detailed list of work undertaken

Detailed list of work undertaken for Wardell Armstrong Limited in Member's Voluntary Liquidation for the review period 30 March 2021 to 29 March 2022

Below is detailed information about the tasks undertaken by the Liquidator.

General Description	Includes
Statutory and General Administration	
Statutory/advertising	Filing of documents to meet statutory requirements including annual receipts and payments accounts Annual corporation tax returns Advertising in accordance with statutory requirements Bonding the case for the value of the assets
Document maintenance/file review/checklist	Filing of documents Periodic file reviews documenting strategy Periodic reviews of the application of ethical, anti-money laundering and anti-bribery safeguards Maintenance of statutory and case progression task lists/diaries Updating checklists
Bank account administration	Preparing correspondence opening and closing accounts Requesting bank statements Bank account reconciliations Correspondence with bank regarding specific transfers Maintenance of the estate cash book Banking remittances and issuing cheques/BACS payments
Planning / Review	Discussions regarding strategies to be pursued Meetings with team members and independent advisers to consider practical, technical and legal aspects of the case
Reports	Circulating this annual report to members
Realisation of Assets	
Balance at Bank	Liaising with RBS in respect of the balance of funds held in the Company bank account
Creditors	
Creditor Communication	Obtaining tax clearance
Distribution to Members	
Dividend procedures	Preparation of distribution calculation Preparation of correspondence to members announcing declaration of dividend Preparation of cheques/BACS to pay dividend Preparation of correspondence to members enclosing payment of dividend

Appendix IV: Provision of services and Practice fee recovery policy

PROVISION OF SERVICES REGULATIONS SUMMARY SHEET FOR BEEVER AND STRUTHERS

The following information is designed to draw the attention of interested parties to the information required to be disclosed by the Provision of Services Regulations 2009.

Licensing Body

Charles MacMillan is licensed to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in the United Kingdom by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and is ACA qualified.

Beever and Struthers is also member of ICAEW.

Rules Governing Actions

All IPs are bound by the rules of their professional body, including any that relate specifically to insolvency. The rules of the professional body that licences Charles MacMillan and Beever and Struthers can be found at <http://www.icaew.com/en/members/regulations-standards-and-guidance/insolvency/insolvency-regulations-and-guidance>. In addition, IPs are bound by the Statements of Insolvency Practice (SIPs), details of which can be found at <https://www.r3.org.uk/what-we-do/publications/professional/statements-of-insolvency-practice>.

Ethics

All IPs are required to comply with the Insolvency Code of Ethics and a copy of the Code can be found at <http://www.icaew.com/en/technical/insolvency/insolvency-regulations-and-standards>.

Complaints

At Beever and Struthers we always strive to provide a professional and efficient service. However, we recognise that it is in the nature of insolvency proceedings for disputes to arise from time to time. As such, should you have any comments or complaints regarding the administration of a particular case then in the first instance you should contact the IP acting as office holder, or alternatively Caroline Monk (Executive Partner).

However if any matter is not dealt with to your satisfaction your complaint should be made to the Insolvency Complaints Gateway by visiting their website at <http://www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency/contact-us/IP-Complaints-Gateway> and completing and submitting their online form. Alternatively, you can print the form from their website and send it by post to The Insolvency Service, IP Complaints, 3rd Floor, 1 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9DA. Or you can contact them phone on 0300 678 0015.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Beever and Struthers' Professional Indemnity Insurance is provided by Zurich and others. This professional indemnity insurance provides worldwide coverage excluding professional business carried out from an office in the United States of America or Canada, and any action for a claim brought in any court in the United States of America or Canada.

VAT

Beever and Struthers is registered for VAT under registration no. 145 7842 45

PRACTICE FEE RECOVERY POLICY FOR BEEVER AND STRUTHERS

Introduction

The insolvency legislation was changed in October 2015, with one or two exceptions, for insolvency appointments made from that time. This sheet explains how we intend to apply the alternative fee bases allowed by the 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.

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) and can be accessed at <http://www.icaew.com/en/technical/insolvency/creditors-guides>. Alternatively, a hard copy may be requested from this office. Please note that we have provided further details in this policy document.

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 drawn. If approval has been obtained for remuneration on a time costs basis, i.e. by reference to time properly spent by members of staff of the practice at our standard charge out rates, the time incurred will also be disclosed, whether drawn or not, together with the average, or "blended" rates of such costs. Under the legislation, any such report must disclose how creditors can seek further information and challenge the basis on which the fees are calculated, and the level of fees drawn in the period of the report. Once the time to challenge the office holder's remuneration for the period reported on has elapsed, then that remuneration cannot subsequently be challenged.

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.

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	Charge-out rate per hour effective from 1 October 2019 £
Partner	350
Senior Manager/Manager	280
Senior Professional	150
Other Professional	100
Cashier	100

[REDACTED]

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 rate for undertaking such work.)

These charge-out rates were last reviewed in October 2016 at which time they were adjusted to take account of inflation and the firm's overheads.

Time spent on casework is recorded directly to the relevant case using a computerised time recording system and the nature of the work undertaken is recorded at that time. The work is generally recorded under the following categories:

- Administration and Planning.
- Investigations.
- Realisation of Assets.
- Creditors.
- Trading
- Case specific matters.

In cases where we were appointed prior to 1 October 2015, most of our fees were recovered on a time costs basis and appropriate authority was obtained from the creditors or the committee as set down in the legislation. The legislation changed on 1 October 2015 and on new appointments we now only seek time costs for the following categories:

- Investigations
- Distributions

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. 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.

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 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. In cases where we were appointed prior to 1 October 2015, most of our fees were recovered on a time costs basis and appropriate authority was obtained from the creditors or the committee as set down in the legislation. The legislation changed on 1 October 2015 and we now seek remuneration on a percentage basis more often. A report accompanying any fee request will set out the potential assets in the case, the remuneration percentage proposed for any realisations

and the work covered by that remuneration, as well as the expenses that will be, or are likely to be, incurred. Expenses can be incurred without approval, but must be disclosed to help put the remuneration request into context.

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.

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 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. In cases where we were appointed prior to 1 October 2015, most of our fees were recovered on a time costs basis and appropriate authority was obtained from the creditors or the committee as set down in the legislation. The legislation changed on 1 October 2015 and we now seek remuneration on a fixed fee basis more often. A report accompanying any fee request will set out the set fee that we proposed to charge and the work covered by that remuneration, as well as the expenses that will be, or are likely to be, incurred. Expenses can be incurred without approval, but must be disclosed to help put the remuneration request into context.

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 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.

Members' voluntary liquidations and Voluntary Arrangements

The legislation changes that took effect from 1 October 2015 did not apply to members' voluntary liquidations (MVL), Company Voluntary Arrangements (CVA) or Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVA). In MVLs, the company's members set the fee basis, often as a fixed fee. 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 bases

With the exception of Individual Voluntary Arrangements and Company Voluntary Arrangements which are VAT exempt, the officeholder's remuneration invoiced to the insolvent estate will be subject to VAT at the prevailing rate.



Agent's Costs

Charged at cost based upon the charge made by the Agent instructed, the term Agent includes:

- Solicitors/Legal Advisors
- Auctioneers/Valuers
- Accountants
- Quantity Surveyors
- Estate Agents
- Other Specialist Advisors

In new appointments made after 1 October 2015, the office holder will provide details of expenses to be incurred, or likely to be incurred, when seeking fee approval. 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.

Disbursements

In accordance with SIP 9 the basis of disbursement allocation in respect of disbursements incurred by the Office Holder in connection with the administration of the estate must be fully disclosed to creditors. Disbursements are categorised as either Category 1 or Category 2.

Category 1 expenses are directly referable to an invoice from a third party, which is either in the name of the estate or Beever and Struthers; in the case of the latter, the invoice makes reference to, and therefore can be directly attributed to, the estate. These disbursements are recoverable in full from the estate without the prior approval of creditors either by a direct payment from the estate or, where the firm has made payment on behalf of the estate, by a recharge of the amount invoiced by the third party. Examples of category 1 disbursements are statutory advertising, external meeting room hire, external storage, specific bond insurance and Company search fees.

Category 2 expenses are incurred by the firm and recharged to the estate; they are not attributed to the estate by a third-party invoice and/or they may include a profit element. These disbursements are recoverable in full from the estate, subject to the basis of the disbursement charge being approved by creditors in advance. Examples of category 2 disbursements are photocopying, internal room hire, internal storage and mileage. It is the firms' policy that no such disbursements will be recovered in this matter.

A members' guide to liquidators' fees - England and Wales

1 Introduction

When a company goes into liquidation the costs of the proceedings are paid out of its assets. The members (i.e. shareholders) therefore 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 mechanisms 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 and explains the basis on which fees are fixed.

2 Liquidation procedure

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. Where a declaration of solvency has been sworn by all or a majority of the directors of a company (as would usually be the case where they believe that the company has surplus assets to be distributed to members) a liquidation instituted by resolution of the shareholders is called a members' voluntary liquidation (often abbreviated to 'MVL').

3 Fixing the liquidator's fees

The basis for fixing the liquidator's remuneration in an MVL is set out in the Insolvency (England & Wales) Rules 2016 ("the Rules"). The Rules state that the remuneration shall be fixed either:

- as a percentage of the value of the assets which are realised or distributed or both, or
- by reference to the time properly given by the liquidator and his staff in attending to matters arising in the winding up; 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.

4. Who fixes the remuneration?

It is for the members of the company to determine on which of these bases the remuneration is to be fixed, and if it is to be fixed as a percentage, to fix the percentage to be applied. The Rules state that in arriving at their decision the members shall have regard to the following matters:

- the complexity (or otherwise) of the case;
- any respects in which, in connection with the company's affairs, there falls on the liquidator any responsibility of an exceptional kind or degree;
- the effectiveness with which the liquidator appears to be carrying out, or to have carried out, his duties;
 - the value and nature of the assets with which the liquidator has to deal.

A resolution specifying the terms on which the liquidator is to be remunerated may be taken at the meeting which appoints the liquidator. If the remuneration is not fixed in any of these ways, it will be in accordance with the scale laid down for official receivers.

5. Review of remuneration

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

6. What information should be provided by the liquidator?

6.1 General principles

The liquidator should provide those responsible for approving his remuneration with sufficient information to enable 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 member, while being proportionate to the circumstances of the case.

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.

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.

6.2

Key issues

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, 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, 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. Where it is practical to do so, the liquidator should provide an indication of the likely return to creditors when seeking approval for the basis of his remuneration.

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.

6.3 Disbursements

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.

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.

6.4 Progress reports and requests for further information

The liquidator is required to send annual progress reports to members. The reports must include:

- the basis fixed for the remuneration 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, a statement of the remuneration 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 remuneration charged during the periods covered by the previous reports, together with a description of the things done by the liquidator 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;
- a statement of the members' rights to request further information and their right to challenge the liquidator's remuneration and expenses.

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 members with at least 5% of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote at general meetings of the Company or by any member with the permission of the court.

The liquidator must provide the requested information within 14 days, unless he considers that:

- the time or cost of preparation of the information would be excessive, or
- disclosure would be prejudicial to the conduct of the liquidation or might reasonably 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.

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.

Provision of information – additional requirements

7. The liquidator must provide certain information about the time spent on the case, free of charge, upon request by any creditor, director or shareholder 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.

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.

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.

What if a member is dissatisfied?

8. If a member believes that the liquidator's remuneration is too high, the basis is inappropriate, or the expenses incurred by the liquidator are in all the circumstances excessive he may, provided certain conditions are met, apply to the court.

Application may be made to the court by members with at least 10% of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote at general meetings of the Company, or 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. 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.

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.

9. Other matters relating to fees

Where the liquidator realises assets on behalf of a secured creditor he is entitled to be remunerated out of the proceeds of sale in accordance with the scale laid down for the official receivers. Usually, however, the liquidator will agree the basis of his fee for dealing with charged assets with the secured creditor concerned.

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.

If a new liquidator is appointed in place of another, any determination, resolution 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, resolution or court order is made.

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. Where the outgoing liquidator and the incoming liquidator are from the same firm, they will usually agree the apportionment between them.

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. 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.

Whilst every care has been taken in its preparation, this statement is intended for general guidance only.