

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006
A PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES
NEW ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

of

BGF GROUP PLC

No. 10657226

as adopted by special resolution on 8 November 2023



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Company number
10657226

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006
A PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES
NEW ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
OF
BGF GROUP PLC
PRELIMINARY

1. Model articles do not apply

None of articles in the model articles for a public company set out in Schedule 3 to The Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 shall apply to the company.

INTERPRETATION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

2. Defined terms

(1) In the articles, unless the context requires otherwise:

alternate or alternate director has the meaning given in article 37(1);

appointor has the meaning given in article 37(1);

articles means the company's articles of association, as from time to time amended;

bankruptcy includes individual insolvency proceedings in a jurisdiction other than England and Wales or Northern Ireland which have an effect similar to that of bankruptcy;

board means the board of directors of the company;

budget means the budget from time to time of the company approved by the members in accordance with the provisions of the articles;

business day means any day (other than a Saturday or Sunday) on which banks are generally open in London for normal business;

business plan means the business plan from time to time of the company approved by the members in accordance with the articles;

call has the meaning given in article 70(1);

call notice has the meaning given in article 70(1);

chair has the meaning given in article 31;

chair of the meeting has the meaning given in article 46(3);

Companies Act means the Companies Act 2006 including any statutory modification or re-enactment of it for the time being in force;

company means BGF Group PLC (registered number 10657226);

company's lien has the meaning given in article 68(1);

director means a director of the company, and includes any person occupying the position of director, by whatever name called, including member directors;

distribution recipient has the meaning given in article 90(2);

dividend policy has the meaning given in article 7;

document includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form;

electronic form has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act;

eligible director means a director who is entitled to vote on the relevant matter at a directors' meeting but excluding any director whose vote is not to be counted in respect of the relevant matter;

founder member means any of RBS SME Investments Limited, Barclays Funds Investments Limited, HSBC Asset Finance (UK) Ltd, Uberior Investments plc and Standard Chartered Bank;

fully paid in relation to a share, means that the nominal value and any premium to be paid to the company in respect of that share have been paid to the company;

group has the meaning given in section 474(1) of the Companies Act;

group undertaking has the meaning given in section 1161(5) of the Companies Act;

hard copy form has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act;

holder in relation to shares means the person whose name is entered in the register of members as the holder of the shares;

instrument means a document in hard copy form;

inherent conflict has the meaning given in article 27;

investment policy means the investment policy of the company adopted in accordance with article 6 from time to time;

listing means the admission to listing of any of the shares in the company on any regulated investment exchange;

member has the meaning given in section 112 of the Companies Act;

member directors means those directors of the company appointed under article 30 (or their respective alternates);

ordinary resolution has the meaning given in section 282 of the Companies Act;

paid means paid or credited as paid;

participate in relation to a directors' meeting, has the meaning given in article 17;

partly paid in relation to a share means that part of that share's nominal value or any premium at which it was issued has not been paid to the company;

proxy notice has the meaning given in article 53(1);

relevant situation has the meaning given in article 28;

remuneration committee means the remuneration committee of the board or, if none has been constituted, the board;

reserved matters means each of the matters set out in article 9(2);

securities seal has the meaning given in article 65(2);

shares means shares in the company;

special resolution has the meaning given in section 283 of the Companies Act;

subsidiary has the meaning given in section 1159 of the Companies Act;

transfer notice has the meaning given in article 80(1);

transmittee means a person entitled to a share by reason of the death or bankruptcy of a shareholder or otherwise by operation of law; and

writing or **written** includes fax and e-mail but excludes text messages and other communications in electronic form.

- (2) Unless the context otherwise requires, other words or expressions contained in the articles bear the same meaning as in the Companies Act as in force on the date when the articles become binding on the company.
- (3) Unless the contrary intention appears, words importing the singular number include the plural number and vice versa, words importing one gender include all genders and words importing persons include bodies corporate and unincorporated associations.
- (4) Headings to the articles are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect construction.

3. Limited liability of members

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

THE BUSINESS

4. Objects

- (1) The objects of the company are to promote the success of the company:
 - (a) for the benefit of its members as a whole; and

- (b) through its business and operations, to have a material positive impact on (a) society and (b) the environment,

taken as a whole.

- (2) A director must act in the way he or she considers, in good faith, most likely to promote the success of the company in achieving the objects set out in paragraph (1) above, and in doing so shall have regard (among other matters) to:

- (a) the likely consequences of any decision of the directors in the long term and the impact any such decision may have on any affected stakeholders;
- (b) the interests of the company's employees;
- (c) the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
- (d) the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment and on affected stakeholders;
- (e) the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct and the impact this has on affected stakeholders; and
- (f) the need to act fairly as between members of the company,

(together, the matters referred to above shall be defined for the purposes of this Article as the "**Stakeholder Interests**" and each a "**Stakeholder Interest**").

- (3) For the purposes of a director's duty to act in the way he or she considers, in good faith, most likely to promote the success of the company, a director shall not be required to regard the benefit of any particular Stakeholder Interest or group of Stakeholder Interests as more important than any other.
- (4) Nothing in this Article express or implied, is intended to or shall create or grant any right or any cause of action to, by or for any person (other than the company).
- (5) The directors of the company shall, for each financial year of the company, prepare and circulate to its members an impact report. The impact report shall contain a balanced and comprehensive analysis of the impact the company's business has had, in a manner proportionate to the size and complexity of the business. The impact report shall contain such detail as is necessary to enable the members to have an understanding of the way in which the company has promoted its success for the benefit of its members as a whole and, through its business and operations, sought to have a material positive impact on society and the environment, taken as a whole. If the company is also required to prepare a strategic report under the Companies Act 2006, the company may choose to publish the impact report as part of its strategic report and in accordance with the requirements applying to the strategic report.

5. Company's business

- (1) The company's business is:
 - (a) to provide investment finance for small to medium sized businesses operating in the United Kingdom and Ireland;

- (b) to provide equity and equity like investments to small to medium sized businesses operating in the United Kingdom and Ireland and to work together with lenders who may provide debt financing to help such businesses put in place a capital structure which supports their growth;
 - (c) to implement investment policies designed, in the opinion of the directors, to maximise the company's investment in small to medium sized businesses operating in the United Kingdom and Ireland and support sustained growth in these businesses; and
 - (d) to do all other things which may be considered by the directors incidental or conducive to the execution of the company's business.
- (2) Paragraph (1) will be interpreted in the widest and most general manner and without regard to any restrictive principle of interpretation, and each of the paragraphs will not prejudice the generality of any other paragraph.
 - (3) The company will not make investments in any entity or person who is subject to any sanctions administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Treasury Department or is named in the consolidated list of persons, groups or entities subject to European Union sanctions administered by the External Relations Directorate of the European Commission or is a "designated person" under the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010.
 - (4) The rights of third parties will not be affected in any way by any failure of the directors to comply with this article.
 - (5) Any determination of, or decision or exercise of any discretion or power by, the board or any director or by the chair of any meeting acting reasonably and in good faith under or pursuant to the provisions of article 4 shall be conclusive and binding on all persons concerned and shall not be open to challenge, whether as to its validity or otherwise on any ground whatsoever and, in the absence of fraud, the directors of the company shall not have any liability to any person in respect of any cost, loss or expense suffered (directly or indirectly) as a result of any such determination, decision or exercise of discretion or power.
 - (6) The company may engage in any activities necessary or appropriate, in the reasonable opinion of the directors, to further any one or more of the objectives of the company set out in paragraph (1) provided that such activity is carried on, directly or indirectly, for the purposes of or otherwise in connection with the company's business of providing investment finance for small to medium sized businesses.
 - (7) References in this article 5 to the **company** shall be deemed to include, where appropriate, references to its subsidiaries.

6. **Investment policy**

- (1) The company will have an investment policy to govern the conduct of the company's investment business. The policy must be designed to achieve the company's objective of providing investment finance to small to medium sized businesses and supporting sustained growth in these businesses.
- (2) The directors will conduct the investment business of the company in line with the investment policy. They will establish procedures which enable them to see whether the

investment policy is being complied with by the company and, to the extent relevant, any subsidiary undertakings.

- (3) The rights of third parties will not be affected in any way by any failure of the directors to comply with the investment policy.
- (4) The directors will report each year in the company's annual report on the company's compliance with the investment policy. This report will contain sufficient information to allow the members to make an informed assessment of the investment business of the company as against the requirements of the investment policy and the objectives of the company.
- (5) The initial investment policy will be contained in the business plan. The investment policy may be altered from time to time by the board.
- (6) References in this article 6 to the **company** shall be deemed to include, where appropriate, references to its subsidiaries.

7. Dividend Policy

The board shall adopt a dividend policy which applies to all distributions and returns of capital. The dividend policy may be amended by the board with the prior approval of members of the company who in aggregate hold at least 70 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital of the company.

DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS' GENERAL POWERS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

8. Directors' general powers

Subject to the articles, the directors are responsible for the management of the company's business, for which purpose they may exercise all the powers of the company. But this does not apply where the articles or legislation require that powers can only be used by the members voting to do so at a general meeting.

9. Members' reserve power

- (1) The members may, by special resolution, direct the directors to take, or refrain from taking, specified action. No such special resolution invalidates anything which the directors have done before the passing of the resolution.
- (2) The company shall not and the directors shall not agree to undertake or commit the company to undertake, any of the following reserved matters without the prior approval of members of the company who in aggregate hold at least 70 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital of the company:
 - (a) list any share capital or other securities of the company on any investment exchange;
 - (b) issue any share capital or otherwise vary the issued share capital (or the rights attaching to it or any class of it) of the company (other than pursuant to the exercise of subsisting rights) or create any options or other rights to subscribe for or to convert into shares in the company or vary, or exercise any discretion in relation to, the terms of issue of shares in the company;

- (c) adopt or approve any business plan and budget;
- (d) change the tax residence or residence of the head office of the company;
- (e) borrow any money (except borrowing undertaken in the ordinary course of business or in accordance with the business plan); and
- (f) make any distribution or return of capital other than in accordance with the dividend policy.

10. Directors' duties

- (1) A member director will not breach his duty to exercise independent judgment if he acts in accordance with a direction from the member who appointed him or takes into account the interests of that member provided that the director is at all times subject to the overriding duty to act in the way he considers in good faith would be most likely to promote the success of the company.
- (2) In the exercise of his duties, a member director shall not be restricted by any duty of confidentiality to the company from providing information regarding the company to the member who appointed him provided that a member director may not disclose commercially sensitive information regarding the company to the member appointing him if to do so would be in breach of applicable law. A director who is also a director or employee of the member who appointed him (or any of its group undertakings) shall owe a strict duty of confidentiality to his appointing member (or its relevant group undertaking) in relation to confidential information.

11. Delegation to Committees

- (1) The directors may delegate any of their powers or discretions to any person or to committees of one or more directors. If the directors have delegated any power or discretion to any person or to a committee, any references in the articles to using that power or discretion include its use by that person or by the committee. Any person or any committee must comply with any regulations laid down by the directors.
- (2) Unless the directors decide not to allow this, any committee may sub-delegate any of its powers or discretions to sub-committees. Reference in the articles to committees include sub-committees permitted under the articles.
- (3) Committees to which the directors delegate any of their powers must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of the articles which govern the taking of decisions by directors. The directors may make rules of procedure for all or any committees, which prevail over rules derived from the articles if they are not consistent with them.
- (4) The ability of the directors to delegate under this article applies to all their powers and discretions and is not limited because certain articles refer to powers and discretions being exercised by committees authorised by directors while other articles do not.

12. Executive Committee

- (1) The board shall establish and maintain an executive committee to which the board delegates authority for the conduct of the operations of the company. Notwithstanding any such

delegation, overall responsibility for the management of the company's business shall remain with the board.

- (2) The executive committee will operate within the remit of terms of reference approved by the board and the board shall supervise such compliance. The terms of reference shall provide that the authorisation of any matters not in accordance with the business plan and budget shall be reserved to the board.

13. Remuneration Committee

The board shall establish and maintain a remuneration committee. Its membership shall consist of the non-executive directors of the company and such other persons as may be decided by the board, and if there are no non-executive directors, such persons as may be appointed by the chair of the company.

14. Audit Committee

The board shall establish and maintain an audit committee. Its membership shall consist of at least three member directors and such other persons as may be decided by the board. The audit committee shall deal with all material questions concerning auditing and accounting policy of the company and its financial controls and systems.

DECISION-MAKING BY DIRECTORS

15. Directors to take decisions collectively

Decisions of the directors may be taken:

- (1) at a directors' meeting, or
- (2) in the form of a directors' written resolution.

16. Calling a directors' meeting

- (1) Any director may call a directors' meeting.
- (2) The company secretary must call a directors' meeting if a director so requests.
- (3) A directors' meeting is called by giving notice of the meeting to the directors.
- (4) Notice of any directors' meeting must indicate:
 - (a) its proposed date and time;
 - (b) where it is to take place; and
 - (c) if it is anticipated that directors participating in the meeting will not be in the same place, how it is proposed that they should communicate with each other during the meeting.
- (5) Notice of a directors' meeting must be given to each director, but need not be in writing.
- (6) Notice of a directors' meeting need not be given to directors who waive their entitlement to notice of that meeting, by giving notice to that effect to the company not more than 7 days

after the date on which the meeting is held. Where such notice is given after the meeting has been held, that does not affect the validity of the meeting, or of any business conducted at it.

17. Participation in directors' meetings

- (1) Subject to the articles, directors participate in a directors' meeting, or part of a directors' meeting, when:
 - (a) the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with the articles; and
 - (b) they can each communicate to the others any information or opinions they have on any particular item of the business of the meeting.
- (2) In determining whether directors are participating in a directors' meeting, it is irrelevant where any director is or how they communicate with each other.
- (3) If all the directors participating in a meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is. In the absence of such a decision, the meeting is deemed to take place at the location from where the chair participates.

18. Quorum for directors' meetings

- (1) At a directors' meeting, unless a quorum is participating, no proposal is to be voted on, except a proposal to call another meeting.
- (2) The quorum for directors' meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the directors, but subject to paragraph (3), it must never be less than five eligible directors present including member directors who are appointed by members holding at least 60 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital of the company. A member observer shall, for the purpose of this paragraph only, be counted as if they were a member director.
- (3) For the purpose of any directors' meeting (or part of a meeting) held in accordance with article 28 to authorise a director's conflict of interest, if only one eligible director is in office, the quorum is one eligible director.

19. Meetings where total number of directors less than quorum

- (1) This article applies where the total number of directors for the time being in office is less than the quorum for directors' meetings.
- (2) If the total number of directors for the time being in office is less than the quorum required, the director or directors in office must not take any decision other than a decision:
 - (a) to request the relevant members to appoint one or more further directors; or
 - (b) to call a general meeting so as to enable the members to appoint further directors.

20. Chairing directors' meetings

- (1) The chair appointed under article 31 shall chair directors' meetings.
- (2) If the chair is not participating in a directors' meeting within ten minutes of the time at which it was to start, the participating directors (including three member directors) may appoint one of themselves to chair it.

21. Voting at directors' meetings: general rules

- (1) Subject to the articles, a decision is taken at a directors' meeting by a majority of the votes of the participating directors.
- (2) Each eligible director participating in a directors' meeting who is not a member director has one vote and each eligible director participating in a directors' meeting who is a member director has a number of votes equal to one more than the total number of directors who are not member directors divided by the total number of member directors (rounded up to the nearest whole number).
- (3) In the case of an equality of votes at any meeting of the directors or a committee of the directors, the chair of the meeting shall not have a second or casting vote.

22. Alternates voting at directors' meetings

A director who is also an alternate director has an additional vote on behalf of each appointor who is:

- (1) not participating in a directors' meeting; and
- (2) would have been an eligible director if they were participating in it.

No alternate may be counted as more than one director for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is present.

23. Proposing directors' written resolutions

- (1) Any director may propose a directors' written resolution.
- (2) The company secretary must propose a directors' written resolution if a director so requests.
- (3) A directors' written resolution is proposed by giving notice of the proposed resolution to the directors.
- (4) Notice of a proposed directors' written resolution must indicate:
 - (a) the proposed resolution; and
 - (b) the time by which it is proposed that the directors should adopt it.
- (5) Notice of a proposed directors' written resolution must be given in writing to each director.
- (6) Any decision which a person giving notice of a proposed directors' written resolution takes regarding the process of adopting that resolution must be taken reasonably in good faith.

24. Adoption of directors' written resolutions

- (1) A proposed directors' written resolution is adopted when all the eligible directors have signed one or more copies of it, provided that those directors would have formed a quorum at such a meeting.
- (2) It is immaterial whether any director signs the resolution before or after the time by which the notice proposed that it should be adopted.

- (3) Once a directors' written resolution has been adopted, it must be treated as if it had been a decision taken at a directors' meeting in accordance with the articles.
- (4) The company secretary must ensure that the company keeps a record, in writing, of all directors' written resolutions for at least ten years from the date of their adoption.

25. Directors' discretion to make further rules

Subject to the articles, the directors may make any rule which they think fit about how they take decisions, and about how such rules are to be recorded or communicated to directors.

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS

26. Directors' interests in relation to transactions or arrangements with the company

The relevant provisions of the Companies Act (including without limitation sections 177 and 182 of the Companies Act) shall apply in relation to declarations of interests in proposed and existing transactions or arrangements with the company.

27. Inherent conflicts

- (1) An inherent conflict is a situation where a director has, or can have, a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interests of the company in circumstances where that situation arises as a direct or indirect result of the business aims, ownership and control of the company and contracts with members, directors and others, including (without limitation) the director's relationship with the member who appointed him (or any of that member's group undertakings).
- (2) A director is authorised to have an interest which constitutes an inherent conflict.
- (3) A director who is subject to an inherent conflict may, subject to article 29 and article 57, vote as a director (and be counted in the quorum) on a decision concerning any such situation and attend a meeting, or participate in any discussion, relating to that situation and receive information or advice received by the company on such situations.
- (4) Any reference in paragraph (1) to a conflict of interest includes a conflict of interest and duty and a conflict of duties.

28. Directors' interests other than in relation to transactions or arrangements with the company

- (1) If a situation (a relevant situation) arises in which a director has, or can have, a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interests of the company (including, without limitation, in relation to the exploitation of any property, information or opportunity, whether or not the company could take advantage of it but excluding any situation which cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest) the following provisions shall apply if the conflict of interest does not arise in relation to a transaction or arrangement with the company:
 - (a) if the relevant situation arises from the appointment or proposed appointment of a person as a director of the company:
 - (i) the directors (other than the interested director, and any other director with a similar interest, who shall not be counted in the quorum at the meeting and shall not vote on the resolution); or

- (ii) the members (by ordinary resolution or by notice in writing given to the company by the holders of a majority of the shares),

may resolve to authorise the appointment of the interested director and the relevant situation on such terms as they may determine;
- (b) if the relevant situation arises in circumstances other than in paragraph (1):
 - (i) the directors (other than the interested director and any other director with a similar interest who shall not be counted in the quorum at the meeting and shall not vote on the resolution); or
 - (ii) the members (by ordinary resolution or by notice in writing given to the company by the holders of a majority of the shares),

may resolve to authorise the relevant situation and the continuing performance by the interested director of his duties on such terms as they may determine.
- (2) Any reference in paragraph (1) to a conflict of interest includes a conflict of interest and duty and a conflict of duties.
- (3) Any terms determined by the directors or the members under paragraphs (1)(a) or (1)(b) may be imposed at the time of the authorisation or may be imposed or varied subsequently by either the directors or the members and may include (without limitation):
 - (a) whether the interested directors may vote (and be counted in the quorum at any meeting) in relation to any decision relating to the relevant situation;
 - (b) the exclusion of the interested directors from all information and discussion by the company of the relevant situation; and
 - (c) (without prejudice to the general obligations of confidentiality) the application to the interested directors of a strict duty of confidentiality to the company for any confidential information of the company in relation to the relevant situation.
- (4) Any authorisation given under paragraphs (1)(a) or (1)(b) may be withdrawn by either the directors or the members by giving notice to the director concerned.
- (5) An interested director must act in accordance with any terms determined by the directors or the members under paragraphs (1)(a) or (1)(b).
- (6) Except as specified in paragraph (1), any proposal made to the directors and any authorisation by the directors in relation to a relevant situation shall be dealt with in the same way as any other matter may be proposed to and decided by the directors in accordance with the articles.
- (7) Any authorisation of a relevant situation given by the directors or the members under paragraph (1) may provide that, where the interested director obtains (other than through his position as a director of the company) information that is confidential to a third party, he will not be obliged to disclose it to the company or to use it in relation to the company's affairs in circumstances where to do so would amount to a breach of that confidence.
- (8) (a) If the directors make an authorisation under paragraph (1), impose or vary the terms of an authorisation under paragraph (3), or withdraw an authorisation under

paragraph (4), they shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, notify the members of this fact and provide, where applicable, any relevant particulars regarding the authorisation or its terms.

- (b) If the members make an authorisation under paragraph (1), impose or vary the terms of an authorisation under paragraph (3), or withdraw an authorisation under paragraph (4), they shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, notify the directors of this fact and provide, where applicable, any relevant particulars regarding the authorisation or its terms.
- (9) (a) A director shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, declare the nature and extent of his interest in a relevant situation within paragraph (1)(a) or (1)(b) to the other directors and the members.

Failure to comply with this requirement does not affect the underlying duty to make the declaration of interest.

- (b) If a declaration of interest in relation to a relevant situation proves to be, or becomes, inaccurate or incomplete, a further declaration must be made.

29. Directors' interests generally and voting

- (1) Subject to the Companies Act and to articles 26 and 28, a director notwithstanding his office:
 - (a) may be a party to, or otherwise interested or participate in, any transaction or arrangement with the company or in which the company is otherwise interested, including any such pensions, other benefits, transactions or arrangements as are referred to in article 36;
 - (b) may act by himself or his firm in a professional capacity for the company (except as auditor) and he or his firm shall be entitled to remuneration as if he were not a director;
 - (c) may be a director or other officer of, or employed by, or a party to any transaction or arrangement with, or otherwise interested in, any body corporate promoted by the company or in which the company is otherwise interested; and
 - (d) shall not, by reason of his office (or of the fiduciary relationship established by holding that office), be accountable to the company for any remuneration, profit or other benefit resulting from any relevant situation authorised under article 28 or any interest permitted under paragraphs (a), (b), or (c), and no contract, transaction or arrangement shall be liable to be avoided on the grounds of any director having an interest authorised under article 28 or permitted under paragraphs (a), (b), or (c).
- (2) Subject to articles 26, 28 and 57 and to any contrary direction from the holders of a majority of the shares, a director shall be entitled to vote on any decision concerning any matter in which he has, directly or indirectly, an interest or a duty.
- (3) In the case of an alternate director, an interest of his appointor shall be treated as an interest of the alternate in addition to any interest which the alternate otherwise has.
- (4) Subject to the Companies Act, the company may, by ordinary resolution or by notice in writing given to the company by the holders of a majority of the shares, suspend or relax the

provisions of this article to any extent or ratify any contract, transaction or arrangement not duly authorised by reason of a contravention of this article.

- (5) Where proposals are under consideration concerning the appointment of two or more directors to offices or employments with the company or any body corporate in which the company is interested, the proposals may be divided and considered in relation to each director separately and (provided he is not otherwise precluded from voting) each of the directors concerned shall be entitled to vote (and to form part of the quorum) in respect of each proposal except that concerning his own appointment.
- (6) Subject to paragraph (7), if a question arises at a meeting of directors or of a committee of directors as to the right of a director to participate in the meeting (or part of the meeting) for voting and quorum purposes, the question may, before the conclusion of the meeting, be referred to the chair whose ruling in relation to any director other than the chair is to be final and conclusive.
- (7) If any question as to the right to participate in the meeting (or part of the meeting) should arise in respect of the chair, the question is to be decided by a decision of the directors at that meeting, for which purpose the chair is not to be counted as participating in the meeting (or that part of the meeting) for voting and quorum purposes.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

30. Appointment of member directors and member observers

- (1) Each member who is the registered and beneficial owner of 8 per cent. or more of the issued share capital of the company may appoint one person as a director of the company. Directors so appointed shall be **member directors**.
- (2) Where a founder member ceases to be the registered and beneficial owner of 8 per cent. or more of the issued share capital of the company and so is no longer entitled to appoint a member director pursuant to paragraph (1), such founder member (or any person it may have transferred its shares to under article 81(1)(a) or (b)) shall nonetheless be entitled to appoint one person as a director of the company in recognition of their role in founding the company, provided that such founder member has not transferred a majority of its shares (calculated based on its initial shareholding) otherwise than in accordance with article 81(1)(a) or (b). Directors so appointed shall be member directors. Such entitlement shall terminate at the end of the six year period commencing on the date of incorporation of the company.
- (3) Each member who is entitled to appoint a member director may, instead of appointing a member director, appoint one observer to the board. Such observer shall, for so long as the member who appointed him is entitled to but has not appointed a member director, be entitled to receive notice of board meetings in accordance with the provisions of the articles, attend and speak at board meetings but shall have no right to vote on board resolutions. Observers so appointed shall be **member observers**.
- (4) A member together with its group and any person it is entitled to transfer shares to under article 81(1)(b) shall not, other than pursuant to paragraph (7), between them be able to appoint more than one member director or member observer. If they would be permitted to do so absent this paragraph, the right of appointment shall vest with the member first recorded in the register of members of the company.

- (5) Members shall be entitled at any time by notice in writing to the company to appoint and to remove or replace their member director or member observer.
- (6) Where there are insufficient members entitled to appoint a member director for member directors to constitute a majority of the board, then a majority in number of those members of the company who are entitled to appoint member directors pursuant to paragraph (1) may by agreement between them in addition appoint such number of persons as directors or observers such that members directors constitute a majority of the board. Any such person appointed shall be a member director or member observer as applicable.

31. Appointment and Removal of Chair

Members who in aggregate hold at least 75 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital of the company may appoint one person to be a director of the company and to hold office as chair and, remove from office such person and appoint another in his place.

32. Methods of appointing directors

Any person who is willing to act as a director, and is permitted by law to do so, may be appointed to be a director:

- (a) by ordinary resolution;
- (b) by a decision of the directors; or
- (c) by notice in writing given in accordance with article 30.

33. Termination of director's appointment

- (1) A person ceases to be a director as soon as:
 - (a) that person ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision of the Companies Act or is prohibited from being a director by law;
 - (b) a bankruptcy order is made against that person;
 - (c) a composition is made with that person's creditors generally in satisfaction of that person's debts;
 - (d) a registered medical practitioner who has examined him gives a written opinion to the company stating that that person has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
 - (e) by reason of that person's mental health, a court makes an order which wholly or partly prevents that person from personally exercising any powers or rights which that person would otherwise have;
 - (f) notification is received by the company from the director that the director is resigning from office as director, and such resignation has taken effect in accordance with its terms;
 - (g) notice in writing is received by the company in accordance with the provision of the articles; or

- (h) the member who appointed the director pursuant to article 30 ceases to be entitled to appoint a director.

34. Directors' services and remuneration

- (1) Directors may undertake any services for the company that the directors decide and the company may enter into a contract of service with any director on such terms as the directors think fit.
- (2) Any appointment of a director to an executive office shall terminate if he ceases to be a director but without prejudice to any claim to damages for breach of contract of service between the director and the company.
- (3) Subject to paragraph (4), directors are entitled to such remuneration as the remuneration committee or board determines:
 - (a) for their services to the company as directors; and
 - (b) for any other service which they undertake for the company.
- (4) Any member director or member observer shall not be entitled to receive any remuneration from the company.
- (5) Subject to the articles, a director's remuneration may take any form.
- (6) Unless the directors decide otherwise, directors' remuneration accrues from day to day.

35. Directors' expenses

The company may pay any reasonable expenses which the directors, alternate directors, member observers and the company secretary properly incur in connection with their attendance at:

- (a) meetings of directors or committees of directors;
- (b) general meetings; or
- (c) separate meetings of the holders of any class of shares or of debentures of the company,

or otherwise in connection with the exercise of their powers and the discharge of their responsibilities in relation to the company.

36. Directors' pensions and other benefits

The directors may exercise all the powers of the company to:

- (a) pay, provide, arrange or procure the grant of pensions or other retirement benefits (but not including defined benefit schemes), death, disability or sickness benefits, health, accident and other insurances or other such benefits, allowances, gratuities or insurances, including in relation to the termination of employment, to or for the benefit of any person who is or has been at any time a director of the company or in the employment or service of the company or of any body corporate which is or was associated with the company or of the predecessors in business of the company or any such associated body corporate, or the relatives or dependants of any such person; for that purpose, the directors may procure the establishment and maintenance of, or participation in, or contribution to, any pension fund, scheme or arrangement and the payment of any insurance premiums;

- (b) establish, maintain, adopt and enable participation in any profit sharing or incentive scheme including shares, share options or cash or any similar schemes for the benefit of any director or employee of the company or of any associated body corporate, and to lend money to any such director or employee or to trustees on their behalf to enable any such schemes to be established, maintained or adopted; and
- (c) support and subscribe to any institution or association which may be for the benefit of the company or associated body corporate or any directors or employees of the company or associated body corporate or their relatives or dependants or connected with any town or place where the company or an associated body corporate carries on business, and to support and subscribe to any charitable or public object whatsoever.

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS

37. Appointment and removal of alternates

- (1) Any director (the appointor) may appoint as an alternate any other director, or any other person approved by resolution of the directors (an alternate or alternate director) to:
 - (a) exercise that director's powers; and
 - (b) carry out that director's responsibilities,
 in relation to the taking of decisions by the directors in the absence of the alternate's appointor.
- (2) Any appointment or removal of an alternate must be effected by notice in writing to the company signed by the appointor, or in any other manner approved by the directors.
- (3) The notice must:
 - (a) identify the proposed alternate; and
 - (b) in the case of a notice of appointment, contain a statement signed by the proposed alternate that the proposed alternate is willing to act as the alternate of the director giving the notice.

38. Rights and responsibilities of alternate directors

- (1) Subject to the articles, an alternate may act as alternate director to more than one director and has the same rights, in relation to any directors' meeting or directors' written resolution, as the alternate's appointor.
- (2) Except as the articles specify otherwise, alternate directors:
 - (a) are deemed for all purposes to be directors;
 - (b) are liable for their own acts and omissions;
 - (c) are subject to the same restrictions as their appointors; and
 - (d) are not deemed to be agents of or for their appointors,
 and, in particular, each alternate director shall be entitled to receive notice of all directors' meetings and of all committee meetings of directors of which his appointor is a member.

- (3) Subject to the articles, a person who is an alternate director but not a director:
 - (a) may be counted as participating for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present (but only if that person's appointor is not participating); and
 - (b) may sign a written resolution (but only if it is not signed or to be signed by that person's appointor).

No alternate may be counted as more than one director for such purposes.

- (4) An alternate director is not entitled to receive any remuneration from the company for serving as an alternate director except such part of the alternate's appointor's remuneration as the appointor may direct by notice in writing made to the company.

39. Termination of alternate directorship

An alternate director's appointment as an alternate terminates:

- (a) when the alternate's appointor revokes the appointment by notice to the company in writing specifying when it is to terminate;
- (b) on the occurrence in relation to the alternate of any event which, if it occurred in relation to the alternate's appointor, would result in the termination of the appointor's appointment as a director;
- (c) on the death of the alternate's appointor;
- (d) when the alternate's appointor's appointment as a director terminates; or
- (e) where the directors otherwise decide.

COMPANY REPORT TO MEMBERS

40. Business Plan, Budget and Information Requests

- (1) The company shall prepare for the approval of the members a business plan for the forthcoming three financial years of the company which shall be recommended by the chief executive officer of the company and approved by the board and the company will submit to the members not less than 30 business days before the end of each third financial year of the company.
- (2) The company shall prepare for the approval of the members a budget for each forthcoming financial year of the company which it will submit to the members not less than 30 business days before the end of the then current financial year of the company.
- (3) The budget will include a drawdown schedule setting out the anticipated financial contributions for the forthcoming year to be made to the company by each member.
- (4) Each member shall consider the business plan and the budget submitted to it and shall in good faith take appropriate steps with a view to it and the other members approving it not less than 15 business days before the end of the then current financial year of the company.
- (5) Each business plan and budget must be approved by members of the company who in aggregate hold at least 70 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital of the company (in accordance with article 9).

- (6) If a proposal for a budget or business plan is put to members in accordance with this article and article 9 but is not approved by the requisite majority within a period of 15 business days, the members shall discuss the proposal and any revisions required to it between themselves and with the company for a further period of 10 business days. If the proposal or any revised proposal is not approved by the requisite majority of members or the company does not withdraw the proposal within this time, the matter shall be referred to the senior UK financial officer of each founder member's group.
- (7) The board shall adopt any business plan and budget approved under this article as the business plan and budget of the company but may authorise, approve and undertake any action not within the business plan or budget if their fiduciary and statutory duties or the best interests of the company so require, provided that such action is in accordance with the articles of the company. The rights of any third party will not be affected by whether any matter is or is not within the scope of the business plan and budget.
- (8) The company shall prepare for members a quarterly report on the performance of the company measured against the business plan, including updated valuations of investments made by the company, total volumes invested, the internal rate of return achieved on investments and analysis of market demand for equity investments.
- (9) The company shall also provide monthly management accounts and reports to members, including cash flow reports, details of new material litigation and any material adverse changes affecting the business.
- (10) The company must provide such other information to the members in a timely manner as the members reasonably require in order to comply with their or their group undertakings' statutory reporting and compliance (including FSA regulatory capital reporting) obligations. The company shall consent to any reasonable request made by a member to discuss financial matters relating to the company with the company's auditors.
- (11) The members shall ensure that any information they receive concerning the company pursuant to this article shall be kept confidential unless the information is required to be disclosed by law, regulation or any governmental or competent regulatory authority (including without limitation, any securities exchange).

COMPANY NAME

41. Change of company name

The name of the company may be changed by a special resolution.

DECISION-MAKING BY MEMBERS

42. Members can call general meeting if not enough directors

If:

- (a) the company has fewer than five directors; and
- (b) the director(s) (if any) is unable or unwilling to request the relevant members to appoint further directors or to call a general meeting to do so,

then two or more members may call a general meeting (or instruct the company secretary to do so) for the purpose of appointing one or more directors.

43. Notice of general meeting

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

44. Attendance and speaking at general meetings

- (1) A person is able to exercise the right to speak at a general meeting when that person is in a position to communicate to all those attending the meeting, during the meeting, any information or opinions which that person has on the business of the meeting.
- (2) A person is able to exercise the right to vote at a general meeting when:
 - (a) that person is able to vote, during the meeting, on resolutions put to the vote at the meeting; and
 - (b) that person's vote can be taken into account in determining whether or not such resolutions are passed at the same time as the votes of all the other persons attending the meeting.
- (3) The directors may make whatever arrangements they consider appropriate to enable those attending a general meeting to exercise their rights to speak or vote at it.
- (4) In determining attendance at a general meeting, it is immaterial whether any two or more members attending it are in the same place as each other.
- (5) Two or more persons who are not in the same place as each other attend a general meeting if their circumstances are such that if they have (or were to have) rights to speak and vote at that meeting, they are (or would be) able to exercise them.

45. Quorum for general meetings

The quorum for general meetings shall be three members present in person or by proxy holding at least 25 per cent. of the shares. No business other than the appointment of the chair of the meeting is to be transacted at a general meeting if the persons attending it do not constitute a quorum.

46. Chairing general meetings

- (1) If the directors have appointed a chair, the chair shall chair general meetings if present and willing to do so.
- (2) If the directors have not appointed a chair, or if the chair is unwilling to chair the meeting or is not present within ten minutes of the time at which a meeting was due to start:
 - (a) the directors present; or
 - (b) (if no directors are present), the meeting,must appoint a director or member (including a proxy or corporate representative) to chair the meeting, and the appointment of the chair of the meeting must be the first business of the meeting.
- (3) The person chairing a meeting in accordance with this article is referred to as **the chair of the meeting**.

47. Attendance and speaking by directors and non-members

- (1) Directors and member observers may attend and speak at general meetings, whether or not they are members.
- (2) The chair of the meeting may permit other persons who are not:
 - (a) members of the company; or
 - (b) otherwise entitled to exercise the rights of members in relation to general meetings, to attend and speak at a general meeting.

48. Adjournment

- (1) If the persons attending a general meeting within half an hour of the time at which the meeting was due to start do not constitute a quorum, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the chair of the meeting must adjourn it.
- (2) The chair of the meeting may adjourn a general meeting at which a quorum is present if:
 - (a) the meeting consents to an adjournment; or
 - (b) it appears to the chair of the meeting that an adjournment is necessary to protect the safety of any person attending the meeting or ensure that the business of the meeting is conducted in an orderly manner.
- (3) The chair of the meeting must adjourn a general meeting if directed to do so by the meeting.
- (4) When adjourning a general meeting, the chair of the meeting must:
 - (a) either specify the time and place to which it is adjourned or state that it is to continue at a time and place to be fixed by the directors; and
 - (b) have regard to any directions as to the time and place of any adjournment which have been given by the meeting.
- (5) If the continuation of an adjourned meeting is to take place more than 14 days after it was adjourned, the company must give at least 7 clear days' notice of it (that is, excluding the day of the adjourned meeting and the day on which the notice is given):
 - (a) to the same persons to whom notice of the company's general meetings is required to be given; and
 - (b) containing the same information which such notice is required to contain.
- (6) No business may be transacted at an adjourned general meeting which could not properly have been transacted at the meeting if the adjournment had not taken place.

VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

49. Voting: general

A resolution put to the vote of a general meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is duly demanded in accordance with the articles.

50. Errors and disputes

- (1) No objection may be raised to the qualification of any person voting at a general meeting except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting is valid.
- (2) Any such objection must be referred to the chair of the meeting whose decision is final.

51. Demanding a poll

- (1) A poll on a resolution may be demanded:
 - (a) in advance of the general meeting where it is to be put to the vote; or
 - (b) at a general meeting, either before a show of hands on that resolution or immediately after the result of a show of hands on that resolution is declared.
- (2) A poll may be demanded by:
 - (a) the chair of the meeting;
 - (b) the directors;
 - (c) two or more persons having the right to vote on the resolution; or
 - (d) a person or persons representing not less than one tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote on the resolution.
- (3) A demand for a poll may be withdrawn if:
 - (a) the poll has not yet been taken; and
 - (b) the chair of the meeting consents to the withdrawal.

52. Procedure on a poll

- (1) Subject to the articles, polls at general meetings must be taken when, where and in such manner as the chair of the meeting directs.
- (2) The chair of the meeting may appoint scrutineers (who need not be members) and decide how and when the result of the poll is to be declared.
- (3) The result of a poll shall be the decision of the meeting in respect of the resolution on which the poll was demanded.
- (4) A poll on:
 - (a) the election of the chair of the meeting; or
 - (b) a question of adjournment,

must be taken immediately.

- (5) Other polls must be taken within 30 days of their being demanded.
- (6) A demand for a poll does not prevent a general meeting from continuing, except as regards the question on which the poll was demanded.
- (7) No notice need be given of a poll not taken immediately if the time and place at which it is to be taken are announced at the meeting at which it is demanded.
- (8) In any other case, at least 7 days' notice must be given specifying the time and place at which the poll is to be taken.

53. Content of proxy notices

- (1) Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a proxy notice) which:
 - (a) states the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;
 - (b) identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
 - (c) is signed by or on behalf of the member appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine; and
 - (d) is delivered to the company in accordance with the articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting (or adjourned meeting) to which they relate.
- (2) The company may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.
- (3) Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.
- (4) Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as:
 - (a) allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting; and
 - (b) appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.

54. Delivery of proxy notices etc.

- (1) Any notice of a general meeting must specify the address or addresses (proxy notification address) at which the company or its agents will receive proxy notices relating to that meeting, or any adjournment of it, delivered in hard copy or electronic form.
- (2) A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the company by or on behalf of that person.

- (3) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a proxy notice must be delivered to a proxy notification address not less than 48 hours before the general meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.
- (4) In the case of a poll taken more than 48 hours after it is demanded, the notice must be delivered to a proxy notification address not less than 24 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll.
- (5) In the case of a poll not taken during the meeting but taken not more than 48 hours after it was demanded, the proxy notice must be delivered:
 - (a) in accordance with paragraph (3); or
 - (b) at the meeting at which the poll was demanded to the chair, company secretary or any director.
- (6) An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given to a proxy notification address.
- (7) A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before:
 - (a) the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates; or
 - (b) (in the case of a poll not taken on the same day as the meeting or adjourned meeting) the time appointed for taking the poll to which it relates.
- (8) If a proxy notice is not signed by the person appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointor's behalf.

55. Amendments to resolutions

- (1) An ordinary resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution if:
 - (a) notice of the proposed amendment is given to the company secretary in writing by a person entitled to vote at the general meeting at which it is to be proposed not less than 48 hours before the meeting is to take place (or such later time as the chair of the meeting may determine); and
 - (b) the proposed amendment does not, in the reasonable opinion of the chair of the meeting, materially alter the scope of the resolution.
- (2) A special resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution, if:
 - (a) the chair of the meeting proposes the amendment at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed; and
 - (b) the amendment does not go beyond what is necessary to correct a grammatical or other non-substantive error in the resolution.
- (3) If the chair of the meeting, acting in good faith, wrongly decides that an amendment to a resolution is out of order, the chair's error does not invalidate the vote on that resolution.

APPLICATION OF RULES TO CLASS MEETINGS

56. Class meetings

The provisions of the articles relating to general meetings apply, with any necessary modifications, to meetings of the holders of any class of shares.

CONTRACTS WITH MEMBERS

57. Contractual relationships with members

The company may not enter into a material contract with a member of the company or its group undertakings unless entry into the contract is recommended by 75 per cent. of the non-executive directors of the company (excluding member directors but including the chair) and is approved at a board meeting. Where there are no non-executive directors of the company, the contract must be recommended by 75 per cent. of such directors of the company who are not member directors. Where the member who is (or whose group undertaking is) the proposed contractual party has appointed a member director, that member director may not vote on the board resolution.

SHARES AND DISTRIBUTIONS

ISSUE OF SHARES

58. Allotment (etc.) of shares

- (1) Subject to the Companies Act, the articles and any resolution of the company, the directors may offer, allot (with or without conferring a right of renunciation), grant options over or otherwise deal with or dispose of any shares to such persons, at such times and generally on such terms as the directors may decide.
- (2) The directors are generally and unconditionally authorised, in accordance with section 551 of the Companies Act, to exercise all the powers of the company to allot shares or to grant rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into shares up to a maximum nominal amount of £2,500,000,000.
- (3) The authority contained in paragraph (2) shall expire on the day five years after the date of adoption of these articles but the company may, before the authority expires, make an offer or agreement which would or might require shares to be allotted or rights to be granted after it expires.

59. Authority to allot shares and grant rights

- (1) In addition to the authority in article 58, the company may from time to time pass an ordinary resolution referring to this article and authorising, in accordance with section 551 of the Companies Act, the directors to exercise all the powers of the company to allot shares or to grant rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into shares and:
 - (a) on the passing of the resolution the directors shall be generally and unconditionally authorised to allot such shares or grant such rights up to the maximum nominal amount specified in the resolution; and
 - (b) unless previously revoked the authority shall expire on the day specified in the resolution (not being more than five years from the date on which the resolution is passed),

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

60. Pre-emption rights

Section 561 et seq. of the Companies Act shall apply to all allotments of equity securities made by the company.

61. Powers to issue different classes of share

- (1) Subject to the articles, but without prejudice to articles 58 and 59 or to the rights attached to any existing share, the company may issue further classes of shares with such rights or restrictions as may be determined by ordinary resolution.
- (2) The company may issue shares which are to be redeemed, or are liable to be redeemed at the option of the company or the holder, and the directors may determine the terms, conditions and manner of redemption of any such shares.
- (3) In the event that rights and restrictions attaching to shares are determined by ordinary resolution or by the directors pursuant to this article, those rights and restrictions shall apply, in particular in place of any rights or restrictions that would otherwise apply by virtue of the Companies Act in the absence of any provisions in the articles of a company as if those rights and restrictions were set out in the articles.

62. Payment of commissions on subscription for shares

- (1) The company may pay any person a commission in consideration for that person:
 - (a) subscribing, or agreeing to subscribe, for shares, or
 - (b) procuring, or agreeing to procure, subscriptions for shares.
- (2) Any such commission may be paid:
 - (a) in cash, or in fully paid or partly paid shares or other securities, or partly in one way and partly in the other; and
 - (b) in respect of a conditional or an absolute subscription.

INTERESTS IN SHARES

63. Company not bound by less than absolute interests

Except as required by law, no person is to be recognised by the company as holding any share upon any trust, and except as otherwise required by law or the articles, the company is not in any way to be bound by or recognise any interest in a share other than the holder's absolute ownership of it and all the rights attaching to it.

SHARE CERTIFICATES

64. Issue of certificates

- (1) Subject to the Companies Act, the company must issue each member with one or more certificates in respect of the shares which that member holds.

- (2) Except as otherwise specified in the articles, all certificates must be issued free of charge.
- (3) No certificate may be issued in respect of shares of more than one class.
- (4) If more than one person holds a share, only one certificate may be issued in respect of it.

65. Contents and execution of share certificates

- (1) Every certificate must specify:
 - (a) in respect of how many shares, of what class, it is issued;
 - (b) the nominal value of those shares;
 - (c) the amount paid up on them; and
 - (d) any distinguishing numbers assigned to them.
- (2) Certificates must:
 - (a) have affixed to them the company's common seal or an official seal which is a facsimile of the company's common seal with the addition on its face of the word "Securities" (a **securities seal**), and in the case of a securities seal, unless otherwise determined by the directors, the certificate does not need to be signed; or
 - (b) be otherwise executed in accordance with the Companies Act.

66. Consolidated share certificates

- (1) When a member's holding of shares of a particular class increases, the company may issue that member with:
 - (a) a single, consolidated certificate in respect of all the shares of a particular class which that member holds; or
 - (b) a separate certificate in respect of only those shares by which that member's holding has increased.
- (2) When a member's holding of shares of a particular class is reduced, the company must ensure that the member is issued with one or more certificates in respect of the number of shares held by the member after that reduction. But the company need not (in the absence of a request from the member) issue any new certificate if:
 - (a) all the shares which the member no longer holds as a result of the reduction; and
 - (b) none of the shares which the member retains following the reduction, were, immediately before the reduction, represented by the same certificate.
- (3) A member may request the company, in writing, to replace:
 - (a) the member's separate certificates with a consolidated certificate; or
 - (b) the member's consolidated certificate with two or more separate certificates representing such proportion of the shares as the member may specify.

- (4) When the company complies with such a request it may charge such reasonable fee as the directors may decide for doing so.
- (5) A consolidated certificate must not be issued unless any certificates which it is to replace have first been returned to the company for cancellation.

67. Replacement share certificates

- (1) If a certificate issued in respect of a member's shares is:
 - (a) damaged or defaced; or
 - (b) said to be lost, stolen or destroyed,
 that member is entitled to be issued with a replacement certificate in respect of the same shares.
- (2) A member exercising the right to be issued with such a replacement certificate:
 - (a) may at the same time exercise the right to be issued with a single certificate or separate certificates;
 - (b) must return the certificate which is to be replaced to the company if it is damaged or defaced; and
 - (c) must comply with such conditions as to evidence, indemnity and the payment of a reasonable fee as the directors decide.

PARTLY PAID SHARES

68. Company's lien over partly paid shares

- (1) The company has a lien (the company's lien) over every share which is partly paid for any part of:
 - (a) that share's nominal value; and
 - (b) any premium at which it was issued,
 which has not been paid to the company, and which is payable immediately or at some time in the future, whether or not a call notice has been sent in respect of it.
- (2) The company's lien over a share:
 - (a) takes priority over any third party's interest in that share; and
 - (b) extends to any dividend or other money payable by the company in respect of that share and (if the lien is enforced and the share is sold by the company) the proceeds of sale of that share.
- (3) The directors may at any time decide that a share which is or would otherwise be subject to the company's lien shall not be subject to it, either wholly or in part.

69. Enforcement of the company's lien

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this article, if:
 - (a) a lien enforcement notice has been given in respect of a share; and
 - (b) the person to whom the notice was given has failed to comply with it,the company may sell that share in such manner as the directors decide.
- (2) A lien enforcement notice:
 - (a) may only be given in respect of a share which is subject to the company's lien, in respect of which a sum is payable and the due date for payment of that sum has passed;
 - (b) must specify the share concerned;
 - (c) must require payment of the sum payable within 14 days of the notice;
 - (d) must be addressed either to the holder of the share or to a person entitled to it by reason of the holder's death, bankruptcy or otherwise; and
 - (e) must state the company's intention to sell the share if the notice is not complied with.
- (3) Where shares are sold under this article:
 - (a) the directors may authorise any person to execute an instrument of transfer of the shares to the purchaser or a person nominated by the purchaser; and
 - (b) the transferee is not bound to see to the application of the consideration, and the transferee's title is not affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the process leading to the sale.
- (4) The net proceeds of any such sale (after payment of the costs of sale and any other costs of enforcing the lien) must be applied:
 - (a) first, in payment of so much of the sum for which the lien exists as was payable at the date of the lien enforcement notice;
 - (b) second, to the person entitled to the shares at the date of the sale, but only after the certificate for the shares sold has been surrendered to the company for cancellation or a suitable indemnity has been given for any lost certificates, and subject to a lien equivalent to the company's lien over the shares before the sale for any money payable in respect of the shares after the date of the lien enforcement notice.
- (5) A statutory declaration by a director or the company secretary that the declarant is a director or the company secretary and that a share has been sold to satisfy the company's lien on a specified date:
 - (a) is conclusive evidence of the facts stated in it as against all persons claiming to be entitled to the share; and

- (b) subject to compliance with any other formalities of transfer required by the articles or by law, constitutes a good title to the share.

70. Call notices

- (1) Subject to the articles and the terms on which shares are allotted, the directors may send a notice (a call notice) to a member requiring the member to pay the company a specified sum of money (a call) which is payable in respect of shares which that member holds at the date when the directors decide to send the call notice.
- (2) A call notice:
 - (a) may not require a member to pay a call which exceeds the total sum unpaid on that member's shares (whether as to the share's nominal value or any amount payable to the company by way of premium);
 - (b) must state when and how any call to which it relates is to be paid; and
 - (c) may permit or require the call to be paid by instalments.
- (3) A member must comply with the requirements of a call notice, but no member is obliged to pay any call before 20 business days have passed since the notice was sent.
- (4) Before the company has received any call due under a call notice the directors may:
 - (a) revoke it wholly or in part; or
 - (b) specify a later time for payment than is specified in the notice,by a further notice in writing to the member in respect of whose shares the call is made.

71. Liability to pay calls

- (1) Liability to pay a call is not extinguished or transferred by transferring the shares in respect of which it is required to be paid.
- (2) Joint holders of a share are jointly and severally liable to pay all calls in respect of that share.
- (3) Subject to the terms on which shares are allotted, the directors may, when issuing shares, provide that call notices sent to the holders of those shares may require them:
 - (a) to pay calls which are not the same; or
 - (b) to pay calls at different times.

72. When call notice need not be issued

- (1) A call notice need not be issued in respect of sums which are specified, in the terms on which a share is issued, as being payable to the company in respect of that share (whether in respect of nominal value or premium):
 - (a) on allotment;
 - (b) on the occurrence of a particular event; or

- (c) on a date fixed by or in accordance with the terms of issue.
- (2) But if the due date for payment of such a sum has passed and it has not been paid, the holder of the share concerned is treated in all respects as having failed to comply with a call notice in respect of that sum, and is liable to the same consequences as regards the payment of interest and forfeiture.

73. Failure to comply with call notice: automatic consequences

- (1) If a person is liable to pay a call and fails to do so by the call payment date:
 - (a) the directors may issue a notice of intended forfeiture to that person; and
 - (b) until the call is paid, that person must pay the company interest on the call from the call payment date at the relevant rate.
- (2) For the purposes of this article:
 - (a) the **call payment date** is the time when the call notice states that a call is payable, unless the directors give a notice specifying a later date, in which case the **call payment date** is that later date;
 - (b) the **relevant rate** is:
 - (i) the rate fixed by the terms on which the share in respect of which the call is due was allotted;
 - (ii) such other rate as was fixed in the call notice which required payment of the call, or has otherwise been determined by the directors; or
 - (iii) if no rate is fixed in either of these ways, 5 per cent per annum.
- (3) The relevant rate must not exceed by more than 5 percentage points the base lending rate most recently set by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England in connection with its responsibilities under Part 2 of the Bank of England Act 1998.
- (4) The directors may waive any obligation to pay interest on a call wholly or in part.

74. Notice of intended forfeiture

A notice of intended forfeiture:

- (a) may be sent in respect of any share in respect of which a call has not been paid as required by a call notice;
- (b) must be sent to the holder of that share or to a person entitled to it by reason of the holder's death, bankruptcy or otherwise;
- (c) must require payment of the call and any accrued interest by a date which is not less than 14 days after the date of the notice;
- (d) must state how the payment is to be made; and
- (e) must state that if the notice is not complied with, the shares in respect of which the call is payable will be liable to be forfeited.

75. Directors' power to forfeit shares

If a notice of intended forfeiture is not complied with before the date by which payment of the call is required in the notice of intended forfeiture, the directors may decide that any share in respect of which it was given is forfeited, and the forfeiture is to include all dividends or other moneys payable in respect of the forfeited shares and not paid before the forfeiture.

76. Effect of forfeiture

- (1) Subject to the articles, the forfeiture of a share extinguishes:
 - (a) all interests in that share, and all claims and demands against the company in respect of it; and
 - (b) all other rights and liabilities incidental to the share as between the person whose share it was prior to the forfeiture and the company.
- (2) Any share which is forfeited in accordance with the articles:
 - (a) is deemed to have been forfeited when the directors decide that it is forfeited;
 - (b) is deemed to be the property of the company; and
 - (c) may be sold, re-allotted or otherwise disposed of as the directors think fit.
- (3) If a person's shares have been forfeited:
 - (a) the company must send that person notice that forfeiture has occurred and record it in the register of members;
 - (b) that person ceases to be a member in respect of those shares;
 - (c) that person must surrender the certificate for the shares forfeited to the company for cancellation;
 - (d) that person remains liable to the company for all sums payable by that person under the articles at the date of forfeiture in respect of those shares, including any interest (whether accrued before or after the date of forfeiture); and
 - (e) the directors may waive payment of such sums wholly or in part or enforce payment without any allowance for the value of the shares at the time of forfeiture or for any consideration received on their disposal.
- (4) At any time before the company disposes of a forfeited share, the directors may decide to cancel the forfeiture on payment of all calls and interest due in respect of it and on such other terms as they think fit.

77. Procedure following forfeiture

- (1) If a forfeited share is to be disposed of by being transferred, the company may receive the consideration for the transfer and the directors may authorise any person to execute the instrument of transfer.
- (2) A statutory declaration by a director or the company secretary that the declarant is a director or the company secretary and that a share has been forfeited on a specified date:

- (a) is conclusive evidence of the facts stated in it as against all persons claiming to be entitled to the share; and
 - (b) subject to compliance with any other formalities of transfer required by the articles or by law, constitutes a good title to the share.
- (3) A person to whom a forfeited share is transferred is not bound to see to the application of the consideration (if any) nor is that person's title to the share affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the process leading to the forfeiture or transfer of the share.
- (4) If the company sells a forfeited share, the person who held it prior to its forfeiture is entitled to receive from the company the proceeds of such sale, net of any commission, and excluding any amount which:
- (a) was, or would have become, payable; and
 - (b) had not, when that share was forfeited, been paid by that person in respect of that share,
- but no interest is payable to such a person in respect of such proceeds and the company is not required to account for any money earned on them.

78. Surrender of shares

- (1) A member may surrender any share:
 - (a) in respect of which the directors may issue a notice of intended forfeiture;
 - (b) which the directors may forfeit; or
 - (c) which has been forfeited.
- (2) The directors may accept the surrender of any such share.
- (3) The effect of surrender on a share is the same as the effect of forfeiture on that share.
- (4) A share which has been surrendered may be dealt with in the same way as a share which has been forfeited.

TRANSFER AND TRANSMISSION OF SHARES

79. Transfers of shares

- (1) Except as expressly permitted by article 81 and subject to paragraph (2), no member may transfer or otherwise dispose of or encumber any of its shares or any interest in any of its shares without the prior consent of members of the company who in aggregate hold at least 70 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital of the company. If such consent is granted, the provisions of article 80 shall apply to the transfer or disposition of shares.
- (2) Consent is not required under paragraph (1) for the transfer, disposition or encumbrance of shares or any interest in shares by a member who is not (and any person the member directly or indirectly acquired the shares from is not) under any outstanding obligation to subscribe or subject to any future call to subscribe for shares in the company. If consent is not required, then the provisions of article 80 shall apply to the transfer or disposition of shares.

- (3) No member may transfer or otherwise dispose of or encumber any of its shares or any interest in any of its shares unless the transfer is in accordance with any subscription agreement between the company and the transferor (or any person the transferor has directly or indirectly acquired the shares from).
- (4) No member may transfer or otherwise dispose of or encumber any of its shares or any interest in any of its shares to or in favour of any person:
 - (a) who is subject to any sanctions administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Treasury Department; or is named in the consolidated list of persons, groups or entities subject to European Union sanctions administered by the External Relations Directorate of the European Commission; or is a "designated person" under the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010;
 - (b) who is otherwise not a reputable person; or
 - (c) where such transfer, disposition or encumbrance would materially increase the costs, obligations or liabilities of the company or its directors.
- (5) The directors shall refuse to register a proposed transfer not made under or permitted by articles 79 to 81.
- (6) The restrictions on transfer contained in this article shall apply to all transfers operating by law or otherwise.
- (7) Shares may be transferred by means of an instrument of transfer in any usual form or any other form approved by the directors, which is executed by or on behalf of:
 - (a) the transferor; and
 - (b) (if any of the shares is partly paid) the transferee.
- (8) No fee may be charged for registering any instrument of transfer or other document relating to or affecting the title to any share.
- (9) The company may retain any instrument of transfer which is registered.
- (10) The transferor remains the holder of a share until the transferee's name is entered in the register of members as holder of it.
- (11) The directors may refuse to register the transfer of a share if:
 - (a) the share is not fully paid;
 - (b) the transfer is not lodged at the company's registered office or such other place as the directors have appointed;
 - (c) the transfer is not accompanied by the certificate for the shares to which it relates, or such other evidence as the directors may reasonably require to show the transferor's right to make the transfer, or evidence of the right of someone other than the transferor to make the transfer on the transferor's behalf;
 - (d) the transfer is in respect of more than one class of share; or
 - (e) the transfer is in favour of more than four transferees.

If the directors refuse to register the transfer of a share, the instrument of transfer must be returned to the transferee with the notice of refusal unless they suspect that the proposed transfer may be fraudulent.

80. Share Transfers – Pre-Emption

- (1) Except as provided in article 81, a member shall not be entitled to transfer or otherwise dispose of any interest in any of its shares without first offering them for transfer to the other holders of shares in the company whether or not of the same class. The offer must be in respect of all of the shares held by the proposing transferor and shall be made by the proposing transferor giving notice to the company in accordance with paragraph (2) (a **transfer notice**).
- (2) The transfer notice shall specify the shares offered (the **offered shares**), the price at which they are offered (the **transfer price**) and the identity of any proposed transferee to whom it is intended to transfer the shares should no member of the company wish to purchase them in accordance with this article. The transfer notice shall constitute the company the agent of the proposing transferor for the sale of the offered shares to other holders of shares whether or not of the same class at the specified price. The transfer notice may contain a provision that, unless all the offered shares are sold under this article, none shall be sold. A transfer notice which is deemed to have been given in accordance with the articles shall be deemed not to include such a provision. The transfer notice may not be revoked without the consent of the directors.
- (3) On receipt by the company of the transfer notice the directors shall as soon as practicable give notice to all the holders of shares whether or not of the same class as the offered shares (other than the proposing transferor) of the particulars of the offered shares and the transfer price. The notice shall invite each of the holders to notify the company whilst the offer remains open whether it is willing to purchase any, and if so what maximum number, of the offered shares. The directors shall at the same time give a copy of the notice to the proposing transferor. The offer shall remain open for a period of 30 days from the date of the notice given by the directors under this paragraph.
- (4) On the expiry of the offer period referred to in paragraph (3) the directors shall allocate the offered shares to those holders who have notified the company of their willingness to purchase them and (in the case of competition) the allocation shall be made so far as practicable in proportion to the number of shares whether or not of the same class held by them respectively but so that no holder shall be allocated more shares than the number of offered shares in respect of which he has notified his willingness to purchase. If the transfer notice contains a provision that, unless all the offered shares are sold under this article, none shall be sold, no allocation of the offered shares shall be made under this paragraph unless all the offered shares are allocated.
- (5) On the allocation being made, the directors shall give notice of the allocation to the proposing transferor and to each holder who notified his willingness to purchase and, on the seventh day after notice of the allocation is given, the holders to whom the allocation has been made shall be bound to pay the transfer price for, and to accept a transfer of, the offered shares allocated to them respectively and the proposing transferor shall be bound, on payment of the transfer price, to transfer the offered shares to the respective purchasers.
- (6) If after becoming bound to transfer any offered shares the proposing transferor fails to do so, the company may receive the transfer price and the directors may appoint a person to execute an instrument of transfer of those offered shares in favour of the purchaser and shall cause the name of the purchaser to be entered in the register of members as the holder of

those offered shares and the company shall hold the transfer price in trust for the proposing transferor. The receipt of the company shall be a good discharge to the purchaser and, after his name has been entered in the register of members under this provision, the validity of the proceedings shall not be questioned by any person.

- (7) If, within a period of seven days after the expiry of the offer period referred to in paragraph (3), any of the offered shares are not allocated under paragraph (4), the proposing transferor may at any time within a period of 90 days after the expiry of that further seven-day period transfer the unallocated offered shares to, subject to article 79(4), any person and at any price (being not less than the transfer price) provided that:
 - (a) if the transfer notice contains a provision that, unless all the offered shares are sold under this article, none shall be sold, no transfer of any offered shares shall be made under this paragraph unless all the offered shares are transferred; and
 - (b) the directors may require to be satisfied that the unallocated offered shares are to be transferred under a bona fide sale for the consideration stated in the transfer without any deduction, rebate or allowance to the purchaser and, if not so satisfied, may refuse to register the instrument of transfer.
- (8) The restrictions on transfer contained in this article shall apply to all transfers operating by law or otherwise.

81. Permitted transfers

- (1) Subject to article 79(4), shares in the company may be transferred in accordance with the following sub-paragraphs:
 - (a) a member may transfer all of its shares to another member of its wholly owned group;
 - (b) a member may transfer all of its shares to a registered pension scheme (as defined in the Finance Act 2004) in which the member or any of its group undertakings is a participating employer and such registered pension scheme may subsequently transfer those shares back to the member who was the original transferor of the shares; and
 - (c) a member may transfer all of its shares to a person approved in writing by the holders of all the shares for the time being in issue.
- (2) If at any time a member holding shares transferred to it under paragraph (1)(a) is to cease to be a member of the same wholly owned group as the member who originally held those shares, the member then holding those shares shall without delay notify the company that such event is to occur and, prior to such event occurring, shall transfer those shares together with any other shares it has subsequently acquired through direct subscription, to another member of the same wholly owned group as the member who originally held those shares. If the member fails to make such a transfer, it shall be deemed, immediately following it ceasing to be a member of the relevant wholly owned group, to have served the company with a transfer notice in respect of those shares.
- (3) If a transfer notice is given or is deemed to have been served on the company under paragraph (2), the provisions of article 80 shall apply to the shares. The transfer notice (if not actually given) shall be deemed to have been received by the company on the date on which the directors receive actual notice of the relevant event. The directors shall determine

the transfer price and shall give notice under article 80 as soon as the transfer price is determined by them.

- (4) For the purposes of this article, **wholly owned group** means a body corporate and any holding company of which it is a wholly owned subsidiary and any other wholly owned subsidiaries of that holding company (including any wholly owned subsidiary of the body corporate).

82. Exit on a listing

If members who in aggregate hold at least 70 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital of the company propose that the company seeks a listing, each member of the company shall give such co-operation and assistance as the proposing members may reasonably request and exercise all such rights and powers as he may have in relation to the company and any other group company, whether as a shareholder or otherwise, so as to ensure that the listing is achieved in accordance with the proposal. Nothing in this article shall require any member to agree to sell all or any of their shares in the listing or give any warranties, indemnities or otherwise incur any liabilities in connection with the listing.

83. Transmission of shares

- (1) If title to a share passes to a transmittee, the company may only recognise the transmittee as having any title to that share.
- (2) Nothing in the articles releases the estate of a deceased member from any liability in respect of a share solely or jointly held by that member.

84. Transmittees' rights

- (1) A transmittee who produces such evidence of entitlement to shares as the directors may properly require:
 - (a) may, subject to the articles, choose either to become the holder of those shares or to have them transferred to another person; and
 - (b) subject to the articles, and pending any transfer of the shares to another person, has the same rights as the holder had.
- (2) But transmittees do not have the right to attend or vote at a general meeting in respect of shares to which they are entitled, by reason of the holder's death or bankruptcy or otherwise, unless they become the holders of those shares.

85. Exercise of transmittees' rights

- (1) Transmittees who wish to become the holders of shares to which they have become entitled must notify the company in writing of that wish.
- (2) If the transmittee wishes to have a share transferred to another person, the transmittee must execute an instrument of transfer in respect of it.
- (3) Any transfer made or executed under this article is to be treated as if it were made or executed by the person from whom the transmittee has derived rights in respect of the share, and as if the event which gave rise to the transmission had not occurred.

86. Transmittees bound by prior notices

If a notice is given to a member in respect of shares and a transmittee (or person nominated by such transmittee pursuant to article 84) is entitled to those shares, the transmittee (or transferee) is bound by the notice if it was given to the member before the transmittee's (or transferee's) name has been entered in the register of members.

CONSOLIDATION OF SHARES

87. Procedure for disposing of fractions of shares

- (1) This article applies where:
 - (a) there has been a consolidation or division of shares; and
 - (b) as a result, members are entitled to fractions of shares.
- (2) The directors may:
 - (a) sell the shares representing the fractions to any person including the company for the best price reasonably obtainable;
 - (b) authorise any person to execute an instrument of transfer of the shares to the purchaser or a person nominated by the purchaser; and
 - (c) distribute the net proceeds of sale in due proportion among the holders of the shares.
- (3) Where any holder's entitlement to a portion of the proceeds of sale amounts to less than a minimum figure determined by the directors, that member's portion may be distributed to an organisation which is a charity for the purposes of the law of England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.
- (4) The person to whom the shares are transferred is not obliged to ensure that any purchase money is received by the person entitled to the relevant fractions.
- (5) The transferee's title to the shares is not affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the process leading to their sale.

DISTRIBUTIONS

88. Procedure for declaring dividends

- (1) Subject to article 9(2), the company may by ordinary resolution declare dividends, and the directors may decide to pay interim dividends.
- (2) A dividend must not be declared unless the directors have made a recommendation as to its amount. Such a dividend must not exceed the amount recommended by the directors.
- (3) No dividend may be declared or paid unless it is in accordance with members' respective rights.
- (4) Unless the members' resolution to declare or directors' decision to pay a dividend, or the terms on which shares are issued, specify otherwise, it must be paid by reference to each member's holding of shares on the date of the resolution or decision to declare or pay it.

- (5) If the company's share capital is divided into different classes, no interim dividend may be paid on shares carrying deferred or non-preferred rights if, at the time of payment, any preferential dividend is in arrear.
- (6) The directors may pay at intervals any dividend payable at a fixed rate if it appears to them that the profits available for distribution justify the payment.
- (7) If the directors act in good faith, they do not incur any liability to the holders of shares conferring preferred rights for any loss they may suffer by the lawful payment of an interim dividend on shares with deferred or non-preferred rights.

89. Calculation of dividends

- (1) Except as otherwise provided by the articles or the rights attached to shares, all dividends must be:
 - (a) declared and paid according to the amounts paid up on the shares on which the dividend is paid; and
 - (b) apportioned and paid proportionately to the amounts paid up on the shares during any portion or portions of the period in respect of which the dividend is paid.
- (2) If any share is issued on terms providing that it ranks for dividend as from a particular date, that share ranks for dividend accordingly.
- (3) For the purposes of calculating dividends, no account is to be taken of any amount which has been paid up on a share in advance of the due date for payment of that amount.

90. Payment of dividends and other distributions

- (1) Where a dividend or other sum which is a distribution is payable in respect of a share, it must be paid by one or more of the following means:
 - (a) transfer to a bank or building society account specified by the distribution recipient either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide;
 - (b) sending a cheque made payable to the distribution recipient by post to the distribution recipient at the distribution recipient's registered address (if the distribution recipient is a holder of the share), or (in any other case) to an address specified by the distribution recipient either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide;
 - (c) sending a cheque made payable to such person by post to such person at such address as the distribution recipient has specified either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide; or
 - (d) any other means of payment as the directors agree with the distribution recipient either in writing or by such other means as the directors decide.
- (2) In the articles, the **distribution recipient** means, in respect of a share in respect of which a dividend or other sum is payable:
 - (a) the holder of the share; or

- (b) if the share has two or more joint holders, whichever of them is named first in the register of members; or
- (c) if the holder is no longer entitled to the share by reason of death or bankruptcy, or otherwise by operation of law, the transmittee.

91. Deductions from distributions in respect of sums owed to the company

- (1) If:
 - (a) a share is subject to the company's lien; and
 - (b) the directors are entitled to issue a lien enforcement notice in respect of it,

they may, instead of issuing a lien enforcement notice, deduct from any dividend or other sum payable in respect of the share any sum of money which is payable to the company in respect of that share to the extent that they are entitled to require payment under a lien enforcement notice.
- (2) Money so deducted must be used to pay any of the sums payable in respect of that share.
- (3) The company must notify the distribution recipient in writing of:
 - (a) the fact and amount of any such deduction;
 - (b) any non-payment of a dividend or other sum payable in respect of a share resulting from any such deduction; and
 - (c) how the money deducted has been applied.

92. No interest on distributions

The company may not pay interest on any dividend or other sum payable in respect of a share unless otherwise provided by:

- (a) the terms on which the share was issued; or
- (b) the provisions of another agreement between the holder of that share and the company.

93. Unclaimed distributions

- (1) All dividends or other sums which are:
 - (a) payable in respect of shares; and
 - (b) unclaimed after having been declared or become payable,

may be invested or otherwise made use of by the directors for the benefit of the company until claimed.
- (2) The payment of any such dividend or other sum into a separate account does not make the company a trustee in respect of it.

- (3) If:
- (a) twelve years have passed from the date on which a dividend or other sum became due for payment; and
 - (b) the distribution recipient has not claimed it,
- the distribution recipient is no longer entitled to that dividend or other sum and it ceases to remain owing by the company.

94. Non-cash distributions

- (1) Subject to the terms of issue of the share in question, the company may, by ordinary resolution on the recommendation of the directors, decide to pay all or part of a dividend or other distribution payable in respect of a share by transferring non-cash assets of equivalent value (including, without limitation, shares or other securities in any company).
- (2) For the purposes of paying a non-cash distribution, the directors may make whatever arrangements they think fit, including, where any difficulty arises regarding the distribution:
 - (a) fixing the value of any assets;
 - (b) paying cash to any distribution recipient on the basis of that value in order to adjust the rights of recipients; and
 - (c) vesting any assets in trustees.

95. Waiver of distributions

Distribution recipients may waive their entitlement to a dividend or other distribution payable in respect of a share by giving the company notice in writing to that effect, but if:

- (a) the share has more than one holder; or
- (b) more than one person is entitled to the share, whether by reason of the death or bankruptcy of one or more joint holders, or otherwise,

the notice is not effective unless it is expressed to be given, and signed, by all the holders or persons otherwise entitled to the share.

CAPITALISATION OF PROFITS

96. Authority to capitalise and appropriation of capitalised sums

- (1) Subject to the articles, the directors may, if they are so authorised by an ordinary resolution:
 - (a) decide to capitalise any profits of the company (whether or not they are available for distribution) which are not required for paying a preferential dividend, or any sum standing to the credit of the company's share premium account or capital redemption reserve; and
 - (b) appropriate any sum which they so decide to capitalise (a **capitalised sum**) to the persons who would have been entitled to it if it were distributed by way of dividend (the **persons entitled**) and in the same proportions.

- (2) Capitalised sums must be applied:
 - (a) on behalf of the persons entitled; and
 - (b) in the same proportions as a dividend would have been distributed to them.
- (3) Any capitalised sum may be applied in paying up new shares of a nominal amount equal to the capitalised sum which are then allotted credited as fully paid to the persons entitled or as they may direct.
- (4) A capitalised sum which was appropriated from profits available for distribution may be applied:
 - (a) in or towards paying up any amounts unpaid on existing shares held by the persons entitled; or
 - (b) in paying up new debentures of the company which are then allotted credited as fully paid to the persons entitled or as they may direct.
- (5) Subject to the articles the directors may:
 - (a) apply capitalised sums in accordance with articles 96(3) and 96(4) partly in one way and partly in another;
 - (b) make such arrangements as they think fit to deal with shares or debentures becoming distributable in fractions under this article (including the issuing of fractional certificates or the making of cash payments); and
 - (c) authorise any person to enter into an agreement with the company on behalf of all the persons entitled which is binding on them in respect of the allotment of shares and debentures to them under this article.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

97. Means of communication to be used

- (1) Subject to the articles, anything sent or supplied by or to the company under the articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act provides for documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by or to the company.
- (2) Subject to the articles, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to a director in connection with the taking of decisions by directors may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that director has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being.
- (3) A director may agree with the company that notices or documents sent to that director in a particular way are to be deemed to have been received within a specified time of their being sent, and for the specified time to be less than 48 hours.

98. When a communication from the company is deemed received

- (1) Any document or information, if sent by first class post, shall be deemed to have been received on the day following that on which the envelope containing it is put into the post, or, if sent by second class post, shall be deemed to have been received on the second day following that on which the envelope containing it is put into the post and in proving that a document or information has been received it shall be sufficient to prove that the letter, envelope or wrapper containing the document or information was properly addressed, prepaid and put into the post.
- (2) Any document or information not sent by post but left at a registered address or address at which a document or information may be received shall be deemed to have been received on the day it was so left.
- (3) Any document or information, if sent or supplied by electronic means, shall be deemed to have been received on the day on which the document or information was sent or supplied by or on behalf of the company.
- (4) If the company receives a delivery failure notification following a communication by electronic means in accordance with article 98(3), the company shall send or supply the document or information in hard copy or electronic form (but not by electronic means) to the member either personally or by post addressed to the member at his registered address or by leaving it at that address. This shall not affect when the document or information was deemed to be received in accordance with article 98(3).
- (5) Where a document or information is sent or supplied by means of a website, it shall be deemed to have been received:
 - (a) when the material was first made available on the website; or
 - (b) if later, when the recipient was deemed to have received notice of the fact that the material was available on the website.
- (6) Every person who becomes entitled to a share shall be bound by every notice in respect of that share which before his name is entered in the register of members was given to the person from whom he derives his title to the share.

99. Notices in writing given to the company by holders of the majority of the shares

Any notice in writing given to the company by the holders of a majority of the shares shall take effect when it is lodged at the registered office or produced to any directors' meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

100. Company seals

- (1) Any common seal may only be used by the authority of the directors or of a committee of the directors.
- (2) The directors may decide by what means and in what form any common seal, official seal for use abroad or securities seal is to be used.

- (3) Unless otherwise decided by the directors, if the company has a common seal and it is affixed to a document, the document must also be signed by at least one authorised person in the presence of a witness who attests the signature.
- (4) For the purposes of this article, an authorised person is:
 - (a) any director of the company;
 - (b) the company secretary; or
 - (c) any person authorised by the directors for the purpose of signing documents to which the common seal is applied.
- (5) If the company has an official seal for use abroad, it may only be affixed to a document if its use on that document, or documents of a class to which it belongs, has been authorised by a decision of the directors.
- (6) If the company has a securities seal, it may only be affixed to securities by the company secretary or a person authorised to apply it to securities by the company secretary.
- (7) For the purposes of the articles, references to the securities seal being affixed to any document include the reproduction of the image of that seal on or in a document by any mechanical or electronic means which has been approved by the directors in relation to that document or documents of a class to which it belongs.

101. Destruction of documents

- (1) The company is entitled to destroy:
 - (a) all instruments of transfer of shares which have been registered, and all other documents on the basis of which any entries are made in the register of members, from six years after the date of registration;
 - (b) all dividend mandates, variations or cancellations of dividend mandates, and notifications of change of address, from two years after they have been recorded;
 - (c) all share certificates which have been cancelled from one year after the date of the cancellation;
 - (d) all paid dividend warrants and cheques from one year after the date of actual payment; and
 - (e) all proxy notices from one year after the end of the meeting to which the proxy notice relates.
- (2) If the company destroys a document in good faith, in accordance with the articles, and without notice of any claim to which that document may be relevant, it is conclusively presumed in favour of the company that:
 - (a) entries in the register purporting to have been made on the basis of an instrument of transfer or other document so destroyed were duly and properly made;
 - (b) any instrument of transfer so destroyed was a valid and effective instrument duly and properly registered;

- (c) any share certificate so destroyed was a valid and effective certificate duly and properly cancelled;
 - (d) any other document so destroyed was a valid and effective document in accordance with its recorded particulars in the books or records of the company; and
 - (e) every paid dividend warrant and cheque so destroyed was duly paid.
- (3) This article does not impose on the company any liability which it would not otherwise have if it destroys any document before the time at which this article permits it to do so.
- (4) In this article, references to the destruction of any document include a reference to its being disposed of in any manner.

102. No right to inspect accounts and other records

Except as provided by law or authorised by the directors or an ordinary resolution of the company and except as otherwise expressly set out in these articles, no person is entitled to inspect any of the company's accounting or other records or documents merely by virtue of being a member.

103. Provision for employees on cessation of business

The directors may decide to make provision for the benefit of persons employed or formerly employed by the company or any of its subsidiaries (other than a director or former director or shadow director) in connection with the cessation or transfer to any person of the whole or part of the undertaking of the company or that subsidiary.

WINDING UP

104. Winding up

If the company is wound up, the liquidator may, with the sanction of a special resolution of the company and any other sanction required by the Companies Act, divide among the members *in specie* the whole or any part of the assets of the company and may, for that purpose, value any assets and determine how the division shall be carried out as between the members or different classes of members. The liquidator may, with the like sanction, vest the whole or any part of the assets in trustees upon such trusts for the benefit of the members as he with like sanction determines, but no member shall be compelled to accept any assets upon which there is liability.

DIRECTORS' INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

105. Indemnity

- (1) Subject to article 105(5), a relevant director of the company or an associated company may be indemnified out of the company's assets against:
- (a) any liability incurred by that director in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust, but not in connection with any fraud, in relation to the company or an associated company;
 - (b) any liability incurred by that director in connection with the activities of the company or an associated company in its capacity as a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the Companies Act);

- (c) any other liability incurred by that director as an officer of the company or an associated company.
- (2) The company may fund the expenditure of a relevant director of the company or of any associated company for the purposes permitted under the Companies Act and may do anything to enable such relevant director to avoid incurring such expenditure as provided in the Companies Act.
- (3) No relevant director of the company or of any associated company shall be accountable to the company or the members for any benefit provided pursuant to this article and the receipt of any such benefit shall not disqualify any person from being or becoming a director of the company.
- (4) The powers given by this article shall not limit any general powers of the company to grant indemnities, purchase and maintain insurance or provide funds (whether by way of loan or otherwise) to any person in connection with any legal or regulatory proceedings or applications for relief.
- (5) This article does not authorise any indemnity which would be prohibited or rendered void by any provision of the Companies Act or by any other provision of law.
- (6) In this article 105 and in article 106:
 - (a) companies are **associated** if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate; and
 - (b) a **relevant director** means any director or former director of the company or an associated company.

106. Insurance

- (1) The directors may decide to purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of the company, for the benefit of any relevant director in respect of any relevant loss.
- (2) In this article 106 a **relevant loss** means any loss or liability which has been or may be incurred by a relevant director in connection with that director's duties or powers in relation to the company, any associated company or any pension fund or employees' share scheme of the company or associated company.