

Company number  
10865342

**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006  
PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES**

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**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**OF**

**THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK HOLDINGS LIMITED**

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**(Adopted by special resolution passed on 27 July 2017  
and as amended by special resolutions passed on 22 May  
2018, 21 May 2019, 29 August 2019, 19 May 2020 and 13 November 2023)**

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**NEW**  
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**PRELIMINARY**

**1. Standard regulations do not apply**

None of the model articles for private companies set out in Schedule 1 to the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 shall apply to the Company.

**2. Interpretation**

(a) In these articles, unless the contrary intention appears, the following definitions apply:

**A Shares** means class A ordinary shares of £0.0001 each in the capital of the Company;

**A Shareholders** means the shareholders from time to time holding A Shares;

**Acquiring Shareholder** has the meaning given to it in Article 28(a)(ii);

**acting in concert** means, as determined by the board acting reasonably, persons who are:

- (i) members of the same group; or
- (ii) party to an agreement or understanding (whether formal or informal), to cooperate and exercise the rights linked to the shares they acquire together.

**Affiliate** means, in relation to a shareholder:

- (i) any body corporate which directly or indirectly Controls, is Controlled by or is under common Control with such shareholder;
- (ii) any Fund of or managed by: (i) that shareholder (or any group undertaking of, or any (direct or indirect) shareholder in, that shareholder); or (ii) that shareholder's (or any group undertaking of, or any (direct or indirect) shareholder in, that shareholder's) general partner, trustee, nominee, manager or adviser; or

- (iii) any general partner, limited partner (but only to the extent such limited partner is Controlled by or is under common Control of such shareholder), trustee, nominee, operator, arranger or manager of, adviser to, or holder of interests (whether directly or indirectly) in, that shareholder, or in any (direct or indirect) shareholder in that shareholder, (or of, to or in any group undertaking of that shareholder, or of any (direct or indirect) shareholder in that shareholder);

**Annual Accounts** means the audited consolidated accounts of the Group, prepared in accordance with relevant accounting standards;

**these articles** means these articles of association, as from time to time altered;

**B Director** means those directors appointed and designated as “B” directors by the B Shareholders from time to time in accordance with Article 63;

**B Notification** has the meaning set out in Article 13(a);

**B Shares** means class B redeemable preference shares of £0.01 each in the capital of the Company;

**B Shareholders** means the shareholders from time to time holding B Shares;

**B Shareholders’ Agreement** means the shareholders’ agreement in place from time to time in respect of the Company, to which the B Shareholders and the Company are party;

**Bank** means The Co-operative Bank p.l.c., a subsidiary of the Company;

**Bank Exit** means any transaction or arrangement which results in the Company ceasing to:

- (i) be the Bank’s direct or indirect holding company; or
- (ii) hold directly or indirectly substantially all of the assets of the Bank;

**Binding Offer** has the meaning given to it in Article 28(a)(i);

**board** means the board of directors of the Company from time to time;

**Business Days** means a day (other than a Saturday or a Sunday) on which banks are open for business in London;

**CA 2006** or the **Act** means the Companies Act 2006 as in force from time to time;

**clear days** means, in relation to the period of a notice, that period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;

**Commercial Competitor** means:

- (i) any person or body corporate as determined from time to time by the board acting reasonably, to be a material competitor of the Bank in the United Kingdom; or

- (ii) an existing A Shareholder whose holding in such person or body corporate identified in i above, is equal to or exceeds a Permitted Interest;

**committee** means a committee of the board;

the **Company** means The Co-operative Bank Holdings Limited;

**Company Information** has the meaning given to it in Article 60(c);

**Control** means the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct material management and policy decisions of a body corporate whether through the ownership of shares or voting rights, by contract or otherwise (including approval or veto rights in respect of investment decisions);

**Controller** means a person who is or may become a controller within the meaning of section 422 of FSMA, whose acquisition of control is subject to approval pursuant to Part XII FSMA by the appropriate regulator(s) (as defined in section 178(2A) FSMA);

**Controlling Interest** means holding in aggregate, over 50% of the total A Shares in issue at the relevant time;

**director** means a director for the time being of the Company;

**Director Regulatory Approvals** means, in respect of any person, such regulatory approvals or certifications required for the appointment of such person as a director of the Company, including receipt of approval from the PRA of the Bank of England or the Financial Conduct Authority for such person to perform controlled functions at the Company under the senior managers' regime;

**Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules** means the disclosure guidance and transparency rules for the time being in force, as published by the Financial Conduct Authority in its Handbook;

**Drag Along Notice** has the meaning given to it in Article 28(a)(i);

**Drag Purchaser** has the meaning given to it in Article 28(a)(i);

**Dragged Shareholder** has the meaning given to it in Article 28(a)(i);

**Drag Shares** has the meaning given to it in Article 28(a)(i);

**electronic address** has the same meaning as in the CA 2006; electronic form has the same meaning as in the CA 2006; electronic means has the same meaning as in the CA 2006;

**electronic signature** has the same meaning as in the Electronic Communications Act 2000;

**Equitisation Event** means the Company ceasing to own (directly or indirectly) more than 50% of the entire issued share capital in the Bank as a result of a mandatory write down or bail-in or the automatic conversion of securities by reason of the Bank or any parent undertaking of the Bank failing to meet certain regulatory

thresholds in respect of any security issued by the Bank or a parent undertaking of the Bank;

**Exit Premium** has the meaning given to it in Article 7(b)(ii);

**FinanceCo** means The Co-operative Bank Finance p.l.c., a subsidiary of the Company;

**Financial Reporting Call:** has the meaning given to it in Article 61;

**FSMA** means the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 in force from time to time;

**Fund** means any unit trust, investment trust, investment company, limited partnership, general partnership, collective investment scheme, pension fund, insurance company, authorised person under FSMA or any body corporate or other entity, in each case the assets of which are managed professionally for investment purposes;

**Governance Event** has the meaning given to it in Article 9(a);

**Group** means in relation to the Company, any body corporate which is from time to time a holding company of the Company, a subsidiary of the Company or a subsidiary of the holding company of the Company;

**hard copy form** has the same meaning as in the CA 2006;

**holder** in relation to any share means the shareholder whose name is entered in the register as the holder of that share;

**holding company** has the meaning attributed to it by section 1159 CA 2006;

**Independent Director** means a non-executive director, determined by the board to be independent in character and judgement, with no relationships or circumstances which are likely to affect, or could appear to affect, their judgement. The board shall have regard to the criteria for independence set out below when determining whether any director is independent:

- (i) has been an employee of the Company or Group within the last five years;
- (ii) has, or has had within the last three years, a material business relationship with the Company or Group either directly, or as a partner, shareholder, director or senior employee of a body that has such a relationship with the Company or Group;
- (iii) has received or receives additional remuneration from the Company or Group (apart from a director's fee) or is a shareholder of the Company's or Group's pension scheme;
- (iv) has close family ties with any of the Company's or the Group's advisers, directors or senior employees;
- (v) holds cross-directorships or has significant links with other directors through involvement in other companies or bodies;

- (vi) represents a shareholder with 10% or more of the voting rights in the Company; or
- (vii) has served on the board for more than nine years from the date of their first election;

**Independent Expert** means a firm of chartered accountants agreed by the board, or, in default of such agreement within five Business Days, appointed by the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales on the application of any director;

**in writing** means written or produced by any substitute for writing, or partly one and partly another;

**Inside Information** has the meaning given to it in Regulation (EU) No 596/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on market abuse, as it forms part of English law by virtue of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (**UK MAR**), as amended, replaced or re-enacted from time to time;

**Inside Information Framework** means the terms of reference (as approved by the B Shareholders from time to time) to be utilised by the directors in their assessment of Inside Information pursuant to Article 60;

**IPO Exit** means the effective admission of the A Shares of the Company to:

- (i) listing on the Official List of the Financial Conduct Authority and to trading on the Main Market of the London Stock Exchange plc;
- (ii) trading on AIM, a market operated by the London Stock Exchange plc; or
- (iii) trading on any other securities exchange;

**Mandatory Offer** has the meaning set out in Article 32(a);

**Mandatory Offer Notice** has the meaning set out in Article 33;

**Mandatory Purchaser** has the meaning set out in Article 32(a);

**Mandatory Sale Date** has the meaning set out in Article 33;

**Notification Matter** means any proposed transaction or arrangement by the Company or the Bank involving:

- (i) a capital expenditure or programme of capital expenditure involving commitments or expenditure in excess of the Notification Threshold;
- (ii) the acquisition or disposal of an asset or series of connected assets, with a proposed value or consideration in excess of the Notification Threshold;
- (iii) the entry into of a material contract, agreement or arrangement or implementation of a corporate action which involves a commitment or the assumption of obligations or liabilities by the

Company or the Bank (as applicable) in respect of any one matter in excess of the Notification Threshold; and/or

- (iv) any matter, which in the reasonable opinion of the B Directors, validates a notification to the member,

in each case, in relation to Bank matters, as notified by the Bank to the Company;

**Notification Threshold** means a sum exceeding 5% of the common equity tier 1 capital of the Group, referable to the Group's most recently published year end consolidated balance sheet.

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

**Official List** means the official list maintained by the Financial Conduct Authority;

**paid up** means paid up or credited as paid up;

**Permitted Interest** means an interest held by an existing shareholder in any class of shares or other securities of any body corporate that confers not more than 10% of the voting rights in that body corporate;

**person entitled by transmission** means a person whose entitlement to a share in consequence of the death or bankruptcy of a shareholder or of any other event giving rise to its transmission by operation of law has been noted in the register;

**Proportionate Share** means with respect to any A Shareholder, a fraction, the numerator of which is equal to the number of A Shares held by such shareholder and the denominator of which is equal to the aggregate number of all the then outstanding A Shares issued by the Company;

**a proxy notification address** means the address or addresses (including any electronic address) specified in a notice of a meeting or in any other information issued by the Company in relation to a meeting (or, as the case may be, an adjourned meeting or a poll) for the receipt of proxy notices relating to that meeting (or adjourned meeting or poll) or, if no such address is specified, the office;

**PRA** means the Prudential Regulation Authority;

**Qualifying Conditions** has the meaning given to it in Article 12(a);

**Qualifying Shareholder** has the meaning given to it in Article 12(a);

**register** means the register of shareholders;

**relevant system** means a computer-based system, and procedures, which enable title to units of a security to be evidenced and transferred without a written instrument, pursuant to the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001 or any relevant regulations made pursuant to the CA 2006;

**seal** means any common seal of the Company or any official seal or securities seal which the Company may have or be permitted to have under the Statutes;

**secretary** means the secretary of the Company or, if there are joint secretaries, any of the joint secretaries and includes an assistant or deputy secretary and any

person appointed by the board to perform any of the duties of the secretary of the Company;

**Selling Shareholder** has the meaning given to it in Article 28(a)(i)

**Specified Price** has the meaning given to it in Article 32(c);

**Specified Shares** has the meaning given to it in Article 32(a);

**Statutes** means the CA 2006, the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001 and every other statute, statutory instrument, regulation or order for the time being in force concerning the Company;

**subsidiary** has the meaning attributed to it by section 1159 CA 2006;

**Tangible Book Value** means the total equity reported in the Bank's most recently published consolidated balance sheet less the sum of (i) any intangible assets; (ii) net deferred tax assets; and (iii) minority interests, as determined by an independent accountant appointed by a majority of the B Shareholders;

**treasury shares** means any shares held by the Company in treasury in accordance with section 724 of the CA 2006;

**Unaffiliated Group** means an entity formed or otherwise incorporated by persons who are not Affiliates for the purpose of aggregating A Shares in order to obtain B Shares pursuant to Article 12, notwithstanding that such persons may otherwise be deemed to be acting in concert; and

**V&E Committee** means the Values and Ethics Committee of the Bank;

- (b) any reference to an uncertificated share, or to a share being held in uncertificated form, means a share title to which may be transferred by means of a relevant system, and any reference to a certificated share means any share other than an uncertificated share;
- (c) any other words or expressions defined in the CA 2006 or, if not defined in the CA 2006, in any other of the Statutes (in each case as in force on the date these articles take effect) have the same meaning in these articles except that the word company includes any body corporate;
- (d) any reference in these articles to any statute or statutory provision includes a reference to any modification or re-enactment of it for the time being in force;
- (e) words importing the singular number include the plural number and vice versa, words importing one gender include the other gender and words importing persons include bodies corporate and unincorporated associations;
- (f) any reference to a document being sealed or executed under seal or under the common seal of any body corporate (including the Company) or any similar expression includes a reference to its being executed in any other manner which has the same effect as if it were executed under seal;
- (g) any reference to a meeting shall not be taken as requiring more than one person to be present in person if any quorum requirement can be satisfied by one person;

- (h) any reference to a show of hands includes such other method of casting votes as the board may from time to time approve;
- (i) where the Company has a power of sale or other right of disposal in relation to any share, any reference to the power of the Company or the board to authorise a person to transfer that share to or as directed by the person to whom the share has been sold or disposed of shall, in the case of an uncertificated share, be deemed to include a reference to such other action as may be necessary to enable that share to be registered in the name of that person or as directed by him;
- (j) any reference to:
  - (i) rights attaching to any share;
  - (ii) shareholders having a right to attend and vote at general meetings of the Company;
  - (iii) dividends being paid, or any other distribution of the Company's assets being made, to shareholders; or
  - (iv) interests in a certain proportion or percentage of the issued share capital, or any class of share capital,

shall, unless otherwise expressly provided by the Statutes, be construed as though any treasury shares held by the Company had been cancelled;

- (k) any reference to a person includes a reference to a corporation, body corporate, association or partnership; and
- (l) headings to these articles are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect construction.

### **3. Objects, directors' duties and limited liability**

- (a) Nothing in these articles shall constitute a restriction on the objects of the Company to do (or omit to do) any act and, in accordance with section 31(1) of the CA 2006, the Company's objects are unrestricted.
- (b) The Company shall (to the extent consistent with the CA 2006 and other applicable laws and regulations) promote and oversee conduct of the Group's business in a manner informed by the established values of the co-operative movement, having regard to the highest standards of ethical principles and with the aim of the Group being recognised as a good corporate citizen and contributing to building a stronger and sustainable society.
- (c) Among the factors to which the board must have regard in exercising their duties are:
  - (i) the promotion of co-operative values and ethical policies as approved and adopted by the board from time to time after recommendation by the V&E Committee; and
  - (ii) oversight of the Bank's business with respect to ethical standards and the interests of the customers, suppliers, employees and other stakeholders



of the Bank in a manner consistent with the values and ethical policies as referred to in paragraph (c)(i) above.

- (d) The liability of the shareholders is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid on the shares in the Company respectively held by them.

## **SHARE CAPITAL & RIGHTS**

### **4. Share capital**

- (a) The share capital of the Company at the date of adoption of these articles is divided into A Shares of £0.0001 each and B Shares of £0.01 each.
- (b) Unless the context requires otherwise, references in these Articles to shares of a particular class shall include shares created and/or issued after the date of adoption of these articles and ranking pari passu in all respects with the shares of the relevant class then in issue.
- (c) Without prejudice to any special rights for the time being conferred on the holders of any class of shares (which special rights shall not be varied or abrogated except with such consent or sanction as is provided for by these articles) any share in the Company may be issued with such preferred, deferred or other special rights, or such restrictions, whether in regard to dividend, return of capital, voting or otherwise as the Company may from time to time by ordinary resolution direct, or failing such direction (but in the case of unclassified shares only) as the directors shall determine; and any preference share may be issued on the terms that it is, or at the option of the Company is to be liable, to be redeemed subject to the provisions of the Act, on such terms and in such manner as may be provided by these articles.

### **5. Share rights**

The shares of each class shall entitle the holders thereof to the respective rights and privileges and subject them to the respective restrictions and provisions contained in these articles.

### **6. Income**

- (a) The A Shares shall be entitled to dividends to be paid out of the profits of the Company available for distribution and permitted to be distributed in accordance with these articles and applicable laws and regulations.
- (b) All dividends declared in respect of the A Shares shall be distributed among the A Shareholders in proportion to the number of A Shares held by them respectively.
- (c) The B Shares shall not carry any right to participate in the profits of the Company except as provided for in Article 7 or otherwise in accordance with these articles.

### **7. Capital**

- (a) On a return of capital on liquidation, dissolution or winding up (whether voluntary or involuntary) or return or reduction of capital of the Company (other than a

redemption of B Shares), the surplus assets of the Company available for distribution after payment of its liabilities shall be applied:

- (i) first, in respect of each B Share, an amount equal to its nominal value (and if such proceeds are insufficient, allocated between them pro rata to the aggregate amount due to each hereunder); and
  - (ii) second, the balance remaining (if any) shall be distributed to the A Shareholders pro rata by reference to the number of A Shares held by them respectively.
- (b) Following a Bank Exit, if surplus assets are available for distribution and for so long as the Company is subject to the PRA's regulatory powers, the PRA has provided any consent required to make such distribution, the Company may distribute, after payment of its liabilities, such surplus assets in accordance with the below:
  - (i) first, in respect of each B Share, an amount equal to its nominal value (and if such proceeds are insufficient, allocated between them pro rata to the aggregate amount due to each hereunder);
  - (ii) second, provided that the valuation of the Bank on a Bank Exit is equal to or greater than 0.4x of the Tangible Book Value of the Bank as at the date of the Bank Exit, an aggregate of £25,000,000 (the "**Exit Premium**") to the B Shareholders, solely in accordance with the Exit Premium principles set out in the B Shareholders' Agreement; and
  - (iii) third, the balance remaining (if any) may be distributed to shareholders pursuant to Article 6.
- (c) On an IPO Exit, provided that the valuation of the Bank is equal to or greater than 0.4x of the Tangible Book Value of the Bank as at the date of the IPO Exit, the Company shall allot and issue to each of the B Shareholders, A Shares equivalent to the value of the Exit Premium which they would have received, upon a Bank Exit in accordance with Article 7(b)(ii).
- (d) If there is any dispute between the Company and/or any of its shareholders in relation to the application of this Article 7 and/or any related provisions of these articles, the dispute concerned shall, if not resolved within 14 calendar days of the same arising, be referred for determination by the Independent Expert.
- (e) The determination of the Independent Expert, which the Company and the parties to the dispute shall use all reasonable endeavours to procure as soon as reasonably practicable, shall be given in writing to each of the Company and its shareholders and in the absence of manifest error on the face thereof, shall be conclusive and binding.
- (f) The Company and to the extent that they have any relevant information in their possession, each of the shareholders of the Company shall supply to the Independent Expert within five Business Days of the appointment of the Independent Expert, such information as it may reasonably require for the purposes of making its determination and may make submissions (including oral submissions) to the **Independent** Expert.

- (g) The cost of obtaining any such determination shall be borne by the parties to the dispute as the Independent Expert may determine based on the relative merit of each party's claim or, in the absence of such determination equally between them.

## **8. Voting rights**

- (a) Subject to the remaining provisions of this Article 8 and Article 9, no A Shareholder shall be entitled to receive notice of, nor attend or vote (either in person or by proxy) at a general meeting of the Company, save where a resolution is to be proposed at such meeting:
  - (i) abrogating or varying any of the respective rights or privileges attaching to the A Shares, including by way of amendment to the provisions of these articles;
  - (ii) for the winding-up or dissolution of the Company;
  - (iii) in respect of the purchase or redemption (save for the redemption of the B Shares in accordance with these articles) of any share capital by the Company; **or**
  - (iv) in respect of a Bank Exit or an IPO Exit.
- (b) Whenever the holders of the A Shares are entitled to vote at a general meeting of the Company upon any resolution proposed at such meeting, on a show of hands every holder who (being an individual) is present in person or (being a corporation) is present by a representative or by proxy shall have one vote and, on a poll, shall have one vote in respect of each A Share registered in the name of such holder. Quorum for a meeting of A Shareholders or a general meeting of both A Shareholders and B Shareholders shall be the holders of 50% of the A Shares then in issue, unless such quorum is not achieved and in such instance Article 42(e)(ii) shall determine the relevant quorum.
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, each and every B Shareholder is entitled to receive notice, attend and vote at a general meeting of the Company in accordance with Articles 37 to 59. Whenever the holders of the B Shares are entitled to vote at a general meeting of the Company upon any resolution proposed at such meeting, on a show of hands every holder who (being an individual) is present in person or (being a corporation) is present by representative or proxy shall have one vote and, on a poll, shall have one vote in respect of each B Share registered in the name of such holder.

## **9. Governance Event**

- (a) If at any time:
  - (i) there are no B Shares in issue or all B Shares in issue are subject to a B Share Notice;
  - (ii) all A Shares in issue are held (whether legally or beneficially) by a sole shareholder; or
  - (iii) an Equitisation Event occurs at the Bank or any parent undertaking of the Bank,

a “**Governance Event**” shall be deemed to have occurred.

- (b) Following any such Governance Event:
  - (i) to the extent relevant, all B Shares in issue shall be redeemed by the Company as soon as the Company is permitted by law, and each B Shareholder shall deliver to the Company’s registered office, the certificate(s) for such B Shares in order for them to be redeemed (or an indemnity in lieu of such certificate(s) in a form reasonably satisfactory to the directors);
  - (ii) subject always to Article 9(c), voting rights which pursuant to these articles are allocated and exercised by the B Shareholders, will vest in the A Shareholder(s), whom forthwith shall be able to exercise all such rights in relation to the Company and receive notice, attend and vote (either in person or by proxy) at a general meeting of the Company;
  - (iii) quorum for a board meeting shall be any two Independent Directors; and
  - (iv) Articles 60(a)(ii), 80 and 91(b) shall no longer be applicable.
- (c) If, on the date of a Governance Event, an A Shareholder is required to be approved as a Controller, such A Shareholder shall not be able to exercise voting rights as described in the foregoing paragraph until they are so approved.
- (d) For the avoidance of doubt:
  - (i) a Governance Event shall not constitute a Bank Exit for the purposes of these articles; and
  - (ii) the Company shall, upon redemption of the B Shares, pay the relevant B Shareholder the nominal value of the B Shares so redeemed.

## **10. Transfer of shares**

- (a) Without prejudice to Articles 25 to 36, the A Shares are freely transferable, save that they may not be transferred to a Commercial Competitor without the sanction of a special resolution of the Company.
- (b) Subject to the remainder of these articles, no B Shares or any interest or right therein may be transferred (whether directly or indirectly, by sale, exchange, assignment, transfer, participation or otherwise) other than:
  - (i) to an Affiliate of a relevant B Shareholder; or
  - (ii) with the unanimous consent of all A Shareholders and the board, provided always that such transferee meets the relevant Qualifying Conditions.
- (c) In the event a B Shareholder is permitted to transfer his shares pursuant to Article 10(b) and has satisfied all the conditions to such transfer, the B Shareholder shall transfer the A Shares which entitled it to hold the B Shares being transferred, to the transferee at the same time as transferring such B Shares.

## ISSUE OF SHARES

### 11. Power to issue A Shares and grant rights

- (a) Subject to the remaining provisions of this Article 11, the Company has the power to allot and issue A Shares and to grant rights to subscribe for, or to convert any security into, A Shares pursuant to those rights.
- (b) Unless otherwise determined by special resolution of the Company, and subject to Article 11(c), any A Shares or other securities convertible into, or carrying the right to subscribe for those A Shares which are to be paid up or allotted for cash (within the meaning of section 583 of the Act) shall, before they are allotted, be offered to the holders of the A Shares in proportion to the numbers of A Shares held by them respectively. The offer shall be made by notice specifying the number and class of shares offered and the price per share (or security convertible into, or conveying the right to subscribe for A Shares as the case may be) and limiting a time (not being less than seven Business Days or greater than 20 Business Days) within which the offer, if not accepted, will be deemed to be declined.
- (c) The provisions of Article 11(b) shall not apply to:
  - (i) any shares which the Company is required to issue by reason of a right specifically attached to A Shares under these articles; and
  - (ii) the grant of options to subscribe for A Shares under an employee incentive plan (and the issue of the shares on exercise of those options).
- (d) No offer of A Shares may be made under this Article 11 unless such Qualifying Shareholder has also been offered the right to subscribe for B Shares in accordance with Article 12. In the event that a Qualifying Shareholder elects not to subscribe for such B Shares, the Company may refuse to issue the relevant A Shares.
- (e) For the avoidance of doubt, if an A Shareholder becomes a Controller by virtue of the number of A Shares it acquires or subscribes for, such A Shareholder shall seek the prior approval of the PRA to be a Controller. The Company shall not be required to issue A Shares or register any such transfer until such time as the relevant A Shareholder is approved by the PRA as a Controller. If the PRA imposes a condition whereby the A Shareholder is not permitted to exercise voting rights associated with its holding of A Shares or B Shares (to the extent it holds any at that time or in the future) such A Shareholder shall not be able to exercise its voting rights for so long as such condition subsists.

### 12. Power to issue B Shares and grant rights

- (a) Subject to the remaining provisions of this Article, if at any time an A Shareholder (together with its Affiliates):
  - (i) is the registered holder of equal to or greater than, 10% of the A Shares then in issue (the “**B Threshold**”);
  - (ii) has been and is approved by the PRA as a Controller of the Company; and
  - (iii) executes a deed of adherence to the B Shareholders’ Agreement,

together the “**Qualifying Conditions**”,

such A Shareholder shall be deemed a “**Qualifying Shareholder**” and the Company shall have the power to allot and issue to them, one (1) B Share for every 1% held of the A Shares then in issue (rounded down to the nearest whole percentage point so that for the avoidance of doubt, fractions of B Shares will not be issued).

- (b) Subject to Article 12(c), Qualifying Shareholders shall be entitled to subscribe in cash for B Shares issued pursuant to the foregoing article.
- (c) The Company may refuse to issue B Shares if the board determines that the relevant Qualifying Shareholder is:
  - (i) an Unaffiliated Group; or
  - (ii) a Commercial Competitor,

and the board shall, as soon as practicable and in any event within ten Business Days of such determination, give to the Qualifying Shareholder notice of any refusal. The board shall provide the Qualifying Shareholder with such further information about the reasons for its identification as an Unaffiliated Group or Commercial Competitor as the Qualifying Shareholder may reasonably request.

- (d) The relevant Qualifying Shareholder shall promptly provide such information as the board may reasonably request in order to assist its determination pursuant to Article 12(c).
- (e) In the event the board determines that a Qualifying Shareholder is:
  - (i) an Unaffiliated Group pursuant to Article 12(c)(i); or
  - (ii) a Commercial Competitor pursuant to Article 12(c)(ii)

then such Qualifying Shareholder may seek consent of a majority of the existing B Shareholders (excluding those B Shareholders who are Affiliates of or are otherwise acting in concert with the relevant Qualifying Shareholder) to hold B Shares, upon which the board is permitted to register such transfer.

- (f) In the event an A Shareholder, together with its Affiliates, satisfies the Qualifying Conditions, such A Shareholder (or one of its Affiliates) shall:
  - (i) ensure that it complies and its Affiliates comply with all regulatory requirements as to their holding of A Shares or B Shares; and
  - (ii) provide the Company with the identification of a singular person (being itself or one of its Affiliates), who shall on behalf of the A Shareholder and its Affiliates, be registered as the relevant B Shareholder and exercise all rights attached to the B Shares issued pursuant to this Article 12 on behalf of itself and its Affiliates.

### **13. Power to redeem and buyback B Shares**

- (a) If at any time, a Qualifying Shareholder:

(i) ceases to meet one or more of the Qualifying Conditions (including, for the avoidance of doubt, the PRA raising objections to an approved Controller and subsequently withdrawing such approval); or

(ii) who has met and maintains the B Threshold, crosses (either upwards or downwards) one (1) whole percentage point of the A Shares then in issue,

such Qualifying Shareholder shall by written notice, immediately notify the Company of such change to its eligibility (a “**B Notification**”). For the purposes of this Article 13, “**whole percentage point**” means a non-fractional percentage point.

(b) If at any time, the Company receives an express communication from any person that a Qualifying Shareholder is an Unaffiliated Group, the Company shall:

(i) notify the relevant Qualifying Shareholder of the receipt of such information; and

(ii) where the Company (acting reasonably) assess that such communication has been made in good faith, undertake an assessment in order to determine whether the Qualifying Shareholder is an Unaffiliated Group and its eligibility to hold or retain B Shares in relation thereto,

and the relevant B Shareholder being assessed shall promptly provide such information as the Company may reasonably request in order to confirm or reject its status as an Unaffiliated Group.

(c) If, following such B Notification or communication pursuant to Article 13(b), the board determines that the relevant Qualifying Shareholder:

(i) is no longer eligible to hold the number of B Shares held by it, then the Company shall acknowledge such B Notification or otherwise advise in writing to the relevant shareholder and confirm the number of B Shares that the Company shall redeem or buyback forthwith (a “**B Share Notice**”); or

(ii) is eligible for an allotment or additional allotment of B Shares, then the Qualifying Shareholder shall have a right to subscribe for and the Company shall issue such requisite number of B Shares, in accordance with and subject to compliance with Article 12.

(d) No rights attaching to any B Share that is the subject of a B Share Notice shall be capable of being exercised by the shareholder of such shares, other than the right to receive the nominal value of such B Share.

(e) Any B Shares redeemed or bought back by the Company pursuant to this Article 13(c)(i) or otherwise in accordance with these articles, may be cancelled or held as treasury shares.

(f) Following the service of a B Share Notice, the relevant B Shareholder shall deliver to the Company’s registered office, the certificate(s) for such B Shares in order for them to be redeemed (or an indemnity in lieu of such certificate(s) in a form reasonably satisfactory to the directors).

- (g) Following the service of a B Notification applying for the issue of B Shares, the Qualifying Shareholder shall deliver to the Company's registered office, an undertaking to pay in respect of the subscription price for each B Share.
- (h) If there is any dispute between the Company and any Qualifying Shareholder as to the effect of this Article 13, the matter shall be referred (at the cost of the Company) to an Independent Expert for determination of the number of B Shares to be redeemed or issued. The Independent Expert's determination of the matter shall, in the absence of manifest error, be final and binding on the Company and the B Shareholder.

## **VARIATION OF RIGHTS**

### **14. How special share rights may be varied**

Whenever the capital of the Company is divided into different classes of shares, the special rights attached to a class may be varied or abrogated either whilst the Company is a going concern or during or in contemplation of a winding-up, with the consent in writing of the holders of at least 75% of the issued shares of the class, or with the sanction of a special resolution passed at a separate meeting of the holders of the shares of the class, but not otherwise.

### **15. Creation or issue of further shares**

The special rights conferred upon the holders of any class of shares issued with preferred or other special rights shall be deemed to be varied by the reduction of the capital paid up on such shares but shall not (unless otherwise expressly provided by these articles or by the conditions of issue of such shares) be deemed to be varied by the creation or issue of further shares ranking in some or all respects *pari passu* therewith or subsequent thereto.

### **16. Rights attached to shares**

Subject to the Statutes and to the rights conferred on the holders of any other shares, any share may be issued with or have attached to it such rights and restrictions as the Company may by ordinary resolution decide or, if no such resolution is in effect or so far as the resolution does not make specific provision, as the board may decide.

### **17. Dis-application of pre-emption rights**

- (a) The Company may from time to time resolve, by a special resolution referring to this article, that the board be given power to allot equity securities for cash and, on the passing of the resolution, the board shall have power to allot (pursuant to that authority) equity securities for cash as if section 561 of the CA 2006 did not apply to the allotment but that power shall be limited to:
  - (i) the allotment of equity securities in connection with a rights issue; and
  - (ii) the allotment (other than in connection with a rights issue) of equity securities having a nominal amount not exceeding in aggregate the sum specified in the special resolution,

and unless previously revoked, that power shall expire on the date specified in the special resolution of the Company. The Company may before the power expires



make an offer or agreement which would or might require equity securities to be allotted after it expires.

- (b) For the purposes of this article:
- (i) equity securities and ordinary shares have the meanings given in section 560 of the CA 2006;
  - (ii) rights issue means an offer or issue of equity securities open for acceptance for a period fixed by the board to or in favour of holders of ordinary shares in proportion (as nearly as may be practicable) to their existing holdings and holders of other equity securities if this is required by the rights of those securities or, if the directors consider it necessary, as permitted by the rights of those securities; but the board may make such exclusions or other arrangements as the board considers expedient in relation to treasury shares, fractional entitlements, record dates, shares represented by depository receipts, legal or practical problems under the laws in any territory or the requirements of any relevant regulatory body or stock exchange or any other matter; and
  - (iii) a reference to the allotment of equity securities includes (pursuant to sections 560(2) and (3) of the CA 2006) the grant of a right to subscribe for, or to convert any securities into, ordinary shares in the Company, and the sale of any ordinary shares in the Company or (as the case may be) shares of a particular class, that immediately before the sale, were held by the Company as treasury shares.

#### **18. Power to pay commission**

The Company may in connection with the issue of any shares exercise all powers of paying commission conferred or permitted by the Statutes.

#### **19. Power to alter share capital**

- (a) The Company may exercise the powers conferred by the Statutes to:
- (i) increase its share capital by allotting new shares;
  - (ii) reduce its share capital;
  - (iii) sub-divide or consolidate and divide all or any of its share capital; and
  - (iv) redenominate all or any of its shares and reduce its share capital in connection with such a redenomination.
- (b) A resolution by which any share is sub-divided may determine that, as between the holders of the shares resulting from the sub-division, one or more of the shares may have such preferred or other special rights, or may have such qualified or deferred rights or be subject to such restrictions, as compared with the other or others, as the Company has power to attach to new shares.

- (c) If as a result of any consolidation and division or sub-division of shares any shareholders would become entitled to fractions of a share, the board may deal with the fractions as it thinks fit. In particular, the board may:
- (i) (on behalf of those shareholders) aggregate and sell the shares representing the fractions to any person (including, subject to the Statutes, the Company) and distribute the net proceeds of sale in due proportion among those shareholders (except that any proceeds in respect of any holding less than a sum fixed by the board may be retained for the benefit of the Company); or
  - (ii) subject to the Statutes, first, allot to a shareholder credited as fully paid by way of capitalisation of any reserve account of the Company such number of shares as rounds up his holding to a number which, following consolidation and division or sub-division, leaves a whole number of shares.
- (d) For the purpose of a sale under paragraph (c)(i) above, the board may authorise a person to transfer the shares to, or as directed by, the purchaser, who shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase money and the title of the new holder to the shares shall not be affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the proceedings relating to the sale.

**20. Power to issue redeemable shares**

Subject to the Statutes, any share may be issued on terms that it is to be redeemed or is liable to be redeemed at the option of the Company or the holder. The terms, conditions and manner of redemption of such shares may be determined by the board before the shares are allotted.

**21. Power to purchase own shares**

Subject to the Statutes, and to any rights conferred on the holders of any class of shares, the Company may purchase all or any of its shares of any class, including any redeemable shares.

**22. Power to reduce capital**

Subject to the Statutes and to any rights conferred on the holders of any class of shares, the Company may by special resolution reduce its share capital, any capital redemption reserve and any share premium account in any way.

**23. Trusts not recognised**

Except as required by law or these articles, no person shall be recognised by the Company as holding any share upon any trust and the Company shall not be bound by or required to recognise (even when having notice of it) any interest in or in respect of any share, except the holder's absolute right to the entirety of the share.

## UNCERTIFICATED SHARES — GENERAL POWERS

### 24. Uncertificated shares — general powers

- (a) The Company may permit any class of shares to be held in uncertificated form and to be transferred by means of a relevant system and may revoke any such permission.
- (b) In relation to any share which is for the time being held in uncertificated form:
  - (i) the Company may utilise the relevant system in which it is held to the fullest extent available from time to time in the exercise of any of its powers or functions under the Statutes or these articles or otherwise in effecting any actions and the board may from time to time determine the manner in which such powers, functions and actions shall be so exercised or effected;
  - (ii) any provision in these articles which is inconsistent with:
    - (A) the holding or transfer of that share in the manner prescribed or permitted by the Statutes;
    - (B) any other provision of the Statutes relating to shares held in uncertificated form; or
    - (C) the exercise of any powers or functions by the Company or the effecting by the Company of any actions by means of a relevant system,shall not apply;
  - (iii) the Company may, by notice to the holder of that share, require the holder to change the form of such share to certificated form within such period as may be specified in the notice;
  - (iv) the Company may require that share to be converted into certificated form in accordance with the Statutes; and
  - (v) the Company shall not issue a certificate.
- (c) The Company may, by notice to the holder of any share in certificated form, direct that the form of such share may not be changed to uncertificated form for a period specified in such notice.
- (d) For the purpose of effecting any action by the Company, the board may determine that shares held by a person in uncertificated form shall be treated as a separate holding from shares held by that person in certificated form but shares of a class held by a person in uncertificated form shall not be treated as a separate class from shares of that class held by that person in certificated form.

## TRANSFERS OF SHARES

### 25. Share transfers

- (a) Subject to the restrictions in these articles, shares may be transferred by means of an instrument of transfer in any usual form or in any other form approved by the board, which is executed by or on behalf of the transferor and (except in the case of a fully paid share) by or on behalf of the transferee.
- (b) The board may, in its absolute discretion refuse to register any instrument of transfer of a certificated share:
  - (i) which is not fully paid up; or
  - (ii) on which the Company has a lien.
- (c) The board may also refuse to register any instrument of transfer of a certificated share unless it is:
  - (i) lodged at the Company's registered office or such other place as the board have appointed;
  - (ii) accompanied by the certificate for the shares to be transferred and such other evidence (if any) as the board may reasonably require to prove the title of the intending transferor or his right to transfer the shares; and
  - (iii) in respect of only one class of shares.
- (d) All instruments of transfer which are registered may be retained by the Company, but any instrument of transfer which the board refuses to register shall (except in any case where fraud or any other crime involving dishonesty is suspected in relation to such transfer) be returned to the person presenting it.
- (e) The Company shall maintain a record of uncertificated shares in accordance with the Statutes.

### 26. Other provisions relating to transfers

- (a) No fee shall be charged for registration of a transfer or other document or instruction relating to or affecting the title to any share.
- (b) The transferor shall be deemed to remain the holder of the share until the name of the transferee is entered in the register in respect of the share.
- (c) Nothing in these articles shall preclude the board from recognising a renunciation of the allotment of any share by the allottee in favour of some other person.
- (d) Unless otherwise agreed by the board in any particular case, the maximum number of persons who may be entered on the register as joint holders of a share is four.
- (e) The registration of transfers of shares or of transfers of any class of shares may be suspended at such times and for such periods (not exceeding thirty days in any year) as the board may determine.

## 27. Notice of refusal

If the board refuses to register a transfer of a certificated share (save in the case of a suspension pursuant to Article 26(e)) it shall, as soon as practicable and in any event within two months after the date on which the instrument of transfer was lodged, give to the transferee notice of the refusal together with its reasons for refusal. The board shall provide the transferee with such further information about the reasons for the refusal as the transferee may reasonably request.

## DRAG ALONG

## 28. Drag Along

- (a) Subject to the remaining provisions of this Article 28 and Articles 29 - 31, if:
- (i) A Shareholders holding at least 75% of the A Shares then in issue (the “**Selling Shareholders**”), enter into a binding agreement or receive a binding offer (whether conditional or unconditional), pursuant to which any third party (or third parties acting in concert) unconnected with any Selling Shareholder (the “**Drag Purchaser**”), proposes to acquire not less than all of the A Shares then in issue (a “**Binding Offer**”); or
  - (ii) an A Shareholder (and its Affiliates) by way of allotment, transfer or series of transfers, has acquired and/or is unconditionally contracted to acquire at least 75% of the A Shares then in issue (an “**Acquiring Shareholder**”),

then the Selling Shareholders or the Acquiring Shareholder (as applicable) may serve a notice in writing (the “**Drag Along Notice**”) on the holders of the A Shares who are not a Selling Shareholder or an Acquiring Shareholder (as applicable) (each a “**Dragged Shareholder**”), requiring each Dragged Shareholder to transfer the legal and beneficial title to all of the A Shares registered in its name (the “**Drag Shares**”) to (as applicable) the Drag Purchaser, the Acquiring Shareholder or any other person(s) identified in the Drag Along Notice at the consideration and on the date indicated in (or, in either case, to be determined in accordance with a mechanism described in) the Drag Along Notice, being no less than 5 Business Days after the date on which it is served.

- (b) If, following the service of a Drag Along Notice in accordance with Article 29(a), any Dragged Shareholder transfers any A shares to a third party transferee, a Drag Along Notice shall be deemed to have been served on such transferee in respect of those A Shares and the transferee shall be deemed to be a Dragged Shareholder for the purposes of Articles 28 to 31 inclusive.
- (c) If the Binding Offer pursuant to Article 28(a)(i) does not complete, the Drag Along Notice in relation thereto shall lapse and the provisions of this article shall cease to apply in relation to that Drag Along Notice.

## 29. Drag Along Notice

- (a) Any purchase of the Drag Shares pursuant to a Drag Along Notice must be made for consideration in the form of cash, cash-equivalents and/or marketable securities and at a price not less than the highest price offered or paid by the Drag Purchaser or Acquiring Shareholder (as applicable) in the last twelve months for each A Share

acquired and solely in respect of Article 28(a)(i) on the same terms in all material respects as made by the Drag Purchaser to the Selling Shareholder in its Binding Offer.

- (b) In the event that a Dragged Shareholder disputes the calculation of the *pro rata* share of the aggregate sale consideration payable to it, as specified in the Drag Along Notice, it shall first attempt in good faith to resolve the matter with the Selling Shareholders and/or the Drag Purchaser or the Acquiring Shareholder (as applicable), failing which the matter may be referred to an Independent Expert (acting as an expert and not as arbitrator) nominated by the B Directors acting at the expense of the Drag Purchaser or Acquiring Shareholder (as applicable) and whose decision shall, save for manifest error, be final and binding.
- (c) If a Selling Shareholder or Acquiring Shareholder (as applicable) elects not to give a Drag Along Notice then it shall nevertheless notify the other shareholders of such choice and the provisions of Article 32 shall apply.

### **30. Delivery of Drag Shares**

- (a) Each Dragged Shareholder shall be deemed to have irrevocably and unconditionally appointed the Company (acting by any director or the company secretary) as its agent to execute and deliver any documents, approvals or consents required and to do such other acts and things which the Company may in its absolute discretion consider necessary or desirable to give effect to the sale of the Drag Shares pursuant to the Drag Along Notice and Articles 28 to 31 inclusive.
- (b) Completion of the sale of the Drag Shares pursuant to a Drag Along Notice, shall at all times be subject to an obligation on the Drag Purchaser or Acquiring Shareholder (as applicable) to:
  - (i) pay (or procure the payment) to each of the A Shareholders their respective Proportionate Share of all of the aggregate consideration of the sale of the A Shares; and
  - (ii) pay (or procure the payment) to each of the B Shareholders an amount equal to the Exit Premium which they would have received, upon a Bank Exit in accordance with Article 7(b)(ii).
- (c) For the purposes of Article 30(b)(i):
  - (i) the receipt by the Company of the consideration due to the Dragged Shareholders shall be a good discharge of the payment obligation of the Drag Purchaser or the Acquiring Shareholder (as applicable), who shall not be bound to see to its application; and
  - (ii) the Company shall pay the consideration due to each Dragged Shareholder on the completion date, to the extent that the Company has received such consideration from the Drag Purchaser or Acquiring Shareholder (as applicable),

provided always that a third party paying agent may be appointed to receive and pay the consideration due to each Dragged Shareholder in accordance with

Articles 30(c)(i) and 30(c)(ii), in which case references in those Articles to the Company shall be read as references to the such paying agent.

**31. Further assurance**

Upon a transfer of Drag Shares pursuant to a Drag Along Notice becoming effective, each Dragged Shareholder shall:

- (a) deliver all share certificate(s) which were issued (or were required by law to be issued) in respect of their Drag Shares to the Company (or an indemnity in lieu of such certificate(s) in a form reasonably satisfactory to the directors), provided always that failure to do so will not affect the validity of the transfer of the relevant Drag Shares; and
- (b) execute, acknowledge and deliver all such further acts, deeds, agreements, assignments and assurances reasonably required to perfect such transfer.

**MANDATORY OFFER**

**32. Mandatory Offer**

- (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles and to the extent that a Drag Along Notice pursuant to Article 28 has not been served in accordance with Article 29, no allotment or transfer or series of transfers of any A Shares (the “**Specified Shares**”) shall be made if it would result in a person (together with those persons acting in concert with it) (a “**Mandatory Purchaser**”) obtaining a Controlling Interest in the Company, unless the Mandatory Purchaser has made or procured to be made an irrevocable offer to purchase all the other A Shares in issue (an “**Mandatory Offer**”).
- (b) Any Mandatory Offer must be made on the following terms:
  - (i) for cash or cash-equivalent consideration;
  - (ii) equal to or in excess of the Specified Price; and
  - (iii) the Mandatory Offer shall be on terms no less favourable in all material respects (including as to timing of payment) as the terms applicable to the transfer of the Specified Shares.
- (c) For the purpose of this Article 32, the “**Specified Price**” means:
  - (i) in relation to the A Shares, a consideration in cash per A Share at least equal to the highest price per A Share offered or paid by the Mandatory Purchaser or any person acting in concert with the Mandatory Purchaser in respect of any allotment, transfer or series of transfers of A Shares in the twelve months prior to acceptance of the Mandatory Offer; and
  - (ii) in relation to the B Shares, a price equal to the Exit Premium which a B Shareholder would have received upon a Bank Exit in accordance with Article 7(b)(ii).
- (d) In the absence of agreement, the calculation of the Specified Price shall be referred to an Independent Expert (acting as an expert and not as arbitrator) nominated by

the B Directors acting at the expense of the Mandatory Purchaser and whose decision shall, save for manifest error, be final and binding.

### **33. Delivery of Mandatory Offer**

- (a) The Mandatory Offer shall be made by written notice (a “Mandatory **Offer Notice**”), at least 30 Business Days before the proposed sale date (the “**Mandatory Sale Date**”). To the extent not described in any accompanying documents, the Mandatory Offer Notice shall set out:
  - (i) the identity of the Mandatory Purchaser;
  - (ii) the Specified Price and other terms and conditions of payment;
  - (iii) the Mandatory Sale Date;
  - (iv) the number of A Shares proposed to be purchased by the Mandatory Purchaser; and
  - (v) the number of B Shares proposed to be redeemed or bought back by the Company.
- (b) If the Mandatory Purchaser fails to make the Mandatory Offer to all of the A Shareholders or fails to set out the terms prescribed by the foregoing paragraph, then the Company shall not register any transfer of the Specified Shares.
- (c) If the Mandatory Offer is accepted by any A Shareholder in writing within 30 Business Days of receipt of the Mandatory Offer Notice, completion of the Mandatory Offer shall be conditional on completion of the purchase of all the A Shares and redemption or buyback of all the B Shares held by the accepting A Shareholders.

## **TRANSMISSION OF SHARES**

### **34. Transmission on death**

If a shareholder dies, the survivor, where the deceased was a joint holder, and his personal representatives where he was a sole or the only surviving holder, shall be the only person or persons recognised by the Company as having any title to his shares; but nothing in these articles shall release the estate of a deceased holder from any liability in respect of any share held by him solely or jointly.

### **35. Election of person entitled by transmission**

- (a) A person becoming entitled to a share in consequence of the death or bankruptcy of a shareholder or of any other event giving rise to a transmission by operation of law may, on producing such evidence as the board may require and subject as provided in this article, elect either to be registered himself as the holder of the share or to have some person nominated by him registered as the holder of the share.
- (b) If he elects to be registered himself, he shall give notice to the Company to that effect. If he elects to have another person registered, he shall execute a transfer of the share to that person or shall execute such other document or take such other action as the board may require to enable that person to be registered.



- (c) The provisions of these articles relating to the transfer of shares shall apply to the notice or instrument of transfer or other document or action as if it were a transfer effected by the person from whom the title by transmission is derived and the event giving rise to such transmission had not occurred.

**36. Rights of person entitled by transmission**

- (a) A person becoming entitled to a share in consequence of a death or bankruptcy or of any other event giving rise to a transmission by operation of law shall have the right to receive and give a discharge for any dividends or other moneys payable in respect of the share and shall have the same rights in relation to the share as he would have if he were the holder except that, until he becomes the holder, he shall not be entitled to attend or vote at any general meeting of the Company.
- (b) The board may at any time give notice requiring any such person to elect either to be registered himself or to transfer the share and, if after 90 days the notice has not been complied with, the board may withhold payment of all dividends or other moneys payable in respect of the share until the requirements of the notice have been complied with.

**GENERAL MEETINGS**

**37. Annual general meetings**

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

**38. Convening of general meetings other than annual general meetings**

- (a) The board may convene a general meeting other than an annual general meeting whenever it thinks fit.
- (b) A general meeting may also be convened in accordance with Article 76.
- (c) A general meeting shall also be convened by the board on the requisition of the shareholders under the Statutes or, in default, may be convened by such requisitionists, as provided by the Statutes.
- (d) The board shall comply with the Statutes regarding the giving and the circulation, on the requisition of shareholders, of notices of resolutions and of statements with respect to matters relating to any resolution to be proposed or business to be dealt with at any general meeting of the Company.

**NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

**39. Attendance and speaking by non-shareholders**

- (a) A director shall be entitled to attend and speak at any general meeting of the Company whether or not he is a shareholder.
- (b) The chairman may invite any person to attend and speak at any general meeting of the Company if he considers that such person has the appropriate knowledge or experience of the Company's business to assist in the deliberations of the meeting.
- (c) A proxy shall be entitled to speak at any general meeting of the Company.

#### **40. Length and form of notice**

- (a) Subject to the Statutes, any general meeting, including an annual general meeting shall be called by not less than 14 clear days' notice or by not less than such minimum notice period as is permitted by the Statutes.
- (b) The notice (including any notice given by means of a website) shall comply with all applicable requirements in the Statutes and shall specify whether the meeting will be an annual general meeting.
- (c) Notice of every general meeting shall be given to all shareholders other than any who, under these articles or the terms of issue of the shares they hold, are not entitled to receive such notices from the Company, and also to the auditors (or, if more than one, each of them) and to each director.

#### **41. Omission or non-receipt of notice**

- (a) The accidental omission to give notice of a general meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice by, any person entitled to receive the notice shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.
- (b) Paragraph (a) above applies to confirmatory copies of notices (and confirmatory notifications of website notices) of meetings sent pursuant to Article 137(b)(ii) in the same way as it applies to notices of meetings.

### **PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

#### **42. Quorum**

- (a) No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless the requisite quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to business.
- (b) Subject to the Statutes and except as otherwise provided by these articles, two qualifying B Shareholders entitled to vote shall be a quorum, unless:
  - (i) each is a qualifying person only because he is authorised to act as the representative of a corporation in relation to the meeting, and they are representatives of the same corporation;
  - (ii) each is a qualifying person only because he is appointed as proxy of a shareholder in relation to the meeting, and they are proxies of the same shareholder; or
  - (iii) A Shareholders or the A Shareholders and the B Shareholders are entitled to vote in accordance with Article 8, in which instance, quorum shall be the holders of 50% of the A Shares then in issue.
- (c) For the purposes of this article, a qualifying B Shareholder means:
  - (i) an individual who is a B shareholder of the Company; or
  - (ii) a person appointed as proxy of a B Shareholder in relation to the meeting.
- (d) In the event that a sole qualifying B Shareholder holds the entirety of the B Shares in issue, then for so long as no other A Shareholder meets the Qualifying

Conditions, such as B Shareholder shall, for the purposes of this Article 42, constitute the requisite quorum.

- (e) If within 30 minutes from the time fixed for holding a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting:
  - (i) if convened on the requisition of shareholders, shall be dissolved;
  - (ii) if convened with a quorum determined in accordance with Article 42(b)(ii), shall stand adjourned for ten clear days (or, if that day is a Saturday, a Sunday or a holiday, to the next working day) and reconvene at the same time and place as the original meeting (or, subject to Article 46(d) and the Statutes, to such other day and at such other time and place as the board may decide), save that the requisite quorum of the adjourned meeting shall be holders of 30% of the A Shares then in issue, or if quorum is once again not present within 15 minutes from the time fixed for holding the adjourned meeting, holders of 10% of the A Shares then in issue; and
  - (iii) in any other case, the meeting shall stand adjourned for ten clear days (or, if that day is a Saturday, a Sunday or a holiday, to the next working day) and at the same time and place as the original meeting, or, subject to Article 46(d) and the Statutes, to such other day, and at such other time and place, as the board may decide.
- (f) If at an adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within 30 minutes from the time fixed for holding the meeting, the meeting shall be dissolved.

#### **43. Security**

- (a) Subject to the Statutes, the board may make any security arrangements which it considers appropriate relating to the holding of a general meeting of the Company including, without limitation, requirements for evidence of identity to be produced by those attending the meeting, arranging for those persons attending a meeting to be searched and for items of personal property which may be taken into a meeting to be restricted.
- (b) A director or the secretary may:
  - (i) refuse entry to a meeting to any person who refuses to comply with any such arrangements; and
  - (ii) eject from a meeting any person who causes the proceedings to become disorderly.

#### **44. Chairman**

- (a) At each general meeting, the chairman of the board (if any) or, if he is absent or unwilling, the deputy chairman (if any) of the board or (if more than one deputy chairman is present and willing) the deputy chairman who has been longest in such office, shall preside as chairman of the meeting.
- (b) If neither the chairman nor deputy chairman is present and willing, one of the other directors selected for the purpose by the directors present or, if only one director is present and willing, that director, shall preside as chairman of the meeting. If no

director is present within 15 minutes after the time fixed for holding the meeting or if none of the directors present is willing to preside as chairman of the meeting, the B Shareholders present and entitled to vote shall choose one of their number to preside as chairman of the meeting.

#### **45. Resolutions and amendments**

- (a) Subject to the Statutes, a resolution may only be put to the vote at a general meeting if:
  - (i) the chairman of the meeting decides that the resolution may properly be regarded as within the scope of the meeting; or
  - (ii) the B Shareholders requisition a general meeting in accordance with Article 38(c) and in conjunction with doing so, propose a special resolution.
- (b) In the case of a resolution to be proposed as a special resolution no amendment may be made, at or before the time at which the resolution is put to the vote, to the form of the resolution as set out in the notice of meeting, except to correct a patent error or as may otherwise be permitted by law.
- (c) In the case of a resolution to be proposed as an ordinary resolution no amendment may be made, at or before the time at which the resolution is put to the vote, unless:
  - (i) in the case of an amendment to the form of the resolution as set out in the notice of meeting, notice of the intention to move the amendment is received at the office at least 48 hours before the time fixed for the holding of the relevant meeting; or
  - (ii) in any case, the chairman of the meeting in his absolute discretion otherwise decides that the amendment or amended resolution may properly be put to the vote.

The giving of notice under paragraph (i) above shall not prejudice the power of the chairman of the meeting to rule the amendment out of order.

- (d) With the consent of the chairman of the meeting, a person who proposes an amendment to a resolution may withdraw it before it is put to the vote.
- (e) If the chairman of the meeting rules a resolution or an amendment to a resolution admissible or out of order (as the case may be), the proceedings of the meeting or the resolution in question shall not be invalidated by any error in his ruling. Any ruling by the chairman of the meeting in relation to a resolution or an amendment to a resolution shall be final and conclusive.

#### **46. Adjournment**

- (a) With the consent of any general meeting at which a quorum is present the chairman of the meeting may (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place.
- (b) In addition, the chairman of the meeting may at any time without the consent of the meeting adjourn the meeting (whether or not it has commenced or a quorum is

present) to another time and/or place if, in his opinion, it would facilitate the conduct of the business of the meeting to do so.

- (c) Nothing in this article shall limit any other power vested in the chairman of the meeting to adjourn the meeting.
- (d) Whenever a meeting is adjourned for 30 days or more or sine die, at least 14 clear days' notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given in the same manner as in the case of the original meeting but otherwise no person shall be entitled to any notice of an adjourned meeting or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.
- (e) No business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business which might have been transacted at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.

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

- (a) A general meeting may be held at more than one place if:
  - (i) the notice convening the meeting specifies that it shall be held at more than one place; or
  - (ii) the board resolves, after the notice convening the meeting has been given, that the meeting shall be held at more than one place; or
  - (iii) it appears to the chairman of the meeting that the place of the meeting specified in the notice convening the meeting is inadequate to accommodate all persons entitled and wishing to attend.
- (b) A general meeting held at more than one place is duly constituted and its proceedings are valid if (in addition to the other provisions of these articles relating to general meetings being satisfied) the chairman of the meeting is satisfied that facilities (whether electronic or otherwise) are available to enable each person present at each place to participate in the business of the meeting.
- (c) Each person present at each place who would be entitled to count towards the quorum in accordance with the provisions of Article 42 shall be counted in the quorum for, and shall be entitled to vote at, the meeting. The meeting is deemed to take place at the place at which the chairman of the meeting is present.

#### **48. Method of voting and demand for poll**

- (a) At a general meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands, unless (before, or immediately after the declaration of the result of, the show of hands or on the withdrawal of any other demand for a poll) a poll is demanded by:
  - (i) the chairman of the meeting; or
  - (ii) a majority of **B** Shareholders present in person or by proxy having the right to vote on the resolution; or
  - (iii) a shareholder or shareholders present in person or by proxy representing in aggregate not less than 10% of the total voting rights of all the

shareholders having the right to vote on the resolution (excluding any voting rights attached to any shares in the Company held as treasury shares); or

- (iv) a shareholder or shareholders present in person or by proxy holding shares conferring the right to vote on the resolution on which an aggregate sum has been paid up equal to not less than 10% of the total sum paid up on all the shares conferring that right (excluding shares in the Company conferring a right to vote on the resolution which are held as treasury shares),

and a demand for a poll by a person as proxy for a shareholder shall be as 'valid as if the demand were made by such shareholder himself.

- (b) No poll may be demanded on the appointment of a chairman of the meeting.
- (c) A demand for a poll may, before the poll is taken, be withdrawn but only with the consent of the chairman of the meeting and the demand so withdrawn shall not be taken to have invalidated the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made. If a poll is demanded before the declaration of the result of a show of hands and the demand is duly withdrawn, the meeting shall continue as if the demand had not been made.
- (d) Unless a poll is demanded (and the demand is not withdrawn), a declaration by the chairman of the meeting that a resolution has been carried, or carried unanimously, or has been carried by a particular majority, or lost, or not carried by a particular majority, shall be conclusive, and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of that fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.
- (e) The demand for a poll shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which a poll has been demanded.

#### **49. How poll is to be taken**

- (a) If a poll is demanded (and the demand is not withdrawn), it shall be taken at such time (either at the meeting at which the poll is demanded or within 30 days after the meeting), at such place and in such manner (including electronically) as the chairman of the meeting shall direct and he may appoint scrutineers (who need not be shareholders).
- (b) A poll demanded on a question of adjournment shall be taken at the meeting without adjournment.
- (c) It shall not be necessary (unless the chairman of the meeting otherwise directs) for notice to be given of a poll whether taken at or after the meeting at which it was demanded.
- (d) On a poll, votes may be given either personally or by proxy and a shareholder entitled to more than one vote need not use all his votes or cast all the votes he uses in the same way.

- (e) The result of the poll shall be deemed to be a resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.

## **VOTES OF SHAREHOLDERS**

### **50. Voting rights**

- (a) Subject to these articles and to any special rights or restrictions as to voting for the time being attached to any class of shares in the Company, the provisions of the CA 2006 shall apply in relation to voting rights.
- (b) Subject to paragraph (c) below, on a vote on a resolution on a show of hands at a general meeting, every proxy present who has been duly appointed by one or more shareholders entitled to vote on the resolution has one vote.
- (c) On a vote on a resolution on a show of hands at a general meeting, a proxy has one vote for and one vote against the resolution if:
  - (i) the proxy has been duly appointed by more than one shareholder entitled to vote on the resolution; and
  - (ii) the proxy has been instructed by, or exercises his discretion given by, one or more of those shareholders to vote for the resolution and has been instructed by, or exercises his discretion given by, one or more other of those shareholders to vote against it.
- (d) For the purposes of determining which persons are entitled to attend or vote at any general meeting, and how many votes such persons may cast, the Company must specify in the notice of the meeting a time, not more than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting, by which a person must be entered on the register in order to have the right to attend or vote at the meeting. In calculating the period mentioned, no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day. Changes to entries on the register after the time so specified shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend or vote at the meeting, notwithstanding any provisions in the Statutes or these articles to the contrary.

### **51. Representation of corporations**

- (a) Any corporation which is a shareholder of the Company may, by resolution of its board or other governing body, authorise any person or persons to act as its representative or representatives at any general meeting of the Company.
- (b) The board or any director or the secretary may (but shall not be bound to) require evidence of the authority of any such representative.

### **52. Voting rights of joint holders**

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

**53. Voting rights of shareholders incapable of managing their affairs**

A shareholder in respect of whom an order has been made by any court having jurisdiction (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) in matters concerning mental disorder may vote, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, by his receiver, curator bonis or other person in the nature of a receiver or curator bonis appointed by that court, and the receiver, curator bonis or other person may, on a poll, vote by proxy. Evidence to the satisfaction of the board of the authority of the person claiming the right to vote must be received at the office (or at such other address as may be specified for the receipt of proxy appointments) not later than the last time by which a proxy appointment must be received in order to be valid for use at the meeting or adjourned meeting or on the holding of the poll at or on which that person proposes to vote and, in default, the right to vote shall not be exercisable.

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

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

**55. Objections to admissibility of votes**

No objection shall be raised as to the admissibility of any vote except at the meeting or adjourned meeting or poll at which the vote objected to is or may be given or tendered, and every vote not disallowed at such meeting or poll shall be valid for all purposes. Any such objection made in due time shall be referred to the chairman of the meeting, whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

**PROXIES**

**56. Proxies**

- (a) A proxy need not be a shareholder of the Company and a shareholder may appoint more than one proxy in relation to a meeting, provided that each proxy is appointed to exercise the rights attached to a different share or shares held by him.
- (b) The appointment of a proxy shall not preclude a shareholder from attending and voting in person at the meeting or on the poll concerned.
- (c) The appointment of a proxy shall only be valid for the meeting mentioned in it and any adjournment of that meeting (including on any poll demanded at the meeting or any adjourned meeting).

**57. Appointment of proxy**

- (a) Subject to the Statutes, the appointment of a proxy may be in such form as is usual or common or in such other form as the board may from time to time approve and shall be signed by the appointor, or his duly authorised agent, or, if the appointor is a corporation, shall either be executed under its common seal or be signed by an agent or officer authorised for that purpose. The signature need not be witnessed.
- (b) Without limiting the provisions of these articles, the board may from time to time in relation to uncertificated shares: (i) approve the appointment of a proxy by means



of a communication sent in electronic form in the form of an “uncertificated proxy instruction” (a properly authenticated dematerialised instruction and/or other instruction or notification, which is sent by means of the relevant system and received by such participant in that system acting on behalf of the Company as the board may prescribe, in such form and subject to such terms and conditions as the board may from time to time prescribe (subject always to the facilities and requirements of the relevant system)); and (ii) approve supplements to, or amendments or revocations of, any such uncertificated proxy instruction by the same means. In addition, the board may prescribe the method of determining the time at which any such uncertificated proxy instruction is to be treated as received by the Company or such participant and may treat any such uncertificated proxy instruction which purports to be or is expressed to be sent on behalf of a holder of a share as sufficient evidence of the authority of the person sending that instruction to send it on behalf of that holder.

## **58. Receipt of proxy**

- (a) A proxy appointment:
- (i) must be received at a proxy notification address not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for holding the meeting at which the appointee proposes to vote; or
  - (ii) in the case of a poll taken more than 48 hours after it is demanded or in the case of an adjourned meeting to be held more than 48 hours after the time fixed for holding the original meeting, must be received at a proxy notification address not less than 24 hours before the time fixed for the taking of the poll or, as the case may be, the time fixed for holding the adjourned meeting; or
  - (iii) in the case of a poll which is not taken at the meeting at which it is demanded but is taken 48 hours or less after it is demanded, or in the case of an adjourned meeting to be held 48 hours or less after the time fixed for holding the original meeting, must be received:
    - (A) at a proxy notification address in accordance with (i) above;
    - (B) by the chairman of the meeting or the secretary or any director at the meeting at which the poll is demanded or, as the case may be, at the original meeting; or
    - (C) at a proxy notification address by such time as the chairman of the meeting may direct at the meeting at which the poll is demanded.

In calculating the periods mentioned, no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.

- (b) The board may, but shall not be bound to, require reasonable evidence of the identity of the relevant shareholder and of the proxy, the relevant shareholder’s instructions (if any) as to how the proxy is to vote and, where the proxy is appointed by a person acting on behalf of the relevant shareholder, authority of that person to make the appointment.

- (c) The board may decide, either generally or in any particular case, to treat a proxy appointment as valid notwithstanding that the appointment or any of the information required under paragraph (b) above has not been received in accordance with the requirements of this article.
- (d) Subject to paragraph (c) above, if the proxy appointment and any of the information required under paragraph (b) above, is not received in the manner set out in paragraph (a) above, the appointee shall not be entitled to vote in respect of the shares in question.
- (e) If two or more valid but differing proxy appointments are received in respect of the same share for use at the same meeting or on the same poll, the one which is last received (regardless of its date or of the date of its execution) shall be treated as replacing and revoking the others as regards that share and if the Company is unable to determine which was last received, none of them shall be treated as valid in respect of that share.

**59. Notice of revocation of authority etc.**

- (a) A vote given or poll demanded by proxy or by a representative of a corporation shall be valid notwithstanding the previous termination of the authority of the person voting or demanding a poll or (until entered in the register) the transfer of the share in respect of which the appointment of the relevant person was made unless notice of the termination was received at a proxy notification address not less than six hours before the time fixed for holding the relevant meeting or adjourned meeting or, in the case of a poll not taken on the same day as the meeting or adjourned meeting, before the time fixed for taking the poll.
- (b) A vote given by a proxy or by a representative of a corporation shall be valid notwithstanding that he has not voted in accordance with any instructions given by the shareholder by whom he is appointed. The Company shall not be obliged to check whether the proxy or representative of a corporation has in fact voted in accordance with any such shareholder's instructions.

**SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION RIGHTS**

**60. Shareholder information rights**

- (a) Subject to applicable law and regulation (including obtaining regulatory approval (where relevant)) and Articles 60(d) and 60(f)(ii):
  - (i) the Company shall notify each B Shareholder of any Notification Matter notified to the Company by the board of the Bank, as soon as practicable and in any event within three Business Days of the Company's receipt of notice of the relevant Notification Matter;
  - (ii) the Company shall provide each B Shareholder with prompt access to and (where reasonable) copies of, such Company Information belonging to or concerning the Company, its affiliates or its or their business and assets as that B Shareholder may reasonably request from time to time; and
  - (iii) each B Director is irrevocably authorised by the Company to disclose, without need for board consent, Company Information belonging to or

concerning the Company, its affiliates or its or their business and assets to any B Shareholder,

provided that any information disclosed by either the Company or the B Directors is on a confidential basis and in accordance with the terms of this Article 60.

- (b) Any information disclosed pursuant to Article 60(a), by either the Company or a B Director shall be notified in advance to the board with the documents and information to be disclosed identified in the notification.
- (c) For the purposes of this Article 60, Company Information shall include, but shall not be limited to:
  - (i) all board related documents and other materials relevant to and presented in a board meeting;
  - (ii) financial, accounting, taxation and other information and records of, or confirmations relating thereto from the Company;
  - (iii) audit documents and papers of the Company's auditors;
  - (iv) information relating to personnel of the Company; and
  - (v) matters which have been notified to the Company by the board of the Bank, which may or may not constitute a Notification Matter for the purposes of the Bank,(collectively, "**Company Information**").
- (d) Prior to any communication of or the granting of access to Company Information, the board on behalf of the Company or where applicable on behalf of the relevant B Director shall, in accordance with the Inside Information Framework and, where necessary, working with the Company's advisors, assess:
  - (i) if the relevant information constitutes Inside Information;
  - (ii) if the Company is permitted to disclose the Company Information under applicable law and regulation and the implications of doing so (including having regard to issues of privilege and any confidentiality obligations the Company is subject to); and
  - (iii) if any Inside Information is identified, whether such information can be cleansed by the Company, such that after a certain period of time, it could cease to be Inside Information ("**Identified Information**").
- (e) Upon determination in accordance with the foregoing paragraphs, the board on behalf of the Company, or where applicable the relevant B Director shall, subject to any other statutory, fiduciary or regulatory duties:
  - (i) notify the B Shareholder that Inside Information and/or Identified Information exists and await further instruction as to any communication and/or receipt by the B Shareholder;

- (ii) subject to Article 60(f)(i), engage with each B Shareholder to determine the manner in which the Company may be able to assist with the cleansing of Identified information; and
  - (iii) in all other instances, fully communicate the Company Information to the B Shareholder.
- (f) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Article 60 shall require the Company to:
- (i) cleanse Inside Information as a condition to disclosure; or
  - (ii) disclose information which is subject to confidentiality obligations or restrictions on disclosure, or the disclosure of which would breach any applicable laws, regulations or directions from or requests as to confidentiality from regulators (“**Restricted Materials**”).
- (g) In the event that information is determined to comprise of Restricted Materials, which if shared with the B Shareholders, would in the reasonable opinion of a B Director, materially assist the Company in achieving its business plan, then the relevant B Director may request that the board consider presenting an application to the PRA, requesting their consent to such disclosure, on such terms and conditions as the PRA deem necessary in their absolute discretion.

#### **61. Shareholder calls**

- (a) Notwithstanding Article 60, the Company shall, in accordance with its financial reporting calendar, host a teleconference call for all shareholders, to report on its most recent balance sheet, income statement, cashflow statement and management commentary on such financial statements for the period (including annual, interim and quarterly results, to the extent such are released) (a “**Financial Reporting Call**”).
- (b) Notice of every Financial Reporting Call shall be given to all shareholders and to the auditors on no less than 14 clear days’ notice and such notice shall specify the means by which to access such call and any other necessary notices in relation to security and confidentiality.

### **DIRECTORS**

#### **62. Board composition and number**

- (a) The number of directors (other than alternate directors) shall, unless otherwise determined by an ordinary resolution of the Company, comprise a maximum of twelve (12).
- (b) Membership of the board shall at all times comprise of:
  - (i) up to two B Directors;
  - (ii) a majority of Independent Directors, (including the chairman of the board); and
  - (iii) the chief executive officer and may include the chief financial officer of the Company from time to time.

- (c) In the event that any election, retirement or removal of a director in accordance with these articles has occurred or is intended to be effected by the Company or board pursuant to Article 64(b), the chairman shall, to the extent practicable, notify the Bank or any parent undertaking of the Bank, in advance of such change to the composition of the Company's board.

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

### **63. Election of B Directors**

- (a) The B Shareholders shall be entitled to appoint up to two natural persons as directors (and, to the extent such directors are removed or resign, appoint replacements) by giving notice signed by B Shareholders representing a simple majority of the voting rights attached to the B Shares to the Company and designate such persons as B Directors.
- (b) The B Shareholders may also remove a B Director at any time by giving notice in writing to the Company, signed by B Shareholders representing a simple majority of the voting rights attached to the B Shares.
- (c) No written notice to appoint a director in accordance with paragraph (b) above shall be valid (and the relevant proposed B Director shall not be appointed as a director) unless and until:
  - (i) prior notification and consultation with the members of the Nomination Committee of the Company as to whether the proposed B Director is considered fit and proper to perform a controlled function; and
  - (ii) the Company has obtained or received all Director Regulatory Approvals in respect of the proposed B Director.
- (d) The Company may by notice in writing to a B Director remove him as a director with immediate effect if:
  - (i) the B Director is disqualified from acting as a director for any reason;
  - (ii) the B Director ceases to be an approved person for the purposes of the senior managers' regime under FSMA, as amended; and
  - (iii) the B Director commits a material breach of his obligations under their letter of appointment or service agreement, as the case may be.

### **64. Election of directors by the Company**

- (a) Subject to these articles and Article 64(c) below, the Company may by written approval of the holders of more than 50% of the B Shares in issue (disregarding any B Shares which are subject to a B Share Notice) elect any person who is willing to act to be a director, either to fill a vacancy or as an additional director, but so that the total number of directors shall not exceed any maximum number fixed by or in accordance with these articles.
- (b) The board shall have no power to appoint any of the directors, save that subject to these articles and Article 64(c) below, the board may elect any person who is willing to act to be a director to fill a casual vacancy. Any such director elected in

accordance with this Article 64(b) is subject to confirmation or otherwise removal by the Company as soon as practicable and in any event, no later than the next annual general meeting where the director must submit himself or herself for election.

- (c) Prior to their election (or appointment as the case may be), the Company must have obtained or received all Director Regulatory Approvals in respect of the proposed director.

**65. Separate resolutions for election of each director**

Every resolution of a general meeting for the election of a director shall relate to one named person and a single resolution for the election of two or more persons shall be void, unless a resolution that it shall be so proposed has been first agreed to by the meeting without any vote being cast against it.

**66. Retirement of directors**

- (a) At each annual general meeting every director who held office on the date seven days before the date of notice of the annual general meeting shall retire from office. A retiring director shall be eligible for re-election, and a director who is re-elected will be treated as continuing in office without a break.
- (b) A retiring director who is not re-elected shall retain office until the close of the meeting at which he retires.
- (c) If the Company, at any meeting at which a director retires in accordance with these articles, does not fill the office vacated by such director, the retiring director, if willing to act, shall be deemed to be re-elected, unless at the meeting a resolution is passed not to fill the vacancy or to elect another person in his place or unless the resolution to re-elect him is put to the meeting and lost.

**67. Removal of directors**

- (a) Subject to ensuring that the composition of the board is at all times in accordance with the requirements of Article 62, the Company may by ordinary resolution, of which special notice has been given in accordance with the Statutes, remove any director before his period of office has expired notwithstanding anything in these articles or in any agreement between him and the Company.
- (b) Any removal of a director under this article shall be without prejudice to any claim which such director may have for damages for breach of any agreement between him and the Company.
- (c) Neither of the board or (other than following a Governance Event) the A Shareholders shall have any power to suspend or remove any of the directors.

**68. Vacation of office of director**

Without prejudice to the provisions of these articles for retirement or removal, the office of a director shall be vacated if:

- (i) he is prohibited by law from being a director; or

- (ii) he is assessed by the Nominations Committee (acting reasonably) as not being fit and proper, nor able to perform the functions of a director in accordance with those standards required by the Director Regulatory Approvals;
- (iii) he is assessed by the Financial Conduct Authority or PRA as not fit and proper to perform a controlled function;
- (iv) he becomes bankrupt or he makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally; or
- (v) a registered medical practitioner who has examined him gives a written opinion to the Company stating that he has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months; **or**
- (vi) if for more than six months he is absent (whether or not an alternate director attends in his place), without special leave of absence from the board, from board meetings held during that period and the board resolves that his office be vacated; or
- (vii) he gives to the Company notice of his wish to resign, in which event he shall vacate that office on the receipt of that notice by the Company or at such later time as is specified in the notice.

#### **69. Executive directors**

- (a) The B Shareholders of the Company may designate one or more directors to hold any executive office under the Company (including that of chief executive officer or chief financial officer) for such period (subject to the Statutes) and on such terms as it may decide and may revoke or terminate any appointment so made without prejudice to any claim for damages for breach of any contract of service between the director and the Company.
- (b) A director appointed by the shareholders of the Company as chief executive officer or chief financial officer shall automatically cease to hold that office if he ceases to be a director but without prejudice to any claim for damages for breach of any contract of service between him and the Company.
- (c) A director appointed to any other executive office shall not automatically cease to hold that office if he ceases to be a director unless the contract or any resolution under which he holds office expressly states that he shall, in which case that cessation shall be without prejudice to any claim for damages for breach of any contract of service between him and the Company.

### **ALTERNATE DIRECTORS**

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

- (a) Each director may appoint another director or any other person who is willing to act as his alternate and may remove him from that office. The appointment as an alternate director of any person who is not himself a director shall be subject to the approval of a majority of the directors or a resolution of the board.

- (b) An alternate director shall be entitled to receive notice of all board meetings and of all meetings of committees of which the director appointing him is a shareholder, to attend and vote at any such meeting at which the director appointing him is not personally present and at the meeting to exercise and discharge all the functions, powers and duties of his appointor as a director and for the purposes of the proceedings at the meeting these articles shall apply as if he were a director.
- (c) Every person acting as an alternate director shall (except as regards the power to appoint an alternate and remuneration) be subject in all respects to these articles relating to directors and shall alone be responsible to the Company for his acts and defaults and shall not be deemed to be the agent of the director appointing him. An alternate director may be paid expenses and shall be entitled to be indemnified by the Company to the same extent as if he were a director but shall not be entitled to receive from the Company any fee in his capacity as an alternate director.
- (d) Every person acting as an alternate director shall have one vote for each director for whom he acts as alternate, in addition to his own vote if he is also a director, but he shall count as only one for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is present.
- (e) Any person appointed as an alternate director shall vacate his office as alternate director if the director by whom he has been appointed vacates his office as director (otherwise than by retirement at a general meeting of the Company at which he is reappointed) or removes him by notice to the Company or on the happening of any event which, if he is or were a director, causes or would cause him to vacate that office.
- (f) Every appointment or removal of an alternate director shall be made by notice and shall be effective (subject to paragraph (a) above) on receipt by the secretary of the notice.

## **REMUNERATION, EXPENSES, PENSIONS AND OTHER BENEFITS**

### **71. Directors' fees**

- (a) Without prejudice to any existing contractual terms and subject to applicable regulatory restrictions, the remuneration of a director appointed to any executive office or any **B** Director shall be recommended to the board and the B Shareholders by the Remuneration Committee and approved in writing by a majority of the B Shareholders. Such remuneration may be by way of salary, commission, participation in profits, provision for retirement or insurance benefit or otherwise and either in addition to or inclusive of his remuneration as a director.
- (b) The Independent Directors shall be paid such fees not exceeding in aggregate £1.75 million per annum (or such larger sum as shall be approved by written approval of the holders of more than 50% of the B Shares in issue (disregarding any B Shares which are subject to a B Share Notice)).
- (c) Any fee payable under this article shall be distinct from any remuneration or other amounts payable to a director under other provisions of these articles and shall accrue from day to day.



## **72. Special remuneration**

- (a) The board may grant special remuneration to any director who performs any special or extra services to or at the request of the Company, provided such remuneration is granted in accordance with applicable regulatory restrictions.
- (b) Such special remuneration may be paid by way of lump sum, salary, commission, participation in profits, provision for retirement or insurance benefit or otherwise as the board may decide in addition to any remuneration payable under or pursuant to any other of these articles.

## **73. Expenses**

- (a) A director shall be paid out of the funds of the Company all travelling, hotel and other expenses properly incurred by him in and about the discharge of his duties, including his expenses of travelling to and from board meetings, committee meetings and general meetings.
- (b) Subject to any guidelines and procedures established from time to time by the board, a director may also be paid out of the funds of the Company all expenses incurred by him in obtaining professional advice in connection with the affairs of the Company or the discharge of his duties as a director.

## **74. Pensions and other benefits**

The board may exercise all the powers of the Company to:

- (a) pay, provide, arrange or procure the grant of pensions or other retirement benefits, 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 undertaking which is or was associated with the Company or of the predecessors in business of the Company or any such associated undertaking, or the relatives or dependants of any such person. For that purpose the board 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 undertaking, 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 of any associated undertaking or any directors or employees of the Company or associated undertaking or their relatives or dependants or connected with any town or place where the Company or an associated undertaking carries on business, and to support and subscribe to any charitable or public object whatsoever.

## POWERS OF THE BOARD

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

- (a) The business of the Company shall be managed by the board which may exercise all the powers of the Company, subject to the Statutes, these articles and any resolution of the Company.
- (b) No resolution or alteration of these articles shall invalidate any prior act of the board which would have been valid if the resolution had not been passed or the alteration had not been made.
- (c) The powers given by this article shall not be limited by any special authority or power given to the board by any other article or any resolution of the Company.

### 76. Power to act notwithstanding vacancy

- (a) The continuing directors or the sole continuing director at any time may act notwithstanding any vacancy in their number; but, if the number of directors is less than the number of directors fixed as a quorum for board meetings, they or he may act for the purpose of filling up vacancies or calling a general meeting of the Company, but not for any other purpose.
- (b) If no director is able or willing to act, then any two **B** Shareholders may summon a general meeting for the purpose of appointing directors.

### 77. Provisions for employees

The board may exercise any of the powers conferred by the Statutes to make provision for the benefit of any persons employed or formerly employed by the Company or any of its subsidiaries (other than a director or former director or shadow director) in connection with the cessation or the transfer to any person of the whole or part of the undertaking of the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

### 78. Power to borrow money and secure borrowings

The board may exercise all the powers of the Company to borrow money and to mortgage or charge its undertaking, property, assets and uncalled capital, and to issue debentures and other securities, whether outright or as collateral security for any debt, liability or obligation of the Company or of any third party.

### 79. Power to change the name of the Company

The board may change the name of the Company.

## B SHAREHOLDER MATTERS

### 80. B Shareholder matters

None of the actions listed below shall be taken by the board or approved for implementation at Bank level, without the prior written approval of the holders of more than 50% of the B Shares in issue (disregarding any B Shares which are subject to a B Share Notice):

- (a) implementation of a Notification Matter, the subject of which has an estimated value that exceeds twice the Notification Threshold;

- (b) the approval of any Bank resolution in relation to appointment, the terms and conditions of employment, transfer and discharge of the Bank's chief executive officer;
- (c) the approval of any Bank resolution in relation to appointment, the terms and conditions of employment, transfer and discharge of the Bank's chief financial officer;
- (d) the approval of any Bank resolution in relation to appointment, the terms and conditions of employment, transfer and discharge of the Bank's chief operating officer; and
- (e) approval of any change in the corporate status of the Company or amendment to these articles.

## **DELEGATION OF BOARD'S POWERS**

### **81. Delegation to individual directors**

The board may entrust to and confer upon any director any of its powers, authorities and discretions (with power to sub-delegate) on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit and may revoke or vary all or any of them, but no person dealing in good faith shall be affected by any revocation or variation.

### **82. Committees**

- (a) The B Shareholders of the Company may, by ordinary resolution, authorise the board to delegate any of its powers, authorities and discretions (with power to sub-delegate) to any committee as it thinks fit, provided that no such B Shareholder approval will be required where the subject matter so delegated has previously been approved by the B Shareholders and the delegation of board authority is within the scope of such pre-existing approval.
- (b) All committees formed pursuant to this Article 82, shall consist of two or more natural persons (whether directors or not) and the majority of the members of the committee shall at all times be directors, such that no meeting of the committee shall be quorate for the purpose of exercising any of its powers, authorities or discretions unless a majority of those present are directors.
- (c) The board may, subject to Article 82(a), make any such delegation on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit and may revoke or vary any such delegation and discharge any committee wholly or in part, but no person dealing in good faith shall be affected by any revocation or variation. Any committee so formed shall, in the exercise of the powers, authorities and discretions so delegated, conform to any regulations that may be imposed on it by the board.
- (d) The proceedings of a committee shall be governed by any regulations imposed on it by the board and (subject to such regulations) by these articles regulating the proceedings of the board so far as they are capable of applying.

### **83. Powers of attorney**

- (a) The board may by power of attorney or otherwise appoint any person to be the agent of the Company on such terms (including terms as to remuneration) as it

may decide and may delegate to any person so appointed any of its powers, authorities and discretions (with power to sub-delegate).

- (b) The board may remove any person appointed under this article and may revoke or vary the delegation, but no person dealing in good faith shall be affected by the revocation or variation.

## **DIRECTORS' INTERESTS**

### **84. Directors' interests other than in relation to transactions or arrangements with the Company**

- (a) 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:
  - (i) if the Relevant Situation arises from the appointment or proposed appointment of a person as a director of the Company, the directors (other than the 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) may resolve to authorise the appointment of the director and the Relevant Situation on such terms as they may determine;
  - (ii) if the Relevant Situation arises in circumstances other than in paragraph (i) above, the directors (other than the 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) may resolve to authorise the Relevant Situation and the continuing performance by the director of his duties on such terms as they may determine.
- (b) Any reference in paragraph (a) above to a conflict of interest includes a conflict of interest and duty and a conflict of duties.
- (c) Any terms determined by directors under paragraphs (a)(i) or (a)(ii) above may be imposed at the time of the authorisation or may be imposed or varied subsequently and may include (without limitation):
  - (i) whether the interested directors may vote (or be counted in the quorum at a meeting) in relation to any resolution relating to the Relevant Situation;
  - (ii) the exclusion of the interested directors from all information and discussion by the Company of the Relevant Situation; and
  - (iii) (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.

- (d) An interested director must act in accordance with any terms determined by the directors under paragraphs (a)(i) or (a)(ii) above.
- (e) Except as specified in paragraph (a) above, 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 resolved upon by the directors in accordance with the provisions of these articles.
- (f) Any authorisation of a Relevant Situation given by the directors under paragraph (a) above 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.

**85. Declaration of interests other than in relation to transactions or arrangements with the Company**

A director shall declare the nature and extent of his interest in a Relevant Situation within Article 84(a)(i) or 84(a)(ii) to the other directors.

**86. Declaration of interests in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Company**

If a director is in any way, directly or indirectly, interested in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Company, he must declare the nature and extent of that interest to the other directors.

**87. Declaration of interest in an existing transaction or arrangement with the Company**

Where a director is in any way, directly or indirectly, interested in a transaction or arrangement that has been entered into by the Company, he must declare the nature and extent of his interest to the other directors, unless the interest has already been declared under Article 86 above.

**88. Provisions applicable to declarations of interest**

- (a) The declaration of interest must (in the case of Article 87) and may, but need not (in the case of Article 85 or 86) be made:
  - (i) at a meeting of the directors; or
  - (ii) by notice to the directors in accordance with:
    - (A) section 184 of the CA 2006 (notice in writing); or
    - (B) section 185 of the CA 2006 (general notice).
- (b) If a declaration of interest proves to be, or becomes, inaccurate or incomplete, a further declaration must be made.
- (c) Any declaration of interest required by Article 85 above must be made as soon as is reasonably practicable.

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

(d) Any declaration of interest required by Article 86 above must be made before the Company enters into the transaction or arrangement.

(e) Any declaration of interest required by Article 87 above must be made as soon as is reasonably practicable.

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

(f) A declaration in relation to an interest of which the director is not aware, or where the director is not aware of the transaction or arrangement in question, is not required.

For this purpose, a director is treated as being aware of matters of which he ought reasonably to be aware.

(g) A director need not declare an interest:

(i) if it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest;

(ii) if, or to the extent that, the other directors are already aware of it (and for this purpose the other directors are treated as aware of anything of which they ought reasonably to be aware); or

(iii) if, or to the extent that, it concerns terms of his service contract that have been or are to be considered:

(A) by a meeting of the directors; or

(B) by a committee of the directors appointed for the purpose under the articles.

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

(a) Subject to the Statutes and to declaring his interest in accordance with Articles 85, 86 or 87 above, a director may:

(i) enter into or be interested in any transaction or arrangement with the Company, either with regard to his tenure of any office or position in the management, administration or conduct of the business of the Company or as vendor, purchaser or otherwise;

(ii) hold any other office or place of profit with the Company (except that of auditor) in conjunction with his office of director for such period (subject to the Statutes) and upon such terms as the board may decide and be paid such extra remuneration for so doing (whether by way of salary, commission, participation in profits or otherwise) as the board may decide, either in addition to or in lieu of any remuneration under any other provision of these articles;

(iii) act by himself or his firm in a professional capacity for the Company (except as auditor) and be entitled to remuneration for professional services as if he were not a director;

- (iv) be or become a shareholder or director of, or hold any other office or place of profit under, or otherwise be interested in, any parent undertaking or subsidiary undertaking of that parent undertaking or any other undertaking in which the Company may be interested. The board may cause the voting rights conferred by the shares in any other undertaking held or owned by the Company or exercisable by them as directors of that other undertaking to be exercised in such manner in all respects as it thinks fit (including the exercise of voting rights in favour of any resolution appointing the directors or any of them as directors or officers of the other undertaking or voting or providing for the payment of any benefit to the directors or officers of the other undertaking); and
  - (v) be or become a director of any other undertaking in which the Company does not have an interest if that cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest at the time of his appointment as a director of that other undertaking.
- (b) A director shall not, by reason of his holding office as director (or of the fiduciary relationship established by holding that office), be liable to account to the Company for any remuneration, profit or other benefit resulting from:
  - (i) any Relevant Situation authorised under Article 84(a); or
  - (ii) any interest permitted under paragraph (a) above,and no contract shall be liable to be avoided on the grounds of any director having any type of interest authorised under Article 84(a) or permitted under paragraph (a) above.
- (c) A director shall not vote (or be counted in the quorum at a meeting) in respect of any resolution concerning his own appointment (including fixing or varying its terms), or the termination of his own appointment, as the holder of any office or place of profit with the Company or any other undertaking in which the Company is interested but, where proposals are under consideration concerning the appointment (including fixing or varying its terms), or the termination of the appointment, of two or more directors to offices or places of profit with the Company or any other undertaking in which the Company is interested, those proposals may be divided and a separate resolution may be put in relation to each director and in that case each of the directors concerned (if not otherwise debarred from voting under this article) shall be entitled to vote (and be counted in the quorum) in respect of each resolution unless it concerns his own appointment or the termination of his own appointment.
- (d) A director shall also not vote (or be counted in the quorum at a meeting) in relation to any resolution relating to any transaction or arrangement with the Company in which he has an interest which may reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest and, if he purports to do so, his vote shall not be counted, but this prohibition shall not apply and a director may vote (and be counted in the

quorum) in respect of any resolution concerning any one or more of the following matters:

- (i) any transaction or arrangement in which he is interested by virtue of an interest in shares, debentures or other securities of the Company or otherwise in or through the Company;
  - (ii) the giving of any guarantee, security or indemnity in respect of:
    - (A) money lent or obligations incurred by him or by any other person at the request of, or for the benefit of, the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings; or
    - (B) a debt or obligation of the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings for which he himself has assumed responsibility in whole or in part (either alone or jointly with others) under a guarantee or indemnity or by the giving of security;
  - (iii) indemnification (including loans made in connection with it) by the Company in relation to the performance of his duties on behalf of the Company or of any of its subsidiary undertakings;
  - (iv) any issue or offer of shares, debentures or other securities of the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings in respect of which he is or may be entitled to participate in his capacity as a holder of any such securities or as an underwriter or sub-underwriter;
  - (v) any transaction or arrangement concerning any other company in which he does not hold, directly or indirectly as shareholder, or through his direct or indirect holdings of financial instruments (within the meaning of Chapter 5 of the Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules) voting rights representing 1% or more of any class of shares in the capital of that company;
  - (vi) any arrangement for the benefit of employees of the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings which does not accord to him any privilege or benefit not generally accorded to the employees to whom the arrangement relates; and
  - (vii) the purchase or maintenance of insurance for the benefit of directors or for the benefit of persons including directors.
- (e) 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.
- (f) If any question arises at any meeting as to whether an interest of a director (other than the chairman of the meeting) may reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest or as to the entitlement of any director (other than the chairman of the meeting) to vote in relation to a transaction or arrangement with the Company and the question is not resolved by his voluntarily agreeing to abstain from voting, the question shall be referred to the chairman of the meeting and his ruling in relation to the director concerned shall be final and conclusive except in a



case where the nature or extent of the interest of the director concerned, so far as known to him, has not been fairly disclosed. If any question shall arise in respect of the chairman of the meeting and is not resolved by his voluntarily agreeing to abstain from voting, the question shall be decided by a resolution of the board (for which purpose the chairman shall be counted in the quorum but shall not vote on the matter) and the resolution shall be final and conclusive except in a case where the nature or extent of the interest of the chairman of the meeting, so far as known to him, has not been fairly disclosed.

- (g) Subject to the Statutes, the Company may by ordinary resolution suspend or relax the provisions of this article to any extent or ratify any transaction or arrangement not duly authorised by reason of a contravention of this article.

## **PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD**

### **90. Board meetings**

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

### **91. Notice of board meetings**

- (a) Notice of a board meeting may be given to a director personally or by word of mouth or given in hard copy form or in electronic form to him at such address as he may from time to time specify for this purpose (or if he does not specify an address, at his last known address). A director may waive notice of any meeting either prospectively or retrospectively. A director will be treated as having waived his entitlement to notice unless he has supplied the Company with the information necessary to ensure that he receives notice of a meeting before it takes place.
- (b) Notice of a board meeting shall be given to the **B** Shareholders in respect of a Notification Matter. If notice is not given and the relevant Notification Matter is considered by the board, such board shall not be considered duly constituted or competent in accordance with Article 94 solely in respect of that Notification Matter and the B Shareholders may require that the board be reconvened.

### **92. Quorum**

- (a) Subject to Article 9(b)(iii)), the quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the board shall be three and must include:
  - (i) at least one B Director; and
  - (ii) a majority of those directors counted in the quorum must be Independent Directors.
- (b) In the event there is no designated B Director on the board, quorum for the transaction of the business of the board shall be any two Independent Directors.
- (c) Subject to these articles, any director who ceases to be a director at a board meeting may continue to be present and to act as a director and be counted in the quorum until the end of the board meeting if no other director objects and if otherwise a quorum of directors would not be present.

**93. Chairman or deputy chairman to preside**

- (a) The shareholders of the Company shall, by written approval of the holders of more than 50% of the B Shares in issue (disregarding any B Shares which are subject to a B Share Notice), appoint a chairman and one or more deputy chairman or chairmen and may at any time revoke any such appointment.
- (b) The chairman, or failing him any deputy chairman (the longest in office taking precedence, if more than one is present), shall, if present and willing, preside at all board meetings but, if no chairman or deputy chairman has been appointed, or if he is not present within five minutes after the time fixed for holding the meeting or is unwilling to act as chairman of the meeting, the meeting shall be postponed.

**94. Competence of board meetings**

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

**95. Voting**

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

**96. Telephone/electronic board meetings**

- (a) A board meeting may consist of a conference between directors some or all of whom are in different places provided that each director may participate in the business of the meeting whether directly, by telephone or by any other means (whether electronically or otherwise) which enables him:
  - (i) to hear (or otherwise receive real time communications made by) each of the other participating directors addressing the meeting; and
  - (ii) if he so wishes, to address all of the other participating directors simultaneously (or otherwise communicate in real time with them).
- (b) A quorum is deemed to be present if at least the number of directors required to form a quorum, subject to the provisions of Article 76, may participate in the manner specified above in the business of the meeting.
- (c) A board meeting held in this way is deemed to take place at the place where the largest group of participating directors is assembled or, if no such group is readily identifiable, at the place from where the chairman of the meeting participates.

**97. Resolutions without meetings**

A resolution which is signed or approved by all the directors entitled to vote on that resolution (and whose vote would have been counted) shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a board meeting duly called and constituted. The resolution may be contained in one document or communication in electronic form or in several documents or

communications in electronic form (in like form), each signed or approved by one or more of the directors concerned. For the purpose of this article:

- (i) the signature or approval of an alternate director (if any) shall suffice in place of the signature of the director appointing him; and
- (ii) the approval of a director or alternate director shall be given in hard copy form or in electronic form.

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

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

**99. Minutes**

The board shall cause minutes to be made in books kept for the purpose:

- (i) of all appointments of officers made by the shareholders of the Company;
- (ii) of the names of all the directors present at each meeting of the board and of any committee; and
- (iii) of all resolutions and proceedings of all meetings of the Company and of any class of shareholders, and of the board and of any committee.

**SECRETARY**

**100. Secretary**

The secretary shall be appointed by the board for such term, at such remuneration and on such conditions as it thinks fit, and the board may remove from office any person so appointed (without prejudice to any claim for damages for breach of any contract between him and the Company).

**KEY COMMITTEES**

**101. Key committees**

- (a) The following committees shall comprise the Key Committees of the board for the purposes of these articles:
  - (i) the Joint Audit Committee; and
  - (ii) such other committee as may be established by, or otherwise approved by, the board as a Key Committee from time to time.
- (b) Each Key Committee shall propose terms of reference to be approved by written approval of the holders of more than 50% of the B Shares in issue (disregarding any B Shares which are subject to a B Share Notice) which shall at minimum describe the purpose, scope and authority of the relevant Key Committee.

**102. Purpose and authority**

The Joint Audit Committee shall ensure that the interests of the Company are properly protected in relation to financial reporting, internal control, risk management and relations with external auditors and shall represent, monitor, and advise the board on matters concerning the same in particular in respect of the integrity of the financial statements of the Company.

**103. Key Committee Reporting**

- (a) Each Key Committee shall have the right to engage with any of the directors or senior management of the Company upon matters of relevance to its purpose and authority together with the right to receive from the Company:
  - (i) all company financials, including the annual report, management accounts, any interim financial updates and other performance related information; and
  - (ii) all information it reasonably requests relating to any aspects of the Company's relationship with its, or its subsidiaries', customers, suppliers, employees and other stakeholders.
- (b) Each Key Committee shall provide information to the board as required for the purposes of the Company's annual reporting obligations.
- (c) All such required information presented or approved pursuant to the foregoing paragraph, shall be included in the Company's annual report and accounts in a form approved by the board.
- (d) At each annual general meeting of the Company, shareholders shall be afforded an opportunity to raise questions on the work of each Key Committee and their respective annual reports.

**104. Members of the Key Committees**

- (a) The members of each Key Committee shall be appointed by the board. The Joint Audit Committee shall be comprised of a minimum of three and a maximum of six non-executive directors.
- (b) The chairman of each Key Committee shall be an Independent Director of the Company specifically appointed to act as chairman.
- (c) The B Directors shall be given notice of all Key Committee meetings and shall, subject to the terms of reference of the relevant Key Committee and the Inside Information Framework, be entitled to attend as each sees fit.

**SHARE CERTIFICATES**

**105. Issue of share certificates**

- (a) A person whose name is entered in the register as the holder of any certificated shares shall be entitled (unless the conditions of issue otherwise provide) to receive one certificate for those shares, or one certificate for each class of those shares and, if he transfers part of the shares represented by a certificate in his name, or

elects to hold part in uncertificated form, to receive a new certificate for the balance of those shares.

- (b) In the case of joint holders, the Company shall not be bound to issue more than one certificate for all the shares in any particular class registered in their joint names, and delivery of a certificate for a share to any one of the joint holders shall be sufficient delivery to all.
- (c) A share certificate shall be issued under seal or signed by at least one director and the secretary or by at least two directors (which may include any signature being applied mechanically or electronically) or by any one director in the presence of a witness who attests the signature. A share certificate shall specify the number and class of the shares to which it relates and the amount or respective amounts paid up on the shares. Any certificate so issued shall, as against the Company, be prima facie evidence of title of the person named in that certificate to the shares comprised in it.
- (d) A share certificate may be given to a shareholder in accordance with the provisions of these articles on notices.

#### **106. Charges for and replacement of certificates**

- (a) Except as expressly provided to the contrary in these articles, no fee shall be charged for the issue of a share certificate.
- (b) Any two or more certificates representing shares of any one class held by any shareholder may at his request be cancelled and a single new certificate issued.
- (c) If any shareholder surrenders for cancellation a certificate representing shares held by him and requests the Company to issue two or more certificates representing those shares in such proportions as he may specify, the board may, if it thinks fit, comply with the request on payment of such fee (if any) as the board may decide.
- (d) If a certificate is damaged or defaced or alleged to have been lost, stolen or destroyed, a new certificate representing the same shares may be issued on compliance with such conditions as to evidence, indemnity and security for such indemnity as the board may think fit and on payment of any exceptional expenses of the Company incidental to its investigation of the evidence and preparation of the indemnity and security and, if damaged or defaced, on delivery up of the old certificate.
- (e) In the case of joint holders of a share a request for a new certificate under any of the preceding paragraphs of this article may be made by any one of the joint holders unless the certificate is alleged to have been lost, stolen or destroyed.

### **LIEN ON SHARES**

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

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

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

#### **108. Enforcement of lien**

- (a) The Company may sell any share subject to a lien in such manner as the board may decide if an amount payable on the share is due and is not paid within 14 clear days after a notice has been given to the holder or any person entitled by transmission to the share demanding payment of that amount and giving notice of intention to sell in default.
- (b) To give effect to any sale under this article, the board may authorise some person to transfer the share sold to, or as directed by, the purchaser. The purchaser shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase money nor shall the title of the new holder to the share be affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the proceedings relating to the sale.
- (c) The net proceeds of the sale, after payment of the costs of such sale, shall be applied in or towards satisfaction of the amount due and any residue shall (subject to a like lien for any amounts not presently due as existed on the share before the sale), on surrender, in the case of shares held in certificated form, of the certificate for the shares sold, be paid to the holder or person entitled by transmission to the share immediately before the sale.

### **CALLS ON SHARES**

#### **109. Calls**

- (a) Subject to the terms of allotment, the board may make calls on the shareholders in respect of any moneys unpaid on their shares (whether in respect of nominal amount or premium) and each shareholder shall (subject to his receiving at least 14 clear days' notice specifying when and where payment is to be made) pay to the Company as required by the notice the amount called on his shares. A call may be revoked or postponed as the board may decide.
- (b) Any call may be made payable in one sum or by instalments and shall be deemed to be made at the time when the resolution of the board authorising that call is passed.
- (c) A person on whom a call is made shall remain liable for it notwithstanding the subsequent transfer of the share in respect of which the call is made.
- (d) The joint holders of a share shall be jointly and severally liable for the payment of all calls in respect of that share.

#### **110. Interest on calls**

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

**111. Sums treated as calls**

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

**112. Power to differentiate**

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

**113. Payment of calls in advance**

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

**FORFEITURE OF SHARES**

**114. Notice of unpaid calls**

- (a) If the whole or any part of any call or instalment remains unpaid on any share after the due date for payment, the board may give a notice to the holder requiring him to pay so much of the call or instalment as remains unpaid, together with any accrued interest.
- (b) The notice shall state a further day, being not less than 14 clear days from the date of the notice, on or before which, and the place where, payment is to be made and shall state that, in the event of non-payment on or before the day and at the place appointed, the share in respect of which the call was made or instalment is payable will be liable to be forfeited.
- (c) The board may accept a surrender of any share liable to be forfeited.

**115. Forfeiture on non-compliance with notice**

- (a) If the requirements of a notice given under the preceding article are not complied with, any share in respect of which it was given may (before the payment required by the notice is made) be forfeited by a resolution of the board. The forfeiture shall include all dividends declared and other moneys payable in respect of the forfeited share and not actually paid before the forfeiture.
- (b) If a share is forfeited, notice of the forfeiture shall be given to the person who was the holder of the share or (as the case may be) the person entitled to the share by transmission, and an entry that notice of the forfeiture has been given, with the relevant date, shall be made in the register; but no forfeiture shall be invalidated by any omission to give such notice or to make such entry.

**116. Power to annul forfeiture or surrender**

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

**117. Disposal of forfeited or surrendered shares**

- (a) Every share which is forfeited or surrendered shall become the property of the Company and (subject to the Statutes) may be sold, re-allotted or otherwise disposed of, upon such terms and in such manner as the board shall decide either to the person who was before the forfeiture the holder of the share or to any other person and whether with or without all or any part of the amount previously paid up on the share being credited as so paid up. The board may for the purposes of a disposal authorise some person to transfer the forfeited or surrendered share to, or in accordance with the directions of, any person to whom the same has been disposed of.
- (b) A statutory declaration by a director or the secretary that a share has been forfeited or surrendered on a specified date shall, as against all persons claiming to be entitled to the share, be conclusive evidence of the facts stated in it and shall (subject to the execution of any necessary transfer) constitute a good title to the share. The person to whom the share has been disposed of shall not be bound to see to the application of the consideration for the disposal (if any) nor shall his title to the share be affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the proceedings connected with the forfeiture, surrender, sale, re-allotment or disposal of the share.

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

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

**SEAL**

**119. Seal**

- (a) The Company may exercise the powers conferred by the Statutes with regard to having official seals and those powers shall be vested in the board.
- (b) The board shall provide for the safe custody of every seal of the Company.



- (c) A seal shall be used only by the authority of the board or a duly authorised committee but that authority may consist of an instruction or approval given in hard copy form or in electronic form by a majority of the directors or of the shareholders of a duly authorised committee.
- (d) The board may determine who shall sign any instrument to which a seal is applied, either generally or in relation to a particular instrument or type of instrument, and may also determine, either generally or in any particular case, that such signatures shall be dispensed with or affixed by some mechanical means.
- (e) Unless otherwise decided by the board:
  - (i) certificates for shares, debentures or other securities of the Company issued under seal need not be signed; and
  - (ii) every other instrument to which a seal is applied shall be signed by at least one director and the secretary or by at least two directors or by one director in the presence of a witness who attests the signature.

## **DIVIDENDS**

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

- (a) The Company may, by ordinary resolution, declare a dividend to be paid to the A Shareholders only, according to their respective rights and interests in the profits, and may fix the time for payment of such dividend, but no dividend shall exceed the amount recommended by the board.
- (b) When considering whether or not to pay an interim dividend or to recommend the payment of a final dividend, the board shall take into account such factors as the Company's capital and financial position, cash requirements and liquidity and profits available as well as the Company's regulatory outlook, capital position, investment needs and principal relevant risk factors subsisting at the time.
- (c) In addition, the board shall consider the need to balance the division of profits between:
  - (i) distributions to its A Shareholders;
  - (ii) investment in products and services;
  - (iii) retaining earnings for future development; and
  - (iv) support for social and/or environmental objectives.
- (d) For the avoidance of doubt and without prejudice to the payment of the Exit Premium, no B Shareholder shall be entitled to receive a dividend.

### **121. Fixed and interim dividends**

The board may pay such interim dividends as appear to the board to be justified by the financial position of the Company. If at any time, the share capital of the Company is divided into different classes, the board may pay such interim dividends in respect of those shares in the capital of the Company which confer on the holders non-preferred or deferred rights as well as in respect of those shares which confer on the holders preferred rights with regard

to dividends and may also pay any dividend payable at a fixed rate at intervals settled by the board whenever the financial position of the Company, in the opinion of the board, justifies its payment. If the board acts in good faith, none of the directors shall incur any liability to the holders of shares conferring preferred rights for any loss such holders may suffer in consequence of the payment of an interim dividend on any shares having non-preferred or deferred rights.

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

- (a) Except insofar as the rights attaching to, or the terms of issue of, any share otherwise provide:
  - (i) all dividends shall be declared and paid according to the amounts paid up on the shares in respect of which the dividend is paid, but no amount paid up on a share in advance of calls shall be treated for the purposes of this article as paid up on the share;
  - (ii) all dividends shall be apportioned and paid pro rata according to the amounts paid up on the shares during any portion or portions of the period in respect of which the dividend is paid; and
  - (iii) dividends may be declared or paid in any currency.
- (b) The board may agree with any shareholder that dividends which may at any time or from time to time be declared or become due on his shares in one currency shall be paid or satisfied in another, and may agree the basis of conversion to be applied and how and when the amount to be paid in the other currency shall be calculated and paid and for the Company or any other person to bear any costs involved.

## **123. Method of payment**

- (a) The Company may pay any dividend or other sum payable in respect of a share:
  - (i) by cheque or dividend warrant payable to the holder (or, in the case of joint holders, the holder whose name stands first in the register in respect of the relevant share) or to such other person as the holder (or, in the case of joint holders, all the joint holders) may notify to the Company for the purpose; or
  - (ii) by a bank or other funds transfer system or by such other electronic means (including, in the case of an uncertificated share, a relevant system) to such account as the holder (or, in the case of joint holders, all the joint holders) may notify to the Company for the purpose; or
  - (iii) in such other way as may be agreed between the Company and the holder (or, in the case of joint holders, all such holders).
- (b) Any such cheque or dividend warrant may be sent by post to the registered address of the holder (or, in the case of joint holders, to the registered address of that person whose name stands first in the register in respect of the relevant share) or to such other address as the holder (or, in the case of joint holders, all the joint holders) may notify to the Company for the purpose.

- (c) Every cheque or warrant is sent, and payment in any other way is made, at the risk of the person or persons entitled to it and the Company will not be responsible for any sum lost or delayed when it has sent or transmitted the sum in accordance with these articles. Clearance of a cheque or warrant or transmission of funds through a bank or other funds transfer system or by such other electronic means as is permitted by these articles shall be a good discharge to the Company.
- (d) Any joint holder or other person jointly entitled to any share may give an effective receipt for any dividend or other sum paid in respect of the share.
- (e) Any dividend or other sum payable in respect of any share may be paid to a person or persons entitled by transmission to that share as if he or they were the holder or joint holders of that share and his address (or the address of the first named of two or more persons jointly entitled) noted in the register were the registered address.

**124. Dividends not to bear interest**

No dividend or other moneys payable by the Company on or in respect of any share shall bear interest as against the Company unless otherwise provided by the rights attached to the share.

**125. Calls or debts may be deducted from dividends**

The board may deduct from any dividend or other moneys payable to any person (either alone or jointly with another) on or in respect of a share all such sums as may be due from him (either alone or jointly with another) to the Company on account of calls or otherwise in relation to shares of the Company.

**126. Unclaimed dividends etc.**

All unclaimed dividends, interest or other sums payable may be invested or otherwise made use of by the board for the benefit of the Company until claimed. All dividends unclaimed for a period of 12 years after having been declared shall be forfeited and cease to remain owing by the Company. The payment of any unclaimed dividend, interest or other sum payable by the Company on or in respect of any share into a separate account shall not constitute the Company a trustee in respect of it.

**127. Uncashed dividends etc.**

If:

- (a) a payment for a dividend or other sum payable in respect of a share sent by the Company to the person entitled to it in accordance with these articles is left uncashed or is returned to the Company and, after reasonable enquiries, the Company is unable to establish any new address or, with respect to a payment to be made by a funds transfer system, a new account, for that person; or
- (b) such a payment is left uncashed or returned to the Company on two consecutive occasions,

the Company shall not be obliged to send any dividends or other sums payable in respect of that share to that person until he notifies the Company of an address or, where the payment is to be made by a funds transfer system, details of the account, to be used for the purpose.

**128. Dividends in specie**

- (a) With the authority of an ordinary resolution of the Company and on the recommendation of the board, payment of any dividend may be satisfied wholly or in part by the distribution of specific assets and in particular of paid up shares or debentures or other securities or rights of any other company.
- (b) Where any difficulty arises with the distribution, the board may settle the difficulty as it thinks fit and, in particular, may issue fractional certificates (or ignore fractions), fix the value for distribution of the specific assets or any part of them, determine that cash payments be made to any shareholders on the basis of the value so fixed in order to secure equality of distribution and vest any of the specific assets in trustees on such trusts for the persons entitled to the dividend as the board may think fit.

**129. Scrip dividends**

- (a) The board may, with the authority of an ordinary resolution of the Company, offer any holders of A Shares the right to elect to receive further A Shares, credited as fully paid, instead of cash in respect of all (or some part) of any dividend specified by the ordinary resolution (a scrip dividend) in accordance with the following provisions of this article.
- (b) The ordinary resolution may specify a particular dividend (whether or not already declared) or may specify all or any dividends declared within a specified period, but such period may not end later than five years after the date of the meeting at which the ordinary resolution is passed.
- (c) The basis of allotment shall be decided by the board so that, as nearly as may be considered convenient, the value of the further A Shares, including any fractional entitlement, is equal to the amount of the cash dividend which would otherwise have been paid (disregarding the amount of any associated tax credit).
- (d) For the purposes of paragraph (c) above the value of the further A Shares shall be calculated in such manner as may be determined by or in accordance with the ordinary resolution.
- (e) The board shall give notice to the holders of A Shares of their rights of election in respect of the scrip dividend and shall specify the procedure to be followed in order to make an election.
- (f) The dividend or that part of it in respect of which an election for the scrip dividend is made shall not be paid and instead further A Shares shall be allotted in accordance with elections duly made and the board shall capitalise a sum equal to the aggregate nominal amount of the shares to be allotted out of such sums available for the purpose as the board may consider appropriate.
- (g) The further A Shares so allotted shall rank *pari passu* in all respects with the fully paid A Shares then in issue except as regards participation in the relevant dividend.
- (h) The board may decide that the right to elect for any scrip dividend shall not be made available to shareholders resident in any territory where, in the opinion of the board, compliance with local laws or regulations would be unduly onerous.

- (i) The board may do all acts and things as it considers necessary or expedient to give effect to the provisions of a scrip dividend election and the issue of any A Shares in accordance with the provisions of this article and Article 11, and may make such provisions as it thinks fit for the case of shares becoming distributable in fractions (including provisions under which, in whole or in part, the benefit of fractional entitlements accrues to the Company rather than to the shareholders concerned). To the extent that the entitlement of any holder of A Shares in respect of any dividend is less than the value of one new ordinary share (as determined for the basis of any scrip dividend) the board may also from time to time establish or vary a procedure for such entitlement to be accrued and aggregated with any similar entitlement for the purposes of any subsequent scrip dividend.
- (j) The board may from time to time establish or vary a procedure for election mandates, under which a holder of A Shares may, in respect of any future dividends for which a right of election pursuant to this article is offered, elect to receive A Shares in lieu of such dividend on the terms of such mandate.
- (k) The board shall not make a scrip dividend available unless the Company has sufficient undistributed profits or reserves to give effect to elections which could be made to receive that scrip dividend.
- (l) The board may decide at any time before the further A Shares are allotted that such shares shall not be allotted and pay the relevant dividend in cash instead. Such decision may be made before or after any election has been made by holders of A Shares in respect of the relevant dividend.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF CAPITAL GAINS**

#### **130. Capital gains**

Notwithstanding anything in any other of these articles, the Company may by ordinary resolution on the recommendation of the board determine that any realised accretion of capital assets shall be divided among the A Shareholders in proportion to the amounts paid up on the A Shares held by them respectively.

### **CAPITALISATION OF RESERVES**

#### **131. Capitalisation of reserves**

- (a) The board may, with the authority of an ordinary resolution of the Company:
  - (i) resolve to capitalise any sum standing to the credit of any reserve account of the Company (including share premium account and capital redemption reserve) or any sum standing to the credit of profit and loss account not required for the payment of any preferential dividend (whether or not it is available for distribution); and
  - (ii) appropriate that sum as capital to the holders of the shares in proportion to the nominal amount of the share capital held by them respectively and apply that sum on their behalf in paying up in full any shares or debentures of the Company of a nominal amount equal to that sum and allot the shares or debentures credited as fully paid to those shareholders, or as they may direct, in those proportions or in paying up the whole or part of any

amounts which are unpaid in respect of any issued shares in the Company held by them respectively, or otherwise deal with such sum as directed by the resolution provided that the share premium account, the capital redemption reserve, any redenomination reserve and any sum not available for distribution in accordance with the Statutes may only be applied in paying up shares to be allotted credited as fully paid up.

- (b) Where any difficulty arises in respect of any distribution of any capitalised reserve or other sum, the board may settle the difficulty as it thinks fit and in particular may make such provisions as it thinks fit in the case of shares or debentures becoming distributable in fractions (including provisions under which, in whole or in part, the benefit of fractional entitlements accrues to the Company rather than the shareholders concerned) or ignore fractions and may fix the value for distribution of any fully paid up shares or debentures and may determine that cash payments be made to any shareholders on the basis of the value so fixed in order to secure equality of distribution, and may vest any shares or debentures in trustees upon such trusts for the persons entitled to share in the distribution as the board may think fit.
- (c) The board may also authorise any person to sign on behalf of the persons entitled to share in the distribution a contract for the acceptance by those persons of the shares or debentures to be allotted to them credited as fully paid under a capitalisation and any such contract shall be binding on all those persons.

### **132. Capitalisation of reserves — employees' share schemes**

- (a) This article (which is without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of the immediately preceding article) applies:
  - (i) where a person is granted pursuant to an employees' share scheme a right to subscribe for A Shares in the Company in cash at a subscription price less than their nominal value; and
  - (ii) where, pursuant to an employees' share scheme, the terms on which any person is entitled to subscribe in cash for shares in the Company are adjusted as a result of a capitalisation issue, rights issue or other variation of capital so that the subscription price is less than their nominal value.
- (b) In any such case the board:
  - (i) shall transfer to a reserve account a sum equal to the deficiency between the subscription price and the nominal value of the shares (the cash deficiency) from the profits or reserves of the Company which are available for distribution and not required for the payment of any preferential dividend; and
  - (ii) (subject to paragraph (d) below) shall not apply that reserve account for any purpose other than paying up the cash deficiency upon the allotment of those shares.
- (c) Whenever the Company is required to allot shares pursuant to such a right to subscribe, the board shall (subject to the Statutes) appropriate to capital out of the reserve account an amount equal to the cash deficiency applicable to those shares,

apply that amount in paying up the deficiency on the nominal value of those shares and allot those shares credited as fully paid to the person entitled to them.

- (d) If any person ceases to be entitled to subscribe for shares as described above, the restrictions on the reserve account shall cease to apply in relation to such part of the account as is equal to the amount of the cash deficiency applicable to those shares.
- (e) No right shall be granted under any employees' share scheme under paragraph (a)(i) above and no adjustment shall be made as mentioned in paragraph (a)(ii) above unless there are sufficient profits or reserves of the Company available for distribution and not required for the payment of any preferential dividend to permit the transfer to a reserve account in accordance with this article of an amount sufficient to pay up the cash deficiency applicable to the shares concerned.

## **RECORD DATES**

### **133. Fixing of record dates**

- (a) Notwithstanding any other of these articles, but without prejudice to the Act any rights attached to any shares, the Company or the board may fix a date as the record date by reference to which a dividend will be declared or paid or a distribution, allotment or issue made, and that date may be before, on or after the date on which the dividend, distribution, allotment or issue is declared, paid or made.
- (b) In the absence of a record date being fixed, entitlement to any dividend, distribution, allotment or issue shall be determined by reference to the date on which the dividend is declared or the distribution, allotment or issue is made.

## **ACCOUNTS**

### **134. Accounting records**

- (a) The board shall cause accounting records of the Company to be kept in accordance with the Statutes.
- (b) No shareholder (as such) shall have any right of inspecting any account, book or document of the Company, except as conferred by law or authorised by the board or by any ordinary resolution of the Company.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **135. Communications to the Company**

- (a) Subject to the Statutes and except where otherwise expressly stated, any document or information to be sent or supplied to the Company (whether or not such document or information is required or authorised under the Statutes) shall be in hard copy form or, subject to paragraph (b) below, be sent or supplied in electronic form or by means of a website.
- (b) Subject to the Statutes, a document or information may be given to the Company in electronic form only if it is given in such form and manner and to such address

as may have been specified by the board from time to time for the receipt of documents in electronic form. The board may prescribe such procedures as it thinks fit for verifying the authenticity or integrity of any such document or information given to it in electronic form.

**136. Communications by the Company**

- (a) A document or information may be sent or supplied in hard copy form by the Company to any shareholder either personally or by sending or supplying it by post addressed to the shareholder concerned at his registered address or by leaving it at that address.
- (b) Subject to the Statutes (and other rules applicable to the Company), a document or information may be sent or supplied by the Company to any shareholder in electronic form to such address as may from time to time be authorised by the shareholder concerned or by making it available on a website and notifying the shareholder concerned in accordance with the Statutes (and other rules applicable to the Company) that it has been made available. A shareholder shall be deemed to have agreed that the Company may send or supply a document or information by means of a website if the conditions set out in the Statutes have been satisfied.
- (c) In the case of joint holders of a share, any document or information sent or supplied by the Company in any manner permitted by these articles to the joint holder who is named first in the register in respect of the joint holding shall be deemed to be given to all other holders of the share.
- (d) A shareholder whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom shall not be entitled to receive any notice from the Company unless he gives the Company a postal address within the United Kingdom at which notices may be given to him.

**137. Communication during suspension or curtailment of postal services**

- (a) If at any time by reason of the suspension or curtailment of postal services within the United Kingdom (or some part of the United Kingdom) the Company is unable effectively to give notice of a general meeting to some or all of its shareholders or directors then, subject to complying with paragraph (b) below, the Company need only give notice of the meeting to those shareholders or directors to whom the Company is entitled, in accordance with the Statutes, to give notice by electronic means.
- (b) In the circumstances described in paragraph (a) above, the Company must:
  - (i) advertise the general meeting by a notice which appears on its website and in at least one national newspaper complying with the notice period requirements set out in Article 40; and
  - (ii) send confirmatory copies of the notice (or, as the case may be, the notification of the website notice) by post to those shareholders and directors to whom notice (or notification) cannot be given by electronic means if at least six clear days before the meeting the posting of notices (and notifications) to addresses throughout the United Kingdom again becomes practicable.



**138. When communication is deemed received**

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.
- (d) If the Company receives a delivery failure notification following a communication by electronic means in accordance with paragraph (c) above, the Company shall send or supply the document or information in hard copy or electronic form (but not by electronic means) to the shareholder concerned either personally or by post addressed to the shareholder 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 paragraph (c) above. Where a document or information is sent or supplied by means of a website, it shall be deemed to have been received:
  - (i) when the material was first made available on the website; or
  - (ii) if later, when the recipient was deemed to have received notice of the fact that the material was available on the website.
- (e) A shareholder present, either in person or by proxy, at any meeting of the Company or class of shareholders of the Company shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where required, of the purposes for which the meeting was convened.
- (f) 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 was given to the person from whom he derives his title to the share.

**139. Record date for communications**

- (a) For the purposes of giving notices of meetings, or of sending or supplying other documents or other information, whether under section 310(1) of the CA 2006, any other Statute, a provision in these articles or any other instrument, the Company may determine that persons entitled to receive such notices, documents or other information are those persons entered on the register at the close of business on a day determined by it.

- (b) The day determined by the Company under paragraph (a) above may not be more than 15 days before the day that the notice of the meeting, document or other information is given.

**140. Communication to person entitled by transmission**

Where a person is entitled by transmission to a share, any notice or other communication shall be given to him, as if he were the holder of that share and his address noted in the register were his registered address. In any other case, any notice or other communication given to any shareholder pursuant to these articles shall, notwithstanding that the shareholder is then dead or bankrupt or that any other event giving rise to the transmission of the share by operation of law has occurred and whether or not the Company has notice of the death, bankruptcy or other event, be deemed to have been properly given in respect of any share registered in the name of that shareholder as sole or joint holder.

**UNTRACED SHAREHOLDERS**

**141. Sale of shares of untraced shareholders**

- (a) The Company may sell, in such manner as the board may decide and at the best price it considers to be reasonably obtainable at that time, any share of a shareholder, or any share to which a person is entitled by transmission if:
  - (i) during a period of 12 years at least three cash dividends have become payable in respect of the share to be sold and have been sent by the Company in accordance with these articles;
  - (ii) during that period of 12 years no cash dividend payable in respect of the share has been claimed, no cheque, warrant, order or other payment for a dividend has been cashed, no dividend sent by means of a funds transfer system has been paid and no communication has been received by the Company from the shareholder or the person entitled by transmission to the share;
  - (iii) on or after the expiry of that period of 12 years the Company has published advertisements both in a national newspaper and in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the last known address of the shareholder or person entitled by transmission to the share or the address at which notices may be given in accordance with these articles is located, in each case giving notice of its intention to sell the share; and
  - (iv) during the period of three months following the publication of those advertisements and after that period until the exercise of the power to sell the share, the Company has not received any communication from the shareholder or the person entitled by transmission to the share.
- (b) The Company's power of sale shall extend to any further share which, on or before the date of publication of the first of any advertisement pursuant to paragraph (a)(iii) above, is issued in right of a share to which paragraph (a) above applies (or in right of any share to which this paragraph applies) if the conditions set out in paragraphs (a)(ii) to (iv) above are satisfied in relation to the further share (but as if the references to a period of 12 years were references to a period beginning on

the date of allotment of the further share and ending on the date of publication of the first of the advertisements referred to above).

- (c) To give effect to any sale, the board may authorise some person to transfer the share to, or as directed by, the purchaser, who shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase money; nor shall the title of the new holder to the share be affected by any irregularity in, or invalidity of, the proceedings relating to the sale.

#### **142. Application of proceeds of sale**

- (a) The Company shall account to the person entitled to the share at the date of sale for a sum equal to the net proceeds of sale and shall be deemed to be his debtor, and not a trustee for him, in respect of them.
- (b) Pending payment of the net proceeds of sale to such person, the proceeds may either be employed in the business of the Company or invested in such investments (other than shares of the Company or its parent undertaking, if any) as the board may from time to time decide.
- (c) No interest shall be payable in respect of the net proceeds and the Company shall not be required to account for any moneys earned on the net proceeds.

### **DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS**

#### **143. Destruction of documents**

- (a) The board may authorise or arrange the destruction of documents held by the Company as follows:
  - (i) at any time after the expiration of six years from the date of registration, all instruments of transfer of shares and all other documents transferring or purporting to transfer shares or representing or purporting to represent the right to be registered as the holder of shares on the faith of which entries have been made in the register;
  - (ii) at any time after the expiration of one year from the date of cancellation, all registered share certificates which have been cancelled;
  - (iii) at any time after the expiration of two years from the date of recording them, all dividend mandates and notifications of change of address;
  - (iv) at any time after the expiration of one year from the date of actual payment, all paid dividend warrants and cheques; and
  - (v) all proxy notices from one year after the end of the meeting to which the proxy relates.
- (b) It shall conclusively be presumed in favour of the Company that:
  - (i) every entry in the register purporting to have been made on the basis of an instrument of transfer or other document so destroyed was duly and properly made;

- (ii) every instrument of transfer so destroyed was a valid and effective instrument duly and properly registered;
  - (iii) every share certificate so destroyed was a valid certificate duly and properly cancelled;
  - (iv) every other document mentioned in paragraph (a) above so destroyed was a valid and effective document in accordance with the particulars of it recorded in the books and records of the Company; and
  - (v) every paid dividend warrant and cheque so destroyed was duly paid.
- (c) The provisions of paragraph (b) above shall apply only to the destruction of a document in good faith and without notice of any claim (regardless of the parties to it) to which the document might be relevant.
- (d) Nothing in this article shall be construed as imposing on the Company or the board any liability in respect of the destruction of any document earlier than as stated in paragraph (a) above or in any other circumstances in which liability would not attach to the Company or the board in the absence of this article.
- (e) References in this article to the destruction of any document include references to its disposal in any manner.

## **WINDING UP**

### **144. Powers to distribute in specie**

If the Company is in liquidation, the liquidator may, with the authority of a special resolution of the Company and any other authority required by the Statutes:

- (i) divide among the shareholders in specie the whole or any part of the assets of the Company and, for that purpose, estimate the value of any assets and determine how the division shall be carried out as between the shareholders or different classes of shareholders; or
- (ii) vest the whole or any part of the assets in trustees upon such trusts for the benefit of shareholders as the liquidator, with the like sanction, shall think fit but no shareholder shall be compelled to accept any assets upon which there is any liability.

## **INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE, ETC.**

### **145. Directors' indemnity, insurance and defence**

As far as the Statutes allow, the Company may:

- (i) indemnify any director of the Company (or of an associated body corporate) against any liability;
- (ii) indemnify a director of a company that is a trustee of an occupational pension scheme for employees (or former employees) of the Company (or of an associated body corporate) against liability incurred in connection with the Company's activities as trustee of the scheme;

- (iii) purchase and maintain insurance against any liability for any director referred to in paragraphs (i) or (ii) above; and
- (iv) provide any director referred to in paragraphs (i) or (ii) above with funds (whether by loan or otherwise) to meet expenditure incurred or to be incurred by him in defending any criminal, regulatory or civil proceedings or in connection with an application for relief (or to enable any such director to avoid incurring such expenditure).

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.