

THIS DOCUMENT IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

If you are in any doubt as to any aspect of the proposals referred to in this document or as to the action you should take, you should seek your own advice from a stockbroker, solicitor, accountant, or other professional adviser.

If you have sold or otherwise transferred all of your shares, please pass this document together with the accompanying documents to the purchaser or transferee, or to the person who arranged the sale or transfer so they can pass these documents to the person who now holds the shares.

DERWENT LONDON

Derwent London plc

(incorporated and registered in England and Wales under number 1819699)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice of the annual general meeting of the company to be held at The Westbury, Bond Street, Mayfair, London W1S 2YF on Tuesday 25th May 2010 at 11.00a.m. is set out on pages 5 to 9 of this circular.

Whether or not you propose to attend the annual general meeting, please complete and submit a form of proxy in accordance with the instructions printed on the enclosed form. The form of proxy must be received by 11.00a.m. on 21st May 2010.

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PART I

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF DERWENT LONDON PLC

Derwent London plc

(Incorporated and registered in England and Wales under number 1819699)

Directors:

Robert Rayne (Chairman)
John Ivey (Deputy Chairman)
John Burns (Chief Executive Officer)
Simon Silver (Executive Director)
Damian Wisniewski (Finance Director)
Paul Williams (Executive Director)
Nigel George (Executive Director)
David Silverman (Executive Director)
Stuart Corbyn (Non-Executive Director)
Robert Farnes (Non-Executive Director)
June de Moller (Non-Executive Director)
Simon Neathercoat (Non-Executive Director)
Donald Newell (Non-Executive Director)

Registered and Head Office:

25 Savile Row
London
W1S 2ER
020 7659 3000

21st April 2010

Dear Shareholder,

Notice of annual general meeting

I am pleased to be writing to you with details of our annual general meeting ("AGM") which we are holding at The Westbury, Bond Street, Mayfair, London W1S 2YF on 25th May 2010 at 11.00a.m. The formal notice of annual general meeting is set out on pages 5 to 9 of this document.

If you would like to vote on the resolutions but are unable to attend the AGM, please fill in the form of proxy sent to you with this notice and return it to our registrars as soon as possible. They must receive it by 11.00a.m. on 21st May 2010.

Final dividend

Shareholders are being asked to approve a final dividend of 18.85 pence per ordinary share for the year ended 31st December 2009. If you approve the recommended final dividend, this will be paid on 17th June 2010 to all ordinary shareholders who were on the register of members on 21st May 2010.

New articles of association

We are also asking shareholders to approve a number of amendments to our articles of association primarily to reflect the implementation of the Companies (Shareholders' Rights) Regulations 2009 (the "Shareholders' Rights Regulations") and the remaining provisions of the Companies Act 2006. An explanation of the main changes between the proposed and the existing articles of association is set out in Part III on page 13 of this document.

Explanatory notes on all the business to be considered at this year's AGM appear on pages 10 to 12 of this document.

The directors consider that all the resolutions to be put to the meeting are in the best interests of the company and its shareholders as a whole and unanimously recommend that you vote in favour of all resolutions, as they intend to do in respect of their own shareholdings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Rayne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Rayne
Chairman

Inspection of documents

The following documents will be available for inspection at the registered office of the company from 21st April 2010 until the time of the AGM and at The Westbury, Bond Street, Mayfair, London W1S 2YF from 15 minutes before the AGM until it ends:

- *Copies of the executive directors' service contracts*
- *Copies of letters of appointment of the non-executive directors*
- *A copy of the proposed new articles of association of the company, and a copy of the existing memorandum and articles of association marked to show the changes being proposed in resolution 16.*

PART II

Derwent London plc NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the twenty-sixth annual general meeting of Derwent London plc will be held at The Westbury, Bond Street, Mayfair, London W1S 2YF at 11.00a.m. on 25th May 2010. You will be asked to consider and pass the resolutions below. Resolutions 14 to 17 (inclusive) will be proposed as special resolutions. All other resolutions will be proposed as ordinary resolutions.

1. To receive the report of the directors and the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009 and the independent auditors' report thereon.
2. To approve the report of the remuneration committee for the year ended 31st December 2009.
3. To declare a final dividend of 18.85 pence per ordinary share for the year ended 31st December 2009.
4. To re-elect Mr R.A. Rayne as a director.
5. To re-elect Mr N.Q. George as a director.
6. To re-elect Mr S.A. Corbyn as a director.
7. To re-elect Mr D. Newell as a director.
8. To re-elect Mr D.M.A. Wisniewski as a director.
9. To re-elect Mr S.J. Neathercoat as a director.
10. To re-elect Mr J.C. Ivey as a director.
11. To re-appoint BDO LLP as independent auditor of the company to hold office from the conclusion of this meeting until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting at which accounts are laid before the company.
12. To authorise the directors to determine the independent auditor's remuneration.
13. That the board be generally and unconditionally authorised to allot shares in the company and to grant rights to subscribe for or convert any security into shares in the company:
 - (A) up to a nominal amount of £1,686,346 (such amount to be reduced by the nominal amount allotted or granted under paragraph (B) below in excess of such sum); and
 - (B) comprising equity securities (as defined in section 560(1) of the Companies Act 2006) up to a nominal amount of £3,372,693 (such amount to be reduced by any allotments or grants made under paragraph (A) above) in connection with an offer by way of a rights issue:
 - (i) to ordinary shareholders in proportion (as nearly as may be practicable) to their existing holdings; and
 - (ii) to holders of other equity securities as required by the rights of those securities or as the board otherwise considers necessary,and so that the board may impose any limits or restrictions and make any arrangements which it considers necessary or appropriate to deal with treasury shares, fractional entitlements, record dates, legal, regulatory or practical problems in, or under the laws of, any territory or any other matter, such authorities to apply until the end of next year's annual general meeting (or, if earlier, until the close

of business on 25th August 2011) but, in each case, during this period the company may make offers and enter into agreements which would, or might, require shares to be allotted or rights to subscribe for or convert securities into shares to be granted after the authority ends and the board may allot shares or grant rights to subscribe for or convert securities into shares under any such offer or agreement as if the authority had not ended.

14. That if resolution 13 is passed, the board be given power to allot equity securities (as defined in the Companies Act 2006) for cash under the authority given by that resolution and/or to sell ordinary shares held by the company as treasury shares for cash as if section 561 of the Companies Act 2006 did not apply to any such allotment or sale, such power to be limited:

(A) to the allotment of equity securities and sale of treasury shares for cash in connection with an offer of, or invitation to apply for, equity securities (but in the case of the authority granted under paragraph (B) of resolution 13, by way of a rights issue only):

(i) to ordinary shareholders in proportion (as nearly as may be practicable) to their existing holdings; and

(ii) to holders of other equity securities, as required by the rights of those securities or, as the board otherwise considers necessary,

and so that the board may impose any limits or restrictions and make any arrangements which it considers necessary or appropriate to deal with treasury shares, fractional entitlements, record dates, legal, regulatory or practical problems in, or under the laws of, any territory or any other matter; and

(B) in the case of the authority granted under paragraph (A) of resolution 13 and/or in the case of any sale of treasury shares for cash, to the allotment (otherwise than under paragraph (A) above) of equity securities or sale of treasury shares up to a nominal amount of £252,951,

such power to apply until the end of next year's annual general meeting (or, if earlier, until the close of business on 25th August 2011) but, in each case, during this period the company may make offers, and enter into agreements, which would, or might, require equity securities to be allotted (and treasury shares to be sold) after the power ends and the board may allot equity securities (and sell treasury shares) under any such offer or agreement as if the power had not ended.

15. That the company be authorised for the purposes of section 701 of the Companies Act 2006 to make one or more market purchases (as defined in section 693(4) of the Companies Act 2006) of its ordinary shares of 5 pence each, such power to be limited:

(A) to a maximum number of 10,118,080 ordinary shares;

(B) by the condition that the minimum price which may be paid for an ordinary share is 5 pence and the maximum price which may be paid for an ordinary share is the highest of:

(i) an amount equal to 5 per cent. above the average market value of an ordinary share for the five business days immediately preceding the day on which that ordinary share is contracted to be purchased; and

(ii) the higher of the price of the last independent trade and the highest current independent bid on the trading venues where the purchase is carried out,

in each case, exclusive of expenses;

such power to apply until the end of next year's annual general meeting (or, if earlier, 25th August 2011) but in each case so that the company may enter into a contract to purchase ordinary shares which will or may be completed or executed wholly or partly after the power ends and the company may purchase

ordinary shares pursuant to any such contract as if the power had not ended.

16. That:

- (A) the articles of association of the company be amended by deleting all the provisions of the company's memorandum of association which, by virtue of section 28 of the Companies Act 2006, are to be treated as provisions of the company's articles of association; and
- (B) the articles of association produced to the meeting and initialled by the chairman of the meeting for the purpose of identification be adopted as the articles of association of the company in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the existing articles of association.

17. That a general meeting other than an annual general meeting may be called on not less than 14 clear days' notice.

By order of the Board

T. J. Kite, ACA
Company Secretary

21st April 2010

Registered Office:
Derwent London plc
25 Savile Row
London W1S 2ER

Registered in England and Wales No. 1819699

Notes

1. Members are entitled to appoint a proxy to exercise all or any of their rights to attend and to speak and vote on their behalf at the meeting. A shareholder may appoint more than one proxy in relation to the annual general meeting provided that each proxy is appointed to exercise the rights attached to a different share or shares held by that shareholder. A proxy need not be a shareholder of the company. A form of proxy which may be used to make such appointment and give proxy instructions accompanies this notice. If you do not have a form of proxy and believe that you should have one, or if you require additional forms, please contact Equiniti on 0871 384 2192. Calls to this number are charged at 8p per minute from a BT landline. Other telephony provider costs may vary. The Equiniti overseas helpline number is +44 (0)121 415 7593.
2. To be valid any form of proxy or other instrument appointing a proxy must be received by post or (during normal business hours only) by hand at Equiniti, Aspect House, Spencer Road, Lancing, West Sussex, BN99 6ZL or at www.sharevote.co.uk, in each case no later than 11.00a.m. on 21st May 2010.
3. The return of a completed form of proxy, other such instrument or any CREST Proxy Instruction (as described in paragraph 9 below) will not prevent a shareholder attending the annual general meeting and voting in person if he/she wishes to do so.
4. Any person to whom this notice is sent who is a person nominated under section 146 of the Companies

Act 2006 to enjoy information rights (a “Nominated Person”) may, under an agreement between him/her and the shareholder by whom he/she was nominated, have a right to be appointed (or to have someone else appointed) as a proxy for the annual general meeting. If a Nominated Person has no such proxy appointment right or does not wish to exercise it, he/she may, under any such agreement, have a right to give instructions to the shareholder as to the exercise of voting rights.

5. The statement of the rights of shareholders in relation to the appointment of proxies in paragraphs 1 and 2 above does not apply to Nominated Persons. The rights described in these paragraphs can only be exercised by shareholders of the company.
6. To be entitled to attend and vote at the annual general meeting (and for the purpose of the determination by the company of the votes they may cast), shareholders must be registered in the Register of Members of the company at 6.00p.m. on 21st May 2010 (or, in the event of any adjournment, on the date which is two days before the time of the adjourned meeting). Changes to the Register of Members after the relevant deadline shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend and vote at the meeting.
7. As at 14th April 2010 (being the latest practicable date prior to the publication of this notice) the company’s issued share capital consists of 101,180,797 ordinary shares, carrying one vote each. Therefore, the total voting rights in the company as at 21st April 2010 are 101,180,797.
8. CREST members who wish to appoint a proxy or proxies through the CREST electronic proxy appointment service may do so by using the procedures described in the CREST Manual. CREST personal members or other CREST sponsored members, and those CREST members who have appointed a service provider(s), should refer to their CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s), who will be able to take the appropriate action on their behalf.
9. In order for a proxy appointment or instruction made using the CREST service to be valid, the appropriate CREST message (a “CREST Proxy Instruction”) must be properly authenticated in accordance with Euroclear UK & Ireland Limited’s specifications, and must contain the information required for such instruction, as described in the CREST Manual (available via www.euroclear.com/CREST). The message, regardless of whether it constitutes the appointment of a proxy or is an amendment to the instruction given to a previously appointed proxy must, in order to be valid, be transmitted so as to be received by the issuer’s agent (ID 7RA01) by 11.00a.m. on 21st May 2010. For this purpose, the time of receipt will be taken to be the time (as determined by the time stamp applied to the message by the CREST Application Host) from which the issuer’s agent is able to retrieve the message by enquiry to CREST in the manner prescribed by CREST. After this time any change of instructions to proxies appointed through CREST should be communicated to the appointee through other means.
10. CREST members and, where applicable, their CREST sponsors, or voting service providers should note that Euroclear UK & Ireland Limited does not make available special procedures in CREST for any particular message. Normal system timings and limitations will, therefore, apply in relation to the input of CREST Proxy Instructions. It is the responsibility of the CREST member concerned to take (or, if the CREST member is a CREST personal member, or sponsored member, or has appointed a voting service provider, to procure that his CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s) take(s)) such action as shall be necessary to ensure that a message is transmitted by means of the CREST system by any particular time. In this connection, CREST members and, where applicable, their CREST sponsors or voting system providers are referred, in particular, to those sections of the CREST Manual concerning practical limitations of the CREST system and timings.
11. The company may treat as invalid a CREST Proxy Instruction in the circumstances set out in Regulation 35(5)(a) of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001.

12. Any corporation which is a member can appoint one or more corporate representatives who may exercise on its behalf all of its powers as a member provided that they do not do so in relation to the same shares.
13. Under section 527 of the Companies Act 2006 members meeting the threshold requirements set out in that section have the right to require the company to publish on a website a statement setting out any matter relating to: (i) the audit of the company's accounts (including the auditor's report and the conduct of the audit) that are to be laid before the annual general meeting; or (ii) any circumstance connected with an auditor of the company ceasing to hold office since the previous meeting at which annual accounts and reports were laid in accordance with section 437 of the Companies Act 2006. The company may not require the shareholders requesting any such website publication to pay its expenses in complying with sections 527 or 528 of the Companies Act 2006. Where the company is required to place a statement on a website under section 527 of the Companies Act 2006, it must forward the statement to the company's auditor not later than the time when it makes the statement available on the website. The business which may be dealt with at the annual general meeting includes any statement that the company has been required under section 527 of the Companies Act 2006 to publish on a website.
14. Any member attending the meeting has the right to ask questions. The company must cause to be answered any such question relating to the business being dealt with at the meeting but no such answer need be given if (a) to do so would interfere unduly with the preparation for the meeting or involve the disclosure of confidential information, (b) the answer has already been given on a website in the form of an answer to a question, or (c) it is undesirable in the interests of the company or the good order of the meeting that the question be answered.
15. A copy of this notice, and other information required by section 311A of the Companies Act 2006, can be found on the company's website at <http://investors.derwentlondon.com>.
16. You may not use any electronic address provided either in this notice of meeting or any related documents (including the form of proxy) to communicate with the company for any purpose other than those expressly stated.

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The notes on the following pages give an explanation of the proposed resolutions.

Resolutions 1 to 13 are proposed as ordinary resolutions. This means that for each of those resolutions to be passed, more than half of the votes cast must be in favour of the resolution. Resolutions 14 to 17 are proposed as special resolutions. This means that for each of those resolutions to be passed, at least three-quarters of the votes cast must be in favour of the resolution.

Resolution 1: Directors' report and accounts

For each financial year, the directors must present the directors' report, the audited accounts and the independent auditor's report to shareholders at a general meeting. Those to be presented at the AGM are in respect of the year ended 31st December 2009.

Resolution 2: Remuneration committee report

In accordance with sections 439 and 440 of the Companies Act 2006 and Schedule 8 of the Large and Medium Sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/410), shareholders are invited to vote on the remuneration report for the year ended 31st December 2009, which may be found on pages 55 to 62 of the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009.

Resolution 3: Dividend

Shareholders are being asked to approve a final dividend of 18.85 pence per ordinary share for the year ended 31st December 2009.

Resolutions 4 to 10: Re-election of directors

In accordance with the company's articles of association, Messrs R.A. Rayne, N.Q. George S.A. Corbyn, D. Newell, retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. In addition, having been appointed since the last annual general meeting and being eligible, Mr D.M.A. Wisniewski offers himself for re-election. Messrs S.J. Neathercoat and J.C. Ivey who have both served on the board as non-executive directors for more than nine years, also retire, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Biographies of the directors are given on page 46 of the company's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009.

Resolutions 11 and 12: Auditors

At every general meeting at which accounts are presented to shareholders, the company is required to appoint auditors to serve until the next such meeting. BDO LLP has indicated that it is willing to continue as the company's auditor for another year. You are asked to approve its re-appointment and, following normal practice, to authorise the board to determine its remuneration.

Resolution 13: Authority to allot relevant securities

Paragraph (A) of this resolution would give the directors the authority to allot ordinary shares or grant rights to subscribe for or convert any securities into ordinary shares up to an aggregate nominal amount equal to £1,686,346 (representing 33,726,920 ordinary shares of 5 pence each). This amount represents approximately one-third of the issued ordinary share capital (excluding treasury shares) of the company as at 14th April 2010, the latest practicable date prior to publication of this notice.

In line with guidance issued by the Association of British Insurers, paragraph (B) of this resolution would give the directors authority to allot ordinary shares or grant rights to subscribe for or convert any securities into ordinary shares in connection with a rights issue in favour of ordinary shareholders up to an aggregate nominal amount equal to £3,372,693 (representing 67,453,860 ordinary shares of 5 pence each), as reduced by the nominal amount of any shares issued under paragraph (A) of this resolution. This amount (before any

reduction) represents approximately two-thirds of the issued ordinary share capital (excluding treasury shares) of the company as at 14th April 2010, the latest practicable date prior to publication of this notice.

The authorities sought under paragraphs (A) and (B) of this resolution will expire at the earlier of 25th August 2011 and the conclusion of the annual general meeting of the company held in 2011.

The directors have no present intention to exercise either of the authorities sought under this resolution.

As at the date of this notice, no ordinary shares are held by the company in treasury.

Resolution 14: Disapplication of pre-emption rights

This resolution will be proposed as a special resolution, which requires a 75 per cent. majority of the votes to be cast in favour. It would give the directors the authority to allot ordinary shares (or sell any ordinary shares which the company elects to hold in treasury) for cash without first offering them to existing shareholders in proportion to their existing shareholdings.

This authority would, as in previous years, be limited to allotments or sales in connection with pre-emptive offers and offers to holders of other equity securities if required by the rights of those shares or as the board otherwise considers necessary, or otherwise up to an aggregate nominal amount of £252,951 (representing 5,059,020 ordinary shares). This aggregate nominal amount represents approximately 5 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital of the company as at 14th April 2010, the latest practicable date prior to publication of this notice. In respect of this aggregate nominal amount, the directors confirm their intention to follow the provisions of the Pre-Emption Group's statement of principles regarding cumulative usage of authorities within a rolling 3-year period where the principles provide that usage in excess of 7.5 per cent. should not take place without prior consultation with shareholders.

The authority will expire at the earlier of 25th August 2011 and the conclusion of the annual general meeting of the company held in 2011.

Resolution 15: Authority to buy back shares

Resolution 15 renews the directors' authority to make market purchases of the company's shares up to a maximum of 10 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital (excluding any treasury shares).

The company may make purchases of its own shares if, having taken account of all major factors such as the effect on earnings and net asset value per share, gearing levels and alternative investment opportunities, such purchases are considered to be in the company's and shareholders' best interests while maintaining an efficient capital structure.

If the company purchases any of its shares pursuant to resolution 15, the company may cancel these shares or hold them in treasury. Such decision will be made by the directors at the time of purchase. The company currently has no ordinary shares in treasury. The minimum price, exclusive of expenses, which may be paid for an ordinary share is 5 pence. The maximum price, exclusive of expenses, which may be paid for an ordinary share is the highest of (i) an amount equal to 5 per cent. above the average market value for an ordinary share for the five business days immediately preceding the date of the purchase and (ii) the higher of the price of the last independent trade and the highest current independent bid on the trading venues where the purchase is carried out.

At last year's annual general meeting, the company was given authority to make market purchases of up to 10,080,175 shares. No shares have been purchased by the company in the market since then.

Options to subscribe for a total of 1,051,720 shares, being 1.04 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital (excluding treasury shares), were outstanding at 14th April 2010 (being the latest practicable date prior to the publication of this notice). If the company were to purchase the maximum number of shares permitted

(under the existing authority given at the 2009 AGM and under resolution 15), the options outstanding at 14th April 2010 would represent 1.28 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital (excluding treasury shares).

The directors do not have any current plans to exercise the authority to be granted pursuant to resolution 15.

The authority will expire at the earlier of 25th August 2011 and the conclusion of the annual general meeting of the company held in 2011.

Resolution 16: Adoption of new articles of association

It is proposed in resolution 16 to adopt new articles of association (the "New Articles") in order to update the company's current articles of association (the "Current Articles") primarily to take account of the coming into force of the Companies (Shareholders' Rights) Regulations 2009 (the "Shareholders' Rights Regulations") and the implementation of the last parts of the Companies Act 2006.

The principal changes introduced in the New Articles are summarised in Part III. Other changes, which are of a minor, technical or clarifying nature and also some more minor changes which merely reflect changes made by the Companies Act 2006 or the Shareholders' Rights Regulations, or conform the language of the New Articles with that used in the model articles for public companies produced by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills have not been noted in Part III. The New Articles showing all the changes to the Current Articles are available for inspection, as noted on page 4 of this document.

Resolution 17: Notice of general meetings

Changes made to the Companies Act 2006 by the Shareholders' Rights Regulations increase the notice period required for general meetings of the company to 21 days unless shareholders approve a shorter notice period, which cannot however be less than 14 clear days. (AGMs will continue to be held on at least 21 clear days' notice.)

Before the coming into force of the Shareholders' Rights Regulations on 3rd August 2009, the company was able to call general meetings other than an AGM on 14 clear days' notice without obtaining such shareholder approval. In order to preserve this ability, resolution 17 seeks such approval. The approval will be effective until the company's next annual general meeting, when it is intended that a similar resolution will be proposed.

The shorter notice period would not be used as a matter of routine for such meetings, but only where the flexibility is merited by the business of the meeting and is thought to be to the advantage of shareholders as a whole.

Note that the changes to the Companies Act 2006 mean that, in order to be able to call a general meeting on less than 21 clear days' notice, the company must make a means of electronic voting available to all shareholders for that meeting.

PART III

EXPLANATORY NOTES OF PRINCIPAL CHANGES TO THE COMPANY'S ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

1. The company's objects

The provisions regulating the operations of the company are currently set out in the company's memorandum and articles of association. The company's memorandum contains, among other things, the objects clause which sets out the scope of the activities the company is authorised to undertake. This is drafted to give a wide scope.

The Companies Act 2006 significantly reduces the constitutional significance of a company's memorandum. The Companies Act 2006 provides that a memorandum will record only the names of subscribers and the number of shares each subscriber has agreed to take in the company. Under the Companies Act 2006 the objects clause and all other provisions which are contained in a company's memorandum, for existing companies at 1st October 2009, are deemed to be contained in the company's articles of association but the company can remove these provisions by special resolution.

Further the Companies Act 2006 states that unless a company's articles provide otherwise, a company's objects are unrestricted. This abolishes the need for companies to have objects clauses. For this reason the company is proposing to remove its objects clause together with all other provisions of its memorandum which, by virtue of the Companies Act 2006, are treated as forming part of the company's articles of association as of 1st October 2009. Resolution 16(A) confirms the removal of these provisions for the company. As the effect of this resolution will be to remove the statement currently in the company's memorandum of association regarding limited liability, the New Articles also contain an express statement regarding the limited liability of shareholders.

2. Articles which duplicate statutory provisions

Provisions in the Current Articles which replicate provisions contained in the Companies Act 2006 are in the main to be removed in the New Articles. This is in line with the approach advocated by the Government that statutory provisions should not be duplicated in a company's constitution.

3. Change of name

Under the Companies Act 1985, a company could only change its name by special resolution. Under the Companies Act 2006 a company will be able to change its name by other means provided for by its articles. To take advantage of this provision, the New Articles enable the directors to pass a resolution to change the company's name.

4. Authorised share capital and unissued shares

The Companies Act 2006 abolishes the requirement for a company to have an authorised share capital and the New Articles reflect this. Directors will still be limited as to the number of shares they can at any time allot because allotment authority continues to be required under the Companies Act 2006, save in respect of employee share schemes.

5. Redeemable shares

Under the Companies Act 1985, if a company wished to issue redeemable shares, it had to include in its articles the terms and manner of redemption. The Companies Act 2006 enables directors to determine such matters instead provided they are so authorised by the articles. The New Articles contain such an authorisation. The company has no plans to issue redeemable shares but if it did so the directors would need shareholders' authority to issue new shares in the usual way.

6. Authority to purchase own shares, consolidate and sub-divide shares, and reduce share capital

Under the Companies Act 1985, a company required specific enabling provisions in its articles to purchase its own shares, to consolidate or sub-divide its shares and to reduce its share capital or other undistributable reserves as well as shareholder authority to undertake the relevant action. The Current Articles include these enabling provisions. Under the Companies Act 2006 a company will only require shareholder authority to do any of these things and it will no longer be necessary for articles to contain enabling provisions. Accordingly the relevant enabling provisions have been removed in the New Articles.

7. Use of seals

Under the Companies Act 1985, a company required authority in its articles to have an official seal for use abroad. Under the Companies Act 2006, such authority will no longer be required. Accordingly, the relevant authorisation has been removed in the New Articles.

The New Articles provide an alternative option for execution of documents (other than share certificates). Under the New Articles, when the seal is affixed to a document it may be signed by one director in the presence of a witness, whereas previously the requirement was for signature by either a director and the secretary or two directors or such other person or persons as the directors may approve.

8. Vacation of office by directors

The Current Articles specify the circumstances in which a director must vacate office. The New Articles update these provisions to treat physical illness in the same manner as mental illness.

9. Voting by proxies on a show of hands

The Shareholders' Rights Regulations have amended the Companies Act 2006 so that it now provides that each proxy appointed by a member has one vote on a show of hands unless the proxy is appointed by more than one member in which case the proxy has one vote for and one vote against if the proxy has been instructed by one or more members to vote for the resolution and by one or more members to vote against the resolution. The New Articles remove provisions in the Current Articles dealing with proxy voting on the basis that these are dealt with in the Companies Act 2006 and contain a provision clarifying how the provision of the Companies Act 2006 giving a proxy a second vote on a show of hands should apply to discretionary authorities.

10. Adjournments for lack of quorum

Under the Companies Act 2006 as amended by the Shareholders' Rights Regulations, general meetings adjourned for lack of quorum must be held at least 10 clear days after the original meeting. The Current Articles have been changed to reflect this requirement.

11. Directors' fees

The Current Articles have been updated to reflect the increase of director's fees (approved at last year's AGM) from £400,000 (or any higher sum approved by ordinary resolution) to £500,000 (or any higher sum approved by ordinary resolution). The maximum fees payable to the Company's directors under the New Articles is the higher of £500,000 or any higher sum decided on by an ordinary resolution at a general meeting.

12. General

Generally the opportunity has been taken to bring clearer language into the New Articles and in some areas to conform the language of the New Articles with that used in the model articles for public companies produced by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

