



THE RANK GROUP PLC

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 16 October 2014 at 11am
Statesman House, Stafferton Way,
Maidenhead, SL6 1AY.

This document is important and requires your immediate attention.

If you are in any doubt as to any aspects of the proposals referred to in this document or as to the action that you should take, you are recommended to seek advice from your stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor, accountant or other independent financial adviser duly authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

If you have sold or transferred all of your ordinary shares in The Rank Group Plc please send this document and form of proxy to the purchaser or transferee or to the stockbroker, bank or other agent through whom the sale or transfer was effected for transmission to the purchaser or transferee.

Directors

Mr Ian Burke *Chairman*
Mr Henry Birch
Mr Clive Jennings
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Kilmorey, PC
Mr Owen O'Donnell
Mr Tim Scoble
Ms Shaa Wasmund

The Rank Group
presents



Statesman House
Stafferton Way
Maidenhead SL6 1AY

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11 September 2014

To ordinary shareholders

Dear Shareholder

2014 Annual General Meeting

This document contains the notice of the 2014 annual general meeting of the Company, which will be held at Statesman House, Stafferton Way, Maidenhead SL6 1AY at 11am on Thursday, 16 October 2014. A general description of the matters to be considered at this meeting can be found in the explanatory notes on pages 5 to 8.

You will see that in addition to the ordinary business to be conducted at the meeting there are two items of special business.

The items of special business relate to the Company's authority to make political donations as defined in the Companies Act 2006 and to call general meetings (other than annual general meetings) on short notice.

Changes to the Listing Rules which came into effect on 16 May 2014 introduced new voting requirements for the election of independent directors in listed companies with a controlling shareholder (a shareholder who exercises 30% or more of the votes). Under the new rules, the election of independent directors must be approved by the shareholders as a whole, and by all shareholders excluding the controlling shareholder (the "Independent Shareholders"). The notes on pages 5 and 6 more fully explain the voting process and the background to each of the resolutions to be proposed at the meeting.

Voting on all of the proposed resolutions at the meeting will be conducted on a poll rather than on a show of hands. This reflects current best practice and ensures that shareholders who are not able to attend the annual general meeting, but who have appointed proxies, have their votes fully taken into account. Any directors appointed as proxies will cast their votes as directed by the shareholders. The poll results will be published via a Regulatory Information Service and on the Company's website as soon as possible after the conclusion of the annual general meeting.

Actions to be taken

A form of proxy for use at the forthcoming annual general meeting is enclosed. Whether or not you intend to be present at the meeting, you are urged to complete and return the form in accordance with the instructions printed on it so that it is received by the Company's registrars not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting. If you are a CREST member, you can submit your proxy electronically through the CREST system. There is also an electronic proxy appointment facility. Details are set out in the notes to the notice of annual general meeting on page 4. Completion and return of the form will not prevent you from attending and voting at the meeting in person if you wish.

Recommendation

Your directors consider the passing of all of the resolutions at the annual general meeting, including those to be proposed as special business, to be in the best interests of the Company and the shareholders as a whole and that they will promote the success of the Company for their benefit.

Accordingly your directors unanimously recommend shareholders to vote in favour of all of the resolutions to be proposed at the annual general meeting, as they intend to do in respect of their own beneficial shareholdings.

Yours sincerely

Ian Burke
Chairman

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the eighteenth annual general meeting (the “Meeting”) of The Rank Group Plc (the “Company”) will be held at Statesman House, Stafferton Way, Maidenhead SL6 1AY at 11am on Thursday, 16 October 2014 for the shareholders of the Company as a whole:

1. To receive the strategic report, the report of the directors and the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2014 together with the report of the independent auditor thereon.
2. To approve the directors’ remuneration policy set out on pages 65 to 70 (inclusive) of the annual report and accounts.
3. To approve the annual statement by the chairman of the remuneration committee and annual report on remuneration for the year ended 30 June 2014 set out on pages 64 and 71 to 78 (inclusive) of the annual report.
4. To declare a final dividend of 3.15p per ordinary share recommended by the directors.
5. To elect Henry Birch as a director, with effect from the end of the Meeting.
6. To re-elect Ian Burke (the non-executive chairman) as a director, with effect from the end of the Meeting.
7. To re-elect Clive Jennings as a director, with effect from the end of the Meeting.
8. To re-elect Richard Kilmorey as a director with effect from the end of the Meeting, provided that resolution 16 is passed.
9. To re-elect Owen O’Donnell as a director with effect from the end of the Meeting, provided that resolution 17 is passed.
10. To re-elect Tim Scoble as a director with effect from the end of the Meeting, provided that resolution 18 is passed.
11. To re-elect Shaa Wasmund as a director with effect from the end of the Meeting, provided that resolution 19 is passed.
12. To re-appoint Ernst & Young LLP as auditor to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting at which accounts are laid before the Company.
13. To authorise the audit committee of the board of directors to agree the remuneration of the auditor.

As special business to consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolutions of which resolution numbered 14 will be proposed as an ordinary resolution and resolution numbered 15 will be proposed as a special resolution.

14. That the Company, and any company which is or becomes its subsidiary during the period to which this resolution relates, be authorised:
 - (a) to make political donations to political parties and/or independent election candidates not exceeding £25,000 in total;
 - (b) to make political donations to political organisations other than political parties not exceeding £25,000 in total; and
 - (c) to incur political expenditure not exceeding £50,000 in total,

during the period beginning with the date of passing this resolution and ending at the end of the next annual general meeting of the Company after the date on which this resolution is passed or on the date falling 15 months from the date of passing of this resolution, whichever is earlier.

In any event, the aggregate amount of donations made and political expenditure incurred by the Company pursuant to this resolution shall not exceed £100,000.

For the purposes of this resolution, the terms ‘political donation’, ‘political parties’, ‘independent election candidates’, ‘political organisation’ and ‘political expenditure’ have the meanings given by sections 363 to 365 of the Companies Act 2006.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CONTINUED

15. That a general meeting of the Company, other than an annual general meeting, may be called on not less than 14 clear days' notice.

In accordance with Listing Rule 9.2.2ER, notice is also hereby given for the Independent Shareholders of the Company only:

16. To re-elect Richard Kilmorey as a director with effect from the end of the Meeting, provided that resolution 8 is passed.

17. To re-elect Owen O'Donnell as a director with effect from the end of the Meeting, provided that resolution 9 is passed.

18. To re-elect Tim Scoble as a director with effect from the end of the Meeting, provided that resolution 10 is passed.

19. To re-elect Shaa Wasmund as a director with effect from the end of the Meeting, provided that resolution 11 is passed.

By order of the board

Frances Bingham

Secretary

11 September 2014

The Rank Group Plc

Registered in England & Wales No. 03140769

Registered office Statesman House, Stafferton Way, Maidenhead SL6 1AY

NOTES

Entitlement to vote

1. Under the Company's articles of association (the "Articles") the holders of ordinary shares are entitled to attend the Meeting and to speak and vote thereat. Duly appointed proxies are entitled to attend, speak and vote at the Meeting.
2. Pursuant to article 47(B) of the Articles and Regulation 41 of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001, only those shareholders registered in the register of members of the Company as at 6pm on Tuesday, 14 October 2014 or, in the event that the Meeting is adjourned, in the register of members 48 hours before the time of any adjourned meeting, shall be entitled to attend or vote at the Meeting in respect of the number of shares registered in their name at the time. Changes to entries on the relevant register of members after 6pm on Tuesday, 14 October 2014 or, in the event that the Meeting is adjourned, in the register of members 48 hours before the time of any adjourned meeting, shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend or vote at the Meeting.

Entitlement to appoint proxies

3. A shareholder entitled to attend, speak and vote at the Meeting is also entitled to appoint one or more proxies to exercise all or any of his rights to attend, speak and vote instead of the shareholder, provided that, if more than one proxy is appointed, each proxy is appointed to exercise rights attaching to different shares held by that shareholder. A proxy need not be a shareholder of the Company. The appointment of a proxy will not preclude a shareholder from attending the Meeting and voting in person. A shareholder may only appoint a proxy or proxies by:
 - (a) completing and returning the form(s) of proxy accompanying this Notice in accordance with the instructions contained therein;
 - (b) going to www.sharevote.co.uk and following the instructions provided (see Note 10 below); or
 - (c) if you are a user of the CREST system (including CREST personal members), having an appropriate CREST message transmitted (see Note 6 below).
4. To appoint more than one proxy, you may either photocopy the form(s) of proxy accompanying this Notice or contact Equiniti on 0871 384 2098¹ (from the UK) or +44 121 415 7047 (from outside the UK) to request additional personalised form(s) of proxy. If more than one proxy appointment is returned in respect of the same holding of shares, either by paper or electronic communication, that proxy received last by Equiniti before the latest time for the receipt of proxies will take precedence.

Paper proxy appointment

5. The forms of proxy and the authority (if any) under which they are signed or a certified copy of such authority must be deposited at the offices of the Company's registrars – Equiniti, Aspect House, Spencer Road, Lancing BN99 6DA – by not later than 11am on Tuesday, 14 October 2014, or 48 hours before the time appointed for holding any adjourned meeting.

CREST proxy appointment

6. To appoint a proxy or to give or amend an instruction to a previously appointed proxy via the CREST system, the CREST message must be received by the issuer's agent (ID RA19) by 11am on Tuesday, 14 October 2014, or not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding an adjourned meeting. For this purpose, the time of receipt will be taken to be the time (as determined by the timestamp applied to the message by the CREST Applications Host) from which the issuer's agent is able to retrieve the message. After this time any change of instructions to a proxy appointed through CREST should be communicated to the proxy by other means. The appropriate CREST message must be properly authenticated in accordance with Euroclear UK & Ireland Limited specifications and must contain the information required for such instructions, as described in the CREST Manual (available at www.euroclear.com).

¹ Calls to this number cost 8p a minute plus network extras. Lines are open 08:30 to 17:30, Monday to Friday.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CONTINUED

7. 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 messages. 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 voting service provider(s), 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.
8. We may treat as invalid a proxy appointment sent by CREST in the circumstances set out in Regulation 35(5)(a) of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001.
9. CREST personal members or other CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s) should contact their CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s) for assistance with appointing proxies via CREST. For further information on CREST procedures, limitations and system timings, please refer to the CREST Manual.

Electronic proxy appointment

10. Electronic proxy appointment is available for the Meeting. This facility enables shareholders to lodge their proxy appointment by electronic means on a website provided by Equiniti. Shareholders who have already registered their holding(s) with the Shareview portfolio service will be sent an e-mail with full instructions on the electronic proxy voting procedure. Other shareholders may submit an electronic proxy appointment online, using the reference numbers printed on the form of proxy, at www.sharevote.co.uk where details of the voting procedure are shown. Electronic proxies will not be valid if received after 11am on Tuesday, 14 October 2014, or not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding an adjourned meeting, and will not be accepted if found to contain a computer virus.

Voting by corporate representatives

11. Any corporation which is a shareholder can appoint one or more corporate representatives who may exercise on its behalf all of its powers as a shareholder provided that if two or more representatives purport to vote in relation to the same shares:
 - (i) if they purport to exercise the power in the same way as each other, the power is treated as exercised in that way; and
 - (ii) in other cases the power is treated as not exercised.

Nominated persons

12. Any person to whom this notice is sent who is a person nominated under section 146 of the Companies Act 2006 (the "Act") to enjoy information rights (a "Nominated Person") may, under an agreement between him and the shareholder by whom he was nominated, have a right to be appointed (or to have someone else appointed) as a proxy for the Meeting. If a Nominated Person has no such proxy appointment right or does not wish to exercise it, he may, under any such agreement, have a right to give instructions to the shareholder as to the exercise of voting rights. The statement of the rights of shareholders in relation to the appointment of proxies at Note 3 above does not apply to Nominated Persons. The rights described in that paragraph can only be exercised by shareholders of the Company.

Voting and voting rights

13. As at 10 September 2014, being the latest practicable date prior to the publication of this Notice, the issued share capital of the Company was 390,683,521 ordinary shares of 13⁸/₁₀₀ pence each (excluding treasury shares) with each ordinary share carrying one vote. Therefore the total voting rights in the Company as at 10 September 2014 were 390,683,521.
14. Voting on all resolutions will be by way of poll. A poll reflects the number of voting rights exercisable by each member and so the board considers it a more democratic method of voting. If you attend the annual general meeting this year, you will be issued with a paper poll card on registration and full instructions for completing this will be given at the appropriate time during the Meeting.
15. If you have already voted by proxy you will still be able to vote by completing the paper poll card and your vote on the day will replace your previously lodged vote.
16. The results of the voting at the Meeting will be announced through a Regulatory Information Service and will appear on our website www.rank.com.

Right to ask questions

17. A shareholder attending the Meeting has the right to ask questions relating to the business being dealt with at the Meeting in accordance with section 319A of the Act. In certain circumstances prescribed by section 319A of the Act, the Company need not answer a question.

Shareholder requests under section 527 of the Act

18. Under section 527 of the Act, shareholders 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 Meeting; or (ii) any circumstance connected with an auditor of the Company ceasing to hold office since the last annual general meeting. 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 Act. Where the Company is required to place a statement on a website under section 527 of the Act, 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 Meeting includes any statement that the Company has been required under section 527 of the Act to publish on a website.

Communicating with the Company in relation to the Meeting

19. Except as provided above, shareholders who wish to communicate with the Company in relation to the Meeting should do so using the following means:

- (a) by writing to the Company Secretary at the Company's registered office address at Statesman House, Stafferton Way, Maidenhead SL6 1AY; or
- (b) by writing to the Registrars, Equiniti, Aspect House, Spencer Road, Lancing BN99 6DA.

No other methods of communication will be accepted. In particular, you may not use any electronic address provided either in this Notice or in any related documents (including, without limitation, the 2013/14 annual report and financial statements and the form(s) of proxy) to communicate with the Company for any purpose other than those expressly stated in this Notice or in such other related documents.

Inspection of documents

20. The directors' service agreements, the terms and conditions of appointment of non-executive directors and a statement of the interest of the directors (and their families) in the shares of the Company are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company during normal business hours. All of these documents will also be available for inspection on the date of the Meeting at the Company's registered office where the Meeting is being held for a period of at least 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the Meeting and until the Meeting closes.

Website

21. A copy of this Notice, and other information required by section 311A of the Act, can be found at www.rank.com.

Explanatory notes to resolutions

These notes are intended to explain the business to be transacted at the Meeting. Resolutions 1 to 14 and resolutions 16 to 19 are proposed as ordinary resolutions. This means that for each of those resolutions to be passed, more than half the votes must be in favour of the resolution. Resolution 15 is proposed as a special resolution. This means that for the resolution to be passed, at least three-quarters of the votes cast must be in favour of the resolution.

Changes to the Financial Conduct Authority's Listing Rules ("LR") which came into effect on 16 May 2014 introduced new voting requirements for the election of independent directors in listed companies with a controlling shareholder (a shareholder who exercises 30% or more of the votes). Under the new rules, the election or re-election of any director whom the Company has determined to be independent under the UK Corporate Governance Code (the "Code") must be approved by the shareholders as a whole, and separately by all shareholders excluding the controlling shareholder, Hong Leong Company (Malaysia) Berhad (the "Independent Shareholders"). Therefore at this year's Meeting there will be two votes in relation to the re-election of each non-executive director, one vote by the shareholders as a whole and another vote by the Independent Shareholders.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CONTINUED

If a vote to re-elect any of the non-executive directors is not passed by the Independent Shareholders, the Company may propose a further resolution to re-elect the relevant director between 90 and 120 days from the date of the original vote. This further resolution must be passed by a majority of the shareholders as a whole only, and there is no requirement for an additional vote by the Independent Shareholders. LR 9.2.2DG allows any non-executive director who is not re-elected by the Independent Shareholders to remain in office until the further resolution has been voted on.

Resolution 1 – Report and financial statements

The directors of the Company are required to present to shareholders the strategic report, the financial statements, the directors' report and the auditor's report on the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2014.

Resolutions 2 and 3 – Directors' remuneration policy and directors' remuneration report

These resolutions seek shareholder approval for the directors' remuneration policy, the annual report on remuneration and the annual statement by the chairman of the remuneration committee, which together form the directors' remuneration report. The directors' remuneration report can be found on pages 64 to 78 of the 2013/14 annual report and financial statements.

The Company is required to offer shareholders a binding vote on the Company's forward-looking remuneration policy at least every three years and a separate annual advisory vote on the implementation of the Company's existing remuneration policy in terms of the payments and share awards made to the directors during the year.

Resolution 2 seeks shareholder approval for the directors' remuneration policy which can be found on pages 65 to 70 (inclusive) of the 2013/14 annual report and financial statements. The directors' remuneration policy sets out the Company's future policy on directors' remuneration, including the setting of the directors' pay and the granting of share awards. Details on how the policy will be applied in practice for the 2014/15 financial year are set out in the annual report on remuneration on page 78 of the 2013/14 annual report and financial statements. If resolution 2 is approved, the effective date of the remuneration policy will be 16 October 2014. Payments will continue to be made to directors in line with existing contractual arrangements until that date. If the directors' remuneration policy is approved, all remuneration or loss of office payments by the Company to current, past or prospective directors will be made in accordance with the policy (unless a payment has separately been approved by a shareholder resolution).

Resolution 3 seeks shareholder approval for the annual statement by the chairman of the remuneration committee and the annual report on remuneration which can be found on pages 64 and 71 to 78 (inclusive) of the 2013/14 annual report and financial statements. The annual report on remuneration gives details of the implementation of the Company's current remuneration policy in terms of the payments and share awards made to the directors in connection with their performance and that of the Company during the year ended 30 June 2014. This vote is advisory and will not affect the way in which the pay policy has been implemented or the future remuneration of the director.

Resolution 4 – Declaration of a final dividend

Shareholders are required to approve the amount of the final dividend being recommended by the directors in respect of the financial year ended 30 June 2014. If approved, the dividend will be paid on 22 October 2014 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 12 September 2014.

Resolution 5 – Election of director

In accordance with the Company's articles of association each new director appointed to the board is subject to election by shareholders at the first annual general meeting following their appointment. Henry Birch was appointed by the board as chief executive of the Company since the last annual general meeting and is therefore submitting himself for election. His effective date of appointment was 6 May 2014.

Details of his experience and former roles can be found on page 48 of the 2013/14 annual report and financial statements. The board believes this information is sufficient to enable the shareholders to make an informed decision on his election. In reviewing the recommendations of the nominations committee concerning this election, the board concluded that Henry Birch makes effective and valuable contributions to the board and demonstrates commitment to the role. Accordingly, the board unanimously recommends his election.

Resolutions 6 to 11 – Re-election of directors

In accordance with provision B.7.1 of the Code, all other directors of the Company are offering themselves for re-election. The re-election of the directors will take effect at the end of the Meeting.

Biographical details of all directors seeking re-election can be found on pages 48 and 49 of the 2013/14 annual report and financial statements.

The following disclosures are made in relation to the independent non-executive directors for the purposes of LR 13.8.17R:

Lord Kilmorey – In 2012 the board wished to recruit an additional independent non-executive director who would be able to assist the Group with its lobbying efforts in the UK given the highly regulated nature of the Group's operations and the impact that changes in regulation had in the past. Lord Kilmorey who had such experience was selected for appointment to the board following an introduction to the chairman and subsequent interviews with board members. Lord Kilmorey joined the board on 1 May 2012. While there are no relationships, transactions or arrangements to be disclosed between Lord Kilmorey and the Company or with the Company's controlling shareholder or any of its associates, Lord Kilmorey does have a link with another director, Ms Wasmund, by virtue of his shareholding in and directorship of Smarta Enterprises Limited of which Ms Wasmund is also director and in which she is also a founding shareholder. Neither Lord Kilmorey nor the board considers his independence to be compromised as a consequence of this. There are no other relationships, transactions or arrangements to be disclosed pursuant to LR 13.8.17R(1) in relation to Lord Kilmorey.

Owen O'Donnell – Mr O'Donnell was selected for appointment to the board in 2008 following a search process led by the then chairman which was undertaken using an external search consultancy. At that time the Company had been looking to bring additional online gaming experience to the board. Mr O'Donnell joined the board on 11 September 2008. There are no relationships, transactions or arrangements to be disclosed pursuant to LR 13.8.17R(1) in relation to Mr O'Donnell.

Tim Scoble – was, until 30 April 2012, chief executive of GuocoLeisure Limited, a subsidiary company of the Company's controlling shareholder, and was the controlling shareholder's appointee on the board of the Company. Mr Scoble ceased to have any relationship with the controlling shareholder and its associates effective 30 April 2012, ceased to be the controlling shareholder's appointee on the board of the Company and has considered himself to be independent since that date. The board invited Mr Scoble to stay on the board as an independent non-executive director due to his experience in the leisure industry with particular expertise in developing consumer brands and service delivery. The board does not consider Mr Scoble's independence to be compromised as a consequence of his former relationship with the Company's controlling shareholder, or as a consequence of the fact that he was previously the controlling shareholder's appointee on the board of the Company. There are no other relationships, transactions or arrangements to be disclosed pursuant to LR 13.8.17R(1) in relation to Mr Scoble.

Shaa Wasmund – In 2012 the board wished to recruit an additional independent non-executive director with expertise in digital media. Ms Wasmund who had such experience was selected for appointment to the board following an introduction to the chairman and subsequent interviews with board members. She joined the board on 1 November 2012. While there are no relationships, transactions or arrangements to be disclosed between Ms Wasmund and the Company or with the Company's controlling shareholder or any of its associates, Ms Wasmund does have a link with another director, Lord Kilmorey, by virtue of her founding shareholding in, and directorship of, Smarta Enterprises Limited of which Lord Kilmorey is also director and in which he is also a shareholder. Neither Ms Wasmund nor the board considers her independence to be compromised as a consequence of this. There are no other relationships, transactions or arrangements to be disclosed pursuant to LR 13.8.17R(1) in relation to Ms Wasmund.

Following the annual evaluation exercise conducted during the year, the board considers that each of the directors proposed for re-election continues to make an effective and valuable contribution and demonstrates commitment to his or her role. Any absences from scheduled board and committee meetings have been due to unavoidable personal circumstances.

All of the independent non-executive directors offering themselves for re-election are highly experienced and have a broad knowledge of the gaming industry. In view of their career experience, the board considers that they each bring valuable skills to the board and provide an objective perspective. The effectiveness of each of the independent non-executive directors was considered at a board meeting on 13 August 2014 and the board is able to confirm that all of the independent non-executive directors standing for re-election are effective.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CONTINUED

At the same board meeting on 13 August 2014, the board considered the independence criteria in the Code, the information provided above in relation to the additional disclosures required by LR 13.8.17R and the biographies of the independent non-executive directors set out in the 2013/14 annual report and financial statements. The board was satisfied that Mr O'Donnell was independent by reference to the criteria set out in provision B.1.1 of the Code. The board acknowledged that Lord Kilmorey, Mr Scoble and Ms Wasmund did not meet all of the independence criteria set out in provision B.1.1 of the Code, however, based on the information provided above and in the relevant biographies, the board confirmed that it was satisfied that each of Lord Kilmorey, Mr Scoble and Ms Wasmund was independent in character and there were no circumstances likely to affect their character or judgement.

Accordingly, the board unanimously recommends the re-election of both the relevant non-independent directors (Mr Burke and Mr Jennings) and the independent non-executive directors (Lord Kilmorey, Mr O'Donnell, Mr Scoble and Ms Wasmund).

Resolutions 12 and 13 – Re-appointment and remuneration of auditor

The Company is required to appoint an auditor at each general meeting at which accounts are laid, to hold office until the next general meeting. On the recommendation of the audit committee, the board proposes that the existing auditors, Ernst & Young LLP, be re-appointed as auditor of the Company for a further year. Additionally, the board proposes that the audit committee be authorised to agree the auditor's remuneration.

Resolution 14 – Political donations

The Act requires the Company to seek shareholders' authority for political donations and political expenditure (each as defined in the Act) made by the Company. It has been the Company's long-standing practice not to make political donations or incur political expenditure, within the normal meaning of those terms, and it intends that this will remain the case. However, the Act is very broadly drafted and may catch activities such as funding seminars and other functions to which politicians are invited, supporting certain bodies involved in policy review and law reform and matching employees' donations to certain charities.

Accordingly, the directors have decided to seek shareholders' authority for political donations and political expenditure (each as defined in the Act) in case any of the Company's activities are inadvertently caught by the legislation. The authority sought would be capped at £100,000 for the next year and, although the Act permits shareholders to grant authority for up to four years, the directors will seek to renew this authority at each annual general meeting in accordance with current best practice. Any expenditure which may be incurred under authority of this resolution will be disclosed in next year's annual report and accounts.

Resolution 15 – Short notice of general meetings

Under the Act general meetings (other than annual general meetings) may be called on 14 clear days' notice. However, The Companies (Shareholders' Rights) Regulations 2009 increased the notice period required for general meetings of a company to 21 clear days. Companies do have the ability pursuant to the Act to reduce this notice period to not less than 14 clear days, provided that they offer facilities for shareholders to vote and appoint proxies by electronic means and that, annually, shareholder approval is obtained to reduce the minimum notice period from 21 clear days to 14 clear days. Annual general meetings must continue to be held on at least 21 clear days' notice. It is intended that the shorter notice 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 in the interests of shareholders as a whole.

The directors are, therefore, proposing this resolution to seek this shareholder approval for 14 clear days to be the minimum period of notice for all general meetings of the Company, other than annual general meetings. The approval will expire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting, when it is intended that renewal of this authority will be sought.



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