

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2021

Norcros plc (“Company”)

THIS DOCUMENT IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

If you are in any doubt as to the action you should take, you are recommended to consult your stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor, accountant, fund manager or other appropriate independent professional adviser who is authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 if you are resident in the United Kingdom or, if not, from another appropriately authorised independent professional adviser.

If you sell or otherwise transfer, or have sold or otherwise transferred, all of your shares in the Company, please send this document and the form of proxy (if you have a 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, save that you should not send such documents in or into any jurisdiction in which to do so would constitute a violation of that jurisdiction’s relevant laws or regulations.

If you sell or otherwise transfer, or have sold or otherwise transferred, only part of your holding of shares in the Company, you should retain this document and the form of proxy (if you have a form of proxy) and consult the stockbroker, bank or other agent through whom the sale or transfer was effected.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Company (“AGM”) will be held at 11.00 am on 21 July 2021 at Ladyfield House, Station Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 1BU, for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the resolutions set out below.

COVID-19

We recognise that the AGM is a very important occasion for the Board to engage with shareholders and answer any questions that shareholders might have.

The health and wellbeing of our shareholders is of paramount importance to us and we are monitoring the situation and having regard to the measures required or advised by the UK Government in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of the current situation, including UK Government advice and related public health guidance, we have taken the decision to hold a very limited AGM this year. As such, pending any material change in the situation and subject to the limited exceptions mentioned below, we will not permit any shareholder entry to or attendance at the AGM with the exception of two Directors who hold shares, so that they can form a quorate meeting and duly record the proxy votes.

If, despite the above, any shareholder would nevertheless like to attend the AGM in person, they may request permission to do so by email to the Company Secretary (info@norcros.com) and it may be possible for the Company to permit a very small number of shareholders to do so provided that they comply with whatever arrangements the Company may require to ensure compliance with the above-mentioned UK Government advice and related public health guidance. In light of the above, the Company reserves the right to refuse such permission and, if such permission is granted, to revoke such permission at any time (whether before or during the AGM) if the Director who is chair of the AGM (Chair) considers this necessary, including if any shareholder who is permitted entry to and attendance at the AGM fails to comply with the above-mentioned arrangements.

As shareholders will not be able to physically attend the AGM this year, subject to the above-mentioned limited exceptions (and, even if permitted entry to the AGM, may not be able to physically attend the AGM throughout), we strongly encourage shareholders to register your proxy votes in advance of the AGM and to appoint the Chair as their proxy, to ensure that they can vote and be represented at the AGM. In light of the above, any proxy other than the Chair may not be permitted entry to or attendance at the AGM, so they may not be able to vote. Details of how to complete and submit your proxy votes are set out below.

UK Government advice and related public health guidance in relation to COVID-19 remains subject to change and the Board intends to keep the arrangements of the AGM under close review during this period. In the event that it is necessary or desirable to make any changes to the arrangements for the AGM, we will seek to give shareholders as much notice as possible. Details of any changes to those arrangements will be made available on the “AGM 2021” section of the Company’s website (www.norcros.com) and, where appropriate, announced via a Regulatory Information Service.

In light of the above, it is unlikely that a formal question and answer session will be held. Instead, shareholders are encouraged to submit any questions relating to the business of the AGM in advance of the AGM by email to info@norcros.com and the Board will attempt to ensure, to the extent practicable, that answers are provided by 11.00 am on 16 July 2021. If the Board considers it appropriate and practicable, answers to any commonly asked or particular questions may be published on the “AGM 2021” section of the Company’s website (www.norcros.com).

Notwithstanding the exceptional arrangements for this year’s AGM the Company encourages engagement with its shareholders and if any shareholder wishes to engage with the Directors concerning any of the business to be conducted at the AGM please contact the Company Secretary by email: info@norcros.com. The Company will endeavour (but does not commit) to communicate with shareholders concerning the AGM in such manner as is reasonably practicable.

The following resolutions will be proposed at the meeting. Resolutions 1 to 9 (inclusive) will be proposed as ordinary resolutions and resolutions 10 to 13 (inclusive) will be proposed as special resolutions.

1. To receive the audited accounts and the Auditor's and Directors' Reports for the year ended 31 March 2021.
2. To declare a final dividend of 8.2 pence per ordinary share for the year ended 31 March 2021.
3. To approve the Directors' Remuneration Report (other than the part containing the Directors' Remuneration Policy) for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out in the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.
4. To re-elect Alison Littlely as a Director.
5. To re-elect David McKeith as a Director.
6. To re-elect Nick Kelsall as a Director.
7. To re-appoint BDO LLP as auditor of the Company to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting of the Company at which accounts are laid.
8. To authorise the Audit and Risk Committee of the Board of Directors to agree the remuneration of the auditor of the Company.
9. That the Directors be and are generally and unconditionally authorised pursuant to Section 551 of the Companies Act 2006 to exercise all the powers of the Company to allot shares in the Company and to grant rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into such shares (Allotment Rights), but so that:
 - (a) the maximum amount of shares that may be allotted or made the subject of Allotment Rights under such authority are shares with an aggregate nominal value of £5,392,469.20 of which:
 - (i) one half may be allotted or made the subject of Allotment Rights in any circumstances; and
 - (ii) the other half may be allotted or made the subject of Allotment Rights pursuant to any rights issue (as referred to in the Financial Conduct Authority's Listing Rules) or pursuant to any arrangements made for the placing or underwriting or other allocation of any shares or other securities included in, but not taken up under, such rights issue;
 - (b) such authority shall expire at the close of business on 21 October 2022 or, if earlier, at the conclusion of the Company's next annual general meeting;
 - (c) before such expiry, the Company may make any offer or agreement which would or might require such shares to be allotted or Allotment Rights to be granted after such expiry and the Directors may allot shares or grant Allotment Rights under any such offer or agreement as if such authority had not expired; and
 - (d) all existing authorities vested in the Directors to allot such shares or to grant Allotment Rights that remain unexercised are revoked.
10. That, subject to the passing of resolution 9 in the notice of this meeting (the Notice), the Directors be and are empowered pursuant to Sections 570 and 573 of the Companies Act 2006 to allot equity securities (as defined in Section 560(1) of that Act) for cash, pursuant to the authority conferred on them by resolution 9 in the Notice or by way of a sale of treasury shares, as if Section 561 of that Act did not apply to any such allotment or sale, provided that such power is limited to:
 - (a) the allotment or sale of such equity securities in connection with any rights issue or open offer (each as referred to in the Financial Conduct Authority's Listing Rules) or any other pre-emptive offer that is open for acceptance for a period determined by the Directors to the holders of ordinary shares in the Company on the register on any fixed record date in proportion to their holdings of such ordinary shares (and, if applicable, to the holders of any other class of equity security in the Company in accordance with the rights attached to such class), subject in each case to such exclusions or other arrangements as the Directors may deem necessary or appropriate in relation to fractions of such securities, the use of more than one currency for making payments in respect of such offer, any such shares or other securities being represented by depositary receipts, treasury shares, any legal or practical problems in relation to any territory or the regulations or requirements of any regulatory body or any stock exchange; and
 - (b) the allotment or sale of such equity securities (other than pursuant to paragraph (a) above) up to an aggregate nominal value of £404,435.00 (representing approximately 5% of the issued share capital of the Company),

and shall expire on the revocation or expiry (unless renewed) of the authority conferred on the Directors by resolution 9 in the Notice, save that, before the expiry of such power, the Company may make any offer or agreement which would or might require such equity securities to be allotted or sold after such expiry and the Directors may allot or sell such equity securities under any such offer or agreement as if such power had not expired.

Notice of Annual General Meeting continued

Norcros plc ("Company")

11. That, subject to the passing of resolution 9 in the notice of this meeting (the Notice) and, in addition to the power contained in resolution 10 set out in the Notice, the Directors be and are empowered pursuant to Sections 570 and 573 of the Companies Act 2006 to allot equity securities (as defined in Section 560(1) of that Act) for cash, pursuant to the authority conferred on them by resolution 9 in the Notice or by way of sale of treasury shares, as if Section 561 of that Act did not apply to any such allotment or sale, provided that such power is:

- (a) limited to the allotment or sale of such equity securities up to an aggregate nominal value of £404,435.00; and
- (b) used only for the purposes of financing (or refinancing, if the power is to be exercised within six months after the date of the original transaction) a transaction which the Directors determine to be an acquisition or other capital investment of a kind contemplated by the Statement of Principles on Disapplying Pre-Emption Rights most recently published by the Pre-Emption Group prior to the date of the Notice,

and shall expire on the revocation or expiry (unless renewed) of the authority conferred on the Directors by resolution 9 in the Notice save that, before the expiry of such power, the Company may make any offer or agreement which would or might require such equity securities to be allotted or sold after such expiry and the Directors may allot or sell such equity securities under any such offer or agreement as if such power had not expired.

12. That the Company be and is generally and unconditionally authorised pursuant to Section 701 of the Companies Act 2006 to make market purchases (as defined in Section 693(4) of that Act) of ordinary shares in its capital provided that:

- (a) the maximum aggregate number of such shares that may be acquired under this authority is 8,088,700;
- (b) the minimum price (exclusive of expenses) that may be paid for such a share is its nominal value;
- (c) the maximum price (exclusive of expenses) that may be paid for such a share is the maximum price permitted under the Financial Conduct Authority's Listing Rules;
- (d) such authority shall expire at the close of business on 21 October 2022 or, if earlier, at the conclusion of the Company's next annual general meeting; and
- (e) before such expiry, the Company may enter into a contract to purchase such shares which would or might require a purchase to be completed after such expiry and the Company may purchase such shares pursuant to any such contract as if such authority had not expired.

13. That any general meeting of the Company that is not an annual general meeting may be convened by not less than 14 clear days' notice.

By order of the Board



Richard H. Collins
Company Secretary
9 June 2021

Registered in England and Wales company number 3691883

Registered office:
Ladyfield House
Station Road
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 1BU

Notes

1. A member who is entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint another person, or two or more persons in respect of different shares held by him, as his proxy to exercise all or any of his rights to attend and to speak and vote at the meeting. A proxy need not be a member. **AS STATED ABOVE, IN LIGHT OF THE ONGOING CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO COVID-19 AND THE RELATED UK GOVERNMENT ADVICE AND PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE ("COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS"), SHAREHOLDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPOINT THE CHAIR OF THE AGM ("AGM CHAIR") AS THEIR PROXY AND ANY PROXY OTHER THAN THE AGM CHAIR MAY NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE MEETING.**
2. The right of a member to attend and vote at the meeting will be determined by reference to the register of members. A member must be registered on that register as the holder of ordinary shares by 11.00 am on 19 July 2021 in order to be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting as a member in respect of those shares. **AS STATED ABOVE, IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, SHAREHOLDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPOINT THE AGM CHAIR AS THEIR PROXY AND ANY SHAREHOLDER OR SHAREHOLDER'S REPRESENTATIVE, OR ANY PROXY OTHER THAN THE AGM CHAIR, MAY NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE MEETING.**
3. A member wishing to attend and vote at the meeting in person should arrive prior to the time fixed for its commencement. A member that is a corporation can only attend and vote at the meeting in person through one or more representatives appointed in accordance with Section 323 of the Companies Act 2006. Any such representative should bring to the meeting written evidence of his appointment, such as a certified copy of a board resolution of, or a letter from, the corporation concerned confirming the appointment. **AS STATED ABOVE, IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, SHAREHOLDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPOINT THE AGM CHAIR AS THEIR PROXY AND ANY SHAREHOLDER OR SHAREHOLDER'S REPRESENTATIVE, OR ANY PROXY OTHER THAN THE AGM CHAIR, MAY NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE MEETING.**
4. Any member wishing to vote at the meeting without attending in person or (in the case of a corporation) through its duly appointed representative must appoint a proxy to do so. Appointing a proxy will not prevent a member from attending and voting in person at the meeting should he so wish. **AS STATED ABOVE, IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, SHAREHOLDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPOINT THE AGM CHAIR AS THEIR PROXY AND ANY SHAREHOLDER OR SHAREHOLDER'S REPRESENTATIVE, OR ANY PROXY OTHER THAN THE AGM CHAIR, MAY NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE MEETING.**

A member can appoint a proxy by:

- logging on to <http://www.signalshares.com> and submitting a proxy appointment online by following the instructions. A member who has not previously done so will first need to register to use this facility (using the Investor Code detailed on the member's share certificate or otherwise available from the Company's registrar, Link Group); or
- submitting (if the member is a CREST member) a proxy appointment electronically by using the CREST voting service (in accordance with the notes below).

A member who would prefer a paper form of proxy may request one from the Company's registrar by calling the helpline number below. A paper proxy appointment form must be completed in accordance with the instructions that accompany it and must be delivered (together with any power of attorney or other authority under which it is signed, or a copy certified by a notary or in some other way approved by the Board) to **LINK GROUP, 10TH FLOOR, CENTRAL SQUARE, 29 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS LS1 4DL.**

All proxy appointments must be received by no later than 11.00 am on 19 July 2021 to be valid. The Company's registrar, Link Group, can be contacted on 0371 664 0300 if calling from the UK, or +44 (0) 371 664 0300 if calling from outside of the UK, or email Link at shareholderenquiries@linkgroup.co.uk. Calls are charged at the standard geographic rate and will vary by provider. Calls outside the UK will be charged at the applicable international rate. The lines are open between 9.00 am and 5.30 pm, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays in England and Wales. **AS STATED ABOVE, IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, SHAREHOLDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPOINT THE AGM CHAIR AS THEIR PROXY AND ANY SHAREHOLDER OR SHAREHOLDER'S REPRESENTATIVE, OR ANY PROXY OTHER THAN THE AGM CHAIR, MAY NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE MEETING.**

5. Any person to whom this Notice is sent who is currently nominated by a member of the Company to enjoy information rights under Section 146 of the Companies Act 2006 (a "nominated person"), may have a right under an agreement between him and that member to be appointed, or to have someone else appointed, as a proxy for the meeting. If a nominated person has no such right or does not wish to exercise it, he may have a right under such an agreement to give instructions to the member concerned as to the exercise of voting rights. The statement in note 1 above of the rights of a member in relation to the appointment of proxies does not apply to a nominated person. Such rights can only be exercised by the member concerned.
6. Voting on all resolutions will be conducted by way of a poll, rather than a show of hands. This is a more transparent method of voting as members' votes are counted according to the number of ordinary shares held. As soon as practicable following the meeting, the results of the voting at the meeting and the numbers of proxy votes cast for and against, together with the number of votes actively withheld in respect of, each of the resolutions will be announced via a Regulatory Information Service and will also be placed on the "AGM 2021" section of the Company's website (www.norcros.com).
7. As at 8 June 2021 (being the latest practicable date prior to the printing of the Annual Report and Accounts 2021), (i) the Company's issued share capital consisted of 80,887,039 ordinary shares carrying one vote each and (ii) the total voting rights in the Company were 80,887,039.

Notice of Annual General Meeting continued

Norcros plc ("Company")

Notes continued

8. Each member attending the meeting has the right to ask questions relating to the business being dealt with at the meeting which, in accordance with Section 319A of the Companies Act 2006, and subject to some exceptions, the Company must cause to be answered. Information relating to the meeting which the Company is required by the Companies Act 2006 to publish on a website in advance of the meeting may be viewed at the "AGM 2021" section of the Company's website (www.norcros.com). A member may not use any electronic address provided by the Company in the Annual Report and Accounts 2021 or in any accompanying document or in any website for communicating with the Company for any purpose in relation to the meeting other than as expressly stated in it. **AS STATED ABOVE, IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, SHAREHOLDERS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO THE BOARD IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.**
9. It is possible that, pursuant to members' requests made in accordance with Section 527 of the Companies Act 2006, the Company will be required to publish on a website a statement in accordance with Section 528 of that Act setting out any matter that the members concerned propose to raise at the meeting relating to the audit of the Company's latest audited accounts. The Company cannot require the member(s) concerned to pay its expenses in complying with those sections. The Company must forward any such statement to its auditor by the time it makes the statement available on the website. The business that may be dealt with at the meeting includes any such statement. **AS STATED ABOVE, IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, SHAREHOLDERS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO THE BOARD IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.**
10. CREST members who wish to appoint one or more proxies through the CREST system may do so by using the procedures described in the CREST voting service section of the CREST Manual. CREST personal members or other CREST sponsored members, and those CREST members who have appointed one or more voting service providers, should refer to their CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s), who will be able to take the appropriate action on their behalf. In order for a proxy appointment or a proxy instruction made using the CREST voting service to be valid, the appropriate CREST message (a CREST proxy appointment instruction) must be properly authenticated in accordance with the specifications of CREST's operator, Euroclear UK & Ireland Limited (Euroclear) and must contain all the relevant information required by the CREST Manual. To be valid, 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 be transmitted so as to be received by Link Group (ID RA10), as the Company's issuer's agent, by 11.00 am on 19 July 2021. After this time, any change of instruction to a proxy appointed through the CREST system should be communicated to the appointee through other means. The time of the message's receipt will be taken to be when (as determined by the timestamp applied by the CREST Applications Host) Link Group is first able to retrieve it by enquiry through the CREST system in the prescribed manner. Euroclear does not make available special procedures in the CREST system for transmitting any particular message. Normal system timings and limitations apply in relation to the input of CREST proxy appointment instructions. It is the responsibility of the CREST member concerned to take (or, if the CREST member is a CREST personal member or a CREST sponsored member or has appointed any voting service provider(s), to procure that his CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s) take(s)) such action as is necessary to ensure that a message is transmitted by means of the CREST system by any particular time. CREST members and, where applicable, their CREST sponsors or voting service provider(s) should take into account the provisions of the CREST Manual concerning timings as well as its section on "Practical limitations of the system". In certain circumstances, the Company may, in accordance with the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001 or the CREST Manual, treat a CREST proxy appointment instruction as invalid.
11. The Company takes all reasonable precautions to ensure that no malicious software or computer viruses (all such things being referred to here as "Malware") are present in any electronic communication which it sends but does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the opening or use of any email or attachment sent by the Company. The Company recommends that members subject all emails and attachments to suitable Malware checking procedures prior to opening or use. Any electronic communication received by the Company or Link Group (including the lodgement of an electronic proxy appointment) which is believed to or is found to contain any Malware will not be accepted.
12. Copies of Directors' service contracts and letters of appointment will be available for inspection at the registered office of the Company during normal business hours each business day and at the place of the meeting for at least 15 minutes prior to and during the meeting. In addition, an electronic copy of any such document is available by request from a member to the Company Secretary (email: info@norcros.com).
13. Information regarding this meeting, including information required by Section 311A of the Companies Act 2006, is available on the "AGM 2021" section of the Company's website (www.norcros.com). **SHAREHOLDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REGULARLY REVIEW THE "AGM 2021" SECTION OF THE COMPANY WEBSITE IN CASE OF ANY CHANGES TO THE ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING THE MEETING.**

Fair processing notice

Norcros will only process your information for the purpose of managing AGM voting and analysis of voting patterns (not how individuals cast their votes). This data will only be retained for 14 months before being deleted. For more information on how we look after your personal data please see our Privacy Policy at www.norcros.com.

Explanatory notes

The 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Company will take place at 11.00 am on 21 July 2021 at Ladyfield House, Station Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 1BU. The Directors recommend all shareholders to vote in favour of all of the resolutions to be proposed, as the Directors intend to do so in respect of their own shares (save in respect of any matters in which they are interested), and consider that they are in the best interests of the Company and the shareholders as a whole.

Explanatory notes in relation to the resolutions appear below. For the purposes of these notes, reference to 8 June 2021 in relation to the Company's issued share capital is a reference to the latest practicable date prior to the publication of the Company's annual report and accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 (Annual Report and Accounts 2021).

Resolution 1

Report and accounts

For each financial year, the Directors are required to present the audited accounts, the Auditor's Report and the Directors' Report to shareholders at a general meeting. In line with best practice, shareholders are invited to vote on the receipt of the Annual Report and Accounts 2021.

Resolution 2

Dividend

The payment of the final dividend requires approval of shareholders in general meeting. A final dividend can only be declared by the shareholders in general meeting and can not exceed the amount recommended by the Directors. The Directors' recommendation is 8.2 pence per ordinary share. If the meeting approves resolution 2, the final dividend of 8.2p per ordinary share will be paid on 30 July 2021 to ordinary shareholders who are on the register of members at the close of business on 25 June 2021.

Resolution 3

Approval of the Directors' Remuneration Report

In accordance with the Companies Act 2006, shareholders are invited to approve the Directors' Remuneration Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2021. The vote on this resolution is advisory only and the Directors' entitlement to remuneration is not conditional on it being passed.

The Directors' Remuneration Report is set out in full on pages 71 to 78 of the Annual Report and Accounts 2021. For the purposes of this resolution, the Directors' Remuneration Report does not include the Directors' Remuneration Policy which is set out on pages 63 to 70.

Resolutions 4 to 6

Election and re-election of Directors

Resolutions 4 to 6 relate to the retirement and re-election of the Company's Directors. The Company's Articles of Association require a Director who has been appointed by the Board of Directors to retire at the annual general meeting next following his or her appointment. There are no such Directors at this AGM.

The Company's Articles of Association also require certain Directors to retire from office at intervals, and that at each annual general meeting one third of eligible Directors must retire from office by rotation. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Articles of Association, the Board has determined that each of the remaining Directors shall also retire from office at the 2021 Annual General Meeting in line with best practice recommendations of the UK Corporate Governance Code. Each of the Directors intends to stand for re-election by the shareholders, with the exception of Shaun Smith who will retire from office at the AGM and not be seeking re-election as he will be retiring as a Director.

The Board confirms that, following formal performance evaluation of all of the Directors, each of the Directors standing for re-election continues to be an effective and valuable member of the Board, to make a positive contribution and to demonstrate commitment to his or her role (including making sufficient time available for Board and Committee meetings and other duties). The Board believes that the considerable and wide-ranging experience of the Directors will continue to be invaluable to the Company. The Board is satisfied that each Non-executive Director standing for re-election is independent (as defined in the UK Corporate Governance Code). Brief biographical details of all of the Directors standing for re-election can be found on pages 48 and 49 of the Annual Report and Accounts 2021.

Resolutions 7 and 8

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 end of the next such meeting. The Audit and Risk Committee has reviewed BDO LLP's performance as auditor of the Company during the year and has recommended to the Board that it be re-appointed. The Audit and Risk Committee also confirmed to the Board that its recommendation was free from third-party influence and that no restrictive contractual provisions had been imposed on the Company limiting its choice of auditor. BDO LLP has indicated that it is willing to continue as the Company's auditor for another year. Accordingly, the Directors propose the re-appointment of BDO LLP. Resolution 7 therefore proposes that BDO LLP be re-appointed as the Company's auditor to hold office with effect from the end of the meeting until the end of the next general meeting at which accounts are laid. Resolution 8 follows best practice in giving authority to the Audit and Risk Committee to agree the remuneration of the Company's auditor.

Resolution 9

Authority to allot shares

Most listed companies renew their directors' authority to issue shares at each annual general meeting. Such an authority was granted by the Company's shareholders last year and is due to expire at the conclusion of the 2021 Annual General Meeting. In accordance with best practice, this resolution seeks to renew the Directors' authority to allot shares.

Resolution 9, if passed, will renew the Directors' authority to allot shares in the capital of the Company up to a maximum aggregate nominal value of £5,392,469.20. This represents approximately two thirds of the Company's issued ordinary share capital as at 8 June 2021 and is within the limits prescribed by The Investment Association. Of this amount, ordinary shares up to an aggregate nominal value of £2,696,234.60 (which represents approximately one third of the Company's issued ordinary share capital as at 8 June 2021) can only be allotted pursuant to a rights issue.

Explanatory notes continued

Resolution 9 continued

Authority to allot shares continued

As at 8 June 2021, the Company did not hold any shares in the Company in treasury. The renewed authority will, if passed, remain in force until the close of business on 21 October 2022 or, if earlier, the conclusion of the Company's next annual general meeting.

Except for the allotment and issue of shares where necessary to satisfy the exercise of share options already granted by the Company, the Directors have no present intention of exercising this authority. The purpose of giving the Directors this authority is to maintain the Company's flexibility to take advantage of any appropriate opportunities that may arise.

Resolutions 10 and 11

Disapplication of pre-emption rights

The Directors are currently empowered, subject to certain limitations, to issue shares for cash without first offering them to existing shareholders in proportion to their existing shareholdings. That power will expire at the conclusion of the 2021 Annual General Meeting and, in accordance with best practice, resolutions 10 and 11 (which will be proposed as special resolutions) seek to renew the Directors' power to disapply pre-emption rights as referenced below and in line with the Statement of Principles published by The Pre-emption Group in March 2015.

Other than in connection with a rights issue or other similar pre-emptive issue, the power contained in resolution 10 will be limited to ordinary shares up to a maximum aggregate nominal value of £404,435.00. This amount equates to approximately 5% of the issued ordinary share capital of the Company as at 8 June 2021.

In line with the Pre-emption Group's Statement of Principles, the Directors are also seeking (at resolution 11) a power to issue up to an additional 5% of the Company's issued ordinary share capital for cash without pre-emption rights applying. In accordance with those Principles, the Company will only allot shares up to a maximum aggregate nominal value of £404,435.00 (representing 5% of the issued ordinary share capital of the Company as at 8 June 2021) on a non-pre-emptive basis under this power where that allotment is in connection with an acquisition or specified capital investment (within the meaning given in the Statement of Principles) which is announced contemporaneously with the allotment, or which has taken place in the preceding six-month period and is disclosed in the announcement of the allotment.

This renewed authority will, if passed, remain in force until the close of business on 21 October 2022 or, if earlier, the conclusion of the Company's next annual general meeting.

In accordance with the Statement of Principles (which is supported by The Investment Association and the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association), the Board confirms its intention that no more than 7.5% of the Company's issued share capital will be issued for cash on a non-pre-emptive basis during any rolling three-year period, without prior consultation with shareholders. This limit excludes any ordinary shares issued pursuant to a general disapplication of pre-emption rights in connection with an acquisition or specified capital investment.

Resolution 12

Authority to purchase own shares

This resolution, which will be proposed as a special resolution, is to give the Company the flexibility to buy back its own ordinary shares in the market as permitted by the Companies Act 2006. The authority limits the number of shares that could be purchased to an aggregate maximum of 8,088,700 ordinary shares which represents approximately 10% of the Company's issued ordinary share capital as at 8 June 2021 and sets minimum and maximum prices. The renewed authority will, if passed, remain in force until the close of business on 21 October 2022 or, if earlier, the conclusion of the Company's next annual general meeting.

The Directors have no present intention of exercising the authority to purchase the Company's ordinary shares, but will keep the matter under review, taking into account other investment opportunities. The authority will be exercised only if the Directors believe that to do so would result in an increase in earnings per share and would promote the success of the Company and be in the best interests of its shareholders generally. To the extent that any shares so purchased are held in treasury (see below), earnings per share will be enhanced until such time, if any, as such shares are resold or transferred out of treasury.

Any purchases of ordinary shares would be by means of market purchases through the London Stock Exchange. If any shares are purchased, they will be either cancelled or held in treasury. Any such decision will be made by the Directors at the time of purchase on the basis of the shareholders' best interests. Shares held in treasury can be cancelled, sold for cash or, in appropriate circumstances, used to meet obligations under employee share schemes. Any shares held in treasury would not be eligible to vote nor would any dividend be paid on any such shares. If any ordinary shares purchased pursuant to this authority are not held by the Company as treasury shares, then such shares would be immediately cancelled, in which event the number of ordinary shares in issue would be reduced.

The Directors believe that it is desirable for the Company to have this choice. Holding the repurchased shares as treasury shares gives the Company the ability to re-issue them quickly and cost effectively and provides the Company with additional flexibility in the management of its capital base.

As at 8 June 2021, there were options over approximately 3,796,806 ordinary shares in the capital of the Company, which represent approximately 4.7% of the Company's issued ordinary share capital. If the authority to purchase the Company's ordinary shares was exercised in full, these options would represent approximately 5.2% of the Company's issued ordinary share capital. As at 8 June 2021, the Company did not hold any shares in treasury.

Resolution 13

Notice of general meetings

This special resolution is required to preserve the ability of the Company to convene general meetings (other than annual general meetings) on not less than 14 clear days' notice, rather than on not less than the 21 days' notice which would otherwise be required. In order to do so, the Company's shareholders must approve the calling of such meetings on shorter notice. Resolution 13 seeks such approval.

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

The approval will be effective until the Company's next annual general meeting, when it is intended that a similar resolution will be proposed.