

COMPANY NUMBER: 00009433

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

SINGLETON BIRCH LIMITED

Articles of Association
(Adopted by special resolution passed on
30 September 2022)

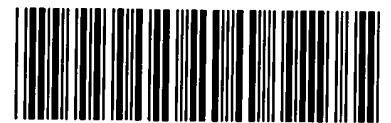


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THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
OF
SINGLETON BIRCH LIMITED (the Company)

(Adopted by special resolution passed on 30 September 2022)

INTRODUCTION

1 Interpretation

1.1 The following definitions and rules of interpretation shall apply in these Articles:

Act	the Companies Act 2006.
Articles	the Company's articles of association for the time being in force.
Business Day	a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in England on which banks in London are open for business.
Conflict	a situation in which a director has, or can have, a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interests of the Company.
Controlling Shareholder	a registered holder for the time being of not less than 75% in nominal value of the equity share capital of the Company from time to time.
Eligible Director	a director who would be entitled to vote on the matter at a meeting of directors (but excluding any director whose vote is not to be counted in respect of the particular matter).
Group	the Company, any subsidiary or any holding company of the Company from time to time, and any subsidiary from time to time of a holding company and member of the Group shall mean any of them.
holding company	has the meaning given in article 1.6.
Model Articles	the model articles for private companies limited by shares contained in Schedule 1 of the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 (<i>SI 2008/3229</i>), as amended prior to the date of adoption of these Articles and reference to a

numbered **Model Article** is a reference to that article of the Model Articles.

subsidiary has the meaning given in article 1.6.

1.2 Unless expressly provided otherwise in these Articles, words and expressions which have particular meanings in the Model Articles shall have the same meanings in these Articles, subject to which and unless the context otherwise requires, words and expressions which have particular meanings in the Act shall have the same meanings in these Articles. The final paragraph of Model Article 1 shall not apply to the Company.

1.3 Headings in these Articles are used for convenience only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of these Articles.

1.4 A reference in these Articles to a numbered **Article** is a reference to the relevant article of these Articles unless expressly provided otherwise.

1.5 Unless expressly provided otherwise in these Articles, a reference to legislation, a legislative provision or subordinate legislation is a reference to it as it is in force from time to time, taking account of:

1.5.1 any subordinate legislation made under it, whether before or after the date of adoption of these Articles; and

1.5.2 any amendment or re-enactment, whether before or after the date of adoption of these Articles and includes any legislation, legislative provision or subordinate legislation which it amends or re-enacts.

This article 1.5 shall not apply to the definition of **Model Articles** in article 1.1.

1.6 A reference to a **holding company** or **subsidiary** means a holding company or a subsidiary (as the case may be) as defined in section 1159 of the Act and for the purposes only of the membership requirement contained in sections 1159(1)(b) and (c), a company shall be treated as a member of another company even if its shares in that other company are registered in the name of (a) another person (or its nominee), by way of security or in connection with the taking of security, or (b) its nominee.

1.7 Any words following the terms **including**, **include**, **in particular** or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words, description, definition, phrase or term preceding those terms.

1.8 Where the context permits, **other** and **otherwise** are illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words preceding them.

1.9 The Model Articles shall apply to the Company, except in so far as they are modified or excluded by, or are inconsistent with, these Articles.

1.10 Model Articles 8(3), 11(2) and (3), 14(1), (2), (3) and (4), 38, 52 and 53 shall not apply to the Company.

1.11 Model Article 7 shall be amended by:

1.11.1 the insertion of the words "for the time being" at the end of Model Article 7(2)(a); and

- 1.11.2 the insertion in Model Article 7(2) of the words "(for so long as they remain the sole director)" after the words "and the director may".
- 1.11.3 the insertion of the words at the end of Model Article 7(2) "A sole director shall be entitled to exercise all powers and discretions conferred on the directors by the Act or the Articles and nothing in these Articles is to be construed as requiring the Company to have more than one director".
- 1.12 In Model Article 8(2), the words "copies of which have been signed by each eligible director" shall be deleted and replaced with the words "of which each Eligible Director has signed one or more copies".
- 1.13 Model Article 20 shall be amended by the insertion of the words "and the company secretary (if any)" before the words "properly incur".
- 1.14 In Model Article 25(2)(c), the words "evidence, indemnity and the payment of a reasonable fee" shall be deleted and replaced with the words "evidence and indemnity".
- 1.15 In Model Article 30(4), the words "the terms on which shares are issued" shall be deleted and replaced with "the rights attached to any shares".
- 1.16 In Model Article 32(a), the words "the terms on which the share was issued" shall be deleted and replaced with "the rights attached to the share".
- 1.17 Model Article 44(3) shall be amended by the insertion of the words "A demand so withdrawn shall not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made" as a new paragraph at the end of that Model Article.

DIRECTORS

2 Directors' general authority

Any or all powers of the directors (or any of them) shall be restricted in such respects, to such extent and for such duration as a Controlling Shareholder may from time to time by notice in writing to the Company prescribe.

3 Quorum for directors' meetings

- 3.1 Subject to article 3.2, the quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of directors is any two Eligible Directors or, where there is only one director in office for the time being, that director shall form a quorum.
- 3.2 For the purposes of any meeting (or part of a meeting) held pursuant to article 5 to authorise a Conflict, if there is only one Eligible Director in office other than the Interested Director(s) (as defined in article 5.1), the quorum for such meeting (or part of a meeting) shall be one Eligible Director.

4 Transactions or other arrangements with the Company

- 4.1 Subject to section 177(5) and (6) and section 182(5) and (6) of the Act, and provided the director has declared the nature and extent of their interest in accordance with the requirements of the Act, a director who is in any way, whether directly or indirectly, interested in an existing or proposed transaction or arrangement with the Company:

- 4.1.1 may be a party to, or otherwise interested in, any transaction or arrangement with the Company or in which the Company is otherwise (directly or indirectly) interested;
 - 4.1.2 shall be an Eligible Director for the purposes of any proposed decision of the directors (or committee of directors) in respect of such existing or proposed transaction or arrangement in which the director has an interest;
 - 4.1.3 shall be entitled to vote at a meeting of directors (or of a committee of the directors) or participate in any unanimous decision, in respect of such existing or proposed transaction or arrangement in which the director is interested;
 - 4.1.4 may act by themselves or their firm in a professional capacity for the Company (otherwise than as auditor) and they or their firm shall be entitled to remuneration for professional services as if they were not a director;
 - 4.1.5 may be a director or other officer of, or employed by, or a party to a transaction or arrangement with, or otherwise interested in, any body corporate in which the Company is otherwise (directly or indirectly) interested; and
 - 4.1.6 shall not, save as they may otherwise agree, be accountable to the Company for any benefit which they (or a person connected with them (as defined in section 252 of the Act)) derives from any such transaction or arrangement or from any such office or employment or from any interest in any such body corporate and no such transaction or arrangement shall be liable to be avoided on the grounds of any such interest or benefit, nor shall the receipt of any such remuneration or other benefit constitute a breach of their duty under section 176 of the Act.
- 4.2 The provisions of article 4.1.1 to article 4.1.6 (inclusive) are subject, where applicable, to any terms and conditions imposed by the directors in accordance with article 5.3.

5 Directors' conflicts of interest

- 5.1 The directors may, in accordance with the requirements set out in this article 5, authorise any Conflict proposed to them by any director which would, if not authorised, involve a director (an **Interested Director**) breaching their duty under section 175 of the Act to avoid conflicts of interest.
- 5.2 Any authorisation under this article 5 will be effective only if:
 - 5.2.1 to the extent permitted by the Act, the matter in question shall have been proposed by any director for consideration in the same way that any other matter may be proposed to the directors under the provisions of these Articles or in such other manner as the directors may determine;
 - 5.2.2 any requirement as to the quorum for consideration of the relevant matter is met without counting the Interested Director; and
 - 5.2.3 the matter was agreed to without the Interested Director voting or would have been agreed to if the Interested Director's vote had not been counted.
- 5.3 Any authorisation of a Conflict under this article 5 may (whether at the time of giving the authorisation or subsequently) impose on the Interested Director such conditions or limitations, or be granted subject to such terms, as the directors may think fit for the purposes

of dealing with the Conflict and the Interested Director will be obliged to act in accordance with any such terms and conditions.

5.4 The directors may revoke or vary such authorisation at any time, but this will not affect anything done by the Interested Director, before such revocation or variation, in accordance with the terms of such authorisation.

5.5 A director, notwithstanding their office, may be a director or other officer of, employed by, or otherwise interested (including by the holding of shares) in, any member of the Group and no further authorisation under article 5.1 shall be necessary in respect of any such interest.

5.6 A director is not required, by reason of being a director (or because of the fiduciary relationship established by reason of being a director), to account to the Company for any remuneration, profit or other benefit that they derive from or in connection with a relationship involving a Conflict which has been authorised by the directors in accordance with these Articles, by the Company or by these Articles (subject in each case to any terms, limits or conditions attaching to that authorisation) and no contract shall be liable to be avoided on such grounds.

6 Records of decisions to be kept

Where decisions of the directors are taken by electronic means, such decisions shall be recorded by the directors in a form that enables the directors to retain a copy of such decisions.

7 Number of Directors

Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, the number of directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less than one. A sole director shall have all the powers, duties and discretions conferred on or vested in the directors by these Articles.

8 Appointment and removal of directors

8.1 A Controlling Shareholder may at any time and from time to time by notice in writing to the Company appoint one or more persons to be a director or directors of the Company, whether as an additional director or to fill a vacancy, and to remove any director or directors, and any alternate director from office (whether or not appointed pursuant to this article 8).

8.2 Model Article 18 shall be amended by the inclusion of the words "notification of the director's removal is received by the Company from a Controlling Shareholder pursuant to Article 8.1" as a new paragraph (g) at the end of that Model Article.

8.3 Any removal of a director pursuant to article 8.1 shall be without prejudice to any claim for breach of contract under any employment agreement between the Company and the director so removed.

9 Appointment and removal of alternate directors

9.1 Any director (other than an alternate director) may appoint as an alternate any other director, or any other person approved by resolution of the directors, to:

9.1.1 exercise that director's powers; and

9.1.2 carry out that director's responsibilities,

in relation to the taking of decisions by the directors, in the absence of the alternate's appointor.

- 9.2 Any appointment or removal of an alternate must identify the proposed alternate and be effected by notice in writing to the Company signed by their appointor, or in any other manner approved by the directors. A notice of appointment of an alternate must contain a statement signed by the proposed alternate that he is willing to act as the alternate of his appointor.

10 Rights and responsibilities of alternate directors

- 10.1 An alternate director may act as alternate director to more than one director and has the same rights in relation to any decision of the directors as the alternate's appointor.

- 10.2 Except as these Articles specify otherwise, alternate directors:

10.2.1 are deemed for all purposes to be directors;

10.2.2 are liable for their own acts and omissions;

10.2.3 are subject to the same restrictions as their appointors; and

10.2.4 are not deemed to be agents of or for their appointors,

and, in particular, each alternate director shall be entitled to receive notice of all meetings of directors.

- 10.3 A person who is an alternate is entitled, in the absence of their appointor, to form part of the quorum and vote as alternate (in addition to their own vote if they are a director and to any other vote they may have as alternate for another appointor) in any decision-making of the directors, but:

10.3.1 only if their appointor is an Eligible Director in relation to that decision;

10.3.2 not if they are themselves a director but are not an Eligible Director in relation to that decision; and

10.3.3 they shall not count as more than one director for the purposes of determining whether there is a quorum, whether in relation to a meeting of the directors or a unanimous decision.

10.4 Where an alternate participates in a unanimous decision it is not necessary for their appointor also to participate in it.

10.5 An alternate director is not entitled to receive any remuneration from the Company for serving as an alternate director except such part of the alternate's appointor's remuneration as the appointor may direct by notice in writing given to the Company.

11 Termination of alternate directorship

11.1 An alternate director's appointment as an alternate terminates:

11.1.1 when the alternate's appointor revokes the appointment by notice to the Company in writing and such revocation has taken effect in accordance with its terms;

- 11.1.2 on the occurrence, in relation to the alternate, of any event which, if it occurred in relation to the alternate's appointor, would result in the termination of the appointor's appointment as a director;
- 11.1.3 on the death of the alternate's appointor;
- 11.1.4 when the alternate's appointor's appointment as a director terminates; or
- 11.1.5 when the alternate is removed in accordance with these Articles.

12 Secretary

The directors may appoint any person who is willing to act as the secretary for such term, at such remuneration and on such conditions as they may think fit and from time to time remove such person and, if the directors so decide, appoint a replacement, in each case by a decision of the directors.

SHARES AND SHAREHOLDERS

13 Issue of new shares

The directors shall not exercise any power of the Company to allot shares or other securities in, or to grant rights to subscribe for, or convert into, shares or other securities of, the Company without the prior written consent of a Controlling Shareholder (if any). Without limitation, the powers of the directors under section 550 of the Act are limited accordingly.

14 Quorum for general meetings

- 14.1 No business other than the appointment of the chair of the meeting is to be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum is present at the commencement of the meeting and also when that business is voted on.
- 14.2 Where the Company has only one shareholder for the time being, one qualifying person (as defined in section 318 of the Act) present at the meeting shall be a quorum. In any other case, the quorum shall be:
 - 14.2.1 a Controlling Shareholder present in person, by proxy or by authorised representative; or
 - 14.2.2 if the Company does not have a Controlling Shareholder for the time being, any two shareholders present in person, by proxy or by authorised representative.

15 Proxies

- 15.1 Model Article 45(1)(d) shall be deleted and replaced with the words "is delivered to the Company in accordance with the Articles not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the right to vote is to be exercised and in accordance with any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting (or adjourned meeting) to which they relate".
- 15.2 Model Article 45(1) shall be amended by the insertion of the words "and a proxy notice which is not delivered in such manner shall be invalid" as a new paragraph at the end of that Model Article.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

16 Change of company name

The name of the Company may be changed by:

- 16.1 a decision of the directors; or
- 16.2 a special resolution of the shareholders,
or otherwise in accordance with the Act.

17 Means of communication to be used

17.1 Subject to article 17.2, any notice, document or other information shall be deemed served on, or delivered to, the intended recipient:

- 17.1.1 if delivered by hand, on signature of a delivery receipt; or
- 17.1.2 if sent by fax, at the time of transmission; or
- 17.1.3 if sent by pre-paid United Kingdom first class post, recorded delivery or special delivery to an address in the United Kingdom, at 9.00 am on the Business Day after posting; or
- 17.1.4 if sent by pre-paid airmail to an address outside the country from which it is sent, at 9.00 am on the third Business Day after posting; or
- 17.1.5 if sent by reputable international overnight courier to an address outside the country from which it is sent, on signature of a delivery receipt; or
- 17.1.6 if sent or supplied by e-mail, one hour after the notice, document or information was sent or supplied; or
- 17.1.7 if sent or supplied by means of a website, when the material is first made available on the website or (if later) when the recipient receives (or is deemed to have received) notice of the fact that the material is available on the website; and
- 17.1.8 if deemed receipt under the previous paragraphs of this article 17.1 would occur outside business hours (meaning 9.00 am to 5.30 pm Monday to Friday on a day that is not a public holiday in the place of deemed receipt), at 9.00 am on the day when business next starts in the place of deemed receipt. For the purposes of this article, all references to time are to local time in the place of deemed receipt.

17.2 To prove service, it is sufficient to prove that:

- 17.2.1 if delivered by hand or by reputable international overnight courier, the notice was delivered to the correct address; or
- 17.2.2 if sent by fax, a transmission report was received confirming that the notice was successfully transmitted to the correct fax number; or
- 17.2.3 if sent by post or by airmail, the envelope containing the notice was properly addressed, paid for and posted; or

17.2.4 if sent by e-mail, the notice was properly addressed and sent to the e-mail address of the recipient.

18 Indemnity and insurance

18.1 Subject to article 18.2, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a relevant officer is otherwise entitled:

18.1.1 each relevant officer shall be indemnified out of the Company's assets against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred by them as a relevant officer:

(a) in the actual or purported execution and/or discharge of their duties, or in relation to them; and

(b) in relation to the Company's (or any associated company's) activities as trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the Act),

including (in each case) any liability incurred by them in defending any civil or criminal proceedings, or regulatory investigation or action, in which judgment is given in their favour or in which they are acquitted or the proceedings are, or the investigation or action is, otherwise disposed of without any finding or admission of any material breach of duty on their part or in connection with any application in which the court grants them, in their capacity as a relevant officer, relief from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the Company's (or any associated company's) affairs; and

18.1.2 the Company may provide any relevant officer with funds to meet expenditure incurred or to be incurred by them in connection with any proceedings, investigation, action or application referred to in article 18.1.1 and otherwise may take any action to enable any such relevant officer to avoid incurring such expenditure.

18.2 This article 18 does not authorise any indemnity to the extent that such indemnity would be prohibited or rendered void by any provision of the Companies Acts or by any other provision of law and any such indemnity is limited accordingly.

18.3 The directors may decide to purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of the Company, for the benefit of any relevant officer in respect of any relevant loss.

18.4 In this article 18:

18.4.1 **associated company** means any member of the Group and **associated companies** shall be construed accordingly;

18.4.2 a **relevant loss** means any loss or liability which has been or may be incurred by a relevant officer in connection with that relevant officer's duties or powers in relation to the Company, any associated company or any pension fund or employees' share scheme of the Company or associated company; and

18.4.3 a **relevant officer** means any director or other officer of the Company or an associated company, but excluding in each case any person engaged by the Company (or associated company) as auditor (whether or not that person is also a director or other officer), to the extent they act in their capacity as auditor).