Notice of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

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 seek your own personal advice from your stockbroker, accountant or other independent professional adviser authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

If you have sold or otherwise transferred all of your ordinary shares in Zotefoams plc, you should forward this document and other documents enclosed (except the personalised form of proxy) as soon as possible to the stockbroker, bank or other agent through whom the sale or transfer was effected for transmission to the purchaser or transferee.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (the 'AGM') of Zotefoams plc (the 'Company') will be held at the registered office of the Company, 675 Mitcham Road, Croydon CR9 3AL on 13 May 2015 at 10.00 am for the following purposes:

Ordinary business

To consider and, if thought fit, pass resolutions numbered 1 to 12 below as ordinary resolutions:

- 1. To receive the Annual Report and Accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2014.
- 2. To approve the Annual Statement by the Chair of the Remuneration Committee and the Annual Report on Remuneration for the year ended 31 December 2014 set out on pages 34 and 45 to 53 (inclusive) in the Annual Report and Accounts.
- 3. To declare a final dividend for the year ended 31 December 2014 of 3.7 pence per ordinary share, such dividend to be payable on 27 May 2015 to shareholders who are on the register of members of the Company at the close of business on 24 April 2015.
- 4. To elect A C Bromfield as a Director who was appointed since the last Annual General Meeting.
- 5. To elect S P Good as a Director who was appointed since the last Annual General Meeting.
- 6. To re-elect M-L Clayton as a Director who retires by rotation.
- 7. To re-elect R J Clowes as a Director who retires by rotation.
- 8. To re-elect N G Howard as a Director who retires by rotation.
- 9. To re-elect C G Hurst as a Director who retires by rotation.
- 10. To re-elect D B Stirling as a Director who retires by rotation.
- 11. That PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP be and is hereby re-appointed as Auditors of the Company to hold office from the conclusion of the AGM until the conclusion of the next general meeting at which accounts are laid before the Company.
- 12. To authorise the Directors to determine the Auditors' remuneration.

Special business

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolutions of which resolutions 13 and 16 will be proposed as ordinary resolutions and resolutions 14, 15 and 17 will be proposed as special resolutions:

- 13. That, in substitution for any equivalent authorities and powers granted to the Directors prior to the passing of this resolution, the Directors be and they are generally and unconditionally authorised pursuant to Section 551 of the Companies Act 2006 (the 'Act'):
 - (a) to exercise all powers of the Company to allot shares in the Company, and grant rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into shares of the Company (such shares, and rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into shares of the Company being 'relevant securities') up to an aggregate nominal amount of £730,240 (such amount to be reduced by the nominal amount of any allotments or grants made under paragraph (b) below in excess of £730,240); and further
 - (b) to allot equity securities (as defined in Section 560 of the Act) up to an aggregate nominal amount of £1,460,480 (such amount to be reduced by the nominal amount of any allotments or grants made under paragraph (a) above) in connection with an offer by way of rights issue:
 - (i) in favour of holders of ordinary shares in the capital of the Company, where the equity securities respectively attributable to the interests of all such holders are proportionate (as nearly as practicable) to the respective number of ordinary shares in the capital of the Company held by them; and
 - (ii) to holders of any other equity securities as required by the rights of those securities or as the Directors otherwise consider necessary,

but subject to such exclusions or other arrangements as the Directors may deem necessary or expedient to deal with treasury shares, fractional entitlements or legal, regulatory or practical problems arising under the laws or requirements of any overseas territory or by virtue of shares being represented by depository receipts or the requirements of any regulatory body or stock exchange or any other matter whatsoever;

- (c) provided that, unless previously revoked, varied or extended, this authority shall expire on the earlier of 30 June 2016 and the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company, except that the Company may at any time before such expiry make an offer or agreement which would or might require relevant securities to be allotted after such expiry and the Directors may allot relevant securities in pursuance of such an offer or agreement as if this authority had not expired.
- 14. That the Directors be and they are empowered pursuant to Section 570(1) of the Act to allot equity securities (as defined in Section 560(1) of the Act) of the Company wholly for cash pursuant to the authority of the Directors under Section 551 of the Act conferred by resolution 13 above, and/or by way of a sale of treasury shares for cash (by virtue of Section 573 of the Act), in each case as if Section 561(1) of the Act did not apply to such allotment provided that:

- (a) the power conferred by this resolution shall be limited to:
 - (i) the allotment of equity securities and sale of treasury shares for cash in connection with an offer of, or invitation to apply for, equity securities (but in the case of the authority granted under paragraph (b) of resolution 13, by way of a rights issue only):
 - (A) in favour of holders of ordinary shares in the capital of the Company, where the equity securities respectively attributable to the interests of all such holders are proportionate (as nearly as practicable) to the respective number of ordinary shares in the capital of the Company held by them; and
 - (B) to holders of any other equity securities as required by the rights of those securities or as the Directors otherwise consider necessary,

but subject to such exclusions or other arrangements as the Directors may deem necessary or expedient to deal with treasury shares, fractional entitlements or legal, regulatory or practical problems arising under the laws or requirements of any overseas territory or by virtue of shares being represented by depository receipts or the requirements of any regulatory body or stock exchange or any other matter whatsoever; and

- (ii) in the case of the authority granted under paragraph (a) of resolution 13 and/or in the case of any sale of treasury shares for cash, the allotment, otherwise than pursuant to sub-paragraph (i) above, of equity securities or sale of treasury shares up to an aggregate nominal value equal to £109,536; and
- (b) unless previously revoked, varied or extended, this power shall expire on the earlier of 30 June 2016 and the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company except that the Company may before the expiry of this power make an offer or agreement which would or might require equity securities to be allotted (and treasury shares to be sold) after such expiry and the Directors may allot equity securities (and sell treasury shares) in pursuance of such an offer or agreement as if this power had not expired.
- 15. That the Company be and is hereby unconditionally and generally authorised for the purposes of Section 701 of the Act to make market purchases (within the meaning of Section 693(4) of the Act) of its Ordinary Shares of 5 pence each ('Ordinary Shares') provided that:
 - (a) the maximum number of Ordinary Shares authorised to be purchased is 4,381,444;
 - (b) the minimum price which may be paid for any such Ordinary Share is 5 pence;
 - (c) the maximum price which may be paid for an Ordinary Share shall be an amount equal to 105% of the average middle market quotations for an Ordinary Share as derived from the London Stock Exchange Daily Official List for the five business days immediately preceding the day on which the Ordinary Share is contracted to be purchased; and
 - (d) this authority shall, unless previously renewed, revoked or varied, expire on the earlier of 30 June 2016 and the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting, but the Company may enter into a contract for the purchase of Ordinary Shares before the expiry of this authority which would or might be completed (wholly or partly) after its expiry.

16. That:

- (a) the Zotefoams Share Incentive Plan (the 'SIP'), a copy of the rules of which has been produced to this Meeting and, for the purposes of identification only, initialled by the Chairman and a summary of the principal terms of which is set out in the Appendix to this Notice of Annual General Meeting, be and is hereby approved; and
- (b) the Directors be and are hereby authorised to do all such acts and things as they may consider necessary or desirable to give effect to the SIP and to establish other employees' share schemes for the benefit of employees located outside the UK based on the SIP but modified to take account of local tax, exchange control or securities laws in overseas territories provided that any shares made available under any such further schemes are treated as counting against the limits on individual or overall participation in the SIP.
- 17. That a general meeting other than an annual general meeting may be called on not less than 14 clear days' notice.

Dated: 27 March 2015

By order of the Board

Registered Office: 675 Mitcham Road Crovdon CR9 3AL

J W Kindell **Company Secretary**

Notice of the 2015 Annual General Meeting continued

Notes

- (i) Pursuant to Part 13 of the Companies Act 2006 and to Regulation 41 of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001 (as amended), only those members registered in the register of members of the Company at the close of business on 11 May 2015 (or if the AGM is adjourned, 48 hours before the time fixed for the adjourned AGM) shall be entitled to attend and vote at the AGM in respect of the number of shares registered in their name at that time. In each case, changes to the register of members after such time shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend or vote at the AGM.
- (ii) If you wish to attend the AGM in person please bring the accompanying attendance card and present this to the Company's reception desk on arrival.
- (iii) A member who is entitled to attend, speak and vote at the AGM may appoint a proxy to attend, speak and vote instead of him. A member may appoint more than one proxy provided each proxy is appointed to exercise rights attached to different shares (so a member must have more than one share to be able to appoint more than one proxy). A proxy need not be a member of the Company but must attend the AGM in order to represent you. A proxy must vote in accordance with any instructions given by the member by whom the proxy is appointed. Appointing a proxy will not prevent a member from attending in person and voting at the AGM (although voting in person at the AGM will terminate the proxy appointment). A proxy form is enclosed or has been sent to you separately. The notes to the proxy form include instructions on how to appoint the Chairman of the AGM or another person as a proxy. You can only appoint a proxy using the procedures set out in these notes and in the notes to the proxy form.
- (iv) To be valid, a proxy form, and the original or duly certified copy of the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed or authenticated, should reach the Company's registrars, Computershare Investor Services plc, The Pavilions, Bridgwater Road, Bristol BS99 6ZY, by no later than 10.00 am on 11 May 2015.
- (v) The proxy form includes details on how to vote electronically. The notes to the proxy form also include instructions on how to appoint a proxy by using the CREST proxy appointment service. You may not use any electronic address provided either in this notice of AGM or in any related documents (including the proxy form) to communicate with the Company for any purposes other than those expressly stated.
- (vi) In the case of joint holders of shares, the vote of the first named in the register of members who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, shall be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of other joint holders.
- (vii) The following information is available at www.zotefoams.com: (1) the matters set out in this notice of AGM; (2) the total numbers of shares in the Company, and shares in each class, in respect of which members are entitled to exercise voting rights at the AGM; (3) the totals of the voting rights that members are entitled to exercise at the AGM, in respect of the shares of each class; and (4) members' statements, members' resolutions and members' matters of business received by the Company after the first date on which notice of the AGM was given.
- (viii) If you are a person who has been nominated by a member to enjoy information rights in accordance with Section 146 of the Companies Act 2006, notes (iii) to (v) above do not apply to you (as the rights described in these notes can only be exercised by members of the Company) but you may have a right under an agreement between you and the member by whom you were nominated to be appointed or to have someone else appointed, as a proxy for the meeting. If you have no such right or do not wish to exercise it, you may have a right under such an agreement to give instructions to the member as to the exercise of voting rights.
- (ix) A member that is a company or other organisation not having a physical presence cannot attend in person but can appoint someone to represent it. This can be done in one of two ways: either by the appointment of a proxy (described in notes (iii) to (v) above) or of a corporate representative. Members considering the appointment of a corporate representative should check their own legal position, the Company's Articles of Association and the relevant provision of the Companies Act 2006.
- (x) Members attending the AGM have the right to ask, and, subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, the Company must cause to be answered, any questions relating to the business being dealt with at the AGM.
- (xi) As at the close of business on 26 March 2015, the Company's issued share capital comprised 43,814,442 ordinary shares of 5 pence each. Each ordinary share carries the right to one vote at a general meeting of the Company. No ordinary shares were held in treasury and accordingly the total number of voting rights in the Company as at the close of business on 26 March 2015 is 43,814,442.
- (xii) Shareholders should note that it is possible that, pursuant to requests made by shareholders of the Company under Section 527 of the Companies Act 2006, the Company may be required to publish on a website a statement setting out any matter relating to: (i) the audit of the Company's accounts (including the auditors' report and the conduct of the audit) that are to be laid before the AGM; or (ii) any circumstance connected with the auditors of the Company ceasing to hold office since the previous meeting at which annual accounts and reports were laid in accordance with Section 437 of the Companies Act 2006. The Company may not require the shareholders requesting any such website publication to pay its expenses in complying with Sections 527 or 528 of the Companies Act 2006. Where the Company is required to place a statement on a website under Section 527 of the Companies Act 2006, it must forward the statement to the Company's auditors not later than the time when it makes the statement available on the website. The business which may be dealt with at the AGM includes any statement that the Company has been required under Section 527 of the Companies Act 2006 to publish on a website.
- (xiii) Copies of the Executive Directors' service contracts with the Company and any of its subsidiary undertakings, deeds of indemnity in favour of the Directors and letters of appointment of the Non-Executive Directors are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company during the usual business hours on any weekday (Saturday, Sunday or public holidays excluded) from the date of this notice until the conclusion of the AGM.

Explanatory notes to the resolutions

Ordinary business

Resolution 1 - Receiving the Annual Report and Accounts

Shareholders will be asked to receive the Company's Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2014, as required by law.

Resolution 2 - Directors' Remuneration Report

Resolution 2 seeks Shareholder approval of the Directors' Remuneration Report for the year ended 31 December 2014 which can be found on pages 34, and 45 to 53 (inclusive) of the Annual Report and Accounts.

The Company's Auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, have audited those parts of the Directors' Remuneration Report that are required to be audited and their report may be found on pages 58 to 61 of the Annual Report and Accounts.

The Shareholders approved the Directors' Remuneration Policy at the AGM held on 20 May 2014 and it became effective immediately. As there have been no changes to the Directors' Remuneration Policy, there is no need to seek further approval of it at this year's AGM. The current intention is to submit the Directors' Remuneration Policy for Shareholder approval at the AGM scheduled for 2017, unless, in the interim, there are specific changes that require Shareholder approval. The Directors' Remuneration Policy, for ease of reference, has been included in the Annual Report and Accounts on pages 35 to 44 (inclusive).

Resolution 3 - Declaration of dividend

This resolution concerns the Company's final dividend payment. The Directors are recommending a final dividend of 3.7 pence per ordinary share in respect of the year ended 31 December 2014 which, if approved, will be payable on 27 May 2015 to the shareholders on the register of members on 24 April 2015.

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Resolutions 4 to 10 - Election and Re-election of Directors

Resolutions 4 and 5 concern the election of A C Bromfield and S P Good, who were both appointed to the Board since the last AGM was held on 20 May 2014.

The UK Corporate Governance Code requires all directors of FTSE 350 companies to stand for annual re-election. Whilst the Company is not within the FTSE 350, emerging best practice for listed companies is to follow this requirement and, therefore, the Board has decided for this year that all the Directors will stand for annual re-election. Resolutions 6 to 10 concern the re-election of M-L Clayton, R J Clowes, N G Howard, C G Hurst and D B Stirling.

Biographies for the Directors are set out on pages 26 and 27 of the report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014. The Chairman having undertaken performance reviews of the Directors and the Non-Executive Directors of the Chairman, the Board is satisfied that each Director continues to be effective and demonstrates commitment to the role and recommends that each Director should be elected or re-elected as the case may be.

Resolutions 11 and 12 - Re-appointment of Auditors and their remuneration

Resolution 11 concerns the re-appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's Auditors, to hold office until the conclusion of the Company's next general meeting where accounts are laid.

Resolution 12 authorises the Directors to determine the Auditors' remuneration.

Special Business

Resolution 13 - Power to allot shares

This resolution grants the Directors authority to allot shares in the capital of the Company and other relevant securities up to an aggregate nominal value of £730,240, representing approximately one-third (33.33%) of the nominal value of the issued ordinary share capital of the Company as at 26 March 2015, being the latest practicable date before publication of this notice. In addition, in accordance with the latest institutional guidelines issued by the Investment Management Association ('IMA'), paragraph (b) of resolution 13 grants the Directors authority to allot further equity securities up to an aggregate nominal value of £1,460,480, representing approximately two-thirds (66.67%) of the nominal value of the issued ordinary share capital of the Company as at 26 March 2015, being the latest practicable date before publication of this notice. This additional authority may be only applied to fully preemptive rights issues.

The intention of the authority granted pursuant to paragraph (b) of resolution 13 is to preserve maximum flexibility and if the Directors do exercise this authority, they intend to follow best practice as regards its use.

The Company does not currently hold any shares as treasury shares within the meaning of Section 724 of the Companies Act 2006 ('Treasury Shares').

The Directors do not have any present intention of exercising the authorities conferred by resolution 13 but they consider it desirable that the specified amount of authorised but unissued share capital is available for issue so that they can more readily take advantage of possible opportunities.

Unless revoked, varied or extended, this authority will expire at the conclusion of the next AGM of the Company or 30 June 2016, whichever is the earlier.

Resolution 14 – Authority to allot shares disregarding pre-emption rights

This resolution authorises the Directors in certain circumstances to allot equity securities for cash other than in accordance with the statutory pre-emption rights (which require a company to offer all allotments for cash first to existing shareholders in proportion to their holdings). The relevant circumstances are either where the allotment takes place in connection with a rights issue or the allotment is limited to a maximum nominal amount of £109,536, representing approximately 5% of the nominal value of the issued ordinary share capital of the Company as at 26 March 2015 being the latest practicable date before publication of this notice. Unless revoked, varied or extended, this authority will expire at the conclusion of the next AGM of the Company or 30 June 2016, whichever is the earlier.

The Directors consider that the power proposed to be granted by this resolution is necessary to retain flexibility, although they do not have any intention at the present time of exercising such power.

Resolution 15 - Authority to purchase shares (market purchases)

This resolution authorises the Board to make market purchases of up to 4,381,444 ordinary shares (representing approximately 10% of the Company's issued ordinary shares as at 26 March 2015, being the latest practicable date before publication of this notice). Shares so purchased may be cancelled or held as Treasury Shares. The authority will expire at the end of the next AGM of the Company or 30 June 2016, whichever is the earlier. The Directors intend to seek renewal of this authority at subsequent AGMs.

The minimum price that can be paid for an ordinary share is 5 pence being the nominal value of an ordinary share. The maximum price that can be paid is 5% over the average of the middle market prices for an ordinary share, derived from the Daily Official List of the London Stock Exchange, for the five business days immediately before the day on which the share is contracted to be purchased.

The Directors intend to exercise this right only when, in light of the market conditions prevailing at the time and taking into account all relevant factors (for example, the effect on earnings per share), they believe that such purchases are in the best interests of the Company and shareholders generally. The overall position of the Company will be taken into account before deciding upon this course of action. The decision as to whether any such shares bought back will be cancelled or held in treasury will be made by the Directors on the same basis at the time of the purchase.

As at 26 March 2015, being the latest practicable date before publication of this notice, there were outstanding awards under the Company's long-term incentive schemes in respect of 656,921 ordinary shares in the capital of the Company representing 1.5% of the Company's issued ordinary share capital. If the authority to purchase the Company's ordinary shares were exercised in full, such options would represent 1.7% of the Company's issued ordinary share capital.

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Resolution 16 - Approval of new all-employees' share incentive plan

This resolution seeks the Shareholders' approval of a new 'all-employees' share scheme, to be called The Zotefoams Share Incentive Plan (the 'SIP').

The SIP will be registered with Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs as a 'Schedule 2 share incentive plan' for the purposes of Part 7 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003. The Directors' authority to issue new shares for the purposes of the SIP will expire on the tenth anniversary of the passing of the resolution approving the SIP.

The principal terms of the SIP are summarised in the Appendix. The SIP provides for the acquisition by employees within the Zotefoams Group of beneficial interests in fully-paid ordinary shares to be held on their behalf by a plan trustee subject to the rules of the SIP. There is a limit on the issue of new shares for the purposes of the SIP as described further in the Appendix.

A copy of the rules of The Zotefoams Share Incentive Plan is available for inspection at the registered office of the Company during the usual business hours on any weekday (Saturday, Sunday or public holidays excluded) from the date of this notice until the conclusion of the AGM. A copy is also available on the Company's website.

Resolution 17 - Notice period for general meetings

Under the Companies Act 2006, a listed company must give at least 21 days' notice of its general meetings. However, this Act enables general meetings (other than AGMs) to be held on shorter notice of not less than 14 days provided the shareholders have given their consent at the previous AGM or a general meeting held since the last AGM. Resolution 17 seeks such approval similar to the resolution that was passed last year. The approval will be effective until the Company's next AGM, when it is intended that a similar resolution will be proposed. The Directors will always endeavour to give as much notice as possible of general meetings, but would like to have the flexibility to call a general meeting on the shorter permitted notice period for time sensitive matters that are clearly in the shareholders' interests. If the authority is used, the Company will offer the ability, as required by the Companies Act 2006, to vote electronically.

Recommendation

The Directors consider that the proposals being put to the shareholders at the AGM are in the best interests of the Company and of the shareholders as a whole. Accordingly, the Directors recommend that you vote in favour of the resolutions set out in the Notice of the AGM, as they intend to do in respect of their own beneficial holdings of ordinary shares.

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Summary of the principal terms of The Zotefoams Share Incentive Plan (the 'SIP')

General

The SIP is intended to be, and will be registered with Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs as, a 'qualifying Schedule 2 share incentive plan' as mentioned in section 488 and schedule 2, Income Tax (Earnings & Pensions) Act 2003 (the 'relevant provisions'). The SIP provides for shares to be acquired by eligible employees as outlined below. Shares acquired under the SIP must be held by the plan trustee (the 'SIP Trustee').

Eligibility

All UK resident employees of the Zotefoams Group (the 'Group') who have been employed for a minimum period (as permitted by the relevant provisions) are eligible to participate in the SIP on any occasion on which awards of shares are proposed to be made.

The Directors may decide to create a scheme similar to the SIP for the benefit of employees located outside the UK based on the SIP but modified to take account of local tax, exchange control or securities laws in overseas territories provided that any shares made available under any such further schemes are treated as counting against the limits on individual or overall participation in the SIP.

Partnership Shares

Eligible employees may be invited to agree that up to £1,800 pa (or such other amount as may be specified in the relevant provisions) of pre-tax salary may be applied in the acquisition of shares in the Company ('Partnership Shares') to be held on his or her behalf by the SIP Trustee. Insofar as employees elect to acquire Partnership Shares in any year, the Directors may procure the transfer to such participants of additional shares ('Matching Shares'), free of charge, but not to exceed (currently) two free Matching Shares for each Partnership Share so acquired. Subject to the aforementioned limit, the number of Matching Shares made available in any year is at the absolute discretion of the Directors and may be determined by reference to the performance of the Group over such period as the Directors may determine. A participant may at any time withdraw his or her Partnership Shares from the SIP and will be required to do so on leaving employment. The Directors may stipulate that if a participant leaves employment (otherwise than in consequence of death, disability, redundancy, retirement or the company or business in which he or she is employed being sold outside the Group) or withdraws his or her Partnership Shares within a period not exceeding three years, his or her Matching Shares will then be forfeited.

Free Shares

If the Directors so determine, the SIP Trustee may, each year, invite eligible employees to accept an appropriation of shares in the Company with a market value of up to (currently) £3,600 per employee ('Free Shares'). Such Free Shares must be appropriated amongst participating eligible employees on a 'similar terms' basis except that, subject to the relevant provisions, the whole or a proportion of such Free Shares may be appropriated by reference to performance determined according to such objective criteria and over such period as the Directors may specify. Participants must agree to allow their Free (and Matching) Shares to remain with the SIP Trustee throughout a holding period specified by the Directors of between three and five years. The Directors may stipulate that if a participant leaves the Group (otherwise than as mentioned above) within three years after they were appropriated to him or her, his or her Free Shares will then be forfeited.

Sourcing of shares

Free and Matching Shares will be purchased in the market or, subject to the limits described below, subscribed for by the SIP Trustee using funds contributed by the respective employer companies within the Group.

Reinvestment of dividends on SIP Shares

The Directors may determine that dividends on shares held in the SIP on behalf of participants may be reinvested in acquiring additional shares in the Company to be held in the SIP. Dividends reinvested will be exempt from income tax.

Tax benefits for participants

Under current tax rules, salary applied in the acquisition of Partnership Shares is free of tax and National Insurance contributions ('NICs'). Free and Matching Shares will be acquired free of income tax and NICs. For so long as shares are held in the SIP, any gain in their value is exempt from capital gains tax. Participants may be charged to income tax and NICs if shares are withdrawn from the SIP within five years. Participating companies will generally be entitled to relief from corporation tax for expenses incurred in funding the acquisition of Free and Matching Shares for the purposes of the SIP and for the costs of establishing and administering the SIP.

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Rights of participants

Participants will beneficially own shares held in the SIP by the SIP Trustee on their behalf. Except as mentioned above, all dividends and other distributions received in respect of such shares will be passed onto the participants.

The SIP Trustee will exercise voting rights in respect of such shares only in accordance with directions in writing given by the participants. In the event of a takeover or a rights or capitalisation issue or other variation of the Company's share capital, participants may instruct the SIP Trustee how to act or vote on their behalf.

Overall limit on the issue of new shares

The Company may issue shares for the purposes of making awards under the SIP. However, the number of shares which may be issued, or in respect of which rights to subscribe for new shares may be granted, on any day under or for the purposes of the SIP, when added to the number of shares which have been issued or remain issuable under rights to subscribe for shares granted under or for the purposes of any other executive or employees' share scheme established by the Company, in the period of 10 years ending on that day, shall not exceed 10% of the issued ordinary share capital of the Company.

Amendment of the SIP

The Directors may amend the SIP, but the provisions relating to the eligibility of participants, limitations on the number of shares issued for the purposes of the SIP, individual participation limits, the basis for determining a participant's entitlement, the rights attaching to shares and the adjustment thereof if there is a capitalisation, rights issue, open offer, sub-division or consolidation of shares or reduction of capital or any variation of capital, cannot be altered to the advantage of participants without the prior approval of shareholders in general meeting except for minor amendments to benefit the administration of the SIP, to take account of a change in legislation or to obtain or maintain favourable tax, exchange control or regulatory treatment for participants in the SIP or for any member of the Group.

This summary does not form part of the rules of the SIP and should not be taken as affecting the interpretation of their detailed terms and conditions. The Directors reserve the right up to the time of the Annual General Meeting to make such amendments and additions to the rules of the SIP as may be appropriate provided that such amendments do not conflict in any material respect with this summary.