

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF:

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RESPIRATORY VIRUSES

Incorporated on 6 December 2006

Private Limited Company by guarantee without share capital use of 'Limited' exemption

THE TRUSTEE ACT 2000

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

THE CHARITIES ACT 2011

Company No. 6021083

Charity No. 1118829

ADOPTED BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION DATED 20 November 2024

## **The company name**

### **1. INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RESPIRATORY VIRUSES LTD**

Company No. 6021083

Charity No. 1118829

(and in this document, it is called the 'charity' and is known as International Society for Respiratory Viruses)

## **Interpretation**

### **2. In these Articles:**

Address	Means a postal address or, for the purposes of electronic communication, a fax number, an e-mail or postal address or a telephone number for receiving text messages in each case registered with the charity;
The Articles	Means the charity's Articles of Association;
The Charity	Means the company intended to be regulated by the Articles;
Clear day	In relation to the period of a notice means a period excluding:  the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given; and  the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;
The Commission	Means the Charity Commission for England and Wales;
Companies Acts	Means the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006) insofar as they apply to the charity;
The Directors	Means the Directors of the charity. The directors are charity trustees as defined by section 177 of the Charities Act 2011;
Document	Includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form; 'electronic form' has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;
The memorandum	Means the charity's memorandum of association;
The seal	Means the common seal of the charity if it has one;
The United Kingdom	Means Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

and words importing one gender shall include all genders, and the singular includes the plural and vice versa.

Unless the context otherwise requires, words or expressions contained in the Articles have the same meaning as in the Companies Acts but excluding any statutory modification not in force when this constitution becomes binding on the charity.

Apart from the exception mentioned in the previous paragraph a reference to an Act of Parliament includes any statutory modification or re-enactment of it for the time being in force.

The charity's registered office is situated in England and Wales.

3.

### **Liability of members**

The liability of the members is limited to a sum not exceeding £10, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of its being wound up while they are a member or within one year after they cease to be a member, for:

- 3.1 Payment of the charity's debts and liabilities incurred before they cease to be a member;
- 3.2 Payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- 3.3 Adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

4.

### **Objects**

The charity's objects ("the Objects") are the relief of sickness and the preservation of health by promoting the prevention, detection, treatment and control of influenza and other respiratory virus diseases throughout the world.

In furtherance of the Objects the Directors and the Councillors (where delegated authority from the Directors) shall exchange and disseminate information through facilitating the interaction of scientists and public health specialists to promote international collaborative efforts against such diseases and for this purpose shall have the following powers:

- 4.1 To provide and to promote the provision of care and treatment of people suffering from influenza and other respiratory virus diseases;
- 4.2 To increase public awareness regarding the problems and circumstances of people with influenza and other respiratory virus diseases;
- 4.3 To make appropriate representations to relevant national and international bodies and other organisations;
- 4.4 To conduct and engage or provide sponsorship grants or other financial assistance including the donation of equipment or apparatus into research into influenza and other respiratory virus diseases;
- 4.5 To convene seminars, conferences and other types of meeting to discuss the prevention, detection, treatment and control of influenza and other respiratory virus diseases;

- 4.6 To publish educational material including, but without limitation to the foregoing research papers, books, magazines and periodicals relating to influenza and other respiratory virus diseases;
- 4.7 To exchange such Information with other national and international bodies having similar objects or with individuals with an interest in influenza and other respiratory virus diseases;
- 4.8 To promote and encourage appropriate training courses and other facilities which enhance the understanding of influenza and other respiratory virus diseases; and
- 4.9 To provide and encourage research into the causes and alleviation of influenza and other respiratory virus diseases.

5.

### **Powers**

The charity has power to do anything which is calculated to further its Object(s) or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, the charity has power:

- 5.1 To raise funds. In doing so, the charity must not undertake any taxable permanent trading activity and must comply with any relevant statutory regulations;
- 5.2 To buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;
- 5.3 To sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the charity. In exercising this power, the charity must comply as appropriate with sections 117 and 122 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 5.4 To borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of the property belonging to the charity as security for repayment of the money borrowed or as security for a grant or the discharge of an obligation. The charity must comply as appropriate with sections 124 • 126 of the Charities Act 2011 if it wishes to mortgage land;
- 5.5 To co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities and to exchange information and advice with them;
- 5.6 To establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any of the charitable purposes included in the Objects;
- 5.7 To acquire, merge with or to enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other charity;
- 5.8 To set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves;
- 5.9 To employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of the charity. The charity may employ or remunerate a Director or Officer or other Councillor only to the extent it is permitted to do so by article 39 ;
- 5.10 To:
  - 5.10.1 Deposit or invest funds;

5.10.2 Employ a professional fund-manager; and

5.10.3 Arrange for the investments or other property of the charity to be held in the name of a nominee;

In the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000;

5.11 To provide indemnity insurance for the Directors in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011;

5.12 To pay out of the funds of the charity the costs of forming and registering the charity both as a company and as a charity.

### **Application of income and property**

6.

6.1 The income and property of the charity shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects.

6.2

6.2.1 A Director is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the charity or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the charity.

6.2.2 A Director may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the charity's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011.

6.2.3 A Director may receive an indemnity from the charity in the circumstances specified in article 40.

6.2.4 A Director may not receive any other benefit or payment unless it is authorised by article 39.

6.3 Subject to article 39, none of the income or property of the charity may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the charity. This does not prevent a member who is not also a Councillor receiving:

6.3.1 A benefit from the charity in the capacity of a beneficiary of the charity;

6.3.2 Reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the charity.

### **General Structure**

7.

Company structure

The structure of the Company consists of:-

- 7.1 **The Members** - who have the right to attend general meetings and have important powers under the Articles of Association and the Act; in particular, the members may take decisions in relation to changes to the articles themselves.
- 7.2 **The Directors** - who are responsible for managing the financial processes and regulatory processes of the charity. There are five Directors, three of whom shall be required to be domiciled in the UK for these purposes. They are Officers of the International Society for Respiratory Viruses (ISRV), and sit on the Executive Committee. As such they may be elected, or *ex officio*, or appointed by the Council to fulfil specific Officer roles (Article 25). The Treasurer is required to be a Director of the company, domiciled in the UK with fiduciary responsibility. The five Directors are also the Trustees of the charity.
- 7.3 **The Councillors** - who sit on the Council and hold regular meetings during the period between general meetings, and may recommend strategic goals and actions to be taken by the Executive Committee.
- 7.3.1 The Councillors are elected by the members for a three-year term by rotation. The Councillors may serve one additional three-year term if re-elected by the membership *or re-appointed by Council*.
- 7.3.2 The number of Councillors is limited to 30, including Officers (Clause 7.4) but excluding *ex officio* members (Honorary members and the Editor-in-Chief). The Council holds the Executive Committee to account. The Council includes five Directors/Trustees who also sit on the Executive Committee.
- 7.4 **The Officers** - who sit on the Executive Committee and hold regular meetings during the period between general meetings, and generally manage day to day activities of the charity. The Officers are all members of Council and are ratified by Council and may hold one of the following offices:
- 7.4.1 Chair (who is Chair of Council);
- 7.4.2 Deputy Chair (there may be two or three such Deputies);
- 7.4.3 Treasurer (The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Council and shall be a Director of the company with fiduciary responsibility and is a UK bank signatory).
- 7.4.4 Chairs of any Standing Committees approved by Council (such as the Scientific Meetings Committee and the Education Awards Committee);
- 7.4.5 Chairs of each of the Special Interest Groups.
- 7.5 **Non-voting *ex officio* members** – who attend Council/Executive committee meetings when invited
- 7.5.1 The Editor in Chief of the IORV Journal shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee (*ex officio*) and be a member of Council.
- 7.5.2 Honorary members – who sit on the Council are past Chairs or Presidents of Council and are invited to attend Council in an advisory capacity, as non-voting members (*ex officio*)

## **Members**

8.

8.1 The subscribers to the memorandum are the first members of the charity.

8.2 Membership is open to other individuals or organisations who:

8.2.1 Apply to the charity in the form required by the Directors;

8.2.2 Are approved by the Directors; and

8.2.3 In the case of an organisation complies with the charity's policy on acceptable connections with other organisations.

8.3 The Directors may only refuse an application for membership if, acting reasonably and properly, they consider it to be in the best interests of the charity to refuse the application.

8.4 The Directors must inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the refusal within twenty one days of the decision.

8.5 The Directors must consider any written representations the applicant may make about the decision. The Directors' decision following any written representations must be notified to the applicant in writing but shall be final.

8.6 Membership is not transferable.

8.7 The Directors must keep a register of names and addresses of the members.

## **Classes of membership**

9.

The Directors may establish classes of membership with different rights and obligations and shall record the rights and obligations in the register of members.

## **Termination of membership**

10.

Membership is terminated if:

10.1 The member dies or, if it is an organisation, ceases to exist;

10.2 The member resigns by written notice to the charity unless, after the resignation, there would be less than two members;

10.3 Any sum due from the member to the charity is not paid in full within six months of it falling due;

10.4 The member is removed from membership by a resolution of the Directors that it is in the best interests of the charity that his or her or its membership is terminated. A resolution to remove a member from membership may only be passed if:

10.4.1 The member has been given at least twenty-one days' notice in writing of the meeting of the Directors at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed;

10.4.2 The member or, at the option of the member, the member's representative (who need not be a member of the charity) has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.

### **General meetings**

11.

The Directors may call a general meeting at any time.

### **Notice of general meetings**

12.

12.1 The minimum periods of notice required to hold a general meeting of the charity are:

12.1.1 Twenty-one clear days for a general meeting called for the passing of a special resolution;

12.1.2 And fourteen clear days for all other general meetings.

12.2 A general meeting may be called by shorter notice if it is so agreed by a majority in number of members having a right to attend and vote at the meeting, being a majority who together hold not less than 90 percent of the total voting rights.

12.3 The notice must specify the date time and place of the meeting, which may include a virtual meeting via telephone or other teleconference means, and the general nature of the business to be transacted. The notice must also contain a statement setting out the right of members to appoint a proxy under section 324 of the Companies Act 2006 and article 19.

12.4 The notice must be given to all the members and to the Directors and auditors. Electronic communication may be the normal channel for disseminating the notice.

### **Proceedings at general meetings**

13.

The proceedings at a meeting shall not be invalidated because a person who was entitled to receive notice of the meeting did not receive it because of an accidental omission by the charity.



### **Quorum requirements**

14.1 No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present.

14.2 A quorum is:

14.2.1 Six members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote upon the business to be conducted at the meeting; or

14.2.2 one eightieth of the total membership at the time (whichever is the greater).

14.3 The authorised representative of a member organisation shall be counted in the quorum.

15

### **Non-quorate meetings**

If:

15.1 A quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting; or

15.2 During a meeting a quorum ceases to be present;

the meeting shall be adjourned to such time and place as the Directors shall determine.

15.3 The Directors must reconvene the meeting and must give at least seven clear days' notice of the reconvened meeting stating the date, time and place of the meeting.

15.4 If no quorum is present at the reconvened meeting within fifteen minutes of the time specified for the start of the meeting the members present in person or by proxy at that time shall constitute the quorum for that meeting.

16.

### **Chairing meetings**

16.1 General meetings shall be chaired by the person who has been appointed to chair meetings of the Directors.

16.2 If there is no such person or he or she is not present within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for the meeting a Director nominated by the Directors shall chair the meeting.

16.3 If there is only one Director present and willing to act, he or she shall chair the meeting.

16.4 If no Director is present and willing to chair the meeting within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding it, the members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote must choose one of their number to chair the meeting.

17.

### **Adjournment of meetings**

- 17.1 The members present in person or by proxy at a meeting may resolve by ordinary resolution that the meeting shall be adjourned.
- 17.2 The person who is chairing the meeting must decide the date, time and place at which the meeting is to be reconvened unless those details are specified in the resolution.
- 17.3 No business shall be conducted at a reconvened meeting unless it could properly have been conducted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place.
- 17.4 If a meeting is adjourned by a resolution of the members for more than seven days, at least seven clear days' notice shall be given of the reconvened meeting stating the date, time and place of the meeting.

18.

### **Votes at meetings**

- 18.1 Any vote at a meeting shall be decided by a show of hands where there is visibility of the member by the Chair; or by each member saying "yes" when there is only auditory means; or by an electronic poll where the meeting is held by virtual means or teleconference;  
  
Unless before, or on the declaration of the result of, the show of hands or equivalent a poll is demanded:
  - 18.1.1 by the person chairing the meeting; or
  - 18.1.2 by at least two members present in person or by proxy and having the right to vote at the meeting.
- 18.2 The declaration by the person who is chairing the meeting of the result of a vote shall be:
  - 18.2.1 Conclusive unless a poll is demanded.
  - 18.2.2 The result of the vote must be recorded in the minutes of the charity but the number or proportion of votes cast need not be recorded.
  - 18.2.3 A demand for a poll may be withdrawn, before the poll is taken, but only with the consent of the person who is chairing the meeting.
  - 18.2.4 If the demand for a poll is withdrawn the demand shall not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made.
- 18.3 When a poll is demanded:
  - 18.3.1 A poll must be taken as the person who is chairing the meeting directs, who may appoint scrutineers (who need not be members) and who may fix a time and place for declaring the results of the poll.
  - 18.3.2 The result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll is demanded.
  - 18.3.3 A poll demanded on the election of a person to chair a meeting or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately.

- 18.3.4 A poll demanded on any other question must be taken either immediately or at such time and place as the person who is chairing the meeting directs.
- 18.3.5 The poll must be taken within thirty days after it has been demanded.
- 18.3.6 If the poll is not taken immediately at least seven clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place at which the poll is to be taken.
- 18.3.7 If a poll is demanded the meeting may continue to deal with any other business that may be conducted at the meeting.

### **Content of proxy notices**

19.

- 19.1 Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a 'proxy notice') which:
  - 19.1.1 States the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;
  - 19.1.2 Identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
  - 19.1.3 Is signed by or on behalf of the member appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the Directors may determine; and
  - 19.1.3 Is delivered to the charity in accordance with the Articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.
- 19.2 The charity may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.
- 19.3 Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.
- 19.4 Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as:
  - 18.9.1 Allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting; and
  - 18.9.2 Appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.

### **Delivery of proxy notices**

20.

- 20.1 A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the charity by or on behalf of that person.

- 20.2 An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the charity a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.
- 20.3 A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.
- 20.4 If a proxy notice is not executed by the person appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointor's behalf.

### **Written resolutions**

- 21.
- 21.1 A resolution in writing agreed by a simple majority (or in the case of a special resolution by a majority of not less than 75%) of the members who would have been entitled to vote upon it had it been proposed at a general meeting shall be effective provided that:
  - 21.1.1 A copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to every eligible member;
  - 21.1.2 a simple majority (or in the case of a special resolution a majority of not less than 75%) of members has signified its agreement to the resolution; and
  - 21.1.3 It is contained in an authenticated document which has been received at the registered office within the period of 14 days beginning with the circulation date.
- 21.2 A resolution in writing may comprise several copies to which one or more members have signified their agreement.
- 21.3 In the case of a member that is an organisation, its authorised representative may signify its agreement.

### **Votes of members**

- 22. Subject to article 8, every member, whether an individual or an organisation, shall have one vote.
- 23. Any objection to the qualification of any voter must be raised at the meeting at which the vote is tendered and the decision of the person who is chairing the meeting shall be final.
- 24. Any organisation that is a member of the charity may nominate any person to act as its representative at any meeting of the charity.
  - 24.1 The organisation must give written notice to the charity of the name of its representative. The representative shall not be entitled to represent the organisation at any meeting unless the notice has been received by the charity. The representative may continue to represent the organisation until written notice to the contrary is received by the charity.
  - 24.2 Any notice given to the charity will be conclusive evidence that the representative is entitled to represent the organisation or that his or her authority has been revoked.

The charity shall not be required to consider whether the representative has been properly appointed by the organisation.

## **Directors**

- 25. In accordance with Article 7.2:
  - 25.1 A Director must be a natural person aged 16 years or older.
  - 25.2 No one may be appointed a Director if he or she would be disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 37.
  - 25.3 Directors who are appointed by Council in accordance with Article 7 to specific Officer roles (Treasurer, Chair, Deputy Chairs) shall hold office for three years (plus one year if multiple directors are due to demit in the same year) from the date of their appointment, at the end of which they shall be eligible for re-appointment for one further term of three years. Directors may therefore serve a maximum of two full terms, plus one year (three years + three years + exceptionally one additional year at the end of either three-year term).
  - 25.4 Directors may be re-appointed after an interval of no less than one year.
- 26. The number of Directors shall be five (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution).
- 27. A Director may not appoint an alternate Director or anyone to act on his or her behalf.

## **Powers of Directors**

- 28.
  - 28.1 The Directors shall manage the financial and regulatory business of the charity unless they are subject to any restrictions imposed by the Companies Acts, the Articles or any special resolution.
  - 28.2 No alteration of the articles or any special resolution shall have retrospective effect to invalidate any prior act of the Directors.

## **Delegation of powers of Directors**

- 29.
  - 29.1 The Directors may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee of two or more Councillors but the terms of any delegation must be recorded in the minute book.
  - 29.2 The Directors may impose conditions when delegating, including the conditions that:
    - 29.2.1 The relevant powers are to be exercised exclusively by the committee to whom they delegate;
    - 29.2.2 No expenditure may be incurred on behalf of the charity except in accordance with a budget previously agreed by the Executive Committee.
  - 29.3 The Directors may revoke or alter a delegation.

- 29.4 All acts and proceedings of any committees must be fully and promptly reported to the Executive Committee.

### **Proceedings of Directors**

30.

- 30.1 The Directors may regulate their proceedings as they think fit, subject to the provisions of the Articles.
- 30.2 Any Director may call a meeting of the Directors.
- 30.3 The secretariat must call a meeting of the Directors if requested to do so by a Director.
- 30.4 Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes.
- 30.5 In the case of an equality of votes, the person who is chairing the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- 30.6 A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the Directors in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants. This could include telephone or other teleconference methods.
- 30.7 A co-opted member may be appointed by a resolution of the Directors and their term renewed annually by subsequent resolution of the Directors for up to three years. Co-opted members attend meetings of the Directors only for specific purposes or and for specific agenda items, acting only in an advisory capacity. Such co-opted members would have no vote at such meetings. Co-opted members would be expected to adhere to the same standards of confidentiality as Directors. Co-opted members may be lay members appointed by Directors for their specialist knowledge or skills.

### **Quorum requirements**

31.

- 31.1 No decision may be made by a meeting of the Directors unless a quorum is present at the time the decision is purported to be made. ['Present' includes being present by suitable electronic means agreed by the directors in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants.)
- 31.2 The quorum shall be **four** or the number nearest to one-fifth of the total number of Directors, whichever is the greater, or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the Directors.
- 31.3 A Director shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which that Director is not entitled to vote.

### **Non-quorate meetings**

32.

If the number of Directors is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing Directors or Director may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.

### **Chairing meetings**

33.

- 33.1 The Directors shall appoint a Director to chair their meetings and may at any time revoke such appointment.
- 33.2 If no-one has been appointed to chair meetings of the Directors or if the person appointed is unwilling to preside or is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the Directors present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.
- 33.3 The person appointed to chair meetings of the Directors shall have no functions or powers except those conferred by the articles or delegated to him or her by the Directors.

### **Resolutions in writing**

34.

- 34.1 A resolution in writing or in electronic form agreed by all of the Directors entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the Directors and to vote upon the resolution shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Directors duly convened and held.
- 34.2 The resolution in writing may comprise several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of which one or more Directors has signified their agreement.

### **Declaration of interests**

35.

A Director or Officer or other Councillor must declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the charity or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the charity which has not previously been declared. A Director or Officer or other Councillor must absent himself or herself from any discussions of the Council in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of the charity and any personal interest (including but not limited to any personal financial interest).

### **Conflicts of interests and conflicts of loyalties**

36.

- 36.1 If a conflict of interests arises for a Director or Officer or other Councillor because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation or person and the conflict is not authorised by virtue of any other provision in the articles, the unconflicted Directors or officers or other Councillors may authorise such a conflict of interests where the following conditions apply:

- 36.1.1 The conflicted Director or Officer or other Councillor is absent from the part of the meeting at which there is discussion of any arrangement or transaction affecting that other organisation or person;
  - 36.1.2 The conflicted Director or Officer or other Councillor does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when considering whether a quorum of Directors is present at the meeting; and
  - 36.1.3 The unconflicted Directors, Officers or other Councillors consider it is in the interests of the charity to authorise the conflict of interests in the circumstances applying.
- 36.2 In this Article a conflict of interests arising because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation or person only refers to such a conflict which does not involve a direct or indirect benefit of any nature to a director or to a connected person.

#### **Disqualification and removal of Directors**

37. A Director shall cease to hold office if he or she:
- 37.1 Ceases to be a Director by virtue of any provision in the Companies Acts or is prohibited by law from being a Director;
  - 37.2 Is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of sections 178 and 179 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of those provisions);
  - 37.3 Ceases to be a member of the charity;
  - 37.4 In the written opinion, given to the charity, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a Director and may remain so for more than three months;
  - 37.5 Resigns as a Director by notice to the charity (but only if at least two Directors will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect); or
  - 37.6 Is absent without the permission of the Chair from all Director/Executive Committee or Council meetings held within a period of twelve consecutive months and the Council resolves that his or her office be vacated.

#### **Remuneration of Directors**

38.

The Directors must not be paid any remuneration for their service as a Trustee unless it is authorised by article 39.

#### **Benefits and payments to charity Directors and connected persons**

39.



### 39.1 General provisions

No Director or connected person may:

39.1.1 Buy any goods or services from the charity on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;

39.1.2 Sell goods, services, or any interest in land to the charity;

39.1.3 Be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the charity;

39.1.4 Receive any other financial benefit from the charity; unless the payment is permitted by sub-clause (2) of this article, or authorised by the court or the prior written consent of the Charity Commission has been obtained.

In this article a 'financial benefit' means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.

### 39.2 Scope and powers permitting Directors or connected persons' benefits

39.2.1 A Director or connected person may receive a benefit from the charity in the capacity of a beneficiary of the charity provided that a majority of the Directors do not benefit in this way.

39.2.2 A Director or connected person may enter into a contract for the supply of services, or of goods that are supplied in connection with the provision of services, to the charity where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, sections 185 and 186 of the Charities Act 2011.

39.2.3 Subject to sub-clause (36.3) of this article a Director or connected person may provide the charity with goods that are not supplied in connection with services provided.

39.2.4 A Director or connected person may receive interest on money lent to the charity at a reasonable and proper rate which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate).

39.2.5 A Director or connected person may receive rent for premises let by the Director or connected person to the charity. The amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease must be reasonable and proper. The Director concerned must withdraw from any meeting at which such a proposal or the rent or other terms of the lease are under discussion.

39.2.6 A Director or connected person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of the charity on the same terms as members of the public.

### 39.3 Payment for supply of goods only - controls

39.3.1 The charity and its Directors may only rely upon the authority provided by sub-clause (39.2.3) of this article if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

39.3.2 The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in an agreement in writing between the charity or its Directors (as the case may be) and the Director or connected person supplying the goods ('the supplier') under which the supplier is to supply the goods in question to or on behalf of the charity.

- 39.3.3 The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances for the supply of the goods in question.
- 39.3.4 The Directors are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the charity to contract with the supplier rather than with someone who is not a Director or connected person. In reaching that decision the Directors must balance the advantage of contracting with a Director or connected person against the disadvantages of doing so.
- 39.3.5 The supplier is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of the proposal to enter into a contract or arrangement with him or her or it with regard to the supply of goods to the charity.
- 39.3.6 The supplier does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of Directors is present at the meeting.
- 39.3.7 The reason for their decision is recorded by the Directors in the minute book.
- 39.3.8 A majority of the Directors then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by article 39.
- 39.4 In sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this article 'charity' includes any company in which the charity:
  - 39.4.1 Holds more than 50% of the shares; or
  - 39.4.2 Controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
  - 39.4.3 Has the right to appoint one or more Directors to the board of the company.
- 39.5 'connected person' includes any person within the definition in article 65 'Interpretation'.

## **Indemnity**

- 40.
- 40.1 The charity may indemnify a relevant Director against any liability incurred in that capacity, to the extent permitted by sections 232 to 234 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 40.2 In this Article a 'relevant Director' means any Director or former Director of the charity.

## **Accounts**

- 41.
- 41.1 The Directors must prepare for each financial year accounts as required by the Companies Acts. The accounts must be prepared to show a true and fair view and follow accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board or its successors and adhere to the recommendations of applicable Statements of Recommended Practice.
- 41.2 The Directors must keep accounting records as required by the Companies Act.

## **Annual Report and Return and Register of Charities**

42.

42.1 The Directors must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 with regard to the:

42.1.1 Transmission of a copy of the statements of account to the Commission;

42.1.2 Preparation of an Annual Report and the transmission of a copy of it to the Commission;

42.1.3 Preparation of an Annual Return and its transmission to the Commission.

42.2 The Directors must notify the Commission promptly of any changes to the charity's entry on the Central Register of Charities.

## **Councillors**

### **Appointment of Councillors**

43.

The charity may by ordinary resolution:

43.1 Appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Councillor; and

43.2 Determine the rotation in which any additional Councillors are to retire.

### **44. New appointments and re-election of members of Council**

No person other than a Councillor retiring by rotation may be appointed a Councillor at any general meeting unless:

44.1 He or she is recommended for re-election by the Council; or

44.2 Not less than fourteen nor more than thirty-five clear days before the date of the meeting, the charity is given a notice that:

44.2.1 Is signed by a member entitled to vote at the meeting;

44.2.2 States the member's intention to propose the appointment of a person as a Councillor; and

44.2.3 Is signed by the person who is to be proposed to show his or her willingness to be appointed.

### **45. Notice of appointment of New Councillors**

All members who are entitled to receive notice of a general meeting must be given not less than seven nor more than twenty-eight clear days' notice of any resolution to be put to the meeting to appoint a Councillor other than a Councillor who is to retire by rotation.

### **46. Appointment of Directors or Officers**

- 46.1 The Council may appoint a person who is willing to be a Director or Officer (Article7).
- 46.2 A Director or Officer appointed by a resolution of the other Councillors must retire after three years at the next general meeting, unless reappointed by Council in accordance with Article 7. Such appointed Directors and Officers must not be taken into account in determining the Councillors who are to retire by rotation.

#### 47. Maximum number of Councillors

The appointment of a Councillor, whether by the charity in a general meeting or by the other Councillors, must not cause the number to exceed any number fixed as the maximum number **(30)** of Councillors.

### **Retirement of Councillors**

48.

- 48.1 Each year at a general meeting one-third of the elected Councillors or the number nearest to one-third, must retire from office. If there is only one Councillor he or she must retire. The Councillors to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment. If any Councillors became or were appointed Councillors on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot.
- 48.2 If a Councillor is required to retire at a general meeting by a provision of the articles the retirement shall take effect upon the conclusion of the meeting.

### **Officers**

#### **Proceedings of the Executive Committee**

49.

- 49.1 The Officers may regulate their proceedings as they think fit, subject to the provisions of the Articles.
- 49.2 Any Officer may call a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 49.3 The secretariat must call a meeting of the Officers if requested to do so by an Officer.
- 49.4 Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes.
- 49.4.1 In the case of an equality of votes, the person who is chairing the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- 49.5 A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the Officers in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants. This could include telephone or other teleconference methods.
- 49.6 A co-opted member of the Executive Committee may be appointed by a resolution of the Executive Committee and their term renewed annually by subsequent resolution, for up to three years. Co-opted members would attend meetings of the Executive Committee only for specific purposes and for specific agenda items, acting only in an advisory capacity. Such Co-

opted members would have no vote at such meetings. Co-opted members would be expected to adhere to the same standards of confidentiality as Councillors. Co-opted members of the Executive Committee may be lay members appointed for their specialist knowledge or skills.

#### **Quorum requirements for Executive Committee meetings**

50.

- 50.1 No decision may be made by a meeting of the Executive Committee unless a quorum is present at the time the decision is purported to be made. 'Present' includes being present by suitable electronic means agreed by the officers in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants.
- 50.1 The quorum shall be **two** or the number nearest to **one-third** of the total number of Officers, whichever is the greater, or such larger number as may be decided from time to time.
- 50.3 An Officer shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which that Officer is not entitled to vote.

#### **Non-quorate Executive Committee meetings**

51.

If the number of Officers is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing Officer or Officer may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.

#### **Chairing Executive Committee meetings**

52.

- 52.1 The Council shall appoint a Councillor to chair their meetings and may at any time revoke such appointment. The Chair of Council shall also be the Chair of the Executive Committee
- 52.2 If no-one has been appointed to Chair the Executive Committee meeting or if the person appointed is unwilling to preside or is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the Officers present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.
- 52.3 The person appointed to chair meetings of the Executive Committee shall have no functions or powers except those conferred by the Articles or delegated to him or her by the Council.

#### **Resolutions in writing**

53.

- 53.1 A resolution in writing or in electronic form agreed by all of the Officers entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the Executive Committee and to vote upon the resolution shall be as

valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Officers duly convened and held.

- 53.2 The resolution in writing may comprise several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of which one or more officers has signified their agreement.

### **Validity of Officers' decisions**

54.

- 54.1 Subject to article 50 all acts done by a meeting of Officers, or of a committee, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of an Officer:

54.1.1 Who was disqualified from holding office;

54.1.2 Who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office;

54.1.3 Who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interests or otherwise;

if without:

54.1.4 The vote of that Officer; and

54.1.5 That Officer being counted in the quorum; the decision has been made by a majority of the Officers at a quorate meeting.

- 54.2 Article 50 does not permit an Officer or a connected person to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the Officers or of the Executive Committee if, but for article 50 the resolution would have been void, or if the Officer has not complied with article 36.

### **Special Interest Groups**

55.

- 55.1 Either upon a request in writing submitted to the Directors by not less than 10 Members desiring to form a Special Interest Group or upon their own decision the Directors shall constitute a Special Interest Group of Members to consider a particular aspect of influenza or other respiratory virus diseases.

- 55.2 The Directors shall have power to make rules regulating the proceedings of Special Interest Groups.

- 55.3 A Special Interest Group Chair shall be a member of the Executive Committee.

- 55.4 The Directors shall review the activities of each Special Interest Group at least once a year and shall have power to terminate the activities of a Special Interest Group for any reason.

- 55.5 The Directors shall consult with Council as a matter of course on matters relating to Special Interest Groups.

## **Rules**

56.

- 56.1 The Directors may from time to time make such reasonable and proper rules or bye laws as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of the charity.
- 56.2 The bye laws may regulate the following matters but are not restricted to them:
- 56.2.1 The admission of members of the charity (including the admission of organisations to membership) and the rights and privileges of such members, and the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by members;
- 56.2.2 The conduct of members of the charity in relation to one another, and to the charity's
- 56.2.3 Employees and volunteers;
- 56.2.4 The setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the charity's premises at any particular time or times or for any particular purpose or purposes;
- 56.2.5 The procedure at general meetings and meetings of the Directors in so far as such procedure is not regulated by the Companies Acts or by the articles;
- Generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of company rules.
- 56.3 The charity in general meeting has the power to alter, add to or repeal the rules or bye laws.
- 56.4 The Directors must adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring the rules and bye laws to the notice of members of the charity.
- 56.5 The rules or bye laws shall be binding on all members of the charity. No rule or bye law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, the Articles.

## **Seal**

57.

If the charity has a seal it must only be used by the authority of the Officers or of the Executive Committee. The Officers may determine who shall sign any instrument to which the seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it shall be signed by an Officer or by a second Officer.

## **General**

Means of communication to be used

58.

58.1 Subject to the articles, anything sent or supplied by or to the charity under the Articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act 2006 provides for documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by or to the charity.

58.2 Subject to the Articles, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to an Officer in connection with the taking of decisions by an officer may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that Officer has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being.

59.

Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to the Articles:

59.1 Must be in writing; or

59.2 Must be given in electronic form.

60.

60.1 The charity may give any notice to a member either:

60.1.1 Personally; or

60.1.2 By sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at his or her address; or

60.1.3 By leaving it at the address of the member; or

60.1.4 By giving it in electronic form to the member's address.

60.2 A member who does not register an address with the charity shall not be entitled to receive any notice from the charity.

61.

A member present in person at any meeting of the charity shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and of the purposes for which it was called.

62.

62.1 Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given.

62.2 Proof that an electronic form of notice was given shall be conclusive where the company can demonstrate that it was properly addressed and sent, in accordance with section 1147 of the Companies Act 2006.

62.3 In accordance with section 1147 of the Companies Act 2006 notice shall be deemed to be given:

62.3.1 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted; or



62.3.2 In the case of an electronic form of communication, 48 hours after it was sent.

## **Disputes**

63.

If a dispute arises between members of the charity about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members of the charity under these Articles, and the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement, the parties to the dispute must first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation before resorting to litigation.

## **Dissolution**

64.

64.1 The members of the charity may at any time before, and in expectation of, its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the charity after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision has been made for them, shall on or before the dissolution of the charity be applied or transferred in any of the following ways:

64.1.1 Directly for the Objects; or

64.1.2 By transfer to any charity or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or

64.1.3 To any charity or charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.

64.2 Subject to any such resolution of the members of the charity, the Directors of the charity may at any time before and in expectation of its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the charity after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision made for them, shall on or before dissolution of the charity be applied or transferred:

64.2.1 Directly for the Objects; or

64.2.2 By transfer to any charity or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or

64.2.3 To any charity or charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.

64.3 In no circumstances shall the net assets of the charity be paid to or distributed among the members of the charity (except to a member that is itself a charity) and if no resolution in accordance with article 64(1) is passed by the members or the Directors the net assets of the charity shall be applied for charitable purposes as directed by the Court or the Commission.

## **Interpretation**

65.

In article 36, sub-clause (2) of article 39 and sub-clause (2) of article 54 'connected person' means:

65.1 A child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the Councillor;

65.2 The spouse or civil partner of the Councillor or of any person falling within sub-clause (1) above;

- 65.3 A person carrying on business in partnership with the Councillor or with any person falling within sub-clause (1) or (2) above;
- 65.4 An institution which is controlled -
- 65.4.1 By the Councillor or any connected person falling within sub-clause (1), (2), or (3) above; or
- 65.4.2 By two or more persons falling within sub-clause 4(a), when taken together
- 65.5 A body corporate in which -
- 65.5.1 The Councillor or any connected person falling within sub-clauses (1) to (3) has a substantial interest; or
- 65.5.2 Two or more persons falling within sub-clause (5)(a) who, when taken together, have a substantial interest.
- 65.5.3 Sections 350- 352 of the Charities Act 2011 apply for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this article.