



Mikaeel Foundation
www.mikaeelfoundation.com

Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Mikaeel Foundation

Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees

(‘Foundation’ model constitution)

Date of constitution (last amended):
01 November 2022

1. Name

The name of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“the CIO”) is

Mikaeel Foundation

2. National location of principal office

The CIO must have a principal office in England or Wales. The principal office of the CIO is in England.

3. Objects

The objects of the CIO are:

For the public benefit, the relief and assistance of babies, children and young people and their families in need of relieving poverty, health (including maternal care), education, saving lives, citizenship and/or community development, and financial hardship in any part of the world who are the victims of war or natural disaster, trouble, or catastrophe in particular by the supply of medical aid, support/services, scholarships, mentoring and financial aid.

The needs of beneficiaries will be identified by having discussions with the Trustees to identify where the gaps are by seeing what provisions are being provided by other organisations and charities.

Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with [section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005] and [section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008].

Mikaeel Foundation will not be working with children or other vulnerable beneficiaries directly, however steps and due diligence will be taken to assure ourselves that the organisations we support which are working with vulnerable beneficiaries and suitable to do so are by:

- a) ensuring there are guidelines, governance and policies in place to safeguard the beneficiaries, children and young adults, as well as their staff
- b) ensuring we request confirmation from organisations that their staff who are working with vulnerable adults and children are DBS checked

(1) Advancement of Education

(a) For the public benefit to promote education (including social and physical training) of children and young people under the age of 18 years anywhere in the world in such ways as the charity trustees think fit, including by:

- (i) Awarding to such persons scholarships at any school college or institution of higher or further education.
- (ii) Providing their education (including religious studies, the study of music or other arts), to undertake travel in furtherance of that education or to prepare for entry to any occupation, trade or profession on leaving any educational establishment.

- (b) To assist in such ways as the charity trustees think fit any charity worldwide whose aims include advancing education of persons under the age of 18 years by developing their mental, physical and moral capabilities through leisure time activities.

(2) Carers

- (a) To relieve parents of babies, children and young people who have been in hospital for more than 3 months or are in end of life care in hospital or in palliative care by providing hotel accommodation in close proximity of their child; to ease travel and journey times for visitation and provide respite in between visitation.
- (b) To relieve financial hardship and sickness among persons who are caring for or nursing a child or young person with a physical or mental disability in any place other than an Institution or Nursing Home as defined by the National Assistance Act 1948 and Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, and the relief of children and young people who are chronically sick or disabled by the provision of training and advice for those responsible for their care.

(3) Disasters

- (a) The relief of financial need and suffering among victims of natural or other kinds of disaster in the form of money (or other means deemed suitable) for persons, bodies, organisations and/or countries affected (including the provision of medical aid).
- (b) The relief and assistance of people in any part of the world who are the victims of war or natural disaster, trouble, or catastrophe in particular by the supply of medical aid to such persons.

(4) Family Planning

- (a) To educate young people in matters of sex and contraception and to develop amongst them a sense of responsibility in regard to sexual behaviour with the aim of preventing and mitigating of the suffering caused by unwanted pregnancy.
 - (i) to preserve and protect the good health (both mental and physical) of parents, young people and children and to prevent the financial hardship, caused by unwanted conception;
 - (ii) to provide access to medical advice and assistance in cases of involuntary sterility or of difficulties connected with marriage, relationship or sexual problems for which medical advice or treatment is appropriate.
- (b) To provide maternal health care including immunization, blood tests and ultrasounds to expectant mothers and women who are postpartum.
- (c) To promote education and research in the subject of fertility and pregnancy and the termination of pregnancy and into its effects on women, whether physical, medical, psychological or social; to provide advice, treatment and assistance for women who are suffering from any physical or mental illness or distress as a result of fertility or infertility.
- (d) To promote education, research and support in the subject of miscarriage and stillbirth and into its effects on women, whether physical, medical, psychological or social; to provide advice, treatment and assistance for parents who are suffering from any physical or mental illness or distress as a result of the loss of child.

(5) Relief of Poverty

- (a) The prevention or relief of poverty worldwide by providing: items and services to individuals in need and/or charities, or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.
- (b) To relieve poverty or financial hardship anywhere in the world among refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers and their dependents by providing interpreting/translating/advocacy/ health/housing advice and education.
- (c) The prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship anywhere in the world by providing or assisting in the provision of education, training, healthcare projects and all the necessary support designed to enabling and encouraging children and young people to pursue the career paths they wish to advance to, in order for them to generate a sustainable income and be self-sufficient in their adult life.
- (d) To prevent or relieve poverty by awarding a 'fair trade mark' to products, the sale of which relieves the poverty of producers by ensuring they receive at least a fair price for their goods and advising such producers of the best ways in which to engage in the trading process.
- (e) To relieve the poverty of young people by the provision of grants to enable them to participate in healthy recreational activities that they could not otherwise afford.

(6) Relief of Financial Hardship

- (a) The relief of financial hardship among people across the world by providing such persons with goods/services which they could not otherwise afford through lack of means.
- (b) The relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually, of people living anywhere in the world by making providing or paying for items services or facilities.
- (c) The relief of the sick-poor living in anywhere in the world either generally or individually through the provision of goods or services.

(7) Relief of Sickness

- (a) The relief of sickness and the preservation of health among people residing anywhere in the world.
- (b) To assist in the treatment and care of persons suffering from mental or physical illness of any description or in need of rehabilitation as a result of such illness, by the provision of facilities for work and recreation.
 - (i) to promote and protect the physical and mental health of sufferers of any medical condition in any part of the world through the provision of financial assistance, support, education and practical advice;
 - (ii) to advance the education of the general public in all areas relating to any medical conditions, both physical and mental.
- (c) To relieve sickness and poor health amongst children and young people living in Third World countries by providing a local broadcasting service for hospitals, residential homes and similar institutions.
- (d) To relieve sickness and to preserve the health of pregnancy related surgeries, childhood

illnesses in babies and children or parents who are carers to children and young people anywhere in the world by providing or assisting in the provision of equipment, facilities and services not normally provided by the statutory authorities, ancillary to those provided by the doctors.

- (e) To preserve and protect the health of patients of any pregnancy related surgeries, childhood illnesses in babies and children or parents who are carers to children and young people anywhere in the world by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities, support services and equipment not normally provided by the statutory authorities.
- (f) To relieve volunteers and key workers of any financial commitments that are not reimbursed to them for duties they carry out for milk banks when transporting milk for babies in neonatal wards.
- (g) To advance the education of the public in health care by the provision of lectures, fora and by the publication of newsletters devoted to healthcare.

(8) Young People

- (a) To advance in life and relieve needs of children and young people through:
 - (i) The provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life;
 - (ii) Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
- (b) To help young people, especially but not exclusively through leisure time activities, so as to develop their capabilities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society.
- (c) To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 18 living anywhere in the world by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of:
 - (i) advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;
 - (ii) advancing education;
 - (iii) relieving unemployment;
 - (iv) providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.

4. Powers

The CIO has power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, the CIO has power to:

- (1) borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of its property as security for the repayment of

the money borrowed. The CIO must comply as appropriate with sections 124 and 125 of the Charities Act 2011, if it wishes to mortgage land;

- (2) buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;
- (3) sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the CIO. In exercising this power, the CIO must comply as appropriate with sections 117 and 119-123 of the Charities Act 2011;
- (4) employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of the CIO. The CIO may employ or remunerate a charity trustee only to the extent that it is permitted to do so by clause 6 (Benefits and payments to charity trustees and connected persons) and provided it complies with the conditions of that clause;
- (5) deposit or invest funds, employ a professional fund-manager, and arrange for the investments or other property of the CIO 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. Application of income and property

- (1) The income and property of the CIO must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects.
- (2) A charity trustee is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the CIO or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the CIO.
- (3) A charity trustee may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the CIO's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011.
- (4) None of the income or property of the CIO may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the CIO.
- (5) Nothing in this clause shall prevent a charity trustee or connected person receiving any benefit or payment which is authorised by Clause 6.

6. Benefits and payments to charity trustees and connected persons

(1) General provisions

No charity trustee or connected person may:

- (a) buy or receive any goods or services from the CIO on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;
- (b) sell goods, services, or any interest in land to the CIO;
- (c) be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the CIO;
- (d) receive any other financial benefit from the CIO; unless the payment or benefit is permitted by sub-clause (2) of this clause or authorised by the court or the prior written consent of the Charity Commission ("the Commission") has been obtained. In this clause, a "financial benefit" means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.

(2) Scope and powers permitting trustees' or connected persons' benefits

- (e) A charity trustee or connected person may receive a benefit from the CIO as a beneficiary of the CIO provided that a majority of the trustees do not benefit in this way.
- (f) A charity trustee 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 CIO where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, sections 185 to 188 of the Charities Act 2011.
- (g) Subject to sub-clause (3) of this clause a charity trustee or connected person may provide the CIO with goods that are not supplied in connection with services provided to the CIO by the charity trustee or connected person.
- (h) A charity trustee or connected person may receive interest on money lent to the CIO at a reasonable and proper rate which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate).
- (i) A charity trustee or connected person may receive rent for premises let by the trustee or connected person to the CIO. The amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease must be reasonable and proper. The charity trustee concerned must withdraw from any meeting at which such a proposal or the rent or other terms of the lease are under discussion.
- (j) A charity trustee or connected person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of the CIO on the same terms as members of the public.

(3) Payment for supply of goods only – controls

The CIO and its charity trustees may only rely upon the authority provided by sub-clause (2)(c) of this clause if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

- (k) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in a written agreement between the CIO and the charity trustee or connected person supplying the goods (“the supplier”).
- (l) 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.
- (m) The other charity trustees are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the CIO to contract with the supplier rather than with someone who is not a charity trustee or connected person. In reaching that decision the charity trustees must balance the advantage of contracting with a charity trustee or connected person against the disadvantages of doing so.
- (n) 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 CIO.
- (o) The supplier does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of charity trustees is present at the meeting.
- (p) The reason for their decision is recorded by the charity trustees in the minute book.
- (q) A majority of the charity trustees then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by clause 6.

(4) In sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause:

- (r) “the CIO” includes any company in which the CIO:
 - (i) holds more than 50% of the shares; or
 - (ii) controls more than 50 % of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
 - (iii) has the right to appoint one or more directors to the board of the company;
- (s) “connected person” includes any person within the definition set out in clause [30] (Interpretation);

7. Conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty

A charity trustee must:

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

Any charity trustee absenting himself or herself from any discussions in accordance with this clause must not vote or be counted as part of the quorum in any decision of the charity trustees on the matter.

8. Liability of members to contribute to the assets of the CIO if it is wound up

If the CIO is wound up, the members of the CIO have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

9. Charity trustees

(1) Functions and duties of charity trustees

The charity trustees shall manage the affairs of the CIO and may for that purpose exercise all the powers of the CIO. It is the duty of each charity trustee:

- (a) to exercise his or her powers and to perform his or her functions in his or her capacity as a trustee of the CIO in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the CIO; and
- (b) to exercise, in the performance of those functions, such care and skill as is reasonable in the circumstances having regard in particular to:
 - (i) any special knowledge or experience that he or she has or holds himself or herself out as having; and,
 - (ii) if he or she acts as a charity trustee of the CIO in the course of a business or profession, to any special knowledge or experience that it is reasonable to expect of a person acting in the course of that kind of business or profession.

(2) Eligibility for trusteeship

- (a) Every charity trustee must be a natural person.
- (b) No individual may be appointed as a charity trustee of the CIO:
 - (i) if he or she is under the age of 16 years; or
 - (ii) if he or she would automatically cease to hold office under the provisions of clause [12(1)(e)].
- (c) No one is entitled to act as a charity trustee whether on appointment or on any re-appointment until he or she has expressly acknowledged, in whatever way the charity trustees decide, his or her acceptance of the office of charity trustee.
- (d) At least one of the trustees of the CIO must be 18 years of age or over. If there is no trustee aged at least 18 years, the remaining trustees may only act to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee.

(3) Number of charity trustees

- (a) There must be at least two charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees or appoint a new charity trustee.
- (b) The maximum number of charity trustees is ten. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.

(4) First charity trustees

The first charity trustees are as follows [and are appointed for the following terms] –

Liza Chowdhury Founder & CEO
 Amsha Begum for 5 years
 Tojomul Ali for 5 years

10. Appointment of charity trustees

(1) Appointment Charity Trustees

- (a) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed [for a term of [three years] by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.
- (b) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

(2) Ex officio Trustee

- (a) The Ex officio Trustee for the time being (“the office holder”) shall automatically (“ex-officio”) be a charity trustee, for as long as he or she holds that office.
- (b) If unwilling to act as a charity trustee, the office holder may:

- (i) before accepting appointment as a charity trustee, give notice in writing to the trustees of his or her unwillingness to act in that capacity; or
- (ii) after accepting appointment as a charity trustee, resign under the provisions contained in clause [12] (Retirement and removal of charity trustees).

The office of ex officio charity trustee will then remain vacant until the office holder ceases to hold office.

(3) Nominated Trustee[s]

- (a) Mikaeel Foundation (“the appointing body”) may appoint 10 charity trustees.
- (b) Any appointment must be made at a meeting held according to the ordinary practice of the appointing body.
- (c) Each appointment must be for a term of three years.
- (d) The appointment will be effective from the later of:
 - (i) the date of the vacancy; and
 - (ii) the date on which the charity trustees or their secretary or clerk are informed of the appointment.
- (e) The person appointed need not be a member of the appointing body.
- (f) A trustee appointed by the appointing body has the same duty under clause 9(1) as the other charity trustees to act in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the CIO]

11. Information for new charity trustees

The charity trustees will make available to each new charity trustee, on or before his or her first appointment:

- (a) a copy of the current version of this constitution; and
- (b) a copy of the CIO’s latest Trustees’ Annual Report and statement of accounts
- (c) Weblink to the Charity Commission’s guidance on Charities Working Internationally <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charities-how-to-manage-risks-when-working-internationally>
- (d) Weblinks to the Charity Commission’s toolkits including the compliance toolkit and the Charities and Terrorism toolkit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees>

12. Retirement and removal of charity trustees

- (1)** A charity trustee ceases to hold office if he or she:
 - (a) retires by notifying the CIO in writing (but only if enough charity trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect to form a quorum for meetings);

- (b) is absent without the permission of the charity trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;
 - (c) dies;
 - (d) in the written opinion, given to the company, 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;
 - (e) is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of sections 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).
- (2) Any person retiring as a charity trustee is eligible for reappointment.
- (3) A charity trustee who has served for [five] consecutive terms may not be appointed for a [sixth] consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of at least [one year].

13. Taking of decisions by charity trustees

Any decision may be taken either:

- (a) at a meeting of the charity trustees; or
- (b) by resolution in writing or electronic form agreed by a majority of all of the charity trustees, which may comprise either a single document or several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to which the majority of all of the charity trustees has signified their agreement. Such a resolution shall be effective provided that
 - (i) a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent, at or as near as reasonably practicable to the same time, to all of the charity trustees; and
 - (ii) the majority of all of the charity trustees has signified agreement to the resolution in a document or documents which has or have been authenticated by their signature, by a statement of their identity accompanying the document or documents, or in such other manner as the charity trustees have previously resolved, and delivered to the CIO at its principal office or such other place as the trustees may resolve within 28 days of the circulation date.

14. Delegation by charity trustees

- (4) The charity trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee or committees, and, if they do, they shall determine the terms and conditions on which the delegation is made. The charity trustees may at any time alter those terms and conditions, or revoke the delegation.
- (5) This power is in addition to the power of delegation in the General Regulations and any other power of delegation available to the charity trustees, but is subject to the following requirements:
 - (a) a committee may consist of two or more persons, but at least one member of each committee must be a charity trustee;
 - (b) the acts and proceedings of any committee must be brought to the attention of the charity trustees as a whole as soon as is reasonably practicable; and

- (c) the charity trustees shall from time to time review the arrangements which they have made for the delegation of their powers.

15. Meetings of charity trustees

(4) Calling meetings

- (a) Any charity trustee may call a meeting of the charity trustees.
- (b) Subject to that, the charity trustees shall decide how their meetings are to be called, and what notice is required.

(5) Chairing of meetings

- (a) The charity trustees may appoint one of their number to chair their meetings and may at any time revoke such appointment. If no-one has been so appointed, or if the person appointed is unwilling to preside or is not present within 10 minutes after the time of the meeting, the charity trustees present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.

(6) Procedure at meetings

- (a) No decision shall be taken at a meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the decision is taken. The quorum is two charity trustees, or the number nearest to one third of the total number of charity trustees, whichever is greater, or such larger number as the charity trustees may decide from time to time. A charity trustee shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which he or she is not entitled to vote.
- (b) Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of those eligible to vote.
- (c) In the case of an equality of votes, the person who chairs the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(7) Participation in meetings by electronic means

- (a) A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the charity trustees in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.
- (b) Any charity trustee participating at a meeting by suitable electronic means agreed by the charity trustees in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants shall qualify as being present at the meeting.
- (c) Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including chairing and the taking of minutes.

16. Membership of the CIO

- (1) The members of the CIO shall be its charity trustees for the time being. The only persons eligible to be members of the CIO are its charity trustees. Membership of the CIO cannot be transferred to anyone else.
- (2) Any member and charity trustee who ceases to be a charity trustee automatically ceases to be a member of the CIO.

17. Informal or associate (non-voting) membership

- (1) The charity trustees may create associate or other classes of non-voting membership, and may determine the rights and obligations of any such members (including payment of membership fees), and the conditions for admission to, and termination of membership of any such class of members.
- (2) Other references in this constitution to “members” and “membership” do not apply to non-voting members, and non-voting members do not qualify as members for any purpose under the Charities Acts, General Regulations or Dissolution Regulations.

18. Decisions which must be made by the members of the CIO

- (1) Any decision to:
 - (a) amend the constitution of the CIO;
 - (b) amalgamate the CIO with, or transfer its undertaking to, one or more other CIOs, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011; or
 - (c) wind up or dissolve the CIO (including transferring its business to any other charity)must be made by a resolution of the members of the CIO (rather than a resolution of the charity trustees).
- (2) Decisions of the members may be made either:
 - (a) by resolution at a general meeting; or
 - (b) by resolution in writing, in accordance with sub-clause (4) of this clause.
- (3) Any decision specified in sub-clause (1) of this clause must be made in accordance with the provisions of clause [28] (amendment of constitution), clause [29] (Voluntary winding up or dissolution), or the provisions of the Charities Act 2011, the General Regulations or the Dissolution Regulations as applicable. Those provisions require the resolution to be agreed by a 75 majority of those members voting at a general meeting, or agreed by all members in writing.
- (4) Except where a resolution in writing must be agreed by all the members, such a resolution may be agreed by a simple majority of all the members who are entitled to vote on it. Such a resolution shall be effective provided that:
 - (a) a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to all the members eligible to vote; and
 - (b) the required majority of members has signified its agreement to the resolution in a document or documents which are received at the principal office within the period of 28 days beginning with the circulation date. The document signifying a member’s agreement must be authenticated by their signature, by a statement of their identity accompanying the document, or in such other manner as the CIO has specified.

The resolution in writing may comprise several copies to which one or more members has signified their agreement. Eligibility to vote on the resolution is limited to members who are members of the CIO on the date when the proposal is first circulated.

19. General meetings of members

(1) Calling of general meetings of members

The charity trustees may designate any of their meetings as a general meeting of the members of the CIO. The purpose of such a meeting is to discharge any business which must by law be discharged by a resolution of the members of the CIO as specified in clause [18] (Decisions which must be made by the members of the CIO).

(2) Notice of general meetings of members

- (a) The minimum period of notice required to hold a general meeting of the members of the CIO is 7 days.
- (b) Except where a specified period of notice is strictly required by another clause in this constitution, by the Charities Act 2011 or by the General Regulations, a general meeting may be called by shorter notice if it is so agreed by a majority of the members of the CIO.
- (c) Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted; or that an electronic form of notice was properly addressed and sent, shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. Notice shall be deemed to be given 48 hours after it was posted or sent.

(3) Procedure at general meetings of members

The provisions in clause 15 (2)-(4) governing the chairing of meetings, procedure at meetings and participation in meetings by electronic means apply to any general meeting of the members, with all references to trustees to be taken as references to members.

20. Saving provisions

- (1) Subject to sub-clause (2) of this clause, all decisions of the charity trustees, or of a committee of charity trustees, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a charity trustee:
 - (a) who was disqualified from holding office;
 - (b) who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office;
 - (c) who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interest or otherwise;

if, without the vote of that charity trustee and that charity trustee being counted in the quorum, the decision has been made by a majority of the charity trustees at a quorate meeting.

- (2) Sub-clause (1) of this clause does not permit a charity trustee to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the charity trustees or of a committee of charity trustees if, but for sub-clause (1), the resolution would have been void, or if the charity trustee has not complied with clause 7 (Conflicts of interest).

21. Execution of documents

- (1) The CIO shall execute documents either by signature or by affixing its seal (if it has one)
- (2) A document is validly executed by signature if it is signed by at least two of the charity trustees.
- (3) If the CIO has a seal:
 - (a) it must comply with the provisions of the General Regulations; and

- (b) the seal must only be used by the authority of the charity trustees or of a committee of charity trustees duly authorised by the charity trustees. The charity trustees may determine who shall sign any document to which the seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it shall be signed by two charity trustees.

22. Use of electronic communications

(1) General

The CIO will comply with the requirements of the Communications Provisions in the General Regulations and in particular:

- (a) the requirement to provide within 21 days to any member on request a hard copy of any document or information sent to the member otherwise than in hard copy form;
- (b) any requirements to provide information to the Commission in a particular form or manner.

23. Keeping of Registers

The CIO must comply with its obligations under the General Regulations in relation to the keeping of, and provision of access to, a (combined) register of its members and charity trustees.

24. Minutes

The charity trustees must keep minutes of all:

- (a) appointments of officers made by the charity trustees;
- (b) proceedings at general meetings of the CIO;
- (c) meetings of the charity trustees and committees of charity trustees including:
- (d) the names of the trustees present at the meeting;
- (e) the decisions made at the meetings; and
- (f) where appropriate the reasons for the decisions;

25. Accounting records, accounts, annual reports and returns, register maintenance

- (1) The charity trustees must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, to the preparation and scrutiny of statements of account, and to the preparation of annual reports and returns. The statements of account, reports and returns must be sent to the Charity Commission, regardless of the income of the CIO, within 10 months of the financial year end.
- (2) The charity trustees must comply with their obligation to inform the Commission within 28 days of any change in the particulars of the CIO entered on the Central Register of Charities.

26. Rules

The charity trustees may from time to time make such reasonable and proper rules or byelaws as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of the CIO, but such rules or bye laws must not be inconsistent with any provision of this constitution. Copies of any such rules or bye laws currently in force must be made available to any member of the CIO on request.

27. Disputes

If a dispute arises between members of the CIO about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members under this constitution, 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.

28. Amendment of constitution

As provided by sections 224-227 of the Charities Act 2011:

- (1)** This constitution can only be amended:
 - (a) by resolution agreed in writing by all members of the CIO; or
 - (b) by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of those voting at a general meeting of the members of the CIO called in accordance with clause 19 (General meetings of members).
- (2)** Any alteration of clause 3 (Objects), clause [29] (Voluntary winding up or dissolution), this clause, or of any provision where the alteration would provide authorisation for any benefit to be obtained by charity trustees or members of the CIO or persons connected with them, requires the prior written consent of the Charity Commission.
- (3)** No amendment that is inconsistent with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011 or the General Regulations shall be valid.

29. Voluntary winding up or dissolution

- (1)** As provided by the Dissolution Regulations, the CIO may be dissolved by resolution of its members. Any decision by the members to wind up or dissolve the CIO can only be made:
 - (a) at a general meeting of the members of the CIO called in accordance with clause 19 (General meetings of members), of which not less than 14 days' notice has been given to those eligible to attend and vote:
 - i. by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of those voting, or
 - ii. by a resolution passed by decision taken without a vote and without any expression of dissent in response to the question put to the general meeting; or
 - iii. by a resolution agreed in writing by all members of the CIO.
- (2)** Subject to the payment of all the CIO's debts:
 - (a) Any resolution for the winding up of the CIO, or for the dissolution of the CIO without winding up, may contain a provision directing how any remaining assets of the CIO shall be applied.
 - (b) If the resolution does not contain such a provision, the charity trustees must decide how any remaining assets of the CIO shall be applied.

- (c) In either case the remaining assets must be applied for charitable purposes the same as or similar to those of the CIO.
- (3) The CIO must observe the requirements of the Dissolution Regulations in applying to the Commission for the CIO to be removed from the Register of Charities, and in particular:
- (a) the charity trustees must send with their application to the Commission:
 - (i) a copy of the resolution passed by the members of the CIO;
 - (ii) two or more persons falling within sub-clause (e)(i) who, when taken together, have a substantial interest.

Section 118 of the Charities Act 2011 apply for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this constitution.

30. General meetings of members

(1) Proxy voting

- (a) Any member of the CIO may appoint another person as a proxy to exercise all or any of that member's rights to attend, speak and vote at a general meeting of the CIO. Proxies must be appointed by a notice in writing (a "proxy notice") which:
 - (i) states the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;
 - (ii) identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
 - (iii) is signed by or on behalf of the member appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the CIO may determine; and
 - (iv) is delivered to the CIO in accordance with the constitution and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.
- (b) The CIO may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.
- (c) Proxy notices may (but do not have to) specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.
- (d) Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as:
 - (i) 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
 - (ii) 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.
- (e) A member 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 CIO by or on behalf of that member.
- (f) An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the CIO a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the member by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.

- (g) 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.
- (h) If a proxy notice is not signed or authenticated by the member appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence that the person who signed or authenticated it on that member's behalf had authority to do so.

(2) Postal Voting

- (i) The CIO may, if the charity trustees so decide, allow the members to vote by post or electronic mail ("email") to elect charity trustees or to make a decision on any matter that is being decided at a general meeting of the members.
- (j) The charity trustees must appoint at least two persons independent of the CIO to serve as scrutineers to supervise the conduct of the postal / email ballot and the counting of votes.
- (k) If postal and / or email voting is to be allowed on a matter, the CIO must send to members of the CIO not less than 7 days before the deadline for receipt of votes cast in this way:
 - (l) a notice by email, if the member has agreed to receive notices in this way under clause [22] (Use of electronic communications), including an explanation of the purpose of the vote and the voting procedure to be followed by the member, and a voting form capable of being returned by email or post to the CIO, containing details of the resolution being put to a vote, or of the candidates for election, as applicable;
 - (i) a notice by post to all other members, including a written explanation of the purpose of the postal vote and the voting procedure to be followed by the member; and a postal voting form containing details of the resolution being put to a vote, or of the candidates for election, as applicable.
- (m) The voting procedure must require all forms returned by post to be in an envelope with the member's name and signature, and nothing else, on the outside, inside another envelope addressed to 'The Scrutineers for [name of CIO]', at the CIO's principal office or such other postal address as is specified in the voting procedure.
- (n) The voting procedure for votes cast by email must require the member's name to be at the top of the email, and the email must be authenticated in the manner specified in the voting procedure.
- (o) Email votes must be returned to an email address used only for this purpose and must be accessed only by a scrutineer.
- (p) The voting procedure must specify the closing date and time for receipt of votes, and must state that any votes received after the closing date or not complying with the voting procedure will be invalid and not be counted.
- (q) The scrutineers must make a list of names of members casting valid votes, and a separate list of members casting votes which were invalid. These lists must be provided to a charity trustee or other person overseeing admission to, and voting at, the general meeting. A member who has cast a valid postal or email vote must not vote at the meeting, and must not be counted in the quorum for any part of the meeting on which he, she or it has already cast a valid vote. A member who has cast an invalid vote by post or email is allowed to vote at the meeting and counts towards the quorum.
- (r) For postal votes, the scrutineers must retain the internal envelopes (with the member's name and signature). For email votes, the scrutineers must cut off and retain any part of the email that includes the member's name. In each case, a scrutineer must record on this evidence of the member's name that the vote has been counted, or if the vote has been

declared invalid, the reason for such declaration.

- (s) Votes cast by post or email must be counted by all the scrutineers before the meeting at which the vote is to be taken. The scrutineers must provide to the person chairing the meeting written confirmation of the number of valid votes received by post and email and the number of votes received which were invalid.
- (t) The scrutineers must not disclose the result of the postal / email ballot until after votes taken by hand or by poll at the meeting, or by poll after the meeting, have been counted. Only at this point shall the scrutineers declare the result of the valid votes received, and these votes shall be included in the declaration of the result of the vote.
- (u) Following the final declaration of the result of the vote, the scrutineers must provide to a charity trustee or other authorised person bundles containing the evidence of members submitting valid postal votes; evidence of members submitting valid email votes; evidence of invalid votes; the valid votes; and the invalid votes.
- (v) Any dispute about the conduct of a postal or email ballot must be referred initially to a panel set up by the charity trustees, to consist of two trustees and two persons independent of the CIO. If the dispute cannot be satisfactorily resolved by the panel, it must be referred to the Electoral Reform Services.

(3) Use of electronic communications

(a) To the CIO

- (i) Any member or charity trustee of the CIO may communicate electronically with the CIO to an address specified by the CIO for the purpose, so long as the communication is authenticated in a manner which is satisfactory to the CIO.

(b) By the CIO

- (ii) Any member or charity trustee of the CIO, by providing the CIO with his or her email address or similar, is taken to have agreed to receive communications from the CIO in electronic form at that address, unless the member has indicated to the CIO his or her unwillingness to receive such communications in that form.

- (iii) The charity trustees may, subject to compliance with any legal requirements, by means of publication on its website:

- i. provide the members with the notice referred to in clause 19(2) (Notice of general meetings);
- ii. give charity trustees notice of their meetings in accordance with clause 15(1) (Calling meetings); and
- iii. submit any proposal to the members or charity trustees for decision by written resolution or postal vote in accordance with the CIO's powers under clause 18 (Members' decisions), 18(4) (Decisions taken by resolution in writing), or the provisions for postal voting 30(2).

(b) The charity trustees must –

- (a) take reasonable steps to ensure that members and charity trustees are promptly notified of the publication of any such notice or proposal; and

- (b) send any such notice or proposal in hard copy form to any member or charity trustee who has not consented to receive communications in electronic form.