

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('Association' Model)**

# **CONSTITUTION**

**OF**

**BRITISH COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP CIO**

# CONSTITUTION OF BRITISH COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP CIO (BCIG)

## 1. INTERPRETATION

1.1. In this constitution:

“**connected person**” means:

- (a) a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the charity trustee;
- (b) the spouse or civil partner of the charity trustee or of any person falling within sub-clause (a) above;
- (c) a person carrying on business in partnership with the charity trustee or with any person falling within sub-clause (a) or (b) above;
- (d) an institution which is controlled –
  - (i) by the charity trustee or any connected person falling within sub-clause (a), (b), or (c) above; or
  - (ii) by two or more persons falling within sub-clause (d)(i), when taken together
- (e) a body corporate in which –
  - (i) the charity trustee or any connected person falling within sub-clauses (a) to (c) has a substantial interest; or
  - (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.

“**Corporate Membership**” a category of non-voting membership of the BCIG created pursuant to clause 8.12.

“**General Regulations**” means the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012.

“**Dissolution Regulations**” means the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (Insolvency and Dissolution) Regulations 2012.

The “**Communications Provisions**” means the Communications Provisions in [Part 10, Chapter 4] of the General Regulations.

“**charity trustee**” means a charity trustee of the BCIG.

A “**poll**” means a counted vote or ballot, usually (but not necessarily) in writing.

## **2. OBJECTS**

The objects of the BCIG are: For the public benefit to advance knowledge, best practice and awareness in the field of hearing implantation, in particular through the dissemination of cochlear implant research to health professionals and information to the public in order to improve the hearing, communication and quality of life of hearing impaired people and their families.

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.

## **3. POWERS**

- 3.1. The BCIG has power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, the BCIG's powers include power to:
- 3.1.1. promote all medical, surgical, audiological, educational, rehabilitative and research aspects of auditory implant technologies;
  - 3.1.2. stimulate and contribute to research and audit in the field of auditory implantation;
  - 3.1.3. arrange, hold and participate in informative meetings, talks and events at which those interested in auditory implantation may attend, discuss clinical practice and present clinical and scientific papers;
  - 3.1.4. take an overarching interest in all aspects of the development of auditory implants (including screening and assessment, service provision, related sciences and health promotion) in the UK and Eire;
  - 3.1.5. provide advice on auditory implantation to other related professional organisations, the Department of Health and other relevant bodies;
  - 3.1.6. facilitate the development of clinical guidelines and standards, providing a forum for members to collaborate and agree best practice;
  - 3.1.7. liaise with other similar organisations internationally;
  - 3.1.8. arrange and hold at least one scientific and one business meeting per year;
  - 3.1.9. publish informative documents, such as journals and online articles;
  - 3.1.10. raise funds (but not by means of taxable trading);
  - 3.1.11. borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of its property as security for the repayment of the money borrowed. The BCIG must comply as appropriate with sections 124 and 125 of the Charities Act 2011 if it wishes to mortgage land;
  - 3.1.12. buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;

- 3.1.13. sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the BCIG. In exercising this power, the BCIG must comply as appropriate with sections 117 and 119 - 123 of the Charities Act 2011;
- 3.1.14. employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of the BCIG. The BCIG may employ or remunerate a charity trustee only to the extent that it is permitted to do so by clause 5 (Benefits and payments to charity trustees and connected persons) and provided it complies with the conditions of those clauses;
- 3.1.15. deposit or invest funds, employ a professional fund-manager, and arrange for the investments or other property of the BCIG 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.

#### **4. APPLICATION OF INCOME AND PROPERTY**

- 4.1. The income and property of the BCIG must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects.
  - 4.1.1. A charity trustee is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the BCIG or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the BCIG.
  - 4.1.2. A charity trustee may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the BCIG's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 4.2. None of the income or property of the BCIG may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the BCIG. This does not prevent a member who is not also a charity trustee receiving:
  - 4.2.1. a benefit from the BCIG as a beneficiary of the BCIG;
  - 4.2.2. reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the BCIG.
- 4.3. Nothing in this clause shall prevent a charity trustee or connected person receiving any benefit or payment which is authorised by Clause 5.

#### **5. BENEFITS AND PAYMENTS TO CHARITY TRUSTEES AND CONNECTED PERSONS**

##### **General provisions**

- 5.1. No charity trustee or connected person may:
  - 5.1.1. buy or receive any goods or services from the BCIG on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;
  - 5.1.2. sell goods, services, or any interest in land to the BCIG;

- 5.1.3. be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the BCIG;
  - 5.1.4. receive any other financial benefit from the BCIG;
- unless the payment or benefit is permitted by clauses 5.2 to 5.7 below 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.

**Scope and powers permitting trustees’ or connected persons’ benefits**

- 5.2. A charity trustee or connected person may receive a benefit from the BCIG as a beneficiary of the BCIG provided that a majority of the trustees do not benefit in this way.
- 5.3. 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 BCIG where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 185 to 188 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 5.4. Subject to clause 5.8 below a charity trustee or connected person may provide the BCIG with goods that are not supplied in connection with services provided to the BCIG by the charity trustee or connected person.
- 5.5. A charity trustee or connected person may receive interest on money lent to the BCIG at a reasonable and proper rate which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate).
- 5.6. A charity trustee or connected person may receive rent for premises let by the trustee or connected person to the BCIG. 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.
- 5.7. A charity trustee or connected person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of the BCIG on the same terms as members of the public.

**Payment for supply of goods only – controls**

- 5.8. The BCIG and its charity trustees may only rely upon the authority provided by clause 5.4 above if each of the following conditions is satisfied:
  - 5.8.1. The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in a written agreement between the BCIG and the charity trustee or connected person supplying the goods (“the supplier”).
  - 5.8.2. 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.
  - 5.8.3. The other charity trustees are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the BCIG 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.

- 5.8.4. 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 BCIG.
  - 5.8.5. 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.
  - 5.8.6. The reason for their decision is recorded by the charity trustees in the minute book.
  - 5.8.7. A majority of the charity trustees then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by this clause 5.
- 5.9. In clauses 5.2 to 5.8 above:
- 5.9.1. “the BCIG” includes any company in which the BCIG:
    - (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;
  - 5.9.2. “connected person” includes any person within the definition set out in clause 1 (Interpretation).

## **6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF LOYALTY**

- 6.1. A charity trustee must:
  - 6.1.1. declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the BCIG or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the BCIG which has not previously been declared; and
  - 6.1.2. 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 BCIG and any personal interest (including but not limited to any financial interest).
- 6.2. 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.

## **7. LIABILITY OF MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ASSETS OF THE BCIG IF IT IS WOUND UP**

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

## **8. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BCIG**

### **Admission of new members**

#### **Eligibility: UK and Eire**

- 8.1. Membership of the BCIG is open to anyone who has a clinical role in the field of auditory implants, or who is actively involved in research into auditory implants or who represents other allied non-commercial organisations, and who, by applying for membership, has indicated his, her or its agreement to become a member and acceptance of the duty of members set out in clause 8.6 below. This will include members of auditory implant centres, employees of auditory implant manufacturers who provide clinical support, researchers, appropriate retired professionals and representatives of auditory implant patient groups.
- 8.2. A member may be an individual, a [non-commercial] corporate body, or an individual or corporate body representing an organisation which is not incorporated.

#### **Eligibility: Overseas**

- 8.3. Membership criteria is as set out in the Rules made pursuant to clause 25.

### **Admission procedure**

- 8.4. The charity trustees:
  - 8.4.1. may require applications for membership to be made in any reasonable way that they decide;
  - 8.4.2. shall, if they approve an application for membership, notify the applicant of their decision within 28 days;
  - 8.4.3. may refuse an application for membership if they believe that it is in the best interests of the BCIG for them to do so;
  - 8.4.4. shall, if they decide to refuse an application for membership, give the applicant their reasons for doing so, within 28 days of the decision being taken, and give the applicant the opportunity to appeal against the refusal; and
  - 8.4.5. shall give fair consideration to any such appeal, and shall inform the applicant of their decision, but any decision to confirm refusal of the application for membership shall be final.

### **Transfer of membership**

- 8.5. Membership of the BCIG cannot be transferred to anyone else except in the case of an individual or corporate body representing an organisation which is not

incorporated, whose membership may be transferred by the unincorporated organisation to a new representative. Such transfer of membership does not take effect until the BCIG has received written notification of the transfer.

### **Duty of members**

- 8.6. It is the duty of each member of the BCIG to exercise his or her powers as a member of the BCIG in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the BCIG.

### **Termination of membership**

- 8.7. Membership of the BCIG comes to an end if:
- 8.7.1. the member dies, or, in the case of an organisation (or the representative of an organisation) that organisation ceases to exist; or
  - 8.7.2. the member sends a notice of resignation to the charity trustees; or
  - 8.7.3. is more than 28 days in arrears in paying the relevant subscription (unless in their absolute discretion the charity trustees decide to take note of special circumstances);
  - 8.7.4. any sum of money owed by the member to the BCIG is not paid in full within six months of its falling due (unless in their absolute discretion the charity trustees decide to take note of special circumstances); or
  - 8.7.5. the charity trustees decide that it is in the best interests of the BCIG that the member in question should be removed from membership, and pass a resolution to that effect.
- 8.8. Before the charity trustees take any decision to remove someone from membership of the BCIG they must:
- 8.8.1. inform the member of the reasons why it is proposed to remove him, her or it from membership;
  - 8.8.2. give the member at least 21 clear days notice in which to make representations to the charity trustees as to why he, she or it should not be removed from membership;
  - 8.8.3. at a duly constituted meeting of the charity trustees, consider whether or not the member should be removed from membership;
  - 8.8.4. consider at that meeting any representations which the member makes as to why the member should not be removed; and
  - 8.8.5. allow the member, or the member's representative, to make those representations in person at that meeting, if the member so chooses.

### **Membership fees**

- 8.9. The BCIG may require members to pay reasonable membership fees to the BCIG.
- 8.10. Members may join at any time throughout the calendar year and obtain membership for a period of 12 months from their date of joining, eg 1 September to 31 August.

8.11. Failure to pay subscriptions as requested will result in lapse of membership.

### **Informal or associate (non-voting) membership**

8.12. The charity trustees may create associate or other classes of non-voting membership, in addition to Corporate 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.

8.13. 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.

## **9. MEMBERS’ DECISIONS**

### **General provisions**

9.1. Except for those decisions that must be taken in a particular way as indicated in clauses 9.9 to 9.11 decisions of the members of the BCIG may be taken either by vote at a general meeting as provided in clause 9.2 or by written resolution as provided in clause 9.3.

### **Taking ordinary decisions by vote**

9.2. Subject to clauses 9.9 to 9.11, any decision of the members of the BCIG may be taken by means of a resolution at a general meeting. Such a resolution may be passed by a simple majority of votes cast at the meeting (including votes cast by postal or email ballot, and proxy votes).

### **Taking ordinary decisions by written resolution without a general meeting**

9.3. Subject to clauses 9.9 to 9.11, a resolution in writing agreed by a simple majority of all the members who would have been entitled to vote upon it had it been proposed at a general meeting shall be effective, provided that:

9.3.1. a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to all the members eligible to vote; and

9.3.2. a simple 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 (or in the case of an organisation which is a member, by execution according to its usual procedure), by a statement of their identity accompanying the document, or in such other manner as the BCIG has specified.

9.4. The resolution in writing may comprise several copies to which one or more members has signified their agreement.

9.5. Eligibility to vote on the resolution is limited to members who are members of the BCIG on the date when the proposal is first circulated in accordance with paragraph

- (a) above.
- 9.6. Not less than 10% of the members of the BCIG may request the charity trustees to make a proposal for decision by the members.
- 9.7. The charity trustees must within 28 days of receiving such a request comply with it if:
- 9.7.1. The proposal is not frivolous or vexatious, and does not involve the publication of defamatory material;
- 9.7.2. The proposal is stated with sufficient clarity to enable effect to be given to it if it is agreed by the members; and
- 9.7.3. Effect can lawfully be given to the proposal if it is so agreed.
- 9.8. Clauses 9.3 to 9.5 apply to a proposal made at the request of members.

#### **Decisions that must be taken in a particular way**

- 9.9. Any decision to remove a trustee must be taken in accordance with clause 14.2.
- 9.10. Any decision to amend this constitution must be taken in accordance with clause 27 of this constitution (Amendment of Constitution).
- 9.11. Any decision to wind up or dissolve the BCIG must be taken in accordance with clause 28 of this constitution (Voluntary winding up or dissolution). Any decision to amalgamate or transfer the undertaking of the BCIG to one or more other charities must be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011.

## **10. GENERAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

### **Types of general meeting**

- 10.1. There must be an annual general meeting (AGM) of the members of the BCIG. The first AGM must be held within 18 months of the registration of the BCIG, and subsequent AGMs must be held at intervals of not more than 15 months. The AGM must receive the annual statement of accounts (duly audited or examined where applicable) and the trustees' annual report, and must elect trustees as required under clause 12. Other general meetings of the members of the BCIG may be held at any time.
- 10.2. All general meetings must be held in accordance with the following provisions.

### **Calling general meetings**

- 10.3. The charity trustees:
- 10.3.1. must call the annual general meeting of the members of the BCIG in accordance with clause 10.1, and identify it as such in the notice of the meeting; and
- 10.3.2. may call any other general meeting of the members at any time.
- 10.4. The charity trustees must, within 21 days, call a general meeting of the members of the BCIG if:
- 10.4.1. they receive a request to do so from at least 10% of the members of the

BCIG; and

- 10.4.2. the request states the general nature of the business to be dealt with at the meeting, and is authenticated by the member(s) making the request.
- 10.5. If, at the time of any such request, there has not been any general meeting of the members of the BCIG for more than 12 months, then clause 10.4.1 shall have effect as if 5% were substituted for 10%.
- 10.6. Any such request may include particulars of a resolution that may properly be proposed, and is intended to be proposed, at the meeting.
- 10.7. A resolution may only properly be proposed if it is lawful, and is not defamatory, frivolous or vexatious.
- 10.8. Any general meeting called by the charity trustees at the request of the members of the BCIG must be held within 28 days from the date on which it is called.
- 10.9. If the charity trustees fail to comply with this obligation to call a general meeting at the request of its members, then the members who requested the meeting may themselves call a general meeting.
- 10.10. A general meeting called in this way must be held not more than 3 months after the date when the members first requested the meeting.
- 10.11. The BCIG must reimburse any reasonable expenses incurred by the members calling a general meeting by reason of the failure of the charity trustees to duly call the meeting, but the BCIG shall be entitled to be indemnified by the charity trustees who were responsible for such failure.

#### **Notice of general meetings**

- 10.12. The charity trustees, or, as the case may be, the relevant members of the BCIG, must give at least 14 clear days notice of any general meeting to all of the members, and to any charity trustee of the BCIG who is not a member.
- 10.13. If it is agreed by not less than 90% of all members of the BCIG, any resolution may be proposed and passed at the meeting even though the requirements of clause 10.12 of this clause have not been met. This clause does not apply 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.
- 10.14. The notice of any general meeting must:
  - 10.14.1. state the time and date of the meeting;
  - 10.14.2. give the address at which the meeting is to take place;
  - 10.14.3. give particulars of any resolution which is to be moved at the meeting, and of the general nature of any other business to be dealt with at the meeting; and
  - 10.14.4. if a proposal to alter the constitution of the BCIG is to be considered at the meeting, include the text of the proposed alteration;
  - 10.14.5. include, with the notice for the AGM, the annual statement of accounts

and trustees' annual report, details of persons standing for election or re-election as trustee, or where allowed under clause 21 (Use of electronic communication), details of where the information may be found on the BCIG's website.

- 10.15. 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.
- 10.16. The proceedings of a meeting shall not be invalidated because a member who was entitled to receive notice of the meeting did not receive it because of accidental omission by the BCIG.

#### **Chairing of general meetings**

- 10.17. The person nominated as chair by the charity trustees under clause 18.3 (Chairing of meetings), shall, if present at the general meeting and willing to act, preside as chair of the meeting. Subject to that, the members of the BCIG who are present at a general meeting shall elect a chair to preside at the meeting.

#### **Quorum at general meetings**

- 10.18. No business may be transacted at any general meeting of the members of the BCIG unless a quorum is present when the meeting starts. The meeting may be convened with members attending in person or by means of a recognised electronic conference platform.
- 10.19. Subject to the following provisions, the quorum for general meetings shall be the greater of 5% or fifteen members. An organisation represented by a person present at the meeting in accordance with clauses 10.31 and 10.32, is counted as being present in person.
- 10.20. If the meeting has been called by or at the request of the members and a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the starting time specified in the notice of the meeting, the meeting is closed.
- 10.21. If the meeting has been called in any other way and a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the starting time specified in the notice of the meeting, the chair must adjourn the meeting. The date, time and place at which the meeting will resume must either be announced by the chair or be notified to the BCIG's members at least seven clear days before the date on which it will resume.
- 10.22. If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the start time of the adjourned meeting, the member or members present at the meeting constitute a quorum.
- 10.23. If at any time during the meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting may discuss issues and make recommendations to the trustees but may not make any decisions. If decisions are required which must be made by a meeting of the members, the meeting must be adjourned.

## **Voting at general meetings**

- 10.24. Any decision other than one falling within clauses 9.9 to 9.11 (Decisions that must be taken in a particular way) shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast at the meeting (including proxy and postal votes). Every member has one vote unless otherwise provided in the rights of a particular class of membership under this constitution.
- 10.25. A resolution put to the vote of a meeting shall be decided on a show of hands, unless (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) a poll is duly demanded. A poll may be demanded by the chair or by at least 10% of the members present in person or by proxy at the meeting.
- 10.26. A poll demanded on the election of a person to chair the meeting or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately. A poll on any other matter shall be taken, and the result of the poll shall be announced, in such manner as the chair of the meeting shall decide, provided that the poll must be taken, and the result of the poll announced, within 30 days of the demand for the poll.
- 10.27. A poll may be taken:
- 10.27.1. at the meeting at which it was demanded; or
  - 10.27.2. at some other time and place specified by the chair; or
  - 10.27.3. through the use of postal or electronic communications.
- 10.28. In the event of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chair of the meeting shall have a second, or casting vote.
- 10.29. Any objection to the qualification of any voter must be raised at the meeting at which the vote is cast and the decision of the chair of the meeting shall be final.

## **Proxy Voting**

- 10.30. Members are entitled to attend general meetings by proxy.
- 10.30.1. Any member of the BCIG 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 BCIG. 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 BCIG may determine; and
  - (iv) is delivered to the BCIG in accordance with the constitution and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.
- 10.30.2. BCIG may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.

- 10.30.3. 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.
- 10.30.4. 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.
- 10.30.5. 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 BCIG by or on behalf of that member.
- 10.30.6. An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the BCIG a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the member by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.
- 10.30.7. 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.
- 10.30.8. 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.

### **Representation of organisations and corporate members**

- 10.31. A non-commercial organisation or corporate body that is a member of the BCIG may, in accordance with its usual decision-making process, authorise a person to act as its representative at any general meeting of the BCIG. This does not apply to non-voting members such as Corporate Members.
- 10.32. The representative is entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the organisation or corporate body as the organisation or corporate body could exercise as an individual member of the BCIG.

### **Adjournment of meetings**

- 10.33. The chair may with the consent of a meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn the meeting to another time and/or place. No business may be transacted at an adjourned meeting except business which could properly have been transacted at the original meeting.

## **11. CHARITY TRUSTEES**

### **Functions and duties of charity trustees**

- 11.1. The charity trustees shall manage the affairs of the BCIG and may for that purpose

exercise all the powers of the BCIG. It is the duty of each charity trustee:

- 11.1.1. to exercise his or her powers and to perform his or her functions as a trustee of the BCIG in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the BCIG; and
- 11.1.2. 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 BCIG 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.

### **Eligibility for trusteeship**

- 11.2. Every charity trustee must be a natural person and a member of the BCIG.
- 11.3. No one may be appointed as a charity trustee:
  - 11.3.1. if he or she is under the age of 16 years; or
  - 11.3.2. if he or she would automatically cease to hold office under the provisions of clause 14.1.6; or
  - 11.3.3. if he or she is an Overseas Member; or
  - 11.3.4. if he or she is a Corporate Member; or
  - 11.3.5. if he or she has a commercial interest,all as defined in the rules made pursuant to clause 25 from time to time.
- 11.4. 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.
- 11.5. At least one of the trustees of the BCIG must be 18 years of age or over. If there is no trustee aged at least 18 years, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee.

### **Number of charity trustees**

- 11.6. There must be at least eight 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. There shall be six Executive Officer charity trustees comprising: Chair, Vice-Chair, Immediate Past Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary. In addition there shall be at least three Ordinary Member charity trustees.
- 11.7. The maximum number of charity trustees is 12. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.
- 11.8. The Chair and Vice Chair roles are subject to a maximum term of 2 years although,

in exceptional circumstances and with the agreement of at least 75% of the other charity trustees, this may be extended to a maximum of three years. The retiring Vice Chair will normally assume the role of Chair for a two year term and the retiring Chair will assume the role of Immediate Past Chair for a one year term. This is subject to the support of at least 75% of the other charity trustees. In exceptional circumstances if the vacated Chair's position cannot be filled by the Vice-Chair, it will be filled by an existing charity trustee. If more than one charity trustee expresses an interest in the vacated Chair's position, a decision will be made by an election by members.

- 11.9. All other Executive Officer and Ordinary Member charity trustee roles are subject to a first term of 2 years and a maximum of three consecutive terms (of 2 years) if supported by at least 75% of the other charity trustees and will not have to stand for re-election by members, unless changing role. This decision will be based on a proven track record of commitment as outlined in the charity trustee commitment criteria.
- 11.10. All charity trustees must retire after 6 years (or 7 years if 11.8 is applied) and stand down for a period of 3 years before being eligible for re-election as a charity trustee. Charity trustees cannot transfer to a new role unless elected by members (apart from those transitioning from Vice Chair to Chair to Immediate Past Chair). All other vacated posts will be filled by election by members.

**First charity trustees**

- 11.11. The first charity trustees of the BCIG are
  - Ms Agnes Allen
  - Dr Helen Cullington
  - Mrs Kate Hanvey
  - Professor Dan Jiang
  - Dr Martin O'Driscoll
  - Mrs Helen Peebles
  - Ms Tracey Twomey
  - Ms Katherine Wilson

**12. APPOINTMENT OF CHARITY TRUSTEES**

- 12.1. The vacancies arising will be notified to the membership. Nominations from a member, seconded by two other members, must be submitted via the official nomination form to the Secretary 42 days prior to the annual general meeting to allow for voting to occur in the case of multiple nominations.
- 12.2. Members ratify the election of nominated individuals at the annual general meeting, with their appointment to take effect at the end of that meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in clause 12.4.
- 12.3. In the case of only one nomination occurring, the nominated individual will automatically take up the vacant position.

- 12.4. The charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause 14 (Retirement and removal of charity trustees), or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified in clauses 11.6 and 11.7 on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded.
- 12.5. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment.

### **13. INFORMATION FOR NEW CHARITY TRUSTEES**

- 13.1. The charity trustees will make available to each new charity trustee, on or before his or her first appointment:
  - 13.1.1. a copy of this constitution and any amendments made to it; and
  - 13.1.2. a copy of the BCIG's latest trustees' annual report and statement of accounts.

### **14. RETIREMENT AND REMOVAL OF CHARITY TRUSTEES**

- 14.1. A charity trustee ceases to hold office if he or she:
  - 14.1.1. retires by notifying the BCIG 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);
  - 14.1.2. is absent without the permission of the charity trustees from at least two thirds of their meetings held within a rolling 12 month period and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;
  - 14.1.3. dies;
  - 14.1.4. in the written opinion, given to the BCIG, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a charity trustee and may remain so for more than six months;
  - 14.1.5. is removed by the members of the BCIG in accordance with clause 14.2; or
  - 14.1.6. is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of section 178 – 180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).
- 14.2. A charity trustee shall be removed from office if a resolution to remove that trustee is proposed at a general meeting of the members called for that purpose and properly convened in accordance with clause 10, and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the meeting.
- 14.3. A resolution to remove a charity trustee in accordance with this clause shall not take effect unless the individual concerned has been given at least 14 clear days' notice in writing that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify removal from office, and has been given a reasonable opportunity of making

oral and/or written representations to the members of the BCIG.

## **15. REAPPOINTMENT OF CHARITY TRUSTEES**

A charity trustee who has served for two consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a third consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of at least two years.

## **16. TAKING OF DECISIONS BY CHARITY TRUSTEES**

16.1. Any decision may be taken either:

16.1.1. at a meeting of the charity trustees; or

16.1.2. 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 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

16.1.3. 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 BCIG at its principal office or such other place as the trustees may resolve within 28 days of the circulation date.

## **17. DELEGATION BY CHARITY TRUSTEES**

17.1. The charity trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee or committees (including working groups and special interest groups), and, if they do, they must 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.

17.2. 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: -

17.2.1. a committee may consist of two or more persons, but at least one member of each committee must be a charity trustee;

17.2.2. 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

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

## **18. MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF CHARITY TRUSTEES**

### **Calling meetings**

- 18.1. Any charity trustee may call a meeting of the charity trustees. The charity trustees must hold at least three meetings each year.
- 18.2. Subject to that, the charity trustees shall decide how their meetings are to be called, and what notice is required.

### **Chairing of meetings**

- 18.3. 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.

### **Procedure at meetings**

- 18.4. No decision shall be taken at a meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the decision is taken. The quorum is four charity trustees, including at least two Executive Officer Trustees. 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.
- 18.5. Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of those eligible to vote.
- 18.6. In the case of an equality of votes, the chair shall have a second or casting vote.

### **Participation in meetings by electronic means**

- 18.7. 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.
- 18.8. 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.
- 18.9. Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including chairing and the taking of minutes.

## **19. SAVING PROVISIONS**

- 19.1. Subject to clause 19.2, 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:
- 19.1.1. who was disqualified from holding office;
- 19.1.2. who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution

to vacate office;

19.1.3. 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.

19.2. Clause 19.1 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 clause 19.1, the resolution would have been void, or if the charity trustee has not complied with clause 6 (Conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty).

## **20. EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS**

20.1. The BCIG shall execute documents either by signature or by affixing its seal (if it has one).

20.2. A document is validly executed by signature if it is signed by at least two of the charity trustees.

20.3. If the BCIG has a seal:

20.3.1. it must comply with the provisions of the General Regulations; and

20.3.2. it 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 determined it shall be signed by two charity trustees.

## **21. USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

### **General**

21.1. The BCIG will comply with the requirements of the Communications Provisions in the General Regulations and in particular:

21.1.1. 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;

21.1.2. any requirements to provide information to the Commission in a particular form or manner.

### **To the BCIG**

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

## **By the BCIG**

- 21.3. Any member or charity trustee of the BCIG, by providing the BCIG with his or her email address or similar, is taken to have agreed to receive communications from the BCIG in electronic form at that address, unless the member has indicated to the BCIG his or her unwillingness to receive such communications in that form.
- 21.4. The charity trustees may, subject to compliance with any legal requirements, by means of publication on its website:
- 21.4.1. provide the members with the notice referred to in clause 10.14 (Notice of general meetings);
  - 21.4.2. give charity trustees notice of their meetings in accordance with clause 18.2 (Calling meetings);and
  - 21.4.3. subject any proposal to the members or charity trustees for decision by written resolution in accordance with the BCIG's powers under clause 9 (Members' decisions) or 9.3 (Decisions taken by resolution in writing).
- 21.5. The charity trustees must:
- 21.5.1. take reasonable steps to ensure that members and charity trustees are promptly notified of the publication of any such notice or proposal;
  - 21.5.2. 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.

## **22. KEEPING OF REGISTERS**

The BCIG must comply with its obligations under the General Regulations in relation to the keeping of, and provision of access to, registers of its members and charity trustees.

## **23. MINUTES**

- 23.1. The charity trustees must keep minutes of all:
- 23.1.1. appointments of officers made by the charity trustees;
  - 23.1.2. proceedings at general meetings of the BCIG;
  - 23.1.3. meetings of the charity trustees and committees of charity trustees including:
    - (i) the names of the trustees present at the meeting;
    - (ii) the decisions made at the meetings; and
    - (iii) where appropriate the reasons for the decisions;
  - 23.1.4. decisions made by the charity trustees otherwise than in meetings.

## **24. ACCOUNTING RECORDS, ACCOUNTS, ANNUAL REPORTS AND RETURNS, REGISTER MAINTENANCE**

- 24.1. 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 accounts, and to the preparation of annual reports and returns. The statements of accounts, reports and returns must be sent to the Charity Commission, regardless of the income of the BCIG, within 10 months of the financial year end.

- 24.2. The charity trustees must comply with their obligation to inform the Commission within 28 days of any change in the particulars of the BCIG entered on the Central Register of Charities.

## **25. RULES**

The charity trustees 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 BCIG, 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 BCIG on request.

## **26. DISPUTES**

If a dispute arises between members of the BCIG 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.

## **27. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION**

- 27.1. As provided by clauses 224 -227 of the Charities Act 2011:

27.1.1. This constitution can only be amended:

- (i) by resolution agreed in writing by all members of the BCIG; or
- (ii) by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of votes cast at a general meeting of the members of the BCIG.

- 27.2. Any alteration of clause 2 (Objects), clause 28 (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 BCIG or persons connected with them, requires the prior written consent of the Charity Commission.

- 27.3. No amendment that is inconsistent with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011 or the General Regulations shall be valid.

- 27.4. A copy of any resolution altering the constitution, together with a copy of the BCIG's constitution as amended, must be sent to the Commission within 15 days from the date on which the resolution is passed. The amendment does not take effect until it has been recorded in the Register of Charities.

## **28. VOLUNTARY WINDING UP OR DISSOLUTION**

- 28.1. As provided by the Dissolution Regulations, the BCIG may be dissolved by

resolution of its members. Any decision by the members to wind up or dissolve the BCIG can only be made:

28.1.1. at a general meeting of the members of the BCIG called in accordance with clause 10 (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 BCIG.

28.2. Subject to the payment of all the BCIG's debts:

28.2.1. Any resolution for the winding up of the BCIG, or for the dissolution of the BCIG without winding up, may contain a provision directing how any remaining assets of the BCIG shall be applied.

28.2.2. If the resolution does not contain such a provision, the charity trustees must decide how any remaining assets of the BCIG shall be applied.

28.2.3. In either case the remaining assets must be applied for charitable purposes the same as or similar to those of the BCIG.

28.3. The BCIG must observe the requirements of the Dissolution Regulations in applying to the Commission for the BCIG to be removed from the Register of Charities, and in particular:

28.3.1. the charity trustees must send with their application to the Commission:

- (i) a copy of the resolution passed by the members of the BCIG;
- (ii) a declaration by the charity trustees that any debts and other liabilities of the BCIG have been settled or otherwise provided for in full; and
- (iii) a statement by the charity trustees setting out the way in which any property of the BCIG has been or is to be applied prior to its dissolution in accordance with this constitution;

28.3.2. the charity trustees must ensure that a copy of the application is sent within seven days to every member and employee of the BCIG, and to any charity trustee of the BCIG who was not privy to the application.

28.4. If the BCIG is to be wound up or dissolved in any other circumstances, the provisions of the Dissolution Regulations must be followed.