

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL

ARTICLES of ASSOCIATION of
THE DISABLED AND CARERS
INFORMATION CENTRE ASSOCIATION

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Constitution of company

- 1 The model articles of association as prescribed in Schedule 2 to The Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 are excluded in respect of this company.

Defined terms

- 2 In these articles of association, unless the context requires otherwise:-
 - (a) "Act" means the Companies Act 2006;
 - (b) "charity" means a body which is either a "Scottish charity" within the meaning of section 13 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 or a "charity" within the meaning of section 1 of the Charities Act 2006, providing (in either case) that its objects are limited to charitable purposes;
 - (c) "charitable purpose" means a charitable purpose under section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 which is also regarded as a charitable purpose in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts;
 - (d) "Company" means the Disabled and Carers Information Centre Association registered in Scotland with company number SC160754 and registered charity number SC024115;
 - (e) "electronic form" has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Act;
 - (f) "OSCR" means the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator;
 - (g) "property" means any property, heritable or moveable, real or personal, wherever situated; and
 - (h) "subsidiary" has the meaning given in section 1159 of the Act.
- 3 Any reference to a provision of any legislation (including any statutory instrument) shall include any statutory modification or re-enactment of that provision in force from time to time.

Objects

- 4 The Company's objects are:
 - (a) to relieve those in need by reason of any disability, physical or mental, and to give support to their families and carers including young people;
 - (b) to educate and increase awareness of the rights and entitlements of those in need by reason of physical or mental condition or disability; and
 - (c) the advancement of health and wellbeing.

- 5 The Company's objects are restricted to those set out in article 4 (but subject to article 6).
- 6 The Company may (subject to first obtaining the consent of OSCR) add to, remove or alter the statement of the Company's objects in article 4; on any occasion when it does so, it must give notice to the registrar of companies and the amendment will not be effective until that notice is registered on the register of companies.

Powers

- 7 In pursuance of the objects listed in article 4 (but not otherwise), the Company shall have the following powers:-
 - (a) To provide support services to carers of any age and to disabled people, to further the Company's objects, (which may be through one to one work and group activities, a welfare rights service to identify benefit entitlement and support applicants, a carers voice service, an advisory, information and support service, and services to support and inform young carers and young adult carers).
 - (b) To promote companies whose activities may further one or more of the above objects, or may generate income to support the activities of the Company, acquire and hold shares in such companies and carry out, in relation to any such company which is a subsidiary of the Company, all such functions as may be associated with a holding company.
 - (c) To acquire and take over the whole or any part of the undertaking and liabilities of any body holding property or rights which are suitable for the Company's activities.
 - (d) To purchase, take on lease, hire, or otherwise acquire, any property or rights which are suitable for the Company's activities.
 - (e) To improve, manage, develop, or otherwise deal with, all or any part of the property and rights of the Company.
 - (f) To sell, let, hire out, license, or otherwise dispose of, all or any part of the property and rights of the Company.
 - (g) To lend money and give credit (with or without security) and to grant guarantees and issue indemnities.
 - (h) To borrow money, and to give security in support of any such borrowings by the Company, in support of any obligations undertaken by the Company or in support of any guarantee issued by the Company.

- (i) To employ such staff as are considered appropriate for the proper conduct of the Company's activities, and to make reasonable provision for the payment of pension and/or other benefits for members of staff, ex-members of staff and their dependants.
- (j) To engage such consultants and advisers as are considered appropriate from time to time.
- (k) To effect insurance of all kinds (which may include officers' liability insurance).
- (l) To invest any funds which are not immediately required for the Company's activities in such investments as may be considered appropriate (and to dispose of, and vary, such investments).
- (m) To liaise with other voluntary sector bodies, local authorities, UK or Scottish government departments and agencies, and other bodies, all with a view to furthering the Company's objects.
- (n) To establish and/or support any other charity, and to make donations for any charitable purpose falling within the Company's objects.
- (o) To take such steps as may be deemed appropriate for the purpose of raising funds for the Company's activities.
- (p) To accept grants, donations and legacies of all kinds (and to accept any reasonable conditions attaching to them).
- (q) To oppose, or object to, any application or proceedings which may prejudice the Company's interests.
- (r) To enter into any arrangement with any organisation, government or authority which may be advantageous for the purposes of the activities of the Company, and to enter into any arrangement for co-operation or mutual assistance with any charity.
- (s) To trade in the course of the Company's objects and carry out other trade which may be expected to give rise to taxable profits.
- (t) To do anything which may be incidental or conducive to the furtherance of any of the Company's objects.

Restrictions on use of the Company's assets

- 8
- (a) The income and property of the Company shall be applied solely towards promoting the Company's objects.
 - (b) No part of the income or property of the Company shall be paid or transferred (directly or indirectly) to the members of the Company, whether by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise.
 - (c) No director of the Company shall be appointed as a paid employee of the Company; no director shall hold any office under the Company for which a salary or fee is payable.
 - (d) No benefit (whether in money or in kind) shall be given by the Company to any director except (i) repayment of out-of-pocket

expenses or (ii) reasonable payment in return for particular services (not being of a management nature) actually rendered to the Company.

Liability of members

- 9 Each member undertakes that if the Company is wound up while he/she is a member (or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member), he/she will contribute - up to a maximum of £1 - to the assets of the Company, to be applied towards:
- (a) payment of the Company's debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member;
 - (b) payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
 - (c) adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

General structure

- 10 The structure of the Company consists of:-
- (a) the MEMBERS - who have the right to attend the annual general meeting (and any extraordinary general meeting) and have important powers under the articles of association and the Act; in particular, the members elect people to serve as directors and take decisions in relation to changes to the articles themselves
 - (b) the DIRECTORS - who hold regular meetings during the period between annual general meetings, and generally control and supervise the activities of the Company; in particular, the directors are responsible for monitoring the financial position of the Company.

Qualifications for membership

- 11 The members of the Company shall consist of the subscribers to the memorandum of association and such other persons as are admitted to membership under articles 14 to 16.
- 12 Membership qualifications shall be set annually by the Directors and shall be available for reference on the Company's website.
- 13 Employees of the Company shall not be eligible for membership; a person who becomes an employee of the Company after admission to membership shall automatically cease to be a member.

Application for membership

- 14 Any person who wishes to become a member must sign, and lodge with the Company, a written application for membership.

- 15 The directors may, at their discretion, refuse to admit any person to membership.
- 16 The directors may consider each application for membership at the first directors' meeting which is held after receipt of the application; the directors shall, within a reasonable time after the meeting, notify the applicant of their decision on the application where refused.

Membership subscription

- 17 The membership subscription (if any) shall be determined by the Board from time to time.

Register of members

- 18 The directors shall maintain a register of members, setting out the full name and address of each member, the date on which he/she was admitted to membership, and the date on which any person ceased to be a member.

Withdrawal from membership

- 19 Any person who wishes to withdraw from membership shall sign, and lodge with the Company, a written notice to that effect; on receipt of the notice by the Company, he/she shall cease to be a member.

Expulsion from membership

- 20 Any person may be expelled from membership by special resolution (see article 34), providing the following procedures have been observed:-
 - (a) at least 21 days' notice of the intention to propose the resolution must be given to the member concerned, specifying the grounds for the proposed expulsion
 - (b) the member concerned shall be entitled to be heard on the resolution at the general meeting at which the resolution is proposed.
- 21 Notwithstanding Article 20, any person may be expelled from membership by unanimous resolution of the directors, where, acting reasonably, they consider that person is prejudicing the interests of the Company and the furtherance of its charitable objects.

Termination/transfer

- 22 Membership shall cease on death or on failing to pay the membership subscription in any year.
- 23 A member may not transfer his/her membership to any other person.

General meetings (meetings of members)

- 24 The directors shall convene an annual general meeting in each year. General meetings may be held wholly or partly virtually, i.e. they:
- (a) need not be held at any particular place;
 - (b) may be held, and any votes may be permitted to be cast, by electronic means or other means;
 - (c) may be held without any number of those participating in the meeting being together at the same place,
- and, in determining whether members are participating in a general meeting, it is irrelevant where any member is or how they communicate with each other.
- 25 Not more than 15 months shall elapse between one annual general meeting and the next.
- 26 The business of each annual general meeting shall include:-
- (a) a report by the Convener on the activities of the Company
 - (b) consideration of the annual accounts of the Company
 - (c) the election/re-election of directors, as referred to in articles 52 to 54.
- 27 The directors may convene an extraordinary general meeting at any time.
- 28 The directors must convene an extraordinary general meeting if there is a valid requisition by members (under section 303 of the Act) or a requisition by a resigning auditor (under section 518 of the Act).

Notice of general meetings

- 29 At least 14 clear days' notice must be given of an annual general meeting or extraordinary general meeting.
- 30 The reference to "clear days" in article 29 shall be taken to mean that, in calculating the period of notice, the day after the notice is posted, (or, in the case of a notice sent by electronic means, the day after it was sent) and also the day of the meeting, should be excluded.
- 31 A notice calling a meeting shall specify the time and place and/or conferencing platform of the meeting; it shall (a) indicate the general nature of the business to be dealt with at the meeting and (b) if a special resolution (see article 34) (or a resolution requiring special notice under the Act) is to be proposed, shall also state that fact, giving the exact terms of the resolution.
- 32 A notice convening an annual general meeting shall specify that the meeting is to be an annual general meeting; any other general meeting shall be called an extraordinary general meeting.
- 33 Notice of every general meeting shall be given

- (a) in hard copy form
- (b) in writing or, (where the individual to whom notice is given has notified the Company of an address to be used for the purpose of electronic communication) in electronic form; or
- (c) (subject to the Company notifying members of the presence of the notice on the website, and complying with the other requirements of section 309 of the Act) by means of a website.

Special resolutions and ordinary resolutions

- 34 For the purposes of these articles, a “special resolution” means a resolution passed by 75% or more of the votes cast on the resolution at an annual general meeting or extraordinary general meeting, providing proper notice of the meeting and of the intention to propose the resolution has been given in accordance with articles 29 to 33; for the avoidance of doubt, the reference to a 75% majority relates only to the number of votes cast in favour of the resolution as compared with the number of votes cast against the resolution, and accordingly no account shall be taken of abstentions or members absent from the meeting.
- 35 In addition to the matters expressly referred to elsewhere in these articles, the provisions of the Act allow the Company, by special resolution,
- (a) to alter its name
 - (b) to alter any provision of these articles or adopt new articles of association.
- 36 For the purposes of these articles, an “ordinary resolution” means a resolution passed by majority vote (taking account only of those votes cast in favour as compared with those votes against), at an annual general meeting or extraordinary general meeting, providing proper notice of the meeting has been given in accordance with articles 29 to 33.

Procedure at general meetings

- 37 No business shall be dealt with at any general meeting unless a quorum is present; the quorum for a general meeting shall be 10 individuals entitled to vote (each being a member or a proxy for a member) or 10% of the total number of members entitled to vote, whichever is less.
- 38 If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes after the time at which a general meeting was due to commence - or if, during a meeting, a quorum ceases to be present - the meeting shall stand adjourned to such time and place and/or conferencing platform as may be fixed by the Convener of the meeting.
- 39 The Convener of the Company shall (if present and willing to act as Convener) preside as Convener of each general meeting; if the Convener is not present and willing to act as Convener within 15 minutes

after the time at which the meeting was due to commence, the directors present at the meeting shall elect from among themselves the person who will act as Convener of that meeting.

40 The Convener of a general meeting may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the meeting to such time and place and/or conferencing platform as the Convener may determine.

41 Every member shall have one vote, which (whether on a show of hands or voice vote or on a secret ballot) may be given either personally or by proxy.

42 Any member who wishes to appoint a proxy to vote on his/her behalf at any meeting (or adjourned meeting):

(a) shall lodge with the Company, at the Company's registered office, a written instrument of proxy (in such form as the directors require), signed by him/her; or

(b) shall send by electronic means to the Company, at such electronic address as may have been notified to the members by the Company for that purpose, an instrument of proxy (in such form as the directors require)

providing (in either case), the instrument of proxy is received by the Company at the relevant address not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting (or, as the case may be, adjourned meeting).

43 An instrument of proxy which does not conform with the provisions of article 42, or which is not lodged or sent in accordance with such provisions, shall be invalid.

44 A member shall not be entitled to appoint more than one proxy to attend on the same occasion.

45 A proxy appointed to attend and vote at any meeting instead of a member shall have the same right as the member who appointed him/her to speak at the meeting and need not be a member of the Company.

46 A vote given, or ballot demanded, by proxy shall be valid notwithstanding that the authority of the person voting or demanding a ballot had terminated prior to the giving of such vote or demanding of such ballot, unless notice of such termination was received by the Company at the Company's registered office (or, where sent by electronic means, was received by the Company at the address notified by the Company to the members for the purpose of electronic communications) before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote was given or the ballot demanded.

47 If there are an equal number of votes for and against any resolution, the Convener of the meeting shall be entitled to a casting vote.

48 A resolution put to the vote at a general meeting shall be decided on a show of hands or voice vote unless a secret ballot is demanded by the Convener (or by at least two persons present in person at the meeting and entitled to vote (whether as members or proxies for members)); a

secret ballot may be demanded either before the show of hands or voice vote takes place, or immediately after the result of the show of hands or voice vote is declared.

- 49 If a secret ballot is demanded, it shall be taken at the meeting and shall be conducted in such a manner as the Convener may direct; the result of the ballot shall be declared at the meeting at which the ballot was demanded.

Maximum number of directors

- 50 The minimum number of directors shall be 5 and the maximum number of directors shall be 12.

Eligibility

- 51 A person shall not be eligible for election/appointment as a director unless he/she is a member of the Company.

Election, retiral, re-election

- 52 At each annual general meeting, the members may (subject to article 50) elect any member (providing he/she is willing to act) to be a director.
- 53 The directors may at any time appoint any member (providing he/she is willing to act) to be a director (subject to article 50).
- 54 At each annual general meeting, all of the directors who have fulfilled their 3 year term shall retire from office - but shall then be eligible for re-election.

Termination of office

- 55 A director shall automatically vacate office if:-
- (a) he/she ceases to be a director through the operation of any provision of the Act or becomes prohibited by law from being a director
 - (b) he/she becomes debarred under any statutory provision from being a charity trustee
 - (c) he/she becomes incapable for medical reasons of fulfilling the duties of his/her office and such incapacity is expected to continue for a period of more than six months
 - (d) he/she ceases to be a member of the Company
 - (e) he/she becomes an employee of the Company
 - (f) he/she resigns office by notice to the Company
 - (g) he/she is absent (without permission of the directors) from more than three consecutive meetings of the directors, or four meetings

of the directors in a rolling 12 month period, and the directors resolve to remove him/her from office

- (h) he/she is removed from office by ordinary resolution (special notice having been given) in pursuance of section 168 of the Act.

Register of directors

- 56 The directors shall maintain a register of directors, setting out full details of each director, including the date on which he/she became a director, and also specifying the date on which any person ceased to hold office as a director.

Officebearers

- 57 The directors shall elect from among themselves a Convener and vice Convener, and such other office bearers (if any) as they consider appropriate.
- 58 A person elected to any office shall cease to hold that office if he/she ceases to be a director, or if he/she resigns from that office by written notice to that effect.

Powers of directors

- 59 Subject to the provisions of the Act, and these articles, and subject to any directions given by special resolution, the Company and its assets and undertaking shall be managed by the directors, who may exercise all the powers of the Company.
- 60 A meeting of the directors at which a quorum is present may exercise all powers exercisable by the directors.

Personal interests

- 61 A director who has a personal interest in any transaction or other arrangement which the Company is proposing to enter into, must declare that interest at a meeting of the directors; he/she will be debarred (in terms of article 73) from voting on the question of whether or not the Company should enter into that arrangement.
- 62 For the purposes of the preceding article, a director shall be deemed to have a personal interest in an arrangement if any partner or other close relative of his/hers **or** any firm of which he/she is a partner **or** any limited company of which he/she is a substantial shareholder or director (or any other party who/which is deemed to be connected with him/her for the purposes of the Act), has a personal interest in that arrangement.
- 63 Provided
 - (a) he/she has declared his/her interest
 - (b) he/she has not voted on the question of whether or not the Company should enter into the relevant arrangement and

- (c) the requirements of article 65 are complied with,
a director will not be debarred from entering into an arrangement with the Company in which he/she has a personal interest (or is deemed to have a personal interest under article 62) and may retain any personal benefit which he/she gains from his/her participation in that arrangement.
- 64 No director may serve as an employee (full time or part time) of the Company, and no director may be given any remuneration by the Company for carrying out his/her duties as a director.
- 65 Where a director provides services to the Company or might benefit from any remuneration paid to a connected party for such services, then
- (a) the maximum amount of the remuneration must be specified in a written agreement and must be reasonable
 - (b) the directors must be satisfied that it would be in the interests of the Company to enter into the arrangement (taking account of that maximum amount); and
 - (c) less than half of the directors must be receiving remuneration from the Company (or benefit from remuneration of that nature).
- 66 The directors may be paid all travelling and other expenses reasonably incurred by them in connection with their attendance at meetings of the directors, general meetings, or meetings of committees, or otherwise in connection with the carrying-out of their duties.

Procedure at directors' meetings

- 67 Any director may call a meeting of the directors or request the secretary to call a meeting of the directors. Meetings of the directors may be held wholly or partly virtually, i.e. they:
- (a) need not be held at any particular place;
 - (b) may be held, and any votes may be permitted to be cast, by electronic means or other means;
 - (c) may be held without any number of those participating in the meeting being together at the same place,
- And in determining whether directors are participating in a general meeting, it is irrelevant where any director is or how they communicate with each other.
- 68 Questions arising at a meeting of the directors shall be decided by a majority of votes; if an equality of votes arises, the Convener of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
- 69 No business shall be dealt with at a meeting of the directors unless a quorum is present; the quorum for meetings of the directors shall be 4.
- 70 If at any time the number of directors in office falls below the number fixed as the quorum, the remaining director(s) may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.

- 71 Unless he/she is unwilling to do so, the Convener of the Company shall preside as Convener at every directors' meeting at which he/she is present; if the Convener is unwilling to act as Convener or is not present within 15 minutes after the time when the meeting was due to commence, the directors present shall elect from among themselves the person who will act as Convener of the meeting.
- 72 The directors may, at their discretion, allow any person who they reasonably consider appropriate, to attend and speak at any meeting of the directors; for the avoidance of doubt, any such person who is invited to attend a directors' meeting shall not be entitled to vote.
- 73 A director shall not be counted in the quorum present at a meeting in relation to a resolution on which he/she is not entitled to vote.
- 74 The Company may, by ordinary resolution, suspend or relax to any extent – either generally or in relation to any particular matter – the provisions of articles 72 to 73.

Conduct of directors

- 75 Each of the directors shall, in exercising his/her functions as a director of the Company, act in the interests of the Company; and, in particular, must
- (a) seek, in good faith, to ensure that the Company acts in a manner which is in accordance with its objects.
 - (b) act with the care and diligence which it is reasonable to expect of a person who is managing the affairs of another person
 - (c) in circumstances giving rise to the possibility of a conflict of interest between the Company and any other party
 - (i) put the interests of the Company before that of the other party, in taking decisions as a director
 - (ii) where any other duty prevents him/her from doing so, disclose the conflicting interest to the Company and refrain from participating in any discussions or decisions involving the other directors with regard to the matter in question
 - (d) ensure that the Company complies with any direction, requirement, notice or duty imposed on it by the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Delegation to sub-committees

- 76 The directors may delegate any of their powers to any sub-committee consisting of one or more directors and such other persons (if any) as the directors may determine; they may also delegate to the Convener of the Company (or the holder of any other post) such of their powers as they may consider appropriate.

- 77 Any delegation of powers under article 78 may be made subject to such conditions as the directors may impose and may be revoked or altered.
- 78 The rules of procedure for any sub-committee shall be as prescribed by the directors.

Operation of bank accounts

- 79 The authority of two out of the persons authorised by the directors shall be required in relation to all operations (other than lodgement of funds) on the bank and building society accounts held by the Company. In respect of cheques paid from the bank accounts or building society accounts held by the Company; at least one out of the two signatures must be the signature of a director.

Secretary

- 80 The directors shall (notwithstanding the provisions of the Act) appoint a company secretary, and on the basis that the term of the appointment, the remuneration (if any) payable to the Company secretary, and the such conditions of appointment shall be as determined by the directors; the Company secretary may be removed by them at any time.

Minutes

- 81 The directors shall ensure that minutes are made of all proceedings at general meetings, directors' meetings and meetings of committees; a minute of any meeting shall include the names of those present, and (as far as possible) shall be signed by the Convener of the meeting.

Accounting records and annual accounts

- 82 The directors shall ensure that proper accounting records are maintained in accordance with all applicable statutory requirements.
- 83 The directors shall prepare annual accounts, complying with all relevant statutory requirements; if an audit is required under any statutory provisions or if they otherwise think fit, they shall ensure that an audit of such accounts is carried out by a qualified auditor.
- 84 No member shall (unless he/she is a director) have any right of inspecting any accounting or other records, or any document of the Company, except as conferred by statute or as authorised by the directors or as authorised by ordinary resolution of the Company.

Notices

- 85 Any notice which requires to be given to a member under these articles shall be given either in writing or by electronic means; such a notice may be given personally to the member *or* be sent by post in a pre-paid envelope addressed to the member at the address last intimated by him/her to the Company *or* (in the case of a member who has notified

the Company of an address to be used for the purpose of electronic communications) may be given to the member by electronic means.

- 86 Any notice, if sent by post, shall be deemed to have been given at the expiry of 24 hours after posting; for the purpose of proving that any notice was given, it shall be sufficient to prove that the envelope containing the notice was properly addressed and posted.
- 87 Any notice sent by electronic means shall be deemed to have been given at the expiry of 24 hours after it is sent; for the purpose of proving that any notice sent by electronic means was indeed sent, it shall be sufficient to provide any of the evidence referred to in the relevant guidance issued from time to time by the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and Administrators.

Winding-up

- 88 If on the winding-up of the Company any property remains after satisfaction of all the Company's debts and liabilities, such property shall be transferred to such body or bodies (whether incorporated or unincorporated) as may be determined by the members of the Company at or before the time of dissolution (or, failing such determination, by such court as may have or acquire jurisdiction), to be used solely for a charitable purpose or charitable purposes consistent with the Company's objects.
- 89 For the avoidance of doubt, a body to which property is transferred under article 88 may be a member of the Company.
- 90 To the extent that effect cannot be given to article 88 (as read with article 91), the relevant property shall be applied to some charitable purpose or purposes.

Indemnity

- 91 The Company shall be entitled to purchase and maintain for any director insurance against any loss or liability which any director or other officer of the Company may sustain or incur in connection with the execution of the duties of his/her office, and such insurance may extend to liabilities of the nature referred to in section 232(2) of the Act (negligence etc. of a director).