



COBRA RESOURCES PLC

SECURITIES DEALING MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

This Manual sets out the procedures to be followed by the Company and its subsidiaries in relation to Dealings in Company Securities.

The Company has a Securities Dealing Code which imposes restrictions on dealings in Company Securities by PDMRs and certain employees who have been told that the clearance procedures in Part A of the Securities Dealing Code apply to them.

The purpose of this Manual and the Securities Dealing Code is to assist the Company to comply with its obligations under UK MAR and to ensure that the Company has the necessary systems and procedures in place to assist its PDMRs and other employees of the Company and its subsidiaries to comply with their obligations under UK MAR.

The Company's dealing procedures recognise different types of periods during which dealing restrictions apply: (i) those imposed by UK MAR; (ii) those that the Company has adopted for periods prior to announcements of the Company's financial results (which will overlap with, but may be longer than, those imposed by UK MAR); and (iii) those which arise due to the existence of Inside Information.

The Company may be able to be more flexible in respect of Dealings in its securities that are proposed to take place during periods that fall into the latter two categories, given that the requirements of UK MAR may not strictly apply to prevent the relevant transaction at those times. However, the Company should take advice before deciding whether to relax the requirements set out in this document.

A list of the definitions used in this Manual can be found at Schedule 1.

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PART A – GENERAL DEALING REQUIREMENTS

1. DEALINGS BY RESTRICTED PERSONS

- 1.1 A Restricted Person must not Deal in Company Securities without obtaining advance clearance from the Company. Part A of the Securities Dealing Code sets out the Dealing clearance application procedure for Restricted Persons.
- 1.2 The definitions of "Dealing" and "Company Securities" (see Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 of this Manual) are very broad and will capture nearly all transactions in the Company's shares or debt instruments (or any linked derivatives or financial instruments, including phantom options) carried out by a Restricted Person, regardless of whether such transaction is carried out for the account of the Restricted Person or for the account of another person.

2. IDENTIFYING RESTRICTED PERSONS

The Securities Dealing Code applies to "Restricted Persons", who are: (A) PDMRs; and (B) Code Employees.

2.1 PDMRs

- (a) The Company's PDMRs are:
 - (i) the members of the Board; and
 - (ii) the Company's senior executives who have regular access to Inside Information and the power to make managerial decisions affecting the future developments and business prospects of the Company.
- (b) Only those senior executives who are empowered to take decisions affecting the development or prospects of the Company's business should be considered to be PDMRs. As a general rule, those whose role is limited to providing advice or recommendations to others, or to implementing decisions taken by others, will not be PDMRs.
- (c) The Company will identify any non-Board member who is a PDMR and inform them in writing that they are a PDMR and subject to the Securities Dealing Code.

2.2 Code Employees

- (a) In addition to PDMRs, Part A of the Securities Dealing Code applies to employees of the Company and its subsidiaries who have been told by the Company that the clearance procedures in the Securities Dealing Code apply to them (*i.e.*, Code Employees).
- (b) Employees who are named on the Company's insider list (whether in the permanent insiders section or in a section for a particular matter) will be required to follow the clearance procedures in the Securities Dealing Code because they

are, or may be considered to be, in possession of Inside Information. When a person is added to the insider list, the Chair will send them a notice in the form set out in Schedule 3 informing them that the clearance procedures apply until further notice.

- (c) Employees who are named on one of the Company's project lists (*e.g.*, because they are working on a sensitive matter or are involved in the preparation of the Company's financial reports) are, or may be considered to be, in possession of confidential information which may in due course become Inside Information. As a general rule, such employees will be required to comply with the Securities Dealing Code's clearance procedures and the Chair will send notices in the form set out in Schedule 3 to them.
- (d) When a Code Employee ceases to be an insider or the project on which such employee is working is completed or does not proceed, the Chair will send a notice in the form set out in Schedule 4 to that employee to confirm that such employee is no longer required to comply with the Securities Dealing Code's clearance procedures.

3. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

- 3.1 When an application to Deal in Company Securities is received by the Chair from a Restricted Person, the Chair will review the application to check that the Restricted Person has provided:
 - (a) all of the information required by the clearance application form set out in Schedule 2 to the Securities Dealing Code; and
 - (b) any additional information which the Chair believes the Designated Officer might require to assess the application.

If any further information is required, this will be requested by the Chair and should be provided by the Restricted Person before the application is submitted to a Designated Officer.

- 3.2 As soon as practicable after a complete application and all additional information is received, the Chair will pass the clearance application and relevant supporting information to the relevant Designated Officer for consideration.
- 3.3 The Designated Officer will review the clearance application and supporting information and will provide a written response to the Chair as soon as practicable and in any event within two business days of receipt of the application. The Designated Officer can choose to impose conditions in respect of any clearance given.
- 3.4 The Chair will communicate the Designated Officer's decision to the relevant Restricted Person in writing without delay and in any event within five business days of the clearance application being received and all relevant information being provided. As a general rule,

the reasons for refusing clearance should not be given as that could constitute an improper disclosure of Inside Information.

3.5 For each clearance application, the Chair will retain:

- (a) a copy of the application (including any additional information provided);
- (b) a record of the decision taken in respect of the application, including the name of the Designated Officer, the date of the decision, whether clearance was granted and any special conditions attaching to the clearance; and
- (c) a copy of the response sent to the Restricted Person.

4. CIRCUMSTANCES FOR REFUSAL

4.1 Clearance for PDMRs

- (a) PDMRs will not ordinarily be given clearance to Deal in Company Securities at any time during which there is any matter which constitutes Inside Information. The Company may also consider it appropriate to withhold clearance when there is sensitive information relating to the Company (e.g., the Company is in the early stages of a significant transaction but the existence of such transaction does not yet constitute Inside Information).
- (b) The Company will not ordinarily give clearance to PDMRs to Deal in Company Securities during a UK MAR Closed Period, but it can give clearance on a case-by-case basis if:
 - (i) there is no matter at that time which constitutes Inside Information which would preclude a Dealing; and
 - (ii) the requirements of one of the paragraphs in Part B of this Manual are satisfied.
- (c) During a Closed Period which is not a UK MAR Closed Period, the Company will not ordinarily give clearance to PDMRs to Deal in Company Securities. However, during such Closed Periods and provided that there is no matter at the time which constitutes Inside Information which would preclude a Dealing, the Company has greater flexibility and can consider, on a case-by-case basis, giving clearance to Deal.

4.2 Clearance for Code Employees

A Code Employee will not ordinarily be given clearance to Deal in Company Securities when such employee is aware of any matter which constitutes Inside Information. The Company can also decide that it is appropriate to withhold clearance when a Code Employee is aware of sensitive information relating to the Company (e.g., the Company is in the early stages of a significant transaction but the existence of such transaction does not yet constitute Inside Information).

5. TRADING PLANS AND INVESTMENT PROGRAMMES

- 5.1 The Company can give clearance to allow Restricted Persons to enter into, amend or cancel a Trading Plan or an Investment Programme outside a Prohibited Period (however please note paragraph 5.3).
- 5.2 After clearance has been given to enter into a Trading Plan or Investment Programme, purchases or sales of Company Securities under such a plan, and purchases of the Company's shares under such a programme, do not require clearance (although they still require notification in accordance with Part B of the Securities Dealing Code).
- 5.3 The status of Trading Plans and Investment Programmes under UK MAR and, more particularly the ability of a PDMR to carry out transactions under a Trading Plan or an Investment Programme during UK MAR Closed Periods, remains uncertain. Until further guidance is available, it would be prudent for the Company, when considering an application from a PDMR for clearance to enter into a Trading Plan or an Investment Programme, to grant clearance on the condition that no purchases or sales of Companies Securities under the Trading Plan or Investment Programme take place during UK MAR Closed Periods.

6. ACTING AS A TRUSTEE

- 6.1 Where a Restricted Person acts as a trustee, Dealing in Company Securities on behalf of the trust will not require clearance if the decision to Deal was taken by the other trustees (or by the trust's investment managers) independently of the Restricted Person.
- 6.2 The other trustees and the trust's investment managers can be assumed to have acted independently of the Restricted Person where the decision to Deal was taken without consultation with, or other involvement of, the Restricted Person or was taken by a committee of which the Restricted Person was not a member.

7. FUNDS AND PORTFOLIOS OF ASSETS

- 7.1 The Securities Dealing Code tells Restricted Persons to contact the Chair before carrying out a transaction relating to a collective investment undertaking (e.g., an Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities fund or an alternative investment fund) or a portfolio of assets. As Company Securities could be held or dealt in by a collective investment undertaking or form part of a portfolio of assets, a transaction relating to a collective investment undertaking or a portfolio of assets could require clearance and could be a "Notifiable Transaction" under Part B of the Securities Dealing Code. However, the exemptions below are likely to apply in most cases.
- 7.2 A Restricted Person can be given clearance to carry out transactions in financial instruments linked to Company Securities where at the time of the transaction:
- (a) the financial instrument is a unit or share in a collective investment undertaking (e.g., an Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities fund or

an alternative investment fund) in which the exposure to Company Securities does not exceed 20% of the assets held by that collective investment undertaking; or

- (b) the financial instrument provides exposure to a portfolio of assets in which the exposure to the issuer's shares or debt instruments does not exceed 20% of the portfolio's assets, and the relevant Restricted Person cannot determine or influence the investment strategy or transactions carried out by the manager of that collective investment undertaking or portfolio.

7.3 Clearance can also be given for transactions in units or shares in a collective investment undertaking, or in financial instruments which provide exposure to a portfolio of assets, where the Restricted Person does not know, and could not know, whether or not Company Securities comprise more than 20% of the assets held by that collective investment undertaking or portfolio of assets, and there is no reason to believe that such 20% threshold is exceeded, provided again that the relevant manager operates with full discretion.

7.4 The ability of PDMRs to carry out transactions in units or shares in a collective investment undertaking, or in financial instruments which provide exposure to a portfolio of assets, (as described above) during a UK MAR Closed Period remains uncertain. Until further guidance is available, it would be prudent for the Company to take advice before giving clearance to a PDMR to carry out such transactions during a UK MAR Closed Period.

7.5 Transactions subject to the exemptions from clearance described above are also not "Notifiable Transactions" under Part B of the Securities Dealing Code.

8. EMPLOYEE SHARE PLANS, EMPLOYEE SHARE AWARDS AND EMPLOYEE TRUSTS

Schedule 5 contains guidance which may assist the Company in determining when Dealings relating to employee share plans, employee share awards and employee trusts can be permitted.

PART B – EXCEPTIONS FOR PDMR DEALINGS DURING UK MAR CLOSED PERIODS

9. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

9.1 A PDMR can be given clearance to sell (but not to purchase) the Company's shares (but not other Company Securities) during a UK MAR Closed Period if such PDMR is in severe financial difficulty, or there are other exceptional circumstances, which require the immediate sale of shares. Clearance may only be granted in respect of such number of shares as the PDMR needs to sell to obtain the required financial resources.

9.2 Any request to Deal by reason of exceptional circumstances must be accompanied by a written statement that describes the exceptional character of the circumstances and explains the transaction envisaged, why that transaction could not be executed at a time other than during the UK MAR Closed Period and why the sale of shares is the only reasonable alternative to obtain the necessary financing. If such a written statement is not

included with the PDMR's clearance application, then the Chair should request one from the PDMR before the decision to grant clearance is taken.

9.3 Circumstances are 'exceptional' only if they are extremely urgent, unforeseen and compelling and where their cause is external to the relevant PDMR and the relevant PDMR has no control over them. When considering whether the circumstances are exceptional, the Designated Officer must take into account (among other things) the extent to which the PDMR:

- (a) is facing a legally enforceable commitment or claim, such as a court order; and
- (b) could not reasonably satisfy a financial commitment (which was entered into before the start of the UK MAR Closed Period) to a third party (including a tax authority) otherwise than by selling the relevant shares immediately.

9.4 Given the stringent requirements described above, clearance to Deal under this exception is unlikely to be granted except in rare cases.

10. EXCEPTION FOR ENTITLEMENTS IN RESPECT OF RIGHTS ISSUES AND OTHER OFFERS

10.1 The following Dealings by a PDMR can be permitted during a UK MAR Closed Period:

- (a) an undertaking or election to take up entitlements under a rights issue or other offer (including an offer for Company Securities in lieu of a cash dividend);
- (b) the take up of entitlements under a rights issue or other offer; and
- (c) allowing entitlements to lapse under a rights issue or other offer,

provided that the PDMR explains the reasons for the Dealing not taking place at another time and that the Designated Officer is satisfied with that explanation.

10.2 The status of Dealings by PDMRs in respect of rights issues and other offers during UK MAR Closed Periods remains uncertain. Until further guidance is available, it would be prudent for the Company to take advice before clearing any such Dealing.

11. EXCEPTION FOR TRANSFERS BETWEEN ACCOUNTS

11.1 A PDMR can be permitted to transfer Company Securities between two accounts of that PDMR during a UK MAR Closed Period, provided that such a transfer does not result in a change in price of the relevant Company Securities. Absent further guidance, this should be taken to mean that the transfer should not affect the price of that Company Security.

11.2 A transfer of Company Securities into the relevant PDMR's personal pension scheme and a transfer to a family trust or an account held jointly with another person would not be viewed as a transfer between two accounts of a PDMR and would therefore not qualify for this exception.

12. OTHER EXCEPTIONS

Article 19(12)(b) of UK MAR may also allow the Company to give clearance to PDMRs during a UK MAR Closed Period for other Dealings relating to: (a) an employee share or saving scheme; (b) qualifications or entitlements to shares; or (c) transactions where the beneficial interest in the relevant Company Security does not change. The Company should seek advice before clearing any Dealing under this paragraph.

SCHEDULE 1

DEFINED TERMS

"Board" means members of the board of directors of the Company, from time to time.

"Chair" means the chair of the Board, from time to time.

"Closed Period" means any of the following:

- (a) the period from the end of the relevant financial year up to the release of the preliminary announcement of the Company's annual results (or, where no such announcement is released, up to the publication of the Company's annual financial report) or, if longer, the period of 30 calendar days before such release (or publication);
- (b) the period from the end of the relevant financial period up to the release of the Company's half-yearly financial report or, if longer, the period of 30 calendar days before such release; and
- (c) the period of 30 calendar days before the release of each of the Company's first quarter report and third quarter report (if applicable).

"Code Employee" means any employee (not being a PDMR) who has been told by the Company that the clearance procedures in Part A of the Securities Dealing Code apply to such employee.

"Company" means Cobra Resources plc and such term shall, as the context requires, include any group companies.

"Company Securities" means any publicly traded or quoted shares or debt instruments of the Company (or of any of the Company's subsidiaries or subsidiary undertakings from time to time) or derivatives or other financial instruments linked to any of them, including phantom options.

"Dealing" (together with corresponding terms such as **"Dealings"** and **"Deal"** and **"Deals"**) means any type of transaction in Company Securities, including purchases, sales, the exercise of options, the receipt of shares under share plans, using Company Securities as security for a loan or other obligation and entering into, amending or terminating any agreement in relation to Company Securities (e.g., a Trading Plan). Schedule 2 contains a non-exhaustive list of transactions which are Dealings.

"Designated Officer" means:

- (a) if the Restricted Person seeking clearance to Deal is a director (other than the Chair or any managing directors (if appointed)), the Chair or any other director designated by the Board for that purpose;
- (b) if the Restricted Person seeking clearance to Deal is the Chair, any managing director (if appointed) or, if there are no managing directors appointed or present, the independent director or a committee of the Board or other officer nominated for that purpose by the other

directors. If the roles of Chair and managing director are combined, the Designated Officer is the senior independent director;

- (c) if the Restricted Person seeking clearance to Deal is a managing director (if appointed), the Chair or, if the Chair is not present, the senior independent director or a committee of the Board or other officer nominated for that purpose by the Chair. If the roles of Chair and managing director are combined, the Designated Officer is the senior independent director; or
- (d) if the Restricted Person seeking clearance to Deal is not a director, any director or officer of the Company designated by the Board for that purpose.

"**FCA**" means the UK Financial Conduct Authority.

"**Inside Information**" means information which relates to the Company or any Company Securities, which is not publicly available, which is likely to have a non-trivial effect on the price of Company Securities and which an investor would be likely to use as part of the basis of their investment decision.

"**Investment Programme**" means a share acquisition scheme relating only to the Company's shares under which: (A) shares are purchased by a Restricted Person pursuant to a regular standing order or direct debit or by regular deduction from the person's salary or director's fees; or (B) shares are acquired by a Restricted Person by way of a standing election to re-invest dividends or other distributions received; or (C) shares are acquired as part payment of a Restricted Person's remuneration or director's fees.

"**Manual**" means this securities dealing manual.

"**Notifiable Transaction**" means any transaction relating to Company Securities conducted for the account of a PDMR or PCA, whether the transaction was conducted by the PDMR or PCA or on their behalf by a third party and regardless of whether or not the PDMR or PCA had control over the transaction. This captures every transaction which changes a PDMR's or PCA's holding of Company Securities, even if the transaction does not require clearance under this code. It also includes gifts of Company Securities, the grant of options or share awards, the exercise of options or vesting of share awards and transactions carried out by investment managers or other third parties on behalf of a PDMR, including where discretion is exercised by such investment managers or third parties and including under Trading Plans or Investment Programmes.

"**PCA**" means a person closely associated, as defined in Article 3(1)(26) of UK MAR, as being, a:

- (a) spouse, or a partner considered to be equivalent to a spouse in accordance with national law.
- (b) dependent child, in accordance with national law.
- (c) relative who has shared the same household for at least one year on the date of the transaction concerned.

- (d) legal person, trust or partnership, the managerial responsibilities of which are discharged by a PDMR or by a person referred to in any of the bullet points above, or which is directly or indirectly controlled by such a person, or which is set up for the benefit of such a person, or the economic interests of which are substantially equivalent to those of such a person,

and, section 131AC of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as amended) clarifies that for the purposes of Article 3(1)(26) of UK MAR:

- (a) "partner considered to be equivalent to a spouse" includes a civil partner.
- (b) "dependent child" means a child, including a stepchild, who is under the age of 18 years, is unmarried and does not have a civil partner.

"PDMR" means a person discharging managerial responsibilities in respect of the Company, being either:

- (a) a director of the Company; or
- (b) a senior executive of the Company who is not a director but who has regular access to Inside Information and the power to make managerial decisions affecting the future developments and business prospects of the Company.

"Prohibited Period" means:

- (a) in respect of a PDMR, any Closed Period and/or any period when there exists any matter that constitutes Inside Information; and
- (b) in respect of a Code Employee, any period during which the clearance procedures in Part A of the Securities Dealing Code continue to apply to them.

"Restricted Person" means:

- (a) a PDMR; or
- (b) a Code Employee.

"Securities Dealing Code" means the Company's *Securities Dealing Code*, which regulates Dealings in Company Securities by Restricted Persons.

"Trading Plan" means a written plan entered into by a Restricted Person and an independent third party that sets out a strategy for the acquisition and/or disposal of Company Securities by the Restricted Person, and:

- (a) specifies the amount of Company Securities to be dealt in and the price at which and the date on which the Company Securities are to be dealt in;
- (b) gives discretion to that independent third party to make trading decisions about the amount of Company Securities to be dealt in and the price at which and the date on which the Company Securities are to be dealt in; or

- (c) includes a method for determining the amount of Company Securities to be dealt in and the price at which and the date on which the Company Securities are to be dealt in.

"**UK**" means the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

"**UK MAR**" means the EU Market Abuse Regulation (596/2014), as retained in UK domestic law pursuant to the Market Abuse (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (*SI 2019/310*).

"**UK MAR Closed Period**" means:

- (a) the period of 30 calendar days before the release of a preliminary announcement of the Company's annual results or, where no such announcement is released, the period of 30 calendar days before the publication of the Company's annual financial report; and
- (b) the period of 30 calendar days before the publication of the Company's half-yearly financial report.

SCHEDULE 2

DEALING

The following is a non-exhaustive list of transactions which are Dealings for the purposes of this Manual and the Securities Dealing Code:

1. the pledging or lending of Company Securities (although a pledge, or a similar security interest, of Company Securities in connection with the depositing of Company Securities in a custody account is not "Dealing", unless and until such pledge or other security interest is designated to secure a specific credit facility);
2. transactions in Company Securities carried out by persons professionally arranging or executing transactions or by another person on behalf of a Restricted Person, including where discretion is exercised;
3. transactions in Company Securities made under a life insurance policy, where:
 - (a) the policyholder is a Restricted Person;
 - (b) the investment risk is borne by the policyholder; and
 - (c) the policyholder has the power or discretion to make investment decisions regarding specific instruments in that life insurance policy or to execute transactions regarding specific instruments for that life insurance policy;
4. an acquisition, disposal, short sale, subscription or exchange of Company Securities;
5. the acceptance or exercise of an option over Company Securities, including of a share option granted as part of a remuneration package, and the disposal of shares stemming from the exercise of a share option;
6. entering into or exercise of equity swaps related to Company Securities;
7. transactions in or related to derivatives over Company Securities, including cash-settled transactions and phantom options;
8. entering into a contract for difference on Company Securities;
9. the acquisition, disposal or exercise of rights in relation to Company Securities, including put and call options and warrants;
10. subscription to a share capital increase or debt instrument issuance of the Company;
11. transactions in derivatives and financial instruments linked to a debt instrument of the Company including credit default swaps;
12. conditional transactions relating to Company Securities. The completion of such transactions upon fulfilment of the conditions (provided no further action is required by the

Restricted Person) does not constitute Dealing and therefore does not require clearance, but such completion would be a "Notifiable Transaction" under Part B of the Securities Dealing Code;

13. the automatic or non-automatic conversion of a Company Security into another Company Security, including the exchange of convertible bonds to shares;
14. gifts and donations of Company Securities made or received, or an inheritance of Company Securities received;
15. transactions executed in index-related products, baskets and derivatives transacting in Company Securities;
16. transactions executed in shares or units of investment funds which transact in Company Securities;
17. transactions in Company Securities executed by a manager of an investment fund in which a Restricted Person has invested;
18. transactions in Company Securities executed by a third party under an individual portfolio or asset management mandate on behalf or for the benefit of a Restricted Person; and
19. borrowing or lending of Company Securities.

SCHEDULE 3

PRO FORMA NOTICE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS TO THE INSIDER LIST OR PROJECT LIST

Dear [*name*],

Dealing in the securities of Cobra Resources plc (the "Company" or "Group" as the context requires)

You were recently added to [the section of the Company's insider list relating to [*name or description of project/matter*]] OR [the Company's project list for [*name or description of project/matter*]].

During the period while you are an insider or on a project list, you will be subject to the dealing procedures and restrictions set out in Part A of the Company Securities dealing code. A copy of the code is attached.

This means that you must not transact in the Company Securities without first seeking and receiving clearance to do so. You may apply for clearance using the form set out in Schedule 2 to the Securities Dealing Code.

I will write to you again in due course to let you know when you are no longer subject to the Securities Dealing Code.

If you have any questions in relation to the above, please contact me or [*name*] ([*email address*]; [*telephone number*]).

Yours sincerely,

[*Name*]

SCHEDULE 4

PRO FORMA NOTICE FOLLOWING REMOVAL FROM THE INSIDER LIST OR PROJECT LIST

Dear [*name*],

Dealing in the securities of Round Group plc (the "Company" or "Group" as the context requires)

Following the [*announcement/termination*] of [*name or description of project/matter*], you are no longer an insider or on any active project list. As such, you are no longer subject to the dealing procedures and restrictions set out in Part A of the Company Securities dealing code.

[*For terminated matters: Details of [*name or description of project/matter*] remain confidential.*]

If you have any questions in relation to the above, please contact me or [*name*] ([*email address*]; [*telephone number*]).

Yours sincerely,

[*Name*]

SCHEDULE 5

GUIDANCE ON EMPLOYEE SHARE PLANS, EMPLOYEE SHARE AWARDS AND EMPLOYEE TRUSTS

1. **Awards, etc.**

- 1.1 General rule: No discretionary awards may be made to any person (whether or not a Restricted Person) in a UK MAR Closed Period.
- 1.2 Invitations under all-employee plans should not be launched in a UK MAR Closed Period.
- 1.3 Awards of shares under pre-planned regular employee share or savings arrangements (e.g., awards of partnership shares under a share incentive plan) put in place before the UK MAR Closed Period can be made provided no changes are made by a PDMR to their savings level during that UK MAR Closed Period.
- 1.4 Awards or invitations under either discretionary or all-employee plans may be possible during a period when there is Inside Information if failure to make the award or invitation would indicate that Inside Information exists. Advice should be taken if awards or invitations are being considered in this situation.

2. **Exercise of options and vesting of awards under long-term incentive plans**

- 2.1 General rule: Clearance cannot ordinarily be given for exercises of options by a Restricted Person during a Prohibited Period. Whether clearance can be given for vesting of awards under long-term incentive plans depends largely upon the plan rules.
- 2.2 As an exception to this, exercises of options can be permitted during a Prohibited Period if the relevant option would otherwise expire. Stricter rules apply to a PDMR during a UK MAR Closed Period. The sale of the resulting shares to meet tax obligations or pay the exercise price of the options is subject to separate rules. Further details are set out in paragraph (3) below.
- 2.3 Rules of the long-term incentive plan arrangements (which do not use options) will generally stipulate what happens if an award vests (e.g., when all performance conditions are met) in a Prohibited Period. Those rules may for example:
 - (a) provide for vesting to be delayed until after the relevant Prohibited Period ends, even if the relevant conditions are met; or
 - (b) provide a fixed right for individuals to receive shares, if the relevant conditions are met.

In case (a), subject to the drafting of the relevant rules, no issue arises because no Dealing takes place during a Prohibited Period. In case (b), vesting is generally possible for Restricted Persons (as is a sale of shares as set out in paragraph (3) below). However, advice should be obtained.

3. Immediate sales of shares received under employee share plans

- 3.1 General rule: Even if options are permitted to be exercised or awards are permitted to vest, clearance should not ordinarily be given for the immediate sale of the resulting shares in a Prohibited Period, including where the relevant Restricted Person wishes to sell them to pay the option exercise price or meet tax obligations.
- 3.2 As an exception to the above, clearance for sale on behalf of a Restricted Person can be given to pay the option exercise price or meet tax obligations in respect of options or long-term incentive plan awards:
- (a) where that sale is required by the rules of the relevant plan (or by an irrevocable agreement entered into outside a Prohibited Period) and where neither the Company nor the participant has any discretion over the timing or number of shares to be sold. Formal clearance in advance may be required;
 - (b) in exceptional circumstances (see paragraph 9 for the limitations which apply to the use of this exception in relation to PDMRs during a UK MAR Closed Period);
or
 - (c) where exercise has been permitted on expiry of an option (see paragraph (2.2)).

4. Other Dealings

The Company can consider, on a case-by-case basis, giving clearance to PDMRs to carry out the following transactions during a Closed Period which is not a UK MAR Closed Period:

- 4.1 the transfer of Company Securities arising out of the operation of an employee share plan into a savings scheme investing in Company Securities (e.g., an ISA) for example following: (a) the exercise of any option under a share plan; or (b) the release of Company Securities from a share incentive plan;
- 4.2 other than a sale of Company Securities, a transaction in connection with a share incentive plan (or schemes on similar terms), under which participation is extended on similar terms to all or most employees of the participating companies in that scheme; and
- 4.3 a transfer of Company Securities already held by means of a matched sale and purchase into a saving scheme or into a pension scheme of which that PDMR is a beneficiary;

5. Employee trusts

- 5.1 General rule: Recommendations should not generally be made to the trustees of employee trusts during a Prohibited Period that they acquire or dispose of Company Securities or make awards.
- 5.2 Subject to the above, there is no restriction on Dealings carried out by trustees of employee trusts on behalf of employees generally during a Prohibited Period. If the trustees of an

employee trust are acting as nominee for a Restricted Person then the position will need to be considered carefully.

- 5.3 The trustees of an employee trust can Deal during a Prohibited Period to the extent required to satisfy pre-existing obligations.
- 5.4 There is no prohibition on funding an employee trust (*e.g.*, making gifts or loans) during a Prohibited Period, provided that this is not accompanied by a recommendation or encouragement to Deal during a Prohibited Period.

6. **Clearance for Dealings under employee share plans**

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate (without any application from the Restricted Person) for bulk clearance to be granted in connection with Dealings connected with employee share plans, *e.g.*, to permit individuals to accept invitations made by the Company to participate in an all-employee plan or in relation to the automatic vesting of awards granted under a long-term incentive plan.