

Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members (‘Association’ Model Constitution)

1. Name:

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

British Congenital Cardiac Association

2. National location of principal office

The principal office of the CIO is in England.

3. Objects

The objects of the CIO are:

The advancement of health and education in all aspects of congenital cardiac diseases in particular by:

- Promoting the study and care of the fetus and child with heart diseases and the adult with congenital heart disease in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland
- Promoting and distribute study data pertaining to these problems and their prevention
- Promoting research in congenital cardiology and to publish the useful results of such research, and
- The improvement of knowledge of professionals, the public and the patients and their families through scientific and educational meetings

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 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

4. Powers

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

- . (i) provide professional support to the members to facilitate the delivery of the objects.
- . (ii) borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of its property as security for the repayment of the money borrowed. The CIO must comply as appropriate with sections 124 and 125 of the Charities Act 2011 if it wishes to mortgage land;
- . (iii) buy, take lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;
- . (iv) sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the CIO. In exercising this power, the CIO must comply as appropriate with sections 117 and 119-123 of the Charities Act 2011;
- . (v) employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of the CIO. The CIO may employ or remunerate a Council member only to the extent that is permitted to do so by clause 6 (Benefits and payments to Council members and connected persons) and provided it complies with the conditions of those clauses;
- . (vi) deposit or invest funds, employ a professional fund-manager, and arrange for the investments or other property of the CIO to be held in the name of a nominee, in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustees Act 2000;
- . (vii) work with health service planners and providers to achieve the objects.

- (viii) co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities and to exchange information and advice with them;
- . (ix) establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any of the charitable purposes included in the objects;
- . (x) acquire, merge with or to enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other charity;
- . (xi) provide indemnity insurance for the directors in accordance with, and subject to the conditions, in section 189 of the Charities Act 2011;
- (xii) pay out of the funds of the charity the costs of forming and registering the charity

5. Application of income and property

(1) The income and property of the CIO must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects.

(a) A Council member is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the CIO or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the CIO.

(b) A Council member may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the CIO's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011.

(2) None of the income or property of the CIO may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the CIO. This does not prevent a member who is not also a Council member receiving:

- . (a) A benefit from the CIO as a beneficiary of the CIO;
 - . (b) Reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the CIO.
- (3) Nothing in this clause shall prevent a Council member or connected person receiving any benefit or payment which is authorised by Clause 6.

6. Benefits and payments to Council members and connected persons

(1) General provisions

No Council member or connected person may:

- (a) Buy or receive any goods or services from the CIO on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;
- (b) Sell goods, services, or interest in land to the CIO;
- (c) Be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the CIO;
- (d) Receive any other financial benefit from the CIO

Unless the payment or benefit is permitted by sub-clause (2) of this clause, or authorised by the court or the prior written consent of the Charity Commission (“the Commission”) has been obtained. In this clause, a “financial benefit” means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.

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

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

(3) Payment for supply of goods only- controls

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

- . (a) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in a written agreement between the CIO and the Council member or connected person supplying the goods (“the supplier”).
- . (b) 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.
- . (c) The other Council members are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the CIO to contract with the supplier rather than with someone that is not a Council member or connected person. In reaching that decision the Council members must balance the advantage of contraction with a Council member or connected person against the disadvantages of doing so.
- . (d) The supplier is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of the proposal to enter into a contract or arrangement with him or her or it with regard to the supply of goods to the CIO.
- . (e) The supplier does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of Council members is present at the meeting.
- . (f) The reason for their decision is recorded by the Council members in the minute book.
- . (g) A majority of the Council members then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by clause 6.

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

. (a) “the CIO” includes any company in which the CIO:

(i) holds more than 50% of the shares; or

(ii) controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares;

(iii) has the right to appoint one or more directors to the board of the company;

. (b) “connected person” includes any person within the definition set out in 30 (Interpretation);

7. Conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty

A Council member must:

- . (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 CIO or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the CIO which has not previously been declared; and
- . (2) Absent himself or herself from any discussions of the Council members in which it is possible that a conflict of interest will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of the CIO and any personal interest (including but not limited to any financial interest).

Any Council member 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 Council members on the matter.

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

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

9. Membership of the CIO

(1) Admission of new members

(a) Eligibility

Membership of the CIO shall be open to anyone who is interested in furthering its purposes, 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 sub clause 3 hereof.

(b) The categories of membership are:

Ordinary Membership – Consultant: open to all consultant grade medical practitioners (cardiologists, paediatricians and surgeons), whose interest is in the practice or research of congenital heart disease in the adult or heart diseases in the fetus or child, who are based in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.

Ordinary Membership: open to all medical practitioners and others (eg. trainee doctors, nurses, physiologists), whose interest is in the practice or research of congenital heart disease in the adult or heart diseases in the fetus or child, who are based in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.

Corresponding Membership: open to recognised physicians, surgeons or others overseas, who have a clear and continuing link with congenital heart disease in the adult or heart diseases in the fetus and child in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.

Commercial Membership: open to individuals engaged in the provision of commercial support services for the benefit of the adult with congenital heart disease or the fetus or child with heart diseases.

Retired Membership: open to senior members of the BCCA after retirement from full time employment.

(c) Admission procedure

The Council members:

- (i) require applications for membership to be made by completion of the standard BCCA membership application form;
- (ii) applications for any category of membership shall be considered by the Council members and ratified at the Council meetings which take place throughout the year. Such applications should be proposed and seconded by two current ordinary members;
- (iii) shall, if they approve an application for membership, notify the applicant of their decision within 21 days;
- (iv) may refuse an application for membership if they believe that it is in the best interests of the CIO for them to do so;
- (vi) shall if they decide to refuse an application for membership, give the applicant their reasons for doing so, within 21 days of the decision being taken, and give the applicant the opportunity to appeal against the refusal; and
- (vii) 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.

(2). Duty of members

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

(3) Termination of membership

- . (a) Membership of the CIO comes to an end if:
 - (i) the member dies, or, in the case of an organisation (or the representative of an organisation) that organisation ceases to exist; or
 - (ii) the member sends a notice of resignation to the Council members and/or BCCA secretariat; or
 - (iii) any sum of money owed by the member to the CIO is not paid in full within 6 months of its falling due; or
 - (iv) the Council members decide that it is in the best interests of the CIO that the member in question should be removed from membership, and pass a resolution to that effect.
- . (b) Before the Council members/BCCA secretariat takes any decision to remove someone from membership of the CIO they must:
 - . (i) inform the member of the reasons why it is proposed to remove him, her or it from membership.
 - . (ii) give the member at least 21 clear days notice in which to make representations to the Council members as to why he, she or it should not be removed from membership.
 - . (iii) at a duly constituted meeting of the Council members, consider

whether or not the member should be removed from the membership.

(iv) consider at that meeting any representations which the member makes as to why the member should not be removed; and

(v) allow the member, or the member's representative, to make those representations in person at that meeting, if the member so chooses.

(4) Membership fees

The CIO may require members to pay reasonable membership fees to the CIO.

(5) Informal or associate (non-voting) membership

(a) The Council members may create associate or other classes of non-voting membership, and may determine the rights and obligations of any such members (including payment of membership fees), and the conditions for admission to, and termination of membership of any such class of members.

(b) 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 under the Charities Acts, General Regulations or Dissolution Regulations.

(6) Affiliated Groups and Organisations

Organisations which are involved in the scientific study or clinical management of congenital heart disease in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, may apply to become **affiliated** to the British Congenital Cardiac Association.

Affiliated status can be achieved by formal application to the BCCA Council.

Affiliated status can be granted by approval of the majority of council members and will be subject to ratification by BCCA Members at the subsequent Annual General Meeting. Affiliated status can be reviewed after 5 years.

10. Members' decisions

General provisions

Except for those decisions that must be taken in a particular way as indicated in sub-clause (5) of this clause, decisions of the members of the CIO must be taken either by vote at a general meeting as provided in sub-clause (2) of this clause or by written resolution as provided in sub-clause (4) of this clause.

(2) Taking ordinary decisions by vote

Subject to sub-clause (5) of this clause, any decision of the members of the CIO 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). In the event of a tied vote, the Chair may exercise their right to a second or casting vote.

(3) Taking voting in Council Elections

All Ordinary Members are eligible to vote. In the event of a tied vote, the respective independent organisation responsible for organising the voting process on behalf of the BCCA, will then resolve the tied vote using their own rules and processes after which the conclusion(s) is final and binding.

(4) Taking ordinary decisions by written resolution without a general meeting

(a) Subject to sub-clause (5) of this clause, a resolution in writing agreed by a simple majority of all the members who have been entitled to vote upon it had it been proposed at a general meeting shall be effective, provided that:

(i) a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to all members eligible to vote; and

(ii) 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 CIO has specified.

- (b) The resolution in writing may comprise several copies to which one or more members have signified their agreement.
- (c) Eligibility to vote on the resolution is limited to members who are members of the CIO on the date when the proposal is first circulated in accordance with paragraph a) above.
- (d) Not less than 10% of the members of the CIO may request the Council members to make a proposal for decision by the members.
- (e) The Council members must within 21 days of receiving such a request comply with it if:
 - (i) The proposal is not frivolous or vexatious, and does not involve the publication of defamatory material;
 - (ii) The proposal is stated with sufficient clarity to enable effect to be given to it if it is agreed by the members; and
 - (iii) Effect can lawfully be given to the proposal if it is so agreed.
- (f) Sub-clauses (a) to (c) of this clause apply to a proposal made at the request of the members.

(5) Decisions that must be taken in a particular way

(a) Any decision to remove a trustee must be taken in accordance with clause 15(2).

(b) Any decision to amend this constitution must be taken in accordance with clause 28 of this constitution

(Amendment of Constitution).

(c) Any decision to wind up or dissolve the CIO must be taken in accordance with clause 29 of this constitution (Voluntary winding up or dissolution). Any decision to amalgamate or transfer the undertaking of the CIO to one or more other CIOs must be taken in accordance with the provision of the Charities Act 2011.

11. General meetings of members

(1) Types of general meeting

There must be an annual general meeting (AGM) of the members of the CIO. The first AGM must be held within 18 months of the registration of the CIO, 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 13.

Other general meetings of the CIO may be held at any time.

All general meetings must be held in accordance with the following provisions.

(2) Calling general meetings

(a) The Council members:

(i) Must call the annual general meeting of the members of the CIO in accordance with sub-clause (1) of this clause, and identify it as such in the notice of the meeting. A meeting can be called by email; and

(ii) May call any other general meeting of the members at any time.

(b) The Council members must, within 21 days, call a general meeting of the CIO if:

(i) They receive a request to do so from at least 10% of the members of the CIO; and

(ii) The request states the general nature of the business to be dealt with at the meeting, and is authenticated by the members making the request.

(c) If, at the time of any such request, there has not been any general meeting of the members of the CIO for more than 12 months, then sub-clause (b) (i) of this clause shall have effect as if 5% were substituted for 10%.

(d) Any such request may include particulars of a resolution that may properly be proposed, and is intended to be proposed, at the meeting.

(e) A resolution may only properly be proposed if it is lawful, and is not defamatory, frivolous or vexatious.

(f) Any general meeting called by the Council members at the request of the members of the CIO must be held within 28 days from the date on which it is called.

(g) If the Council members 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.

(h) 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.

(i) The CIO must reimburse any reasonable expenses incurred by the members calling a general meeting by reason of the failure of the Council members to duly call the meeting, but the CIO shall be entitled to be indemnified by the Council members who were responsible for such failure.

(3) Notice of general meetings

(a) The Council members, or as the case may be, the relevant members of the CIO, must give at least 14 clear days notice of any general meeting to all of the members, and to any Council member of the CIO who is not a member.

(b) If it is agreed by not less than 90% of all members of the CIO, any resolution may be proposed and passed at the meeting even though the requirements of sub-clause (3) (a) of this clause have not been met. This sub-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.

(c) The notice of any general meeting must:

(i) State the time and date of the meeting;

(ii) Give the address at which the meeting is to take place;

(iii) 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

(iv) if a proposal to alter the constitution of the CIO is to be considered at the meeting, include the text of the proposed alteration;

(v) include, with the notice of 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 22 (Use of electronic communication), details of where the information may be found on the CIO's website.

(d) 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.

(e) The proceedings of a meeting shall not be invalidated because of a member who was entitled to receive notice of the meeting did not receive it because of accidental omission by the CIO.

(4) Chairing of general meetings

The person nominated as chair by the Council members under clause 19 (2) (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 CIO who are present who are present at a general meeting shall elect a chair to preside at the meeting.

(5) Quorum at general meetings

(a) No business may be transacted at any general meeting of the members of the CIO unless a quorum is present when the meeting starts. A minimum of two of the following Officers: President or President Elect; Honorary Secretary or

Treasurer (or deputies agreed in advance by the Council) are present (either in person, telephone or other electronic means) for the meetings to be quorate.

(b) Subject to the following provisions, the quorum for general meetings shall be the greater of 5% or three members. An organisation represented by a person present at the meeting in accordance with sub-clause (7) of this clause, is counted as being present in person.

(c) 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.

(d) If the meeting has been called in any other way and a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the start 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 be notified to the CIO's members at least seven clear days before the date on which it will resume.

(e) 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.

(f) 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.

(6) Voting at general meetings

(a) Any decision other than one falling within clause 10(4) (Decisions must be taken in a particular way) shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast at the meeting (including postal votes). Every member has one vote.

(b) 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 at the meeting.

(c) 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.

(d) A poll may be taken:

(i) At the meeting at which it was demanded; or

(ii) At some other time and place specified by the chair; or (iii) through the use of postal or electronic communications.

(e) In the event of a tied vote, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(f) 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 shall be final.

(7) Postal Voting

(a) The CIO may, if the Council so decide, allow the members to vote by post or electronic mail ('email') to elect the Council or to make a decision on any matter that is being decided at a general meeting of the members.

(b) The Council must appoint at least two persons independent of the CIO to serve as scrutineers to supervise the conduct of the postal/email ballot and the counting of votes.

(c) If postal and/or email voting is to be allowed on a matter, the CIO must send to members of the CIO not less than 21 days before the deadline for receipt of votes cast in this way:

- (i) a notice by email, if the member has agreed to receive notices in this way under clause 22 (Use of electronic communication), including an explanation of the purpose of the vote and the voting procedure to be followed by the member, and a voting form capable of being returned by email or post to the CIO, containing details of the resolution being put to a vote, or of the candidates for election, as applicable;
- (ii) a notice by post to all other members, including a written explanation of the purpose of the postal vote and the voting procedure to be followed by the member; and a postal voting form containing details of the resolution being put to a vote, or of the candidates for election, as applicable.

(d) The voting procedure must require all forms returned by post to be in an envelope with the member's name and signature, and nothing else, on the outside, inside another envelope addressed to 'The Scrutineers for [name of CIO]' at the CIO's principal office or such other postal address as is specified in the voting procedure.

(e) The voting procedure for votes cast by email must require the member's name to be at the top of the email, and the email must be authenticated in the manner specified in the voting procedure.

(f) Email votes must be returned to an email address used only for this purpose and must be accessed only by a scrutineer.

(g) The voting procedure must specify the closing date and time for receipt of votes, and must state that any votes received after the closing date or not complying with the voting procedure will be invalid and not be counted.

(h) The scrutineers must make a list of names of members casting valid votes, and a separate list of members casting votes which were invalid. These lists must be provided to a charity trustee or other person overseeing admission to, and voting at, the general meeting. A member who has cast a valid postal or email vote must not vote at the meeting, and must not be counted in the quorum for any part of the meeting on which he, she or it has already cast a valid vote. A member who has cast an invalid vote by post or email is allowed to vote at the meeting and counts towards the quorum.

(i) For postal votes, the scrutineers must retain the internal envelopes (with the member's name and signature). For email votes, the scrutineers must cut

off and retain any part of the email that includes the member's name. In each case, a scrutineer must record on this evidence of the member's name that the vote has been counted, or if the vote has been declared invalid, the reason for such declaration.

(j) Votes cast by post or email must be counted by all the scrutineers before the meeting at which the vote is to be taken. The scrutineers must provide to the person chairing the meeting written confirmation of the number of valid votes received by post and email and the number of votes received which were invalid.

(k) The scrutineers must not disclose the result of the postal/email ballot until after votes taken by hand or by poll at the meeting, or by poll after the meeting, have been counted. Only at this point shall the scrutineers declare the result of the valid votes received, and these votes shall be included in the declaration of the result of the vote.

(l) Following the final declaration of the result of the vote, the scrutineers must provide to a charity trustee or other authorised person bundles containing the evidence of members submitting valid postal votes; evidence of members submitting valid email votes; evidence of invalid votes; the valid votes, and the invalid votes.

(m) Any dispute about the conduct of a postal or email ballot must be referred initially to a panel set up by the Council, to consist of two trustees and two persons independent of the CIO. If the dispute cannot be satisfactorily resolved by the panel, it must be referred to the Electoral Reform Society.

(9) Adjournment of meetings

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.

12. Council members

(1) Functions and duties of Council members

The Council members shall manage the affairs of the CIO and may for that purpose exercise all the powers of the CIO. It is the duty of each Council member:

(a) To exercise his or her powers and to perform his or her functions as a trustee of the CIO in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the CIO; and

(b) To exercise, in the performance of those functions, such care and skill as is reasonable in the circumstances having in 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 Council member of the CIO in the course of a business or profession, to any special knowledge or experience that it is reasonable to expect of a person acting in the course of that kind of business or profession.

(2) Eligibility for trusteeship

(a) Every Council member must be a natural person.

(b) No one may be appointed as a Council member:

- if he or she is under the age of 16 years; or
- if he or she would automatically cease to hold office under the provisions of clause 15(1) (f).

(c) No one is entitled to act as a Council member whether on

appointment or on any re-appointment until he or she has expressly acknowledged, in whatever way the Council members decide, his or her acceptance of the office of Council member.

(3) Number of Council members

(a) There must at least three Council members. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may only act to call a meeting of the Council members, or appoint a new Council member.

(b) The maximum number of elected Council members is 12. The Council may not appoint any Council member if as a result the number of elected Council members would exceed the maximum.

(4) First Council members

The first Council members of the CIO were:

Professor David Anderson, President (2015-2017)

Dr Alan Magee, Vice-President (President Elect) (2015-2017)

Professor Michael Burch, Honorary Secretary (2015-2017 – 2nd term)

Dr Satish Adwani, Treasurer (2016-2018 – 2nd term)

(13) Appointment of Council members

(1) Elected Officers of the Charity who shall be known as “the Officers” shall be

(a) President

(b) Vice-President (President-Elect)

- . (c) Honorary Secretary
 - . (d) Treasurer
 - . (e) Scientific Secretary
 - . (g) Council Officer representing Adult Congenital Heart Disease
 - . (i) Four additional Council Officers without portfolio (Ordinary Members)
- (2) The Officers shall, as far as possible, reflect the composition and various interests of the Association.
 - (3) The Council shall have been voting members of this organisation for at least one year prior to their election and be able to advise on issues relating to matters of public or professional interest involving the advancement of health and education in all aspects of congenital cardiac diseases together with other forms of heart disease in children in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. When judged appropriate by the President, the Council will have the right, by majority vote, to co-opt additional members to represent specific specialty groups (not already represented on the Council) for a period to be determined by the individual member's term of office or for a maximum of 2 years which can be renewed for a further term(s) subject to agreement of the Council and in consultation with the member.

The co-opted members of the Council are currently:

- (a). SAC chair for Paediatric Cardiology (equivalent to Education and Training Officer)
- (b) Clinical Lead NICOR National Congenital Heart Disease Audit)

- (c) Paediatrician with expertise in Cardiology (PECSIG)
- (d) Trainees representative
- (e) Nursing representative
- (f) Physiologist representative

(4) The President shall retire as the President after two years to be replaced by the Vice-President (President-Elect) and the President shall be eligible for re-election in a non-executive position (Ordinary Council member) on the Council for a further maximum period of four (4) years (2+2 years subject to re-election).

(5) All other officers will be in post for two (2) years and will offer themselves to re-election after two (2) years. The Honorary Secretary and Treasurer shall be eligible for re-election after two (2) years and may serve in these posts for a maximum of 5 years (two (2) years plus two (2) years plus one (1) year). Ordinary Council Members shall be elected for two (2) years. Unless a Council member is elected to one of the higher offices of the Association (President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer), they may not serve on the Council for more than two (2) consecutive two year terms, but will be eligible for re-election two (2) years after ceasing to hold office.

Chairs/lay representatives of various parent organisations are invited to meetings as and when required.

(6) The members of the Council may at any time decide to appoint a new Council member, whether in place of a Council member who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause 15 (Retirement and removal of Council members), or as an additional Council member provided that the limit specified in clause 12(3) on the number of the Council would not as a result be exceeded;

(7) A person so appointed by the members of the CIO shall retire in accordance with the sub-clauses (1) and (2) of this clause. A person so appointed by the

Council shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment, and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the Council are to retire by rotation at that meeting.

14. Information for new Council members

The Council will make available to each new Council member, on or before his or her first appointment:

- (a) A copy of this constitution and any amendments made to it; and
- (b) A copy of the CIO's latest Council's annual report and statement of accounts.

15. Retirement and removal of Council members

(1) A Council member ceases to hold office if he or she:

- (a) retires by notifying the CIO in writing (but only if enough Council members will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect to form a quorum for meetings);
- (b) is absent without the permission of the Council from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;
- (c) dies;
- (d) in the written opinion, given to the CIO, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a Council member and may remain so for more than three months;
- (e) is removed by the members of the CIO in accordance with sub-clause (2) of this clause; or

(f) is disqualified from acting as a Council member by virtue of section 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).

(2) A Council member 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 11, and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the meeting.

(3) A resolution to remove a Council member in accordance with this clause shall not take effect unless the individual concerned has been given at least 14 days' notice in writing that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstance alleged to justify removal from office, and has been given a reasonable opportunity of making oral / or written representations to the members of the CIO.

16. Reappointment of Council members

Any person who retires as a Council member by rotation or by giving notice to the CIO is eligible for reappointment. Unless a Council member is elected to one of the higher offices of the Association (**President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer**), they may not serve on the Council for more than two (2) consecutive two year terms, but will be eligible for re-election two (2) years after ceasing to hold office.

17. Taking of decisions by Council members

Any decision may be taken either:

- at a meeting of the Council; or
- by resolution in writing or electronic form agreed by all of the Council members, which may comprise either a single document or several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of

which one or more Council members has signified their agreement.

18. Delegation by Council members

(1) The Council members may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee or committees, and if they do, they must determine the terms and conditions on which the delegation is made. The Council members may at any time alter those terms and conditions, or revoke the delegation.

(2) This power is in addition to the power of delegation in the General Regulations and any other power of delegation available to the Council members, but it is subject to the following requirements;

(a) A committee may consist of two or more persons, but at least one member of each committee must be a Council member;

(b) The acts and proceedings of any committee must be brought to the attention of the Council as a whole as soon as is reasonably practicable; and

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

19. Meetings and proceedings of Council

(1) Calling meetings

(a) Any Council member may call a meeting of the Council.

(b) Subject to that, the Council members shall decide how their meetings are to be called (for example, email), and what notice is required.

(2) Chairing of meetings

The Council 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 Council members present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.

(3) Procedure at meetings

(a) No decision shall be taken at a meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the decision is taken. The quorum is two Council members, or the number nearest to one third of the total number of Council members, whichever is greater, or such larger number as the Council may decide from time to time. A Council member shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which he or she is not entitled to vote.

(b) Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of those eligible to vote.

(c) In the case of an equality of votes, the chair shall have a second or casting vote.

(4) Participation in meetings by electronic means

(a) A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the Council in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.

(b) Any Council member participating at a meeting by suitable electronic means agreed by the Council in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants shall

qualify as being present at the meeting.

(c) Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including the chairing and taking of minutes.

20. Saving provisions

(1) Subject to sub-clause (2) of this clause, all decisions of the Council, or of a committee of the Council, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a Council member:

Who was disqualified from holding office;

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

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 Council member and that Council member being counted in the quorum, the decision has been made by a majority of the Council at a quorate meeting.

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

21. Execution of documents

(1) The CIO shall execute documents either by signature or by affixing

its seal (if it has one).

(2) A document is validly executed by signature if it is signed by at least two of the Council members.

(3) If the CIO has a seal:

(a) It must comply with the provisions of the General Regulations; and

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

22. Use of electronic communications to the CIO

(1) General

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

(a) the requirement to provide within 21 days to any member on request a hard copy of any document or information sent to the member otherwise than in hard copy form;

(b) any requirements to provide information to the Commission in a particular form or manner.

(2) To the CIO

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

(3) By the CIO

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

member has indicated to the CIO his or her unwillingness to receive such communications in that form.

- . (b) The Council may, subject to compliance with any legal requirements, by means of publication on its website:
 - (i) provide the members with the notice referred to in clause 11(3) (Notice of general meetings);
 - (ii) give the Council notice of their meetings in accordance with clause 19(1) (Calling meetings); [and
 - (iii) submit any proposal to the members or the Council for decision by written resolution or postal vote in accordance with the CIO's powers under clause 10 (Members' decisions), 10(4) (Decisions taken by resolution in writing), or the provisions for postal voting (clause 11(7)].
- . (c) The Council must:-
 - (i) take reasonable steps to ensure that members and the Council are promptly notified of the publication of any such notice or proposal; and
 - (ii) send any such notice or proposal in hard copy form to any member or the Council who has not consented to receive communications in electronic form.

23. Keeping of Registers

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

24. Minutes

The Council must keep minutes of all:

- (1) appointments of officers made by the Council;
- (2) proceedings at general meetings of the CIO;
- (3) meetings of the Council and committees of Council including:
 - the names of the Council members present at the meeting;
 - the decisions made at the meetings; and

where appropriate the reasons for the decisions; decisions made by the Council otherwise than in meetings.

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

(1) The Council 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 CIO, within 10 months of the financial year-end.

(2) The Council must comply with their obligation to inform the Commission within 28 days of any changes in the particulars of the CIO entered on the Central Register of Charities.

26. Rules

The Council 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 CIO, but such rules or bye laws must not be inconsistent with any provision of this constitution. Copies of any such rules or bye laws currently in force must be made available to any member of the CIO on request.

27. Disputes

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

28. Amendment of constitution

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

- (1) This constitution can only be amended:
 - (a) By resolution agreed in writing by all members of the CIO; or
 - (b) By a resolution passed by a 75% majority of votes cast at a general meeting of the members of the CIO.
- (2) Any alteration of clause 3 (Objects), clause 29 (Voluntary winding up or dissolution), this clause, or of any provision where the alteration would provide authorisation for any benefit to be obtained by Council or members of the CIO or persons connected with them, requires the prior written consent of the Charity Commission.
- (3) No amendment that is inconsistent with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011 or the General Regulations shall be valid.
- (4) A copy of any resolution altering the constitution, together with a copy of the CIO'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.

29. Voluntary winding up or dissolution

- (1) As provided by the Dissolution Regulations, the CIO may be dissolved by resolution of its members. Any decision by the members to wind up or dissolve the CIO can only be made:
 - (a) At a general meeting of the members of the CIO called in accordance with clause 11 (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 a decision taken without a vote and without any expression of dissent in response to the question put to the general meeting; or

(b) By a resolution agreed in writing by all members of the CIO.

(2) Subject to the payment of all the CIO's debts:

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

(b) If the resolution does not contain such a provision, the Council members must decide how any remaining assets of the CIO shall be applied.

(c) In either case the remaining assets must be applied for charitable purposes the same as or similar to those of the CIO.

(3) The CIO must observe the requirements of the Dissolution Regulations in applying to the Commission for the CIO to be removed from the Register of Charities, and in particular:

(a) The Council must send with their application to the commission:

(i) A copy of the resolution passed by the members of the CIO;

(ii) A declaration by the Council that any debts and other liabilities of the CIO have been settled or otherwise provided for in full; and

(iii) A statement by the Council setting out the way in which any property of the CIO has been or is to be applied prior to its dissolution in accordance with this constitution;

(b) The Council must ensure that a copy of the application is sent within seven days to every member and employee of the CIO, and to any Council member of the CIO who was not privy to the application.

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

30. Interpretation

In this constitution: “**connected person**” means:

(a) a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the Council member;

(b) the spouse or civil partner of the Council member or of any person falling within sub-clause a) above;

(c) a person carrying on business in partnership with the Council member or with any person falling within sub-clause (a) or (b) above;

(d) an institution which is controlled;

(i) by the Council member 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 corporate body in which;

(i) the Council member 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.

“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.

“Council member” means a Council member of the CIO.

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