
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1986 No. 1032

The Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (revoked)

PART XII

COMPANY ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE

F1 Order repealed (prosp.) by [Companies Act 2006 \(c. 46\), ss. 1284\(2\), 1295, 1300\(2\), Sch. 16](#) and the repeal being partly in force, as to which see individual Articles (with savings (with adaptations) by Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 6, Saving and Commencement Nos. 3 and 5 (Amendment)) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/674), arts. 2(3), {4}, Sch. 2) and subject to amendments (6.4.2008) by [Companies Act 2006 \(Consequential Amendments etc\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/948\), arts. 2\(2\), 3\(1\)\(b\)\(2\), Sch. 1 paras. 135, 147, 148 {Sch. 2 Note 1}](#) (with arts. 6, 11, 12) and subject to amendments (6.4.2008) by [S.R. 2008/133, {regs. 2, 3}](#)

CHAPTER I

Company Identification

Company name to appear outside place of business

356^{F1}.—(1) Every company shall paint or affix, and keep painted or affixed, its name on the outside of every office or place in which its business is carried on, in a conspicuous position and in letters easily legible.

(2) If a company does not paint or affix its name as required by paragraph (1), the company and every officer of it who is in default is liable to a fine; and if a company does not keep its name painted or affixed as so required, the company and every officer of it who is in default is liable to a fine, for continued contravention, to a daily default fine.

F1 mod. by SR 2004/307

Company's name to appear in its correspondence, etc.

357^{F2}.—(1) Every company shall have its name mentioned in legible characters—

- (a) in all business letters [^{F3}and order forms] of the company,
- (b) in all its notices and other official publications,

[^{F4}(bb) on all its websites,]

- (c) in all bills of exchange, promissory notes, endorsements, cheques and orders for money or goods purporting to be signed by or on behalf of the company, and
- (d) in all its bills of parcels, invoices, receipts and letters of credit.

(2) If a company fails to comply with paragraph (1) it is liable to a fine.

(3) If an officer of a company or a person on its behalf—

Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/2007. This version of this part contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (revoked), PART XII. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) issues or authorises the issue of any business letter [^{F5}or order form] of the company or any notice or other official publication of the company, in which the company's name is not mentioned as required by paragraph (1), ^{F6} . . .
- [^{F7}(aa) causes or authorises the appearance of a website on which the company's name is not so mentioned, or]
- (b) issues or authorises the issue of any bill of parcels, invoice, receipt or letter of credit of the company in which its name is not so mentioned,
- he is liable to a fine.

(4) If an officer of a company or a person on its behalf signs or authorises to be signed on behalf of the company any bill of exchange, promissory note, endorsement, cheque or order for money or goods in which the company's name is not mentioned as required by paragraph (1), he is liable to a fine; and he is further personally liable to the holder of the bill of exchange, promissory note, cheque or order for money or goods for the amount of it (unless it is duly paid by the company).

[^{F8}(5) References in this Article to a document of any type are to a document of that type in hard copy, electronic or any other form.]

- F2** mod. by SR 2004/307
- F3** Words in art. 357(1)(a) inserted (1.1.2007) by Companies (Registrar, Languages and Trading Disclosures) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/3429), reg. 6(2), **Sch. 2 para. 1(2)(a)**
- F4** Art. 357(1)(bb) inserted (1.1.2007) by Companies (Registrar, Languages and Trading Disclosures) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/3429), reg. 6(2), **Sch. 2 para. 1(2)(b)**
- F5** Words in art. 357(3)(a) inserted (1.1.2007) by Companies (Registrar, Languages and Trading Disclosures) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/3429), reg. 6(2), **Sch. 2 para. 1(3)(a)**
- F6** Word in art. 357(3)(a) omitted (1.1.2007) by virtue of Companies (Registrar, Languages and Trading Disclosures) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/3429), reg. 6(2), **Sch. 2 para. 1(3)(b)**
- F7** Art. 357(3)(aa) inserted (1.1.2007) by Companies (Registrar, Languages and Trading Disclosures) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/3429), reg. 6(2), **Sch. 2 para. 1(3)(c)**
- F8** Art. 357(5) inserted (1.1.2007) by Companies (Registrar, Languages and Trading Disclosures) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/3429), reg. 6(2), **Sch. 2 para. 1(4)**

Company seal

358 ^{F9}.—[^{F10}(1) A company which has a common seal shall have its name engraved in legible characters on the seal; and if it fails to comply with this paragraph it is liable to a fine.]

(2) If an officer of a company or a person on its behalf uses or authorises the use of any seal purporting to be a seal of the company on which its name is not engraved as required by paragraph (1), he is liable to a fine.

- F9** mod. by SR 2004/307
- F10** 1990 NI 10

Particulars in correspondence, etc.

359.—(1 ^{F11} Every company shall have the following particulars mentioned in legible characters in all business letters and order forms of the company [^{F12}, and on all the company's websites,] , namely—

- (a) the company's place of registration and the number with which it is registered,
- (b) the address of its registered office,

(c)^{F13} in the case of an investment company (as defined in Article 274), the fact that it is such a company, and

(d)^{F13} in the case of a limited company exempt from the obligation to use the word “limited” as part of its name [^{F14}under Article 40 or a community interest company which is not a public company], the fact that it is a limited company.

[^{F15}(2) If in the case of a company having a share capital there is a reference to the amount of share capital—

- (a) on the stationery used for any such letters,
- (b) on the company's order forms, or
- (c) on any of the company's websites,

the reference must be to paid-up share capital.]

(3) As to contraventions of this Article, the following applies—

- (a) if a company fails to comply with paragraph (1) or (2), it is liable to a fine, and
- (b) if an officer of a company or a person on its behalf issues or authorises the issue of any business letter or order form not complying with those paragraphs, he is liable to a fine.

[^{F16}(ba) if an officer of a company or a person on its behalf causes or authorises the appearance of a website not complying with those paragraphs, he is liable to a fine.]

[^{F17}(6) References in this Article to a document of any type are to a document of that type in hard copy, electronic or any other form.]

F11 mod. by SR 1986/305

F12 Words in art. 359(1) inserted (1.1.2007) by Companies (Registrar, Languages and Trading Disclosures) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/3429), reg. 6(2), **Sch. 2 para. 2(2)**

F13 mod. by SR 2004/307

F14 Words in art. 359(1)(d) inserted (6.4.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 2, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/1093), arts. 1(3), 6(2), **Sch. 4 para. 53** (with art. 11(1))

F15 Art. 359(2) substituted (1.1.2007) by Companies (Registrar, Languages and Trading Disclosures) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/3429), reg. 6(2), **Sch. 2 para. 2(3)**

F16 Art. 359: "In paragraph (5), after sub-paragraph (b)" there is inserted (1.1.2007) para. (ba) by virtue of Companies (Registrar, Languages and Trading Disclosures) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/3429), reg. 6(2), **Sch. 2 para. 2(4)**

F17 Art. 359: After reference to paragraph (5) there is inserted (1.1.2007) art. 359(6) by virtue of Companies (Registrar, Languages and Trading Disclosures) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/3429), reg. 6(2), **Sch. 2 para. 2(5)**

CHAPTER II

Register of Members

Obligation to keep and enter up register

360.—(1) Every company shall keep a register of its members and enter in it the particulars required by this Article.

(2) There shall be entered in the register—

- (a) the names and addresses of the members;
- (b) the date on which each person was registered as a member; and
- (c) the date at which any person ceased to be a member.

- (3) This paragraph applies in the case of a company having a share capital—
- (a) with the names and addresses of the members there shall be entered a statement—
- (i) of the shares held by each member, distinguishing each share by its number (so long as the share has a number) and, where the company has more than one class of issued shares, by its class, and
- (ii) of the amount paid or agreed to be considered as paid on the shares of each member;
- (b) where the company has converted any of its shares into stock and given notice of the conversion to the register, the register shall show the amount and class of stock held by each member, instead of the amount of shares and the particulars relating to shares specified in sub-paragraph (a).

[^{F18}(3A) Where a company purchases one or more of its own shares in circumstances in which Article 172A applies—

- (a) the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3) must be complied with unless the company cancels all of the shares forthwith after the purchase in accordance with Article 172D(1), but
- (b) any share which is so cancelled must be disregarded for the purposes of paragraph (3).]

(4) In the case of a company which does not have a share capital but has more than one class of members, there shall be entered in the register, with the names and addresses of the members, the class to which each member belongs.

(5) If a company makes default in complying with this Article, the company and every officer of it who is in default is liable to a fine and, for continued contravention, to a daily default fine.

(6) An entry relating to a former member of a company may be removed from the register after the expiration of 20 years from the date on which he ceased to be a member.

(7) Liability incurred by a company from the making or deletion of an entry in its register of members or debenture holders, or from a failure to make or delete any such entry, is not enforceable more than 20 years after the date on which the entry was made or deleted or, in the case of any such failure, the failure first occurred.

This is without prejudice to any lesser period of limitation.

F18 SR 2004/275

[^{F19}Statement that company has only one member

360A.—(1) If the number of members of a private company limited by shares or by guarantee falls to one there shall upon the occurrence of that event be entered in the company's register of members with the name and address of the sole member—

- (i) a statement that the company has only one member; and
- (ii) the date on which the company became a company having only one member.

(2) If the membership of a private company limited by shares or by guarantee increases from one to two or more members there shall upon the occurrence of that event be entered in the company's register of members, with the name and address of the person who was formerly the sole member, a statement that the company has ceased to have only one member together with the date on which that event occurred.

(3) If a company makes default in complying with this Article, the company and every officer of it who is in default is liable to a fine and, for continued contravention, to a daily default fine.]

F19 SR 1992/405

Location of register

- 361.**—(1) A company's register of members shall be kept at its registered office, except that—
- (a) if the work of making it up is done at another office of the company, it may be kept there; and
 - (b) if the company arranges with some other person for the making up of the register to be undertaken on its behalf by that other, it may be kept at the office of the other at which the work is done;

but it must not be kept at a place outside Northern Ireland.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), every company shall send notice in the prescribed form to the registrar of the place where its register of members is kept, and of any change in that place.

(3) The notice need not be sent if the register has, at all times since it came into existence (or, in the case of a register in existence on 1st April 1961, at all times since then) been kept at the company's registered office.

(4) If a company makes default for 14 days in complying with paragraph (2), the company and every officer of it who is in default is liable to a fine and, for continued contravention, to a daily default fine.

Index of members

362.—(1) Every company having more than 50 members shall, unless the register of members is in such a form as to constitute in itself an index of the names of the members of the company and shall, within 14 days after the date on which any alteration is made in the register of members, make any necessary alteration in the index.

(2) The index shall in respect of each member contain a sufficient indication to enable the account of that member in the register to be readily found.

(3) The index shall be at all times kept at the same place as the register of members.

(4) If default is made in complying with this Article, the company and every officer of it who is in default is liable to a fine and, for continued contravention, to a daily default fine.

Entries in register in relation to share warrants

363.—(1) On the issue of a share warrant the company shall strike out of its register of members the name of the member then entered therein as holding the shares specified in the warrant as if he had ceased to be a member, and shall enter in the register the following particulars, namely—

- (a) the fact of the issue of the warrant;
- (b) a statement of the shares included in the warrant, distinguishing each share by its number so long as the share has a number; and
- (c) the date of the issue of the warrant.

(2) Subject to the company's articles, the bearer of a share warrant is entitled, on surrendering it for cancellation, to have his name entered as a member in the register of members.

(3) The company is responsible for any loss incurred by any person by reason of the company entering in the register the name of a bearer of a share warrant in respect of the shares therein specified without the warrant being surrendered and cancelled.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/2007. This version of this part contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (revoked), PART XII. (See end of Document for details)

(4) Until the warrant is surrendered, the particulars specified in paragraph (1) are deemed to be those required by this Order to be entered in the register of members; and, on the surrender, the date of the surrender must be entered.

(5) Except as provided by Article 299(2) (director's share qualification), the bearer of a share warrant may, if the articles of the company so provide, be deemed a member of the company within the meaning of this Order, either to the full extent or for any purposes defined in its articles.

Inspection of register and index

364. ^{F20}

F20 Art. 364 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 2(2))

Non-compliance with Articles 361, 362 and 364; agent's default

365. Where under Article 361(1)(b) the register of members is kept at the office of some person other than the company, and by reason of any default of his the company fails to comply with—

Article 361(2) (notice to registrar),

Article 362(3) (index to be kept with register), or

^{F21} . . . ,

or with any requirement of this Order as to the production of the register, that other person is liable to the same penalties as if he were an officer of the company who was in default, ^{F21} . . .

F21 Words in art. 365 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 2)

Power to close register

366. A company may, on giving notice by advertisement in a newspaper circulating in the district in which the company's registered office is situated, close the register of members for any time or times not exceeding in the whole 30 days in each year.

Power of court to rectify register

367.—(1) If—

(a) the name of any person is, without sufficient cause, entered in or omitted from a company's register of members, or

(b) default is made or unnecessary delay takes place in entering on the register the fact of any person ceased to be a member,

the person aggrieved, or any member of the company, or the company, may apply to the court for rectification of the register.

(2) The court may either refuse the application or may order rectification of the register and payment by the company of any damages sustained by any party aggrieved.

(3) On such an application the court may decide any question relating to the title of a person who is a party to the application to have his name entered in or omitted from the register, whether the question arises between members or alleged members, or between members or alleged members on

the one hand and the company on the other hand, and generally may decide any question necessary or expedient to be decided for rectification of the register.

(4) In the case of a company required by this Order to send a list of its members to the registrar, the court, when making an order for rectification of the register, shall by its order direct notice of the rectification to be given to the registrar.

Trusts not be entered on register

368. No notice of any trust, expressed, implied or constructive, shall be entered on the register, or be receivable by the registrar.

Register to be evidence

369. The register of members is prima facie evidence of any matters which are by this Order directed or authorised to be inserted in it.

External branch registers

370.—(1) A company having a share capital whose objects comprise the transaction of business in any of the countries or territories specified in Part I of Schedule 14 may cause to be kept in any such country or territory in which it transacts business a branch register of members resident in that country or territory.

(2) Such a branch register is to be known as an “external branch register”; and—

- (a) any dominion register kept by a company under section 116 of the Act of 1960 is to become known as an external branch register of the company;
- (b) where any statutory provision or instrument (including in particular a company's articles) refers to a company's dominion register, that reference is to be read (unless the context otherwise requires) as being to an external branch register kept under this Article; and
- (c) references to a colonial register occurring in articles registered before 1st January 1933 are to be read as referring to an external branch register.

(3) Part II of Schedule 14 has effect with respect to external branch registers kept under this Article.

CHAPTER III

ANNUAL RETURN

Duty to deliver annual returns

371^{F22}.—(1) Every company shall deliver to the registrar successive annual returns each of which is made up to a date not later than the date which is from time to time the company's “return date”, that is—

- (a) the anniversary of the company's incorporation, or
- (b) if the company's last return delivered in accordance with this Chapter was made up to a different date, the anniversary of that date.

(2) Each return shall—

- (a) be in the prescribed form,
- (b) contain the information required by or under the following provisions of this Chapter, and
- (c) be signed by a director or the secretary of the company;

and it shall be delivered to the registrar within 28 days after the date on which it is made up.

(3) If a company fails to deliver an annual return in accordance with this Chapter before the end of the period of 28 days after a return date, the company is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine and, in the case of continued contravention, to a daily default fine.

The contravention continues until such time as an annual return made up to that return date and complying with the requirements of paragraph (2) (except as to date of delivery) is delivered by the company to the registrar.

(4) Where a company is guilty of an offence under paragraph (3), every director or secretary of the company is similarly liable unless he shows that he took all reasonable steps to avoid the commission or continuation of the offence.

(5) The references in this Article to a return being delivered “in accordance with this Chapter” are—

- (a) in relation to a return made after the coming into operation of Article 74 of the Companies (No. 2) (Northern Ireland) Order 1990, to a return with respect to which all the requirements of paragraph (2) are complied with;
- (b) in relation to a return made before that time, to a return with respect to which the formal and substantive requirements of this Chapter as it then had effect were complied with, whether or not the return was delivered in time.

F22 mod. by SR 2004/307

Contents of annual return: general

372^{F23}.—(1) Every annual return shall state the date to which it is made up and shall contain the following information—

- (a) the address of the company's registered office;
- (b) the type of company it is and its principal business activities;
- (c) the name and address of the company secretary;
- (d) the name and address of every director of the company;
- (e) in the case of each individual director—
 - (i) his nationality, date of birth and business occupation, and
 - (ii) such particulars of other directorships and former names as are required to be contained in the company's register of directors;
- (f) in the case of any corporate director, such particulars of other directorships as would be required to be contained in that register in the case of an individual;
- (g) if the register of members is not kept at the company's registered office, the address of the place where it is kept;
- (h) if any register of debenture holders (or a duplicate of any such register or a part of it) is not kept at the company's registered office, the address of the place where it is kept;
- (i) if the company has elected—
 - (i) to dispense under Article 260 with the laying of accounts and reports before the company in general meeting, or
 - (ii) to dispense under Article 374A with the holding of annual general meetings, a statement to that effect.

(2) The information as to the company's type shall be given by reference to the classification scheme prescribed for the purposes of this Article.

(3) The information as to the company's principal business activities may be given by reference to one or more categories of any prescribed system of classifying business activities.

(4) A person's "name" and "address" mean, respectively—

(a) in the case of an individual, his Christian name (or other forename) and surname and his usual residential address;

(b) in the case of a corporation or Scottish firm, its corporate or firm name and its registered or principal office.

(5) In the case of a peer, or an individual usually known by a title, the title may be stated instead of his Christian name (or other forename) and surname or in addition to either or both of them.

(6) Where all the partners in a firm are joint secretaries, the name and principal office of the firm may be stated instead of the names and addresses of the partners.

F23 mod. by SR 2004/307

Contents of annual return: particulars of share capital and shareholders

372A.—(1) The annual return of a company having a share capital shall contain the following information with respect to its share capital and members.

(2) The return shall state the total number of issued shares of the company at the date to which the return is made up and the aggregate nominal value of those shares.

(3) The return shall state with respect to each class of shares in the company—

(a) the nature of the class, and

(b) the total number and aggregate nominal value of issued shares of that class at the date to which the return is made up.

(4) The return shall contain a list of the names and addresses of every person who—

(a) is a member of the company on the date to which the return is made up, or

(b) has ceased to be a member of the company since the date to which the last return was made up (or, in the case of the first return, since the incorporation of the company);

and if the names are not arranged in alphabetical order the return shall have annexed to it an index sufficient to enable the name of any person in the list to be easily found.

(5) The return shall also state—

(a) the number of shares of each class held by each member of the company at the date to which the return is made up, and

(b) the number of shares of each class transferred since the date to which the last return was made up (or, in the case of the first return, since the incorporation of the company) by each member or person who has ceased to be a member, and the dates of registration of the transfers.

(6) The return may, if either of the two immediately preceding returns has given the full particulars required by paragraphs (4) and (5), give only such particulars as relate to persons ceasing to be or becoming members since the date of the last return and to shares transferred since that date.

(7) Paragraphs (4) and (5) do not require the inclusion of particulars entered in an external branch register if copies of those entries have not been received at the company's registered office by the date to which the return is made up.

Those particulars shall be included in the company's next annual return after they are received.

(8) Where the company has converted any of its shares into stock, the return shall give the corresponding information in relation to that stock, stating the amount of stock instead of the number or nominal value of shares.

VALID FROM 01/10/2008

Contents of annual return: information about shareholders: non-traded companies

372B.—(1) The annual return of a company that was a non-traded company throughout the return period shall also contain the following information.

(2) The return shall contain a list of the names of every person who was a member of the company at any time during the return period. If the names are not arranged in alphabetical order the return shall have annexed to it an index sufficient to enable the name of any person in the list to be easily found.

(3) The return shall also state—

- (a) the number of shares of each class held at the end of the date to which the return is made up by each person who was a member of the company at that time,
- (b) the number of shares of each class transferred during the return period by or to each person who was a member of the company at any time during that period, and
- (c) the dates of registration of those transfers.

(4) If either of the two immediately preceding returns has given the full particulars required by paragraphs (2) and (3), the return need only give such particulars as relate—

- (a) to persons who became, or ceased to be, members during the return period, and
- (b) to shares transferred during that period.

(5) Paragraphs (2) and (3) do not require the inclusion of particulars entered in an overseas branch register if copies of those entries have not been received at the company's registered office by the date to which the return is made up. Those particulars shall be included in the company's next annual return after they are received.

VALID FROM 01/10/2008

Contents of annual return: information about shareholders: traded companies

372C.—(1) The annual return of a company that was a traded company at any time during the return period shall also contain the following information.

(2) The return shall contain a list of the names and addresses of every person who held at least 5% of the issued shares of any class of the company at any time during the return period. If the names are not arranged in alphabetical order the return shall have annexed to it an index sufficient to enable the name of any person in the list to be easily found.

(3) The return shall also state—

- (a) the number of shares of each class held at the end of the date to which the return is made up by each person who held at least 5% of the issued shares of any class of the company at that time,
- (b) the number of shares of each class transferred during the return period by or to each person who held at least 5% of the issued shares of any class of the company at any time during the return period, and

- (c) the dates of registration of those transfers.
- (4) If either of the two immediately preceding returns has given the full particulars required by paragraphs (2) and (3), the return need only give such particulars as relate—
 - (a) to persons who came to hold, or ceased to hold, at least 5% of the issued shares of any class of the company during the return period, and
 - (b) to shares transferred during that period.
- (5) Paragraphs (2) and (3) do not require the inclusion of particulars entered in an overseas branch register if copies of those entries have not been received at the company's registered office by the date to which the return is made up. Those particulars shall be included in the company's next annual return after they are received.

VALID FROM 01/10/2008

Contents of annual return: information about shareholders: supplementary

372D.—(1) In Articles 372, 372B and 372C—

- “non-traded company” means a company none of whose shares are shares admitted to trading on a regulated market (so that “traded company” means a company any of whose shares are shares admitted to trading on a regulated market);
- “regulated market” means a market which appears on the list drawn up by an EEA State pursuant to Article 47 of Directive [2004/39/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on markets in financial instruments; and
- “return period”, in relation to an annual return, means the period beginning immediately after the date to which the last return was made up (or, in the case of the first return, with the incorporation of the company) and ending with the date to which the return is made up.

(2) Where a company has converted any of its shares into stock, the return shall give information in relation to that stock corresponding to that required by Article 372B or 372C (as the case may be) in relation to shares of the company, stating the amount of stock instead of the number of shares.

Supplementary provisions: regulations and interpretation

373.—(1) The Department may by regulations make further provision as to the information to be given in a company's annual return, which may amend or repeal the provisions of Articles 372 and 372A.

(2) For the purposes of this Chapter, except Article 371(2)(c) (signature of annual return), a shadow director shall be deemed to be a director.

CHAPTER IV

Meetings and Resolutions

Meetings

Annual general meeting

374. ^{F24}

Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/2007. This version of this part contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (revoked), PART XII. (See end of Document for details)

F24 Art. 374 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), **8**, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 paras. 29(3), 35(1)(a))

Election by private company to dispense with annual general meetings

374A. ^{F25}

F25 Art. 374A repealed (20.1.2007 for art. 374A(3A)(6) and otherwise prosp.) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2006/3428, **art. 7(b)**, Sch. 3 Pt. 2 (with arts. 6, 8, Sch. 5)

Department's power to call meeting in default

375. ^{F26}

F26 Art. 375 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), **8**, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12)

Extraordinary general meeting on member's requisition

376. ^{F27}

F27 Art. 376 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), **8**, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 25(2))

Length of notice for calling meetings

377. ^{F28}

F28 Art. 377 repealed (20.1.2007 for art. 377(5)-(11) and otherwise prosp.) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2006/3428, **art. 7(b)**, Sch. 3 Pt. 2 (with arts. 6, 8, Sch. 5)

General provisions as to meetings and votes

378. ^{F29}

F29 Art. 378 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), **8**, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 paras. 22(2)(3), 26(2)(3), 30(2)(3))

Quorum at meetings of the sole member

378A. ^{F30}

F30 Art. 378A repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), **8**, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 30(2)(3))

Power of court to order meeting

379. ^{F31}

F31 Art. 379 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), **8**, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12)

Proxies

380. ^{F32}

F32 Art. 380 repealed (20.1.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise prosp.) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2006/3428, **art. 7(b)**, Sch. 3 Pt. 2 (with arts. 6, 8, Sch. 5)

Right to demand a poll

381. ^{F33}

F33 Art. 381 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), **8**, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 30(2)(3))

Voting on a poll

382. ^{F34}

F34 Art. 382 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), **8**, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 30(2)(3))

Representation of bodies corporate at meetings

383. ^{F35}

F35 Art. 383 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), **8**, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 30(2)(3))

Resolutions

Circulation of members' resolutions

384. ^{F36}

F36 Art. 384 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), **8**, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 29(2), 38(2))

In certain cases, compliance with Article 384 not required

385. ^{F37}

Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/2007. This version of this part contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (revoked), PART XII. (See end of Document for details)

F37 Art. 385 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 29(2), 38(2))

Extraordinary and special resolutions

386. ^{F38}

F38 Art. 386 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 22(2)(3), 30(2)(3))

Resolution requiring special notice

387. ^{F39}

F39 Art. 387 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 27(2))

[^{F40}Elective resolution of private company

387A.—[^{F41}(1) An election by a private company for the purposes of—

- (a) Article 90A (election as to duration of authority to allot shares),
- (b) Article 260 (election to dispense with laying of accounts and reports before general meeting),
- (c) Article 374A (election to dispense with holding of annual general meeting),
- (d) Article 377(4) or 386(3) (election as to majority required to authorise short notice of meeting), or
- (e) Article 394 (election to dispense with appointment of auditors annually),

shall be made by resolution of the company in general meeting in accordance with this Article.

Such a resolution is referred to in this Order as an “elective resolution”.

(2) An elective resolution is not effective unless—

- (a) at least 21 days' notice in writing is given of the meeting, stating that an elective resolution is to be proposed and stating the terms of the resolution, and
- (b) the resolution is agreed to at the meeting, in person or by proxy, by all the members entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

[^{F42}(2A) An elective resolution is effective notwithstanding the fact that less than 21 days' notice in writing of the meeting is given if all the members entitled to attend and vote at the meeting so agree.]

[^{F43}(2B) For the purposes of this Article, notice in writing of the meeting is to be taken as given to a person where notice of the meeting is sent using electronic communications to such address as may for the time being be notified by that person to the company for that purpose.

(2C) For the purposes of this Article a notice in writing of the meeting is also to be treated as given to a person where—

- (a) the company and that person have agreed that notices of meetings required to be given to that person may instead be accessed by him on a web site;
- (b) the meeting is a meeting to which that agreement applies;

- (c) that person is notified, in manner for the time being agreed between him and the company for the purpose, of—
 - (i) the publication of the notice on a web site;
 - (ii) the address of that web site; and
 - (iii) the place on that web site where the notice may be accessed, and how it may be accessed; and
- (d) the notice continues to be published on that web site throughout the period beginning with the giving of that notification and ending with the conclusion of the meeting;

and for the purposes of this Article a notice treated in accordance with this paragraph as given to any person is to be treated as so given at the time of the notification mentioned in sub-paragraph (c).

(2D) A notification given for the purposes of paragraph (2C)(c) must—

- (a) state that it concerns a notice of a company meeting at which an elective resolution is to be proposed, and
- (b) specify the place, date and time of the meeting.

(2E) Nothing in paragraph (2C) shall invalidate the proceedings of a meeting where—

- (a) any notice that is required to be published as mentioned in sub-paragraph (d) of that paragraph is published for a part, but not all, of the period mentioned in that sub-paragraph; and
- (b) the failure to publish that notice throughout that period is wholly attributable to circumstances which it would not be reasonable to have expected the company to prevent or avoid.

(2F) In so far as the articles of the company do not provide for notices and notifications to be served using electronic communications, the provisions of Table A (as for the time being in operation) as to such service shall apply.]

(3) The company may revoke an elective resolution by passing an ordinary resolution to that effect.

(4) An elective resolution shall cease to have effect if the company is re-registered as a public company.

(5) An elective resolution may be passed or revoked in accordance with this Article, and the provisions referred to in^{F43} paragraphs (1) and (2B) to (2E)] have effect, notwithstanding any contrary provision in the company's articles of association.

^{F43}(6) In this article, “address” includes any number or address used for the purposes of electronic communications.]]]

F40 Art. 387A subst. by 1990 NI 10, art. 51

F41 Art. 387A repealed (20.1.2007 for art. 387A(2B)-(2F)(6), 1.10.2007 for art. 387A(1)(b)-(e) and otherwise prosp.) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2006/3428, art. 7(b), Sch. 3 Pt. 2 (with arts. 6, 8, Sch. 5); S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12)

F42 1997 NI 22

F43 SR 2003/3

Registration, etc. of resolutions and agreements

388.—^{F44}(1) A copy of every resolution or agreement to which this Article applies shall, within 15 days after it is passed or made, be forwarded to the registrar and recorded by him; and it must be either a printed copy or else a copy in some other form approved by the registrar.

(2) Where a company's articles have been registered, a copy of [^{F45}every resolution or agreement to which Chapter 3 of Part 3 of the Companies Act 2006 applies (resolutions and agreements affecting a company's constitution) and which is] for the time being in force shall be embodied in or annexed to every copy of the articles issued after the passing of the resolution or the making of the agreement.

(3) Where a company's articles have not been registered, a printed copy of every such resolution or agreement shall be forwarded to any member at his request on payment of 5 pence or such less sum as the company may direct.

(4) This Article applies to—

- (a) special resolutions;
- (b) extraordinary resolutions;
- [^{F46}(bb) an elective resolution or a resolution revoking such a resolution;]
- (c) resolutions or agreements which have been agreed to by all the members of a company but which, if not so agreed to, would not have been effective for their purpose unless (as the case may be) they had been passed as special resolutions or as extraordinary resolutions;
- (d) resolutions or agreements which have been agreed to by all the members of some class of shareholders but which, if not agreed to, would not have been effective for their purpose unless they had been passed by some particular majority or otherwise in some particular manner, and all resolutions or agreements which effectively bind all the members of any class of shareholders though not agreed to by all those members;
- (e) a resolution passed by the directors of a company in compliance with a direction under Article 41(2) (change of name on Department's direction);
- (f) a resolution of a company to give, vary, revoke or renew an authority to the directors for the purposes of Article 90 (allotment of relevant securities);
- (g) a resolution of the directors passed under Article 157(2) (alteration of memorandum on company ceasing to be a public company, following acquisition of its own shares);
- (h) a resolution conferring, varying [^{F47}, revoking or renewing] authority under Article 176 (market purchase of company's own shares);
- (j) a resolution for voluntary winding up, passed under [^{F48} Article 70(1)(a) of the Insolvency Order]; and
- (k) a resolution passed by the directors of an old public company, under Article 4(1) of the Consequential Provisions Order, that the company should be re-registered as a public company.
- [^{F49}(l) a resolution of the directors passed by virtue of regulation 16(2) of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 1995 (which allow title to a company's shares to be evidenced and transferred without written instrument); and
- (m) a resolution of a company passed by virtue of regulation 16(6) of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 1995 (which prevents or reverses a resolution of the directors under regulation 16(2) of those Regulations).]

[^{F50}(4A) For the purposes of this Article, references to a member of a company do not include the company itself where it is such a member by virtue only of its holding shares as treasury shares, and accordingly, in such circumstances, the company is not, for those purposes, to be treated as a member of any class of the company's shareholders.]

(5) If a company fails to comply with paragraph (1), the company and every officer of it who is in default is liable to a fine and, for continued contravention, to a daily default fine.

(6) If a company fails to comply with paragraph (2) or (3), the company and every officer of it who is in default is liable to a fine.

(7) For the purposes of paragraphs (5) and (6), a liquidator of a company is deemed an officer of it.]

F44	Art. 388 repealed (1.10.2007 for art. 388(4)(a)(c)-(m), 6.4.2008 for art. 388(4)(b) and otherwise prosp.) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16 ; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8 , Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 1(2)) (as amended by S.I. 2007/2607, art. 4(3)(a)); S.I. 2007/3495, art. 8(a) , Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with arts. 7, 12)
F45	Words in art. 388(2) substituted (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2194), arts. 1(3), 10(1), Sch. 4 para. 17(9) (with art. 12)
F46	1990 NI 5
F47	1989 NI 18
F48	1989 NI 19
F49	SI 1995/3272
F50	SR 2004/275

Resolution passed at adjourned meeting

389. ^{F51}

F51	Arts. 389-391 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16 ; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8 , Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 paras. 19(2), 24(2), 40(2))
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Written resolutions of private companies

Written resolutions of private companies

389A. ^{F52}

F52	Arts. 389-391 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16 ; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8 , Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 paras. 19(2), 24(2), 40(2))
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Duty to notify auditors of proposed written resolution

389B. ^{F53}

F53	Arts. 389-391 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16 ; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8 , Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 paras. 19(2), 24(2), 40(2))
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Written resolutions: supplementary provisions

389C. ^{F54}

F54	Arts. 389-391 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16 ; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8 , Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 paras. 19(2), 24(2), 40(2))
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Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/2007. This version of this part contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (revoked), PART XII. (See end of Document for details)

Records of proceedings

Minutes of meetings

390. F55

F55 Arts. 389-391 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 paras. 19(2), 24(2), 40(2))

Recording of written resolutions

390A. F56

F56 Arts. 389-391 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 paras. 19(2), 24(2), 40(2))

Recording of decisions by the sole member

390B. F57

F57 Arts. 389-391 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 paras. 19(2), 24(2), 40(2))

Inspection of minute books

391. F58

F58 Arts. 389-391 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 paras. 19(2), 24(2), 40(2))

Chapter V
AUDITORS

Appointment of auditors

Duty to appoint auditors

392.—[F59(1) [F60Every public company] shall appoint an auditor or auditors in accordance with this Chapter.

This is subject to Article 396A ([F61 certain companies exempt from obligation to appoint auditors).

(2 F62 Auditors shall be appointed in accordance with Article 393 (appointment at general meeting at which accounts are laid). F63 . . .

(3 F64 References in this Chapter to the end of the time for appointing auditors are to the end of the time within which an appointment must be made under Article 393(2). F65 . . .

(4) F66]]

- F59** Art. 392 repealed (1.10.2007 for certain purposes and otherwise prosp.) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 44(2))
- F60** Words in art. 392(1) substituted (1.10.2007 with effect as mentioned in Sch. 4 para. 24(6) of the amending S.I.) by Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2194), arts. 1(3), 10(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(1)(a) (with art. 12)
- F61** SR 1995/128
- F62** mod. by SR 2004/307
- F63** Words in art. 392(2) omitted (1.10.2007 with effect as mentioned in Sch. 4 para. 24(6) of the amending S.I.) by virtue of Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2194), arts. 1(3), 10(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(1)(b) (with art. 12)
- F64** mod. by SR 2004/307
- F65** Words in art. 392(3) omitted (1.10.2007 with effect as mentioned in Sch. 4 para. 24(6) of the amending S.I.) by virtue of Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2194), arts. 1(3), 10(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(1)(c) (with art. 12)
- F66** Art. 392(4) omitted (1.10.2007 with effect as mentioned in Sch. 4 para. 24(6) of the amending S.I.) by virtue of Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2194), arts. 1(3), 10(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(1)(d) (with art. 12)

Appointment at general meeting at which accounts laid^{F67}

393^{F68}.—^{F69}[^{F70}1 This Article applies to every public company^{F71}. . . .

(2)^{F72} The company shall, at each general meeting at which accounts are laid, appoint an auditor or auditors to hold office from the conclusion of that meeting until the conclusion of the next general meeting at which accounts are laid.

(3)^{F73} The first auditors of the company may be appointed by the directors at any time before the first general meeting of the company at which accounts are laid; and auditors so appointed shall hold office until the conclusion of that meeting.

(4)^{F74} If the directors fail to exercise their powers under paragraph (3), the powers may be exercised by the company in general meeting.]

- F67** mod. by SR 2004/307
- F68** mod. by SR 2004/307
- F69** Art. 393 repealed (1.10.2007 for certain purposes and otherwise prosp.) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 44(2))
- F70** mod. by SR 2004/307
- F71** Words in art. 393(1) omitted (1.10.2007 with effect as mentioned in Sch. 4 para. 24(6) of the amending S.I.) by virtue of Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2194), arts. 1(3), 10(1), {Sch. 4 para. 24(2)} (with art. 12)
- F72** mod. by SR 2004/307
- F73** mod. by SR 2004/307
- F74** mod. by SR 2004/307

Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/2007. This version of this part contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (revoked), PART XII. (See end of Document for details)

Appointment by private company which is not obliged to lay accounts

393A. ^{F75}

F75 Art. 393A repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 44(2))

Election by private company to dispense with annual appointment

394. ^{F76}

F76 Art. 394 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 44(2))

Appointment by Department in default of appointment by company

395.—^{F77}(1 ^{F78} [^{F79}If in the case of a public company] no auditors are appointed, re-appointed or deemed to be re-appointed before the end of the time for appointing auditors, the Department may appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

(2 ^{F80} In such a case the company shall within one week of the end of the time for appointing auditors give notice to the Department of its power having become exercisable.

If a company fails to give the notice required by this Article, the company and every officer of it who is in default is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine and, for continued contravention, to a daily default fine.]

F77 Art. 395 repealed (1.10.2007 for certain purposes otherwise prosp.) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 44(2))

F78 mod. by SR 2004/307

F79 Words in art. 395(1) substituted (1.10.2007 with effect as mentioned in Sch. 4 para. 24(6) of the amending S.I.) by Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2194), arts. 1(3), 10(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(3) (with art. 12)

F80 mod. by SR 2004/307

Filling of casual vacancies

396.—^{F81}(1 ^{F82} The directors [^{F83}of a public company], or the company in general meeting, may fill a casual vacancy in the office of auditor.

(2) While such a vacancy continues, any surviving or continuing auditor or auditors may continue to act.

(3 ^{F84} Special notice is required for a resolution at a general meeting of [^{F85}a public company]—

(a) filling a casual vacancy in the office of auditor, or

(b) re-appointing as auditor a retiring auditor who was appointed by the directors to fill a casual vacancy.

(4 ^{F86} On receipt of notice of such an intended resolution the company shall forthwith send a copy of it—

(a) to the person proposed to be appointed, and

(b) if the casual vacancy was caused by the resignation of an auditor, to the auditor who resigned.]

- F81** Art. 396 repealed (1.10.2007 for certain purposes otherwise prosp.) by [Companies Act 2006 \(c. 46\)](#), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), [Sch. 16](#); S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), [8](#), Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 44(2))
- F82** mod. by SR 2004/307
- F83** Words in art. 396(1) inserted (1.10.2007 with effect as mentioned in Sch. 4 para. 24(6) of the amending S.I.) by [Companies Act 2006 \(Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/2194\)](#), arts. 1(3), 10(1), [Sch. 4 para. 24\(4\)\(a\)](#) (with art. 12)
- F84** mod. by SR 2004/307
- F85** Words in art. 396(3) substituted (1.10.2007 with effect as mentioned in Sch. 4 para. 24(6) of the amending S.I.) by [Companies Act 2006 \(Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/2194\)](#), arts. 1(3), 10(1), [Sch. 4 para. 24\(4\)\(b\)](#) (with art. 12)
- F86** mod. by SR 2004/307

[^{F87}Certain companies exempt from obligation to appoint auditors

396A.—[^{F88}(1) [^{F89}A public company] which by virtue of Article 257A (certain categories of small company) or [^{F90} Article 257AA (dormant companies) is exempt from the provisions of Part VIII relating to the audit of accounts is also exempt from the obligation to appoint auditors.

(2) The following provisions apply if [^{F91}a public company] which has been exempt from those provisions ceases to be so exempt.

(3) ^{F92} Where Article 393 applies (appointment at general meeting at which accounts are laid), the directors may appoint auditors at any time before the next meeting of the company at which accounts are to be laid; and auditors so appointed shall hold office until the conclusion of that meeting.

(4) ^{F93}

(5) ^{F94} If the directors fail to exercise their powers under paragraph (3) ^{F95}. . . , the powers may be exercised by the company in general meeting.]]]

- F87** SR 1995/128
- F88** Art. 396A repealed (1.10.2007 for certain purposes otherwise prosp.) by [Companies Act 2006 \(c. 46\)](#), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), [Sch. 16](#); S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), [8](#), Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12, Sch. 3 para. 44(2))
- F89** Words in art. 396A(1) substituted (1.10.2007 with effect as mentioned in Sch. 4 para. 24(6) of the amending S.I.) by [Companies Act 2006 \(Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/2194\)](#), arts. 1(3), 10(1), [Sch. 4 para. 24\(5\)\(a\)](#) (with art. 12)
- F90** SR 2001/153
- F91** Words in art. 396A(2) substituted (1.10.2007 with effect as mentioned in Sch. 4 para. 24(6) of the amending S.I.) by [Companies Act 2006 \(Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/2194\)](#), arts. 1(3), 10(1), [Sch. 4 para. 24\(5\)\(b\)](#) (with art. 12)
- F92** mod. by SR 2004/307
- F93** Art. 396A(4) omitted (1.10.2007 with effect as mentioned in Sch. 4 para. 24(6) of the amending S.I.) by virtue of [Companies Act 2006 \(Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/2194\)](#), arts. 1(3), 10(1), [Sch. 4 para. 24\(5\)\(c\)](#) (with art. 12)

F94 mod. by SR 2004/307

F95 Words in art. 396A(5) omitted (1.10.2007 with effect as mentioned in Sch. 4 para. 24(6) of the amending S.I.) by virtue of Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2194), arts. 1(3), 10(1), **Sch. 4 para. 24(5)(d)** (with art. 12)

Art. 397 rep. by 1990 NI 5

Rights of auditors

Rights to information

[^{F96}**397A.**—(1) An auditor of a company—

- (a) has a right of access at all times to the company's books, accounts and vouchers (in whatever form they are held), and
- (b) may require any of the persons mentioned in paragraph (2) to provide him with such information or explanations as he thinks necessary for the performance of his duties as auditor.

(2) Those persons are—

- (a) any officer or employee of the company;
- (b) any person holding or accountable for any of the company's books, accounts or vouchers;
- (c) any subsidiary undertaking of the company which is a body corporate incorporated in Northern Ireland;
- (d) any officer, employee or auditor of any such subsidiary undertaking or any person holding or accountable for any books, accounts or vouchers of any such subsidiary undertaking;
- (e) any person who fell within any of sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) at a time to which the information or explanations required by the auditor relates or relate.

(3) Where a parent company has a subsidiary undertaking which is not a body corporate incorporated in Northern Ireland, the auditor of the parent company may require it to obtain from any of the persons mentioned in paragraph (4) such information or explanations as he may reasonably require for the purposes of his duties as auditor.

(4) Those persons are—

- (a) the undertaking;
- (b) any officer, employee or auditor of the undertaking;
- (c) any person holding or accountable for any of the undertaking's books, accounts or vouchers;
- (d) any person who fell within sub-paragraph (b) or (c) at a time to which the information or explanations relates or relate.

(5) If so required, the parent company must take all such steps as are reasonably open to it to obtain the information or explanations from the person within paragraph (4) from whom the auditor has required the company to obtain the information or explanations.

(6) A statement made by a person in response to a requirement under paragraph (1)(b) or (3) may not be used in evidence against him in any criminal proceedings except proceedings for an offence under Article 397B.

(7) Nothing in this Article or Article 397B compels any person to disclose information in respect of which in an action in the High Court a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained.]

F96 Arts. 397A, 397B substituted (6.4.2007) for art. 397A by Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/1967 (N.I. 17)), arts. 1(2), 10; S.R. 2007/95, art. 2

Offences relating to the provision of information to auditors

397B.—(1) If a person knowingly or recklessly makes to an auditor of a company a statement (oral or written) that—

- (a) conveys or purports to convey any information or explanations which the auditor requires, or is entitled to require, under Article 397A(1)(b), and
- (b) is misleading, false or deceptive in a material particular,

the person is guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment or a fine, or both.

(2) A person who fails to comply with a requirement under Article 397A(1)(b) without delay is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine.

(3) However, it is a defence for a person charged with an offence under paragraph (2) to prove that it was not reasonably practicable for him to provide the required information or explanations.

(4) If a company fails to comply with Article 397A(5), the company and every officer of it who is in default is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine.

(5) Nothing in this Article affects any right of an auditor to apply for an injunction to enforce any of his rights under Article 397A.

Right to attend company meetings, &c.

398.—(1) A company's auditors are entitled—

- (a)^{F97} to receive all notices of, and other communications relating to, any general meeting which a member of the company is entitled to receive;
- (b)^{F98} to attend any general meeting of the company; and
- (c)^{F99} to be heard at any general meeting which they attend on any part of the business of the meeting which concerns them as auditors.

[^{F100}(1A) ^{F101}

(2)^{F102} In relation to a written resolution proposed to be agreed to by a private company^{F103} . . . , the company's auditors are entitled—

- (a) to receive all such communications relating to the resolution as, by virtue of any provision of [^{F104}Chapter 2 of Part 13 of the Companies Act 2006], are required to be supplied to a member of the company,

Sub#paras. (b)-(d) rep. by 1997 NI 22

(3) The right to attend or be heard at a meeting is exercisable in the case of a body corporate or partnership by an individual authorised by it in writing to act as its representative at the meeting.]

F97 mod. by SR 2004/307

F98 mod. by SR 2004/307

F99 mod. by SR 2004/307

F100 SR 2003/3

F101 Art. 398(1A) omitted (1.10.2007) by virtue of Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2194), arts. 1(3), 10(1), Sch. 4 para. 20(2) (with art. 12)

F102 mod. by SR 2004/307

Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/2007. This version of this part contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (revoked), PART XII. (See end of Document for details)

- F103** Words in art. 398(2) omitted (1.10.2007) by virtue of Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2194), arts. 1(3), 10(1), **Sch. 4 para. 20(3)(a)** (with art. 12)
- F104** Words in art. 398(2)(a) substituted (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2194), arts. 1(3), 10(1), **Sch. 4 para. 20(3)(b)** (with art. 12)

Remuneration of auditors

Remuneration of auditors

398A.—(1 ^{F105} The remuneration of auditors appointed by the company in general meeting shall be fixed by the company in general meeting or in such manner as the company in general meeting may determine.

(2 ^{F106} The remuneration of auditors appointed by the directors or the Department shall be fixed by the directors or the Department, as the case may be.

^{F107}(3) There shall be stated in a note to the company's annual accounts the amount of the remuneration of the company's auditors in their capacity as such.

(4) For the purposes of this Article “remuneration” includes sums paid in respect of expenses.

(5) This Article applies in relation to benefits in kind as to ^{F108} payments in cash, and in relation to any such benefit references to its amount are to its estimated money value.

The nature of any such benefit shall also be disclosed.

F105 mod. by SR 2004/307

F106 mod. by SR 2004/307

F107 prosp. rep. by 2005 NI 17 (which amendment repealed (6.4.2008) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), s. 1295, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/3495, art. 8(a), **Sch. 2 Pt. 2**)

F108 prosp. subst. by 2005 NI 17 (which amendment repealed (6.4.2008) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), s. 1295, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/3495, art. 8(a), **Sch. 2 Pt. 2**)

Remuneration of auditors or their associates for non-audit work

^{F109}**398B** ^{F110}.—(1) The Department may make provision by regulations for securing the disclosure of the amount of any remuneration received or receivable by a company's auditors or their associates in respect of services other than those of auditors in their capacity as such.

(2) The regulations may—

- (a) provide that “remuneration” includes sums paid in respect of expenses,
- (b) apply in relation to benefits in kind as to payments in cash, and in relation to any such benefit require disclosure of its nature and its estimated money value,
- (c) define “associate” in relation to an auditor,
- (d) require the disclosure of remuneration in respect of services rendered to associated undertakings of the company, and
- (e) define “associated undertaking” for that purpose.

(3) The regulations may require the auditors to disclose the relevant information in their report or require the relevant information to be disclosed in a note to the company's accounts and require the auditors to supply the directors of the company with such information as is necessary to enable that disclosure to be made.

F109 prosp. subst. by 2005 NI 17

F110 mod. by SR 2004/307

Removal, resignation, &c. of auditors

Removal of auditors

399.—(1 ^{F111} A company may by ordinary resolution at any time remove an auditor from office, notwithstanding anything in any agreement between it and him.

(2 ^{F112} Where a resolution removing an auditor is passed at a general meeting of a company, the company shall within 14 days give notice of that fact in the prescribed form to the registrar.

If a company fails to give the notice required by this paragraph, the company and every officer of it who is in default is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine and, for continued contravention, to a daily default fine.

(3) Nothing in this Article shall be taken as depriving a person removed under it of compensation or damages payable to him in respect of the termination of his appointment as auditor or of any appointment terminating with that as auditor.

(4 ^{F113} An auditor of a company who has been removed has, notwithstanding his removal, the rights conferred by Article 398 in relation to any general meeting of the company—

(a) at which his term of office would otherwise have expired, or

(b) at which it is proposed to fill the vacancy caused by his removal.

In such a case the references in that Article to matters concerning the auditors as auditors shall be construed as references to matters concerning him as a former auditor.

F111 mod. by SR 2004/307

F112 mod. by SR 2004/307

F113 mod. by SR 2004/307

Rights of auditors who are removed or not re-appointed

399A.—(1 ^{F114} Special notice is required for a resolution at a general meeting of a company—

(a) removing an auditor before the expiration of his term of office, or

(b) appointing as auditor a person other than a retiring auditor.

(2 ^{F115} On receipt of notice of such an intended resolution the company shall forthwith send a copy of it to the person proposed to be removed or, as the case may be, to the person proposed to be appointed and to the retiring auditor.

(3 ^{F116} The auditor proposed to be removed or (as the case may be) the retiring auditor may make with respect to the intended resolution representations in writing to the company (not exceeding a reasonable length) and request their notification to members of the company.

(4 ^{F117} The company shall (unless the representations are received by it too late for it to do so)—

(a ^{F118} in any notice of the resolution given to members of the company, state the fact of the representations having been made, and

(b ^{F119} send a copy of the representations to every member of the company to whom notice of the meeting is or has been sent.

(5 ^{F120} If a copy of any such representations is not sent out as required because received too late or because of the company's default, the auditor may (without prejudice to his right to be heard orally) require that the representations be read out at the meeting.

(6 ^{F121} Copies of the representations need not be sent out and the representations need not be read at the meeting if, on the application either of the company or of any other person claiming to be aggrieved, the court is satisfied that the rights conferred by this Article are being abused to secure needless publicity for defamatory matter; and the court may order the company's costs on the application to be paid in whole or in part by the auditor, notwithstanding that he is not a party to the application.

F114 mod. by SR 2004/307
F115 mod. by SR 2004/307
F116 mod. by SR 2004/307
F117 mod. by SR 2004/307
F118 mod. by SR 2004/307
F119 mod. by SR 2004/307
F120 mod. by SR 2004/307
F121 mod. by SR 2004/307

Resignation of auditors

400.—(1) An auditor of a company may resign his office by depositing a notice in writing to that effect at the company's registered office.

The notice is not effective unless it is accompanied by the statement required by Article 401A.

(2) An effective notice of resignation operates to bring the auditor's term of office to an end as of the date on which the notice is deposited or on such later date as may be specified in it.

(3 ^{F122} The company shall within 14 days of the deposit of a notice of resignation send a copy of the notice to the registrar.

If default is made in complying with this paragraph, the company and every officer of it who is in default is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine and, for continued contravention, a daily default fine.

F122 mod. by SR 2004/307

Rights of resigning auditors

400A.—(1) This Article applies where an auditor's notice of resignation is accompanied by a statement of circumstances which he considers should be brought to the attention of members or creditors of the company.

(2 ^{F123} He may deposit with the notice a signed requisition calling on the directors of the company forthwith duly to convene an extraordinary general meeting of the company for the purpose of receiving and considering such explanation of the circumstances connected with his resignation as he may wish to place before the meeting.

(3) He may request the company to circulate to its members—

(a ^{F124} before the meeting convened on his requisition, or

(b ^{F125} before any general meeting at which his term of office would otherwise have expired or at which it is proposed to fill the vacancy caused by his resignation,

a statement in writing (not exceeding a reasonable length) of the circumstances connected with his resignation.

- (4) The company shall (unless the statement is received too late for it to comply)—
- (a) in any notice of the meeting given to members of the company, state the fact of the statement having been made, and
 - (b) send a copy of the statement to every member of the company to whom notice of the meeting is or has been sent.

(5) ^{F126} If the directors do not within 21 days from the date of the deposit of a requisition under this Article proceed duly to convene a meeting for a day not more than 28 days after the date on which the notice convening the meeting is given, every director who failed to take all reasonable steps to secure that a meeting was convened as mentioned above is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine.

(6) If a copy of the statement mentioned above is not sent out as required because received too late or because of the company's default, the auditor may (without prejudice to his right to be heard orally) require that the statement be read out at the meeting.

(7) Copies of a statement need not be sent out and the statement need not be read out at the meeting if, on the application either of the company or of any other person who claims to be aggrieved, the court is satisfied that the rights conferred by this Article are being abused to secure needless publicity for defamatory matter; and the court may order the company's costs on such an application to be paid in whole or in part by the auditor, notwithstanding that he is not a party to the application.

(8) ^{F127} An auditor who has resigned has, notwithstanding his resignation, the rights conferred by Article 398 in relation to any such general meeting of the company as is mentioned in paragraph (3) (a) or (b).

In such a case the references in that Article to matters concerning the auditors as auditors shall be construed as references to matters concerning him as a former auditor.

<p>F123 mod. by SR 2004/307 F124 mod. by SR 2004/307 F125 mod. by SR 2004/307 F126 mod. by SR 2004/307 F127 mod. by SR 2004/307</p>
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Termination of appointment of auditors not appointed annually

401. ^{F128}

<p>F128 Art. 401 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1284(2), 1295, 1300(2), Sch. 16; S.I. 2007/2194, arts. 1(3)(a), 8, Sch. 2 Pt. 2 (with art. 12)</p>
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Statement by person ceasing to hold office as auditor

401A ^{F129}.—(1) Where an auditor ceases for any reason to hold office, he shall deposit at the company's registered office a statement of any circumstances connected with his ceasing to hold office which he considers should be brought to the attention of the members or creditors of the company or, if he considers that there are no such circumstances, a statement that there are none.

(2) In the case of resignation, the statement shall be deposited along with the notice of resignation; in the case of failure to seek re-appointment, the statement shall be deposited not less than 14 days before the end of the time allowed for next appointing auditors; in any other case, the statement shall

be deposited not later than the end of the period of 14 days beginning with the date on which he ceases to hold office.

(3) If the statement is of circumstances which the auditor considers should be brought to the attention of the members or creditors of the company, the company shall within 14 days of the deposit of the statement either—

- (a) send a copy of it to every person who under Article 246 is entitled to be sent copies of the accounts, or
- (b) apply to the court.

(4) The company shall if it applies to the court notify the auditor of the application.

(5) Unless the auditor receives notice of such an application before the end of the period of 21 days beginning with the day on which he deposited the statement, he shall within a further seven days send a copy of the statement to the registrar.

(6) If the court is satisfied that the auditor is using the statement to secure needless publicity for defamatory matter—

- (a) it shall direct that copies of the statement need not be sent out, and
- (b) it may further order the company's costs on the application to be paid in whole or in part by the auditor, notwithstanding that he is not a party to the application;

and the company shall within 14 days of the court's decision send to the persons mentioned in paragraph (3)(a) a statement setting out the effect of the order.

(7) If the court is not so satisfied, the company shall within 14 days of the court's decision—

- (a) send copies of the statement to the persons mentioned in paragraph (3)(a), and
- (b) notify the auditor of the court's decision;

and the auditor shall within seven days of receiving such notice send a copy of the statement to the registrar.

F129 mod. by SR 2004/307

Offences of failing to comply with Article 401A

401B ^{F130}.—(1) If a person ceasing to hold office as auditor fails to comply with Article 401A he is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine.

(2) In proceedings for an offence under paragraph (1) it is a defence for the person charged to show that he took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.

(3) Articles 680A (liability of individuals for corporate default) and 680B (criminal proceedings against unincorporated bodies) apply to an offence under paragraph (1).

(4) If a company makes default in complying with Article 401A, the company and every officer of it who is in default is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine and, for continued contravention, to a daily default fine.

F130 mod. by SR 2004/307

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/10/2007. This version of this part contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (revoked), PART XII.