251 “Shadow director”

(1) In the Companies Acts “shadow director”, in relation to a company, means a person in accordance with whose directions or instructions the directors of the company are accustomed to act.

(2) A person is not to be regarded as a shadow director by reason only that the directors act—

(a) on advice given by that person in a professional capacity;
(b) in accordance with instructions, a direction, guidance or advice given by that person in the exercise of a function conferred by or under an enactment;
(c) in accordance with guidance or advice given by that person in that person's capacity as a Minister of the Crown (within the meaning of the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975)]

(3) A body corporate is not to be regarded as a shadow director of any of its subsidiary companies for the purposes of—

Chapter 2 (general duties of directors),
Chapter 4 (transactions requiring members' approval), or
Chapter 6 (contract with sole member who is also a director),
by reason only that the directors of the subsidiary are accustomed to act in accordance with its directions or instructions.

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in s. 251(2) substituted (26.5.2015) by Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 (c. 26), ss. 90(3), 164(3)(g)(iii)
Changes to legislation:
Companies Act 2006, Section 251 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 01 November 2019. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.
View outstanding changes

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:
- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 2008/373 reg. 11(1) by S.I. 2013/1971 reg. 9(a) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Amending Regulations revoked (1.10.2013) without ever being in force by S.I. 2013/2224, reg. 2)
- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 2008/373 reg. 3(4) by S.I. 2013/1971 reg. 4 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Amending Regulations revoked (1.10.2013) without ever being in force by S.I. 2013/2224, reg. 2)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):
- Pt. 42 Ch. 4A inserted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 14 (This S.I. is amended by S.I. 2019/1392, reg. 3)
- Ch. 1 Pt. 28 extended (Isle of Man) (with modifications) by S.I. 2019/567 Sch.
- s. 156A-156C inserted by 2015 c. 26 s. 87(4)
- s. 479A(2)(c)(zi) inserted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 4(b)(i) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 4 substituted by regs. 4, 4A immediately before exit day by S.I. 2019/1392, regs. 1(2), 4)
- s. 494ZA(5)(a)(iii)(iv) substituted for s. 494ZA(5)(a)(iii) by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 5(b)
- s. 835E(6) words substituted by S.I. 2019/348 Sch. 1 para. 13
- s. 943(1A) inserted by S.I. 2019/217 reg. 3(b)
- s. 966(3)-(3G) substituted for s. 966(3) by S.I. 2019/217 reg. 7(4)
- s. 1047(4)(ba) inserted by S.I. 2019/348 Sch. 1 para. 14(b)(ii)
- s. 1099(3)(c)(ca) substituted for s. 1099(3)(c) by S.I. 2018/1299 reg. 62(2)
- s. 1253B(1A) inserted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 18(c)
- s. 1286(1)(e) inserted by S.I. 2018/1299 reg. 62(3)(c)
- Sch 1C applied by 2009/2436 Sch. 1 para 14(A1) (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/217 reg. 20
- Sch. 2 Pt. 2 s. Epara. 5 omitted by S.I. 2019/217 reg. 15
- Sch. 10 para. 20A(1) Sch. 10 para. 20A renumbered as Sch. 10 para. 20A(1) by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 32(a)
- Sch. 10 para. 6(2D) inserted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 28(e)
- Sch. 10 para. 7(2A) inserted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 29(b)
- Sch. 10 para. 20A(2) inserted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 32(h)
- Sch. 10 para. 13(5)(b)(ii)(iii) substituted for Sch. 10 para. 13(5)(b)(ii) by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 30(b)
- Sch. 10 para. 20A(1) words inserted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 32(b)
- Sch. 10 para. 20A(1) words inserted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 32(c)
- Sch. 10 para. 20A(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 32(e)
- Sch. 10 para. 20A(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 32(g)
- Sch. 10 para. 20A(1) words substituted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 32(d)(i)
- Sch. 10 para. 20A(1) words substituted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 32(d)(ii)
- Sch. 10 para. 20A(1) words substituted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 32(d)(iii)
- Sch. 10 para. 20A(1) words substituted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 32(f)(i)
- Sch. 10 para. 20A(1) words substituted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 32(f)(ii)
- Sch. 10 para. 20A(1) words substituted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 32(f)(iii)
- Sch. 11 para. 9(5) inserted by S.I. 2019/177 reg. 34(b)