

Governance **Compass Group plc** AGM THU 03-FEB-2022 12:00

Incorporated	United Kingdom	Tax secrecy	
Sector	Consumer Services	ESG sensitive?	×
Sub-sector	Vending & Catering Service	Web	www.compass-group.com
Company secretary	Alison Yapp	Tel	+44 (0) 1932 573 000

COVID 19 Adjustments

The analysis and assessments made in this report are representative of disclosures made by the Company prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, unless stated otherwise.

Governance

Agenda Items

RES 16	Elect Directors (Vittal): High previous dissent. Significant other commitments.
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RES 19 Political Donations Authority: £100,000 authority.

RES 23 Share Buybacks: Length of authority exceeds recommended practice.

Remuneration

Agenda Items

Policy: High bonus potential. High pension contributions. Mitigation Clauses not disclosed. Potential excessive levels of RES 2

incentive pay. Significant upward ratchet in total pay.

Report: High bonus potential. High level of LTIP awards during the year. High pension contributions. Potential excessive RES 3

levels of incentive pay. Significant upward ratchet in total pay.

Sustainability

Agenda Items

No agenda items noted.

MINERVA CONTACTS

Governance: Charlene Chen Remuneration: Roisin Martinez Sustainability: Dorcas Ziwa

1 COMPANY OVERVIEW

1.1 Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Group are the provision of contract food service and support services to clients.

1.2 Strategy

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the Group's strategy to deliver strong financial performance through their MAP framework, and to support a highly engaged and skilled workforce with a focus on safety and sustainability, remains intact.

The Group's focus on food, along with some specialised support services, continues to be relevant for growth because the market opportunity is significant and the pandemic has created more demand for first time outsourcing.

1.3 Advisors

Advisor	Name	Advisor	Name
AUDITOR	KPMG LLP	INTERNAL AUDITOR	Internal Advice
PERFORMANCE EVAL.	Lintstock Ltd	RECRUITMENT ADVISOR	Internal Advice Egon Zehnder International Inc
REMUNERATION ADVISOR	Deloitte LLP Willis Towers Watson Internal Advice	STOCKBROKER	Morgan Stanley & Co International plc Bank of America Merrill Lynch Barclays Bank plc

1.4 Key Financials

	YEAR ENDED 30/09/2021	YEAR ENDED 30/09/2020
	GBP	GBP
Market Cap	£27,188.7m	£21,121.0m
Turnover	£17,908.0m	£20,198.0m
Profit Before Tax	£464.0m	£210.0m
Net Profit	£357.0m	£135.0m
Dividends Paid	£249.8m	£0.0k
Basic Eps	£0.2	£0.08
Adjusted Eps	£0.295	£0.08
Ord Dividend Per Share	£0.14	£0

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRS (EU).

Unqualified audit opinion.

The directors confirmed the going concern basis has been adopted when preparing the accounts.

The Company has adopted a period of 36 months when assessing its viability.

Dividend Policy

From FY22, the dividend policy is to pay out around 50% of underlying earnings through an interim and final divided.

KPI?	Metric	SEP 2021	SEP 2020	SEP 2019	SEP 2018	SEP 2017
	Market Cap	GBP 27,188.7m	GBP 21,121.0m	GBP 33,203.5m	GBP 27,024.2m	GBP 25,035.3m
	Share Price at Year-End	GBP 15.24	GBP 11.84	GBP 20.93	GBP 17.06	GBP 15.83

1.5 Governing Documents & Shareholder Meetings

Standard UK shareholder rights apply. No significant concerns identified.

1.6 Political Donations & Expenditure

Policy

The Company has a policy not to make political donations and to occur political expenditures.

Company Statement: 'Since 2004, shareholders have passes an annual resolution, on a precautionary basis, to approve donations to political organisations and to incur political expenditure (as such terms were defined under the then relevant legislation) not exceeding a monetary limit approved by shareholders. The Board has consistently confirmed that it operates a policy of not giving any cash contribution to any political party in the ordinary meaning of those words and that it has no intention of changing that policy.'

Disclosed Donations & Expenditure

The Company incurred no political expenditure or made any political donations during the year.

Company Statement: 'No material amount of corporate funds or paid employee time has been utilised during the year for political activities and, in accordance with the Company's CBC, employees must not engage in any form of lobbying or have contact with political representatives, government employees or public interest groups unless they are doing so legitimately and adhering to internal control processes.'

Date of Analysis: 06 January 2022

2 CAPITAL

2.1 Issued Share Capital One Vote Per Share

Share Type:	Ordinary GBP 0.1105	ISIN: GB00BD6K4575	Primary Listing : London Stock Exchange
Share Type:	ADR - Ordinary Shares	ISIN: US20449X3026	Trading: Over the Counter (USA)

NOTE: Capital structure is as at end of the financial year.

2.2 Share Capital Development

	SEP 2021	SEP 2020	SEP 2019	SEP 2018	SEP 2017
Year-End Issued Share Capital (Millions)	1784.0	1783.9	1586.4	1584.1	1581.5
Nominal Value			£0.1105		

2.3 Authorisations to Increase Capital

Туре	Source	Size	Size – Disapply Pre- Emption Rights	Expires	Renewal?
Authority to Issue Shares	AGM 2021, RES 18	33.33% + 33.33% for rights issue	n/a	This AGM	RES 20
Authority to Issue Shares Without Pre-Emption Rights, For Cash	AGM 2021, RES 19 & 20	n/a	5.0%, for cash consideration, plus 5.0% for specified capital investment	This AGM	RES 21 & 22

During the year, 163, 563 treasury shares were released to satisfy employee share-based payment commitments.

2.4 Capital Strength & Distributions

'The Group targets a strong investment grade credit rating and manages its capital structure to ensure that it will be able to continue as a going concern. The capital structure of the Group consists of net debt and total equity.'

2.5 Share Buyback Authorities

Туре	Source	Size	Expires
Share Buybacks	AGM 2021; RES 21	10.0%	This AGM

Share Buyback Programme

No formal share buyback programme has been noted.

Buyback History

KPI? Metric	SEP 2021	SEP 2020	SEP 2019	SEP 2018	SEP 2017
Buybacks Spend (£m)	0	0	0	0	19.0
Average Purchase Price	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	£14.17
Year-end Share Price (GBP)	15.24	11.84	20.93	17.06	15.83
Shares in Issue (m)	1784.0	1783.9	1586.4	1584.1	1581.5

At the date of this report, the share price is £16.85.

3 THE BOARD

3.1 **Composition & Structure**

	Structure	Board of Directors
Company	Unitary	12.0
Comparator: Index	Unitary	10.2
Comparator: Sector	Unitary	8.4

Director Summary

Name	Title	Age	First Appointed	C'tee **	Issues		
Blakemore, Dominic	Chief Executive Officer	52	Feb 2012				
Brown, Charles	Chief Financial Officer	50	Oct 2021				
Green, Gary	Chief Operating Officer	64	Jan 2007				
Name	Title	Age	First Appointed	C'tee **	Ind on	Appt*	Issues
Meakins, lan	Chairman	65	Sep 2020	N	N/	Ά	
Name	Title	Age	First Appointed	C'tee **	Ind (Co)*	Ind*	Issues
Arrowsmith, Carol	Non-executive Director	68	Jun 2014	A, N, R	✓	✓	
Bomhard, Stefan	Non-executive Director	54	May 2016	A, N, R	✓	✓	
Bryant, John	Lead Independent Director	56	Sep 2018	A, N, R	✓	✓	
Isaacs-lowe, Arlene	Non-executive Director	62	Nov 2021		✓	✓	
Nesmes, Anne- Francoise	Non-executive Director	50	Jul 2018	A , N, R	✓	✓	
Raman, Sundar	Non-executive Director	-	Jan 2022	A, N, R	✓	✓	
<u>Silva, Nelson</u>	Non-executive Director	66	Jul 2015	A, N, R	✓	✓	
Vittal, Ireena	Employee Engagement Non- Executive Director	53	Jul 2015	A, N, R	✓	✓	

NOTE: Data relates to those directors serving on the Board following the meeting and to the latest financial year.

Board of Directors Appointments

Date	Name	Title	Reason
04 Oct 2021	Charles Brown	Director	Normal appointment ¹
01 Nov 2021	Arlene Isaacs-lowe	Non-executive Director	Normal appointment ²
01 Jan 2022	Sundar Raman	Non-executive Director	Normal appointment ¹

Board of Directors Departures

Date	Name	Title	Reason	
30 Nov 2020	Paul Walsh	Non-executive Chairman	Retirement ³	
31 Oct 2021	Karen Witts	Chief Financial Officer	Retirement ¹	
02 Feb 2022	John Bason	Non-executive Director	Retirement ⁴	

^{*}Ind (Co) = Company considers independent; Ind = No independence issues; Ind on Appt = Independent on appointment. **R = Remuneration Committee; A = Audit Committee; N = Nomination Committee; Bold = Chair. Name in Bold = Retiring and standing for (re)election.

 $^{^{1}\,\}underline{\text{https://investegate.co.uk/compass-group-plc/rns/directorate-change/202110040700088413N/}$

 $^{^2\,\}underline{\text{https://investegate.co.uk/compass-group-plc/rns/non-executive-director-appointments/202110250900010276Q/}$

³ https://investegate.co.uk/compass-group-plc/rns/directorate-change/202001060700077640Y/

Changes of Position

Date	Name	New Title	Previous Title
01 Dec 2020	Ian Meakins	Non-executive Chairman ⁴	Non-executive Director
04 Feb 2021	John Bason	Non-executive Director	Lead Independent Director
04 Feb 2021	John Bryant	Lead Independent Director ⁵	Non-executive Director
01 Nov 2021	Charles Brown	Chief Financial Officer	Director

Changes from 1/Oct/2020 (Start of last financial year).

3.2 Remuneration Committee

Position	Member	Independence Concerns	Attendance	Other Rem Committee Roles	Listed CO CEO?	Background
Chairman	Arrowsmith	-	8 of 8	Vivo Energy plc, Centrica plc	-	Professional Services
Member	Bomhard	-	7 of 8	-	Yes	CEO for Imperial Brands plc
Member	Bryant	-	8 of 8	-	Former	Ex-CEO for Kellogg Co
Member	Nesmes	-	7 of 8	-	-	FD for Smith & Nephew plc
Member	Raman	-	n/a*	-	-	Consumer brands
Member	Silva	_	8 of 8	Nutrien Ltd	_	Mining
Member	Vittal	-	7 of 8	Housing Development Finance Corp Ltd, Wipro Ltd, Diageo plc	-	Consultant

^{*}Mr Raman was appointed to the Board on 1 January 2022.

Composition complies with recommendations of the UK Code.

Terms of Reference: [LINK]

3.3 Nomination Committee

Position	Member	Independence Concerns	Attendance
Chairman	Meakins	-	6 of 6
Member	Arrowsmith	-	6 of 6
Member	Bomhard	-	6 of 6
Member	Bryant	-	6 of 6
Member	Nesmes	-	6 of 6
Member	Raman	-	n/a*
Member	Silva	-	6 of 6
Member	Vittal	-	6 of 6

^{*}Mr Raman was appointed to the Board on 1 January 2022.

Composition complies with recommendations of the UK Code.

Terms of Reference: [LINK]

Advisors

Egon Zehnder act as recruitment consultants for Board posts.

 $^{^{4}\,\}underline{\text{https://investegate.co.uk/compass-group-plc/rns/chair-announcement/202008180700053767W/}$

⁵ https://investegate.co.uk/compass-group-plc/rns/directorate-change/202009241055550201A/

Date of Analysis: 06 January 2022

Compass Group plc

Significant Appointments

Appointment of new Chief Financial Officer

During the year, the Company announced that Palmer Brown had been appointed as director of the Company Group CFO designate with effect from 4 October 2021. He became Group CFO on 1 November 2021.

Appointment of new Chairman

On 6 January 2020, the Company announced that Paul Walsh, Chairman, has indicated his intention to step down as Chairman and Director of the Company to focus on his other business interests. Paul would remain as Chairman until the succession was completed. John Bason, Lead Independent Director, would lead the search.

On 18 August 2020, the Company announced the appointment of Ian Meakins as Non-Executive Chairman and a Director of the Company. Mr Meakins joined the Board on 1 September 2020 and took over as Chairman on 1 December 2020 when Paul Walsh stepped down from the Board.

Appointment of new Lead Independent Director

On 24 September 2020, the Company announced that John Bason had agreed to extend his terms of appointment as Lead Independent Director until the succession of Chairman of the Board completed. John Bryant would succeed as Lead Independent Director and Anne-Françoise Nesmes would succeed as the Audit Committee Chair.

3.4 Diversity

The UK Code recommends that due regard should be taken when considering the composition of the board of the benefits of diversity, including diversity of gender. The UK Code emphasises the importance of maintaining an appropriate balance of skills and experience within the company and to ensure progressive refreshing of the board.

Desition	Niconala au	Gender		Nationality	Duefe eden d Fementen e
Position	Number	Male	Female	Nationality	Professional Experience
Chief Executive	1	1	0	British (1)	Finance
Other Executives	2	2	0	American (1) British (1)	Accountant, Insufficient biographical information
Chairman	1	1	0	British (1)	Pharmaceuticals
Other NEDs	8	4	4	American (1) Australian (1) Brazilian (1) British (1) French (1) German (1) Indian (1) Not disclosed (1)	Accountant, Consultant, Consumer brands, Finance, Mining, Professional Services, Retail
TOTAL	12	8	4		

Comparison: Gender Diversity (% of Females)

Comparator	Board	Executives	Non-Executives
Company	33.3%	0.0%	44.4%
FTSE 100 Index	38.2%	13.4%	44.7%
UK & Ireland Consumer Services Sector	21.4%	0.0%	33.3%

Date of Analysis: 06 January 2022

Compass Group plc

Diversity Disclosures

The UK Corporate Governance Code recommends that a separate section of the annual report should describe the work of the nomination committee, including the process it has used in relation to board appointments. This section should include:

UK Code	Company Disclosure
The Board's policy on diversity, including gender	'Appointments are subject to a formal, rigorous and transparent procedure. Succession plans, designed to promote diversity of gender, social and ethnic backgrounds and cognitive and personal strengths, are in place for the Board and senior management.'
Any measurable objectives set	'We are committed to maintaining at least 33% female representation on the Board, the Executive Committee and its direct reports, in line with the recommendations of the Hampton-Alexander Review.'
Progress on achieving the objectives	 Four directors sitting on the Board are female; 35% of employees in Senior Management positions are female; Overall 57% of the total work force is female.
Ethnic diversity targets	The Company complies with the ethnic diversity targets recommended by the Parker Review.

3.5 Workforce Engagement

Provision 5 of the 2018 UK Code states that engagement with the workforce should be undertaken by one or a combination of the following methods:

- A director appointed from the workforce;
- A formal workforce advisory panel;
- A designated non-executive director

If the Board has not elected to use any of the methods listed above, it should explain what alternative arrangements are in place and why they are considered to be effective.

Ireena Vittal has been designated to serve as the workforce engagement director.

3.6 Leadership

The Chairman was independent on appointment to the Board and he has served for less than 9 years. John Bryant is the Lead Independent Director.

3.7 Independence

The composition of the Board after the AGM is consistent with the UK Code recommendation that the Board should consist of at least half Non-executive Directors, excluding the Chairman, determined by the Board to be independent.

			Non-Executive			
Comparator	Chairman	Executive	Independent	by Company	Independen	t by Minerva
			Yes	No	Yes	No
Company	8.3%	25.0%	66.7%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%
FTSE 100 96 companies	9.3%	20.9%	62.4%	3.4%	61.0%	4.9%
Consumer Services 4 companies	11.4%	34.3%	48.6%	2.9%	45.7%	45.7%

NOTE: Minerva's assessment of independence based on a strict application of the local corporate governance code and best practice. Percentages represent the proportion of the Board.

Minerva has not noted any independence issues.

Related Party Transactions

No related transaction with directors except the compensation of key management personnel during the year.

3.8 Attendance & Meetings

The UK Code recommends that the annual report should set out the number of meetings of the Board and its committees, as well as the individual attendance by directors.

Meetings	Number Held	% Attendance
Board of Directors	6	100
Non-executives (in absence of executives)	Meetings held but number is not disclosed*	

^{*}Company Statement: 'During the year, the non-executive directors held regular meetings without the presence of the executives, typically following each Board meeting. These meetings were encouraged by the Chairman and provide the non-executive directors with a forum in which to share experiences and to discuss wider business topics, fostering debate in Board and committee meetings and strengthening working relationships.'

3.9 Tenure & Refreshment

	Exec	utive	Non-Executive		
Comparator	Average Tenure (Years)	Years Since Last Appointment	Average Tenure (Years)	Years Since Last Appointment	
Company	8.5	0.3	3.9	0.1	
FTSE 100 Index	6.7	-	4.4	-	
UK & Ireland Consumer Services Sector	7.9	-	5.5	-	

^{*}Calculated based on first appointment to Board, not current position. Sector relevant to Company.

3.10 Terms of Office

The executive directors have rolling service contracts.

The Non-Executive Directors are appointed with Letters of appointment.

3.11 Director Election Process

In accordance with the UK Code, all directors offer themselves for annual re-election by shareholders.

3.12 Board Evaluation

	SEP 2021	SEP 2020	SEP 2019
Evaluation Type	External	External	External
External Advisor	Lintstock Ltd	Lintstock Ltd	Lintstock Ltd
Outcome Disclosed?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Process	Questionnaires	Questionnaires	Interviews

Outcomes

Board composition: The composition of the Board was rated highly, and it was recognised that the range of skills on the Board was appropriate and had enabled it to effectively address the challenges during the year.

Stakeholder oversight: A further area identified for additional focus was understanding of non-governmental organisation stakeholder interests.

Board dynamics: It was felt that the Board had responded well to the increased demands of the difficult trading environment.

Management and focus of meetings: The management of Board meetings was highly rated overall.

Board support: The content of Board papers was rated highly, although there remained an opportunity to increase efficiencies through improving the focus of presentations to the Board.

Strategic oversight: The extent to which ESG factors are incorporated into the Board's discussions and decisions was also positively rated, but a few respondents felt that there was scope to further improve the Board's understanding of ESG factors.

Risk management and internal control: It was recognised that changes to the way in which the Board considers risk, including appetite, identification, mitigation and horizon scanning – would continue to evolve.

3.13 Other Board Committees

Corporate Responsibility Committee: Advises the Board on broad Corporate Responsibility policy taking into account the overall strategic plan and other factors

4 AUDIT & RISK

4.1 Finance Director

Mr Palmer Brown has served as Finance Director of the Company since November 2021. He joined the Group in 2001. Prior to joining the Group, Mr Brown was previously Group Commercial Director and before that Chief Strategy Officer, Compass Group North America. Prior to that, he served as General Counsel and Executive Vice President of Corporate & Lega Affairs for the Group's US business.

4.2 Audit Committee

Position	Member	Independence Concerns	Attendance	Other Audit Committee Roles	Financial Expert	Background
Chairman	Nesmes	-	3 of 3	-	Yes	FD for Smith & Nephew plc
Member	Arrowsmith	-	3 of 3	Vivo Energy plc, Centrica plc		Professional Services
Member	Bomhard	-	3 of 3	-		CEO for Imperial Brands plc
Member	Bryant	-	3 of 3	Macy's Inc, Ball Corp	Yes	Ex-CEO for Kellogg Co
Member	Raman	-	n/a*	-		Consumer brands
Member	Silva	-	3 of 3	-		Mining
Member	Vittal	-	3 of 3	Wipro Ltd, Housing Development Finance Corp Ltd, Diageo plc		Consultant

^{*}Mr Raman was appointed to the Board on 1 January 2022.

Composition complies with recommendations of the UK Code.

Terms of Reference: [LINK]

4.3 Risk Committee

No separate risk committee established, however the Audit Committee undertakes all appropriate risk management tasks.

4.4 Internal Control

Disclosures follow best practice. No specific concerns identified in the corporate governance report.

4.5 Internal Audit

Function established and staffed internally.

The Audit Committee reviews the effectiveness of the Group's Internal Audit function and its relationship with the external auditor.

4.6 Risk Management

During the year, the Company has considered climate change and social and ethical standards as new risk aspects in its principal risk management procedure.

The increasing risks include:

- Recruitment
- Retention and motivation
- Cost inflation
- International tax

4.7 Auditors

Appointment, Tenders & Partner Rotation

KPMG LLP was first appointed as the Company's external auditor in 2014.

The total period of uninterrupted engagement is seven years. It is the first year of Mr Walji as the Audit Partner

Auditor Partner & Audit Opinions

	SEP 2021	SEP 2020	SEP 2019	SEP 2018	SEP 2017
Audit Firm	KPMG LLP	KPMG LLP	KPMG LLP	KPMG LLP	KPMG LLP
Audit Partner	K Walji	P Korolkiewicz	P Korolkiewicz	A Sykes	A Sykes
Auditor Liability Limitation Agreement	No	No	No	No	No
Audit Opinion	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified
Emphasis of Matter	No	No	No	No	No

Audit Quality & Independence

KPMG LLP	SEP 2021	SEP 2020	SEP 2019	SEP 2018	SEP 2017
Audit & Audit-Related Fees (k)	£6,600.0	£6,300.0	£6,500.0	£6,300.0	£4,900.0
Audit Fees as % of Revenue	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%
Non-Audit Fees (k)	£.0	£.0	£.0	£700.0	£300.0
Non-Audit Fees as % of Audit Fees	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	6.1%

Non-Audit Services Approval Process

'The Company operates a policy on non-audit fees which it reviews annually and under which it discloses the ratio of audit to non-audit fees paid in each financial year. The Committee monitors the extent of non-audit work which the external auditor can perform, to ensure that the provision of those non-audit services that can be undertaken by the external auditor falls within the agreed policy and does not impair the external auditor's objectivity or independence. The Group's policy on non-audit services is aligned to the FRC's 2019 Ethical Standard for auditing practices for what is permissible for public interest entities and no services outside this are approved by the Committee. Engagements for non-audit services that are not prohibited are subject to formal approval by the Audit Committee based on the level of fees involved. Non-audit services that are preapproved are either routine in nature (e.g. the half year limited review) with a fee which is not significant in the context of the audit, or are other audit related services.'

Source: ARP 2021 page 133

4.8 Voting Results - For %

Resolution	AGM: Feb 2021	AGM: Feb 2020	AGM: Feb 2019	AGM: Feb 2018	AGM: Feb 2017
Director Election - Chairs Audit Committee	99.2%	99.8%	99.2%	98.9%	98.7%
Auditor - Remuneration	99.9%	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%	99.9%
Auditor - Appointment	99.4%	99.4%	99.9%	99.8%	99.8%

For full details, please see www.minerva.info

5 MEETING BUSINESS ANALYSIS

Resolution 1: To adopt the report & accounts for the year ended 30 September 2021

This resolution seeks to approve the annual report and accounts for the financial year under review.

The UK Corporate Governance Code recommends that companies should, at the AGM, propose a resolution in relation to the report and accounts. A good annual report offers clear and crisp communication with a clear indication of the Company's strategy and avoids unnecessary jargon. Corporate objectives, key performance indicators and strategic priorities should be readily identifiable.

In respect of corporate governance, the UKLA Listing Rules provide for a 'comply or explain' approach to disclosure against the UK Corporate Governance Code. The success of the 'comply or explain' approach lies in the quality of the explanations provided by the Company. Thus when considering this resolution, the quality of any explanations offered for non-compliance warrants close consideration by shareholders.

No issues of note have been identified.

Resolution 2: To approve the remuneration policy

Background

Shareholder approval is sought by way of a binding vote for the Company's remuneration policy in accordance with Schedule 8 of the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Group (Accounts and Reports) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.

Key Amendments

- Shareholding guidelines have been increased and a post-departure shareholding requirement added.
- A deferral policy will be introduced.
- Maximum opportunity under the LTIP will be increased.

Voting History

	AGM: Feb 2019	AGM: Feb 2020	AGM: Feb 2021
Remuneration Policy – For%	-	99.7%	93.6%

Assessment

Minerva has assessed the Company's disclosures against the recommendations of the UK Corporate Governance Code, institutional investor guidelines and the disclosure requirements set out in both the Companies Acts and the UKLA Listing Rules.

The following items have been identified which may be of interest to shareholders:

The level of the upper bonus cap for certain of the executive directors/CEO may be of concern.

The aggregate maximum potential incentive pay for the CEO in respect of the year represents 600% of salary.

The pension contribution for the CEO is 30% of salary.

Minerva calculates that for the lead executive, total remuneration for the forthcoming year will increase by approximately 16.13%

It is considered good practice for termination provisions to have mitigation clauses in place in case the individual goes on to take further executive roles. Mitigation clauses are absent for certain executive directors.

Date of Analysis: 06 January 2022

Resolution 3: To approve the report on the implementation of the remuneration policy for the year ended 30 September 2021

Background

This resolution provides shareholders with an **advisory** vote on the report of the remuneration committee for the year under review. The entitlement of the directors to remuneration is not conditional upon the approval of this resolution. This vote is now separate from the policy vote following changes to UK regulations.

Voting History

	AGM: Feb 2019	AGM: Feb 2020	AGM: Feb 2021
Remuneration Report - For%	96.8%	93.6%	97.5%

Assessment

Minerva has assessed the Company's disclosures against the recommendations of the UK Corporate Governance Code, institutional investor guidelines and the disclosure requirements set out in both the Companies Acts and the UKLA Listing Rules.

Company Grade	С
Company Score	57
Comparator: Index average	112
Comparator: Sector average	73

See the Remuneration report for a detailed assessment of how the grade was determined.

Note: A LOW score indicates a POSITIVE analytical outcome.

The following items have been identified which may be of interest to shareholders:

The level of the upper bonus cap for certain of the executive directors/CEO may be of concern.

The aggregate of all long-term incentive awards made to the CEO represents 275% of salary (on a market value basis, based on maximum possible vesting).

The aggregate maximum potential incentive pay for the CEO in respect of the year represents 500% of salary.

The pension contribution for the CEO is 30% of salary.

Minerva calculates that for the lead executive, total remuneration for the forthcoming year will increase by approximately. 16.13%.

Resolution 4: To declare a dividend

ORD Dividend Per Share	SEP 2021	SEP 2020	% Change
Ordinary GBP 0.1105	£0.14	£0	n/a
Dividend Details	SEP 2021	SEP 2020	% Change
Ordinary Dividend	£249,764,507	£0	n/a
Total Dividend	£249,764,507	£0	n/a
Profit Attributable to Shareholders	£357,000,000	£133,000,000	168.42%
Dividend Cover	1.43 times	=	=

Resolution 5: To elect as a director, Palmer Brown

Chief Financial Officer	Age: 50	First Appointed: Oct 2021	Last re-elected: n/a
Company Consider Independent: N/A		Notice Period: 12 month Open E	nded Contract - Rolling Notice Period
Termination Provisions: Entitled to 12 mor Termination Provisions (Change of Contro		771	f base salary in respect of benefits.
Not a committee member.			
Other Directorships: None noted.			
Nationality: American			

Date of Analysis: 06 January 2022

Resolution 6: To elect as a director, Arlene Isaacs-Lowe

Non-executive Director	Age: 62	First Appointed: Nov 2021	Last re-elected: n/a
Company Consider Independent: Yes		Notice Period: Letter of Appoint	ment
Minerva Consider Independent: Yes			
Not a committee member.			
Other Directorships: None noted.			
Nationality: American			

Resolution 7: To elect as a director, Sundar Raman

Non-executive Director	Age: -	First Appointed: Jan 2022	Last re-elected: n/a		
Company Consider Independent: Yes		Notice Period: Letter of Appoint	tment		
Minerva Consider Independent: Yes					
Member of the Nomination Committee. Member of the Audit Committee. Member of the Remuneration Committee.					
Other Directorships: None noted.					

Resolution 8: To re-elect as a director, Ian Meakins

Chairman	Age: 65	First Appointed: Sep 2020	Last re-elected: Feb 2021 (98.7% For)	
Company Consider Independent: Yes		Notice Period: 6 month Letter of	Appointment	
Minerva Consider Independent: Yes - Ind on Appt: N/A				
Chairman of the Nomination Committee.				
Other Directorships: Chairman of Rexel SA & Van Dyke Enterprises				
Nationality: British				
Qualifications: Degree				

Resolution 9: To re-elect as a director, Dominic Blakemore

Chief Executive Officer	Age: 52	First Appointed: Feb 2012	Last re-elected: Feb 2021 (98.5% For)
Company Consider Independent: N/A		Notice Period: 12 month Open E	nded Contract - Rolling Notice Period
Termination Provisions: Entitled to 12 mor Termination Provisions (Change of Contro		771	f base salary in respect of benefits.
Not a committee member.			
Other Directorships: Non-executive Direc	tor of London	Stock Exchange Group plc	
Nationality: British			
Qualifications: ACA			

Resolution 10: To re-elect as a director, Gary Green

Chief Operating Officer, North America	Age: 64	First Appointed: Jan 2007	Last re-elected: Feb 2021 (99.8% For)
Company Consider Independent: N/A		Notice Period: 12 month Open E	nded Contract - Rolling Notice Period
Termination Provisions: Entitled to 12 mont Termination Provisions (Change of Control)			f base salary in respect of benefits.
Not a committee member.			
Other Directorships: None noted.			
Nationality: British			
Qualifications: Chartered Accountant			

Resolution 11: To re-elect as a director, Carol Arrowsmith

Non-executive Director	Age: 68	First Appointed: Jun 2014	Last re-elected: Feb 2021 (99.0% For)
Company Consider Independent: Yes		Notice Period: Letter of Appoint	tment
Minerva Consider Independent: Yes			
Member of the Nomination Committee. N	dember of the	Audit Committee. Chairman of the	e Remuneration Committee.
Other Directorships: Director of Arrowsn of Centrica plc & Northern Ballet Ltd & Vi	,	td, Member of the Advisory Group	o of Spencer Stuart, Non-executive Director
Nationality: British			
Qualifications: Fellow of the Chartered In	stitute of Pers	onnel and Development	

Resolution 12: To re-elect as a director, Stefan Bomhard

Non-executive Director	Age: 54	First Appointed: May 2016	Last re-elected: Feb 2021 (99.8% For)
Company Consider Independent: Yes		Notice Period: Letter of Appointr	ment
Minerva Consider Independent: Yes			
Member of the Audit Committee. Member	of the Nomir	nation Committee. Member of the R	lemuneration Committee.
Other Directorships: Chief Executive of Im	perial Brands	plc	
Nationality: German			
Qualifications: PhD Marketing			

Resolution 13: To re-elect as a director, John Bryant

Lead Independent Director	Age: 56	First Appointed: Sep 2018	Last re-elected: Feb 2021 (98.8% For)
Company Consider Independent: Yes		Notice Period: Letter of Appoint	tment
Minerva Consider Independent: Yes			
Member of the Audit Committee. Member	of the Nomir	nation Committee. Member of the	Remuneration Committee.
Other Directorships: Non-executive Directorsh	tor of Ball Co	rp & Coca-Cola Europacific Partner	rs plc & Macy's Inc
Nationality: Australian			
Qualifications: CA, MBA			

Resolution 14: To re-elect as a director, Anne-Francoise Nesmes

Non-executive Director	Age: 50	First Appointed: Jul 2018	Last re-elected: Feb 2021 (99.2% For)	
Company Consider Independent: Yes		Notice Period: Letter of Appoint	tment	
Minerva Consider Independent: Yes				
Member of the Nomination Committee. Member of the Remuneration Committee. Chairman of the Audit Committee.				
Other Directorships: Finance Director of Me	erlin Enterta	inments plc & Smith & Nephew plc		
Nationality: French				
Qualifications: MBA, Master's Degree in Ma	nagement S	ciences, Chartered Management A	Accountant	

Resolution 15: To re-elect as a director, Nelson Silva

Non-executive Director	Age: 66	First Appointed: Jul 2015	Last re-elected: Feb 2021 (99.4% For)
Company Consider Independent: Yes		Notice Period: Letter of Appoint	ment
Minerva Consider Independent: Yes			
Member of the Nomination Committee. M	lember of the	Audit Committee. Member of the	Remuneration Committee.
Other Directorships: Non-executive Directorships	tor of Altera I	nfrastructure LP & Nutrien Ltd	
Nationality: Brazilian			
Qualifications: Degree Naval Engineering			

Resolution 16: To re-elect as a director, Ireena Vittal

Employee Engagement Non-Executive Director	Age: 53	First Appointed: Jul 2015	Last re-elected: Feb 2021 (84.9% For)
Company Consider Independent: Yes		Notice Period: Letter of Appoint	ment
Minerva Consider Independent: Yes			
Member of the Nomination Committee. M	ember of the	Audit Committee. Member of the I	Remuneration Committee.
Other Directorships: Non-executive Direct & Titan Co Ltd & Wipro Ltd	or of Diageo	plc & Godrej Consumer Products L	td & Housing Development Finance Corp Ltd
Nationality: Indian			
Qualifications: BSc (Electronics), Post Grad	uate Diploma	a in Business Management	

Given that the nominee holds a number of other non-executive roles held at listed companies, these represent significant other commitments. There may be concerns as to whether the nominee will be able to meet the time commitments expected of this role.

Shareholders may wish to note that on the most recent previous vote to elect the nominee a high level of dissent was recorded with 15.14%.

Resolution 17: To re-appoint as auditors, KPMG LLP

Resolution 18: To authorise the directors to determine the auditor's remuneration

KPMG LLP	Sep 2021	Sep 2020	Sep 2019	3 Year Total
Audit Fees:	£6,300,000	£6,000,000	£6,100,000	£18,400,000
Audit Related Fees:	£300,000	£300,000	£400,000	£1,000,000
Non-audit Fees:	£0	£0	£0	£0
As a % of Audit Fees:	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Non-audit Breakdown	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Resolution 19: To authorise the Company to make political donations to political parties and political organisations and to incur political expenditure

Shareholder approval is sought to authorise the Company and all companies that are subsidiaries of the Company:

Category	Limit (GBP)	Expires
To make Political Donations to Political Parties or Independent Election Candidates	£100,000	
To make Political Donations to Political Organisations other than Political Parties	£100,000	Next AGM
To incur Political Expenditure	£100,000	Next AGM
Aggregate Amount	£100,000	

The resolution authorises such donations and expenditure in any of the EU member states. The Companies Act 2006 does not require such prior approval for donations or expenditure outside these states. The resolution is proposed in order to ensure the Company does not inadvertently infringe the provisions of the Act as the law is considered to be broad in scope. *Note: Prior approval is not required for any donations the Company may choose to make outside the EU.*

No donations to political parties located in EU member states are made, nor is it intended that the Company should do so, without the specific endorsement of shareholders.

Acceptance of this resolution is unlikely to prove contentious.

Resolution 20: To approve a general authority to the directors to issue shares

The proposed authority will give the Board the power to issue shares with pre-emption rights up to the following amounts:

Name	Nominal Amount	Percentage	With Pre- emption?	Expires
General amount	£65,703,300	33.33%	Yes	Nort ACM
Additional rights issue amount	£65,703,300	33.33%	Yes	Next AGM

This resolution is considered to be drafted in line with applicable UK market best practice guidelines.

SHARES IN ISSUE	SEP-2021	SEP-2020	% Change
Ordinary GBP 0.1105	1,784,032,193	1,783,868,630	0.0%

Resolution 21: To approve a general authority to the directors to dis-apply pre-emption rights on the issue of shares for cash

Resolution 22: To approve a specific authority to the directors to dis-apply pre-emption rights on the issue of shares for cash for an acquisition or capital investment

The proposed authority will give the Board the power to issue shares for *cash consideration* without pre-emption rights.

Name	Nominal Amount	Percentage	With Pre- emption?	Expires
General amount	£9,855,827	5.0%	No	Next AGM
Additional amount	£9,855,827	5.0%	No	Next AGM

This resolution is considered to be drafted in line with applicable UK market best practice guidelines.

The Company <u>has confirmed</u> that the extra 5% will only be used in connection with an acquisition or specified capital investment as required by the Pre-emption Group Principles.

Resolution 23: To allow the Company to make market purchases of its own shares

Authority Sought

	Size (% Of Issued Share Capital)	Maximum Purchase Price (of Average Market Price)	Duration (Months)
Authority Sought	10.0%	105%	15 months (next AGM)
Legal Maximum	15.0%	105%	5 years
Best Practice	10.0%	105%	15 months (next AGM)
Market Practice	10.0%	105%	15 months (next AGM)

Stated Purpose

General authority. The directors consider it appropriate to maintain the flexibility that this authority provides. No specific announcement regarding proposed buybacks.

Resolution 24: To approve that the notice period for ordinary general meetings, other than AGMs, shall be 14 days

The Board is seeking shareholder approval to convene general meetings other than AGMs with a 14-day notice period. The authority will be valid until the next AGM. The passing of this resolution by the requisite majority will allow the Company to hold any other general meeting on 14 days' notice rather than 21 days' notice, as permitted under the EU Shareholder Rights Directive, providing electronic communications are available to all shareholders.

The Company sought such an authority at the prior AGM but did not convene any other general meeting in the period between the date of the approval of the authorisation and the time of writing this report. The passing of this resolution is unlikely to prove contentious.

6 AGENDA

AGM	AGM 12.00PM THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2022						
Item	Type *	Resolutions	Board Rec*	Minerva Comment			
1	Ord	To adopt the report & accounts for the year ended 30 September 2021	For				
<u>2</u>	Ord	To approve the remuneration policy	For	High bonus potential. High pension contributions. Mitigation Clauses not disclosed. Potential excessive levels of incentive pay. Significant upward ratchet in total pay.			
<u>3</u>	Ord	To approve the report on the implementation of the remuneration policy for the year ended 30 September 2021	For	High bonus potential. High level of LTIP awards during the year. High pension contributions. Potential excessive levels of incentive pay. Significant upward ratchet in total pay.			
<u>4</u>	Ord	To declare a dividend	For	Dividend represents relatively small percentage of Free Cash Flow.			
<u>5</u>	Ord	To elect as a director, Palmer Brown	For				
<u>6</u>	Ord	To elect as a director, Arlene Isaacs-Lowe	For				
<u>7</u>	Ord	To elect as a director, Sundar Raman	For				
<u>8</u>	Ord	To re-elect as a director, Ian Meakins	For				
9	Ord	To re-elect as a director, Dominic Blakemore	For				
<u>10</u>	Ord	To re-elect as a director, Gary Green	For				
<u>11</u>	Ord	To re-elect as a director, Carol Arrowsmith	For				
<u>12</u>	Ord	To re-elect as a director, Stefan Bomhard	For				
<u>13</u>	Ord	To re-elect as a director, John Bryant	For				
<u>14</u>	Ord	To re-elect as a director, Anne-Francoise Nesmes	For				
<u>15</u>	Ord	To re-elect as a director, Nelson Silva	For				
<u>16</u>	Ord	To re-elect as a director, Ireena Vittal	For	High previous dissent. Significant other commitments.			
<u>17</u>	Ord	To re-appoint as auditors, KPMG LLP	For				
<u>18</u>	Ord	To authorise the directors to determine the auditor's remuneration	For				
<u>19</u>	Ord	To authorise the Company to make political donations to political parties and political organisations and to incur political expenditure	For	£100,000 authority.			
<u>20</u>	Ord	To approve a general authority to the directors to issue shares	For				
<u>21</u>	Spc	To approve a general authority to the directors to disapply pre-emption rights on the issue of shares for cash	For				
<u>22</u>	Spc	To approve a specific authority to the directors to dis-apply pre-emption rights on the issue of shares for cash for an acquisition or capital investment	For				
<u>23</u>	Spc	To allow the Company to make market purchases of its own shares	For				
<u>24</u>	Spc	To approve that the notice period for ordinary general meetings, other than AGMs, shall be 14 days	For				

^{*}Key: Ord = Ordinary, Spc = Special, Ext = Extraordinary, Crt = Court. Board Rec = Board's Recommendation.

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