

Updated Investment Association Register response: Political Donations (Nov 2018)

At the 2018 AGM, 34.9% of our shareholders voted against Resolution 18, to approve the making of political donations; this has been the only occasion where significant votes have been received. We received comments from shareholders before and after the AGM and appreciate the comments made. We have a policy not to make political donations and are guided by information issued by the Electoral Commission. The Company will be reducing the aggregate limits it will seek approval for from shareholders at its 2019 AGM. We consider that it is the best interests of shareholders for the Company to participate in public debate and opinion-forming on matters which affect the Company's business. The definition of donation is widely defined within the context of the Companies Act 2006 and can extend to bodies concerned with policy review, law reform and the representation of the business community, including special interest groups which the company (and its subsidiaries) might wish to support and the Company believes it is appropriate to renew the authority, on lower limits, at the 2019 AGM to avoid any inadvertent infringement of the Act.