

Chapter 5

Vote Holder and Issuer Notification Rules



5.2 Acquisition or disposal of major proportions of voting rights

5.2.1

R

A *person* is an indirect holder of *shares* for the purpose of the applicable definition of *shareholder* to the extent that he is entitled to acquire, to dispose of, or to exercise voting rights in any of the following cases or a combination of them:

Case	
(a)	voting rights held by a third party with whom that <i>person</i> has concluded an agreement, which obliges them to adopt, by concerted exercise of the voting rights they hold, a lasting common policy towards the management of the <i>issuer</i> in question;
(b)	voting rights held by a third party under an agreement concluded with that <i>person</i> providing for the temporary transfer for consideration of the voting rights in question;
(c)	voting rights attaching to <i>shares</i> which are lodged as collateral with that <i>person</i> provided that <i>person</i> controls the voting rights and declares its intention of exercising them;
(d)	voting rights attaching to <i>shares</i> in which that <i>person</i> has the life interest;
(e)	voting rights which are held, or may be exercised within the meaning of points (a) to (d) or, in cases (f) and (h) by a <i>person</i> undertaking investment management, or by a <i>management company</i> , by an undertaking controlled by that <i>person</i> ;
(f)	voting rights attaching to <i>shares</i> deposited with that <i>person</i> which the person can exercise at its discretion in the absence of specific instructions from the <i>shareholders</i> ;
(g)	voting rights held by a third party in his own name on behalf of that <i>person</i> ;

Case	
(h)	voting rights which that <i>person</i> may exercise as a proxy where that <i>person</i> can exercise the voting rights at his discretion in the absence of specific instructions from the <i>shareholders</i> .

[Note: article 10 of the TD]

5.2.2

G

Cases (a) to (h) in ■ DTR 5.2.1 R identify situations where a *person* may be able to control the manner in which voting rights are exercised and where, (taking account of any aggregation with other holdings) a notification to the *issuer* may need to be made. In the FCA's view:

- (1) Case (e) produces the result that it is always necessary for the *parent undertaking* of a *controlled undertaking* to aggregate its holding with any holding of the *controlled undertaking* (subject to the exemptions implicit in Case (e) and others in ■ DTR 5.4);
- (2) Case (f) includes a *person* carrying on investment management and which is also the custodian of *shares* to which voting rights are attached;
- (3) Case (g) does not result in a Unitholder in a *collective investment scheme* or other investment entity being treated as the holder of voting rights in the scheme property (provided always such persons do not have any entitlement to exercise, or control the exercise of, such voting rights); neither are such persons to be regarded as holding *shares* "indirectly";
- (4) Case (h), although referring to proxies, also describes and applies to a *person* undertaking investment management, and to a *management company*, and which is able effectively to determine the manner in which voting rights attached to *shares* under its control are exercised (for example through instructions given directly or indirectly to a nominee or independent custodian). Case (e) provides for the voting rights which are under the control of such a *person* to be aggregated with those of its *parent undertaking*.

5.2.3

G

A *person* falling within Cases (a) to (h) is an indirect holder of *shares* for the purpose of the definition of *shareholder*. These indirect holdings have to be aggregated, but also separately identified in a notification to the *issuer*. Apart from those identified in the Cases (a) to (h), the FCA does not expect any other significant category "indirect shareholder" to be identified. Cases (a) to (h) are also relevant in determining whether a *person* is an indirect holder of financial instruments within ■ DTR 5.3.1R(1)(a) which result in an entitlement to acquire *shares*.

5.2.4

R

■ DTR 5.1.2 R and case (c) of ■ DTR 5.2.1 R do not apply in respect of voting rights attaching to *shares* provided to or by the Bank of England in carrying out its functions as a monetary authority, including *shares* provided to or by the Bank of England under a pledge or repurchase of similar agreement for liquidity granted for monetary policy purposes or within a payments system provided:

- (1) this shall apply only for a short period following the provision of the *shares*; and
- (2) the voting rights attached to the shares during this period are not exercised.

[Note: article 11 of the *TD*.]

5.2.5

R

- (1) A *person* who is required to make a notification may, without affecting their responsibility, appoint another *person* to make the notification on his behalf.
- (2) Where two or more *persons* are required to make a notification such *persons* may, without affecting their responsibility, arrange for a single notification to be made.

[Note: article 8(3) of the *TD implementing Directive*.]