

Draft Order in Council laid before the House of Commons under section 5(2) of the Taxation (International and Other Provisions) Act 2010 and section 173(7) of the Finance Act 2006, for approval by resolution of that House.

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2018 No. XXXX

**CAPITAL GAINS TAX
CORPORATION TAX
INCOME TAX**

**The Double Taxation Relief and International
Tax Enforcement (Belarus) Order 2018**

Made - - - - - ***

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the *** day of ***
Present,
The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

A draft of this Order was laid before the House of Commons in accordance with section 5(2) of the Taxation (International and Other Provisions) Act 2010(1) and section 173(7) of the Finance Act 2006(2) and approved by resolution of that House.

Accordingly, Her Majesty, in exercise of the powers conferred upon Her by section 2 of the Taxation (International and Other Provisions) Act 2010 and section 173(1) to (3) of the Finance Act 2006, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, orders as follows—

Citation

1. This Order may be cited as the Double Taxation Relief and International Tax Enforcement (Belarus) Order 2018.

Double taxation and international enforcement arrangements to have effect

2. It is declared that—

(1) 2010 c.8.
(2) 2006 c.25.

- (a) The arrangements specified in the Convention set out in the Schedule to this Order have been made with the Government of the Republic of Belarus.
- (b) The arrangements have been made with a view to affording relief from double taxation in relation to capital gains tax, corporation tax and income tax and taxes of a similar character imposed by the laws of the Republic of Belarus and for the purposes of assisting international tax enforcement, and
- (c) It is expedient that those arrangements should have effect.

Name
Clerk of the Privy Council

SCHEDULE

Article 2

CONVENTION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME AND ON CAPITAL AND THE PREVENTION OF TAX EVASION AND AVOIDANCE

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Belarus;

Desiring to further develop their economic relationship and to enhance their cooperation in tax matters;

Intending to conclude a Convention for the elimination of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital without creating opportunities for non-taxation or reduced taxation through tax evasion or avoidance (including through treaty-shopping arrangements aimed at obtaining reliefs provided in this Convention for the indirect benefit of residents of third States);

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Persons covered

1. This Convention shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.
2. For the purposes of this Convention, income or gains derived by or through an entity, partnership or other structure that is treated as fiscally transparent under the tax law of either Contracting State shall be considered to be income or gains of a resident of a Contracting State but only to the extent that the income or gain is treated, for purposes of taxation by that State, as the income or gain of a resident of that State.
3. This Convention shall not affect the taxation, by a Contracting State, of its residents except with respect to the benefits granted under paragraph 2 of Article 9 and Articles 18, 19, 22, 23, 24 and 26.

ARTICLE 2

Taxes covered

1. This Convention shall apply to taxes on income and on capital imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or of its political subdivisions or local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income and on capital all taxes imposed on total income, on total capital or on elements of income or of capital, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property.

3. The existing taxes to which the Convention shall apply are in particular:

a) in Belarus:

- (i) the tax on income;
- (ii) the tax on profits;
- (iii) the income tax on individuals; and
- (iv) the tax on immovable property

(hereinafter referred to as “Belarusian tax”);

b) in the United Kingdom:

- (i) the income tax;
- (ii) the corporation tax; and
- (iii) the capital gains tax

(hereinafter referred to as “United Kingdom tax”).

4. The Convention shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes that are imposed after the date of signature of the Convention in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any significant changes that have been made in their taxation laws.

ARTICLE 3

General definitions

1. For the purposes of this Convention, unless the context otherwise requires:

- a) the term “Belarus” means the Republic of Belarus and, when used in a geographical sense, means the territory over which the Republic of Belarus exercises under the laws of Belarus and in accordance with international law, sovereign rights and jurisdiction;
- b) the term "United Kingdom" means Great Britain and Northern Ireland but, when used in a geographical sense, means the territory and territorial sea of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the areas beyond that territorial sea over which Great Britain and Northern Ireland exercise sovereign rights or jurisdiction in accordance with their domestic law and international law;
- c) the terms “a Contracting State” and “the other Contracting State” mean Belarus or the United Kingdom, as the context requires;
- d) the term “person” includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;
- e) the term "company" means:
 - (i) in Belarus, any legal person or any entity which is treated as a separate entity for tax purposes;
 - (ii) in the United Kingdom, any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- f) the term “enterprise” applies to the carrying on by a person of any business;
- g) the terms “enterprise of a Contracting State” and “enterprise of the other Contracting State” mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
- h) the term “international traffic” means any transport by a ship or aircraft, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in a Contracting State and the enterprise that operates the ship or aircraft is not an enterprise of that State;
- i) the term “competent authority” means:
 - (i) in Belarus, the Ministry of Taxes and Duties of the Republic of Belarus or its authorised representative;
 - (ii) in the United Kingdom, the Commissioners for Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs or their authorised representative;
- j) the term “national” means:

- (i) in relation to Belarus, any individual possessing the nationality of Belarus and any legal person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in Belarus;
 - (ii) in relation to the United Kingdom, any British citizen, or any British subject not possessing the citizenship of any other Commonwealth country or territory, provided he has the right of abode in the United Kingdom; and any legal person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in the United Kingdom;
- k) the term “business” includes the performance of professional services and of other activities of an independent character;
- l) the term "professional services" includes especially independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities as well as the independent activities of physicians, lawyers, engineers, architects, dentists and accountants;
- m) the term “statutory body” means a body constituted by statute and performing only non-commercial functions which would otherwise be performed by the Government of a Contracting State.

2. As regards the application of the Convention at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of that State for the purposes of the taxes to which this Convention applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that State.

ARTICLE 4

Resident

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term “resident of a Contracting State” means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management, place of incorporation, place of registration or any other criterion of a similar nature, and also includes:

- (i) that State and any political subdivision or local authority thereof;
- (ii) an organisation that is established and is operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, cultural, or educational purposes (or for more than one of those purposes) and that is a resident of that State according to its laws, notwithstanding that all or part of its income or gains may be exempt from tax under the domestic law of that State.

This term, however, does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income or capital gains from sources in that State.

2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:

- a) he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both States, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
 - b) if the State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he does not have a permanent home available to him in either State, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which he has an habitual abode;
 - c) if he has an habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State of which he is a national;
 - d) if the question is still undetermined, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.
3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to determine by mutual agreement the Contracting State of which that person shall be deemed to be a resident for the purposes of this Convention, having regard to all relevant factors.

ARTICLE 5

Permanent establishment

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term “permanent establishment” means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.
2. The term “permanent establishment” includes especially:
 - a) a place of management;
 - b) a branch;
 - c) an office;
 - d) a factory;
 - e) a workshop; and
 - f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.
3. A building site or a construction, installation or assembly project, or supervisory activities connected therewith, constitutes a permanent establishment only where such site, project or activities last more than twelve months.
4. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, the term “permanent establishment” shall be deemed not to include: 7

- a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
- b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
- c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
- d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise, or of collecting information, for the enterprise;
- e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character;
- f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in sub-paragraphs a) to e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person - other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 applies - is acting on behalf of an enterprise and has, and habitually exercises, in a Contracting State an authority to conclude contracts on behalf of the enterprise, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph.

6. An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.

7. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

ARTICLE 6

Income from immovable property

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property (including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. The term “immovable property” shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources; ships, boats and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of immovable property.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise.

ARTICLE 7

Business profits

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other State but only so much of them as is attributable to that permanent establishment.
2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.
3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.
4. Insofar as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude that Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary; the method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.
5. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.
6. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.
7. Where profits include items of income or capital gains which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Convention, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

ARTICLE 8

Shipping and air transport

1. Profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in that State.

2. For the purposes of this Article, profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic include:
 - a) profits from the rental on a bareboat basis of ships or aircraft; and

 - b) profits from the use, maintenance or rental of containers (including trailers and related equipment for the transport of containers) used for the transport of goods or merchandise;where such rental or such use, maintenance or rental, as the case may be, is incidental to the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

ARTICLE 9

Associated enterprises

1. Where
 - a) an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, or

 - b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State,and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

2. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that State – and taxes accordingly – profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits if that other State considers the adjustment justified. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Convention and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall if necessary consult each other.

ARTICLE 10

Dividends

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State may also be taxed in that State and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed:

(i) 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends where those dividends are paid out of income (including gains) derived directly or indirectly from immovable property within the meaning of Article 6 by an investment company which distributes most of this income annually and whose income from such immovable property is exempted from tax;

(ii) 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

This paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

3. The term “dividends” as used in this Article means income from shares, or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as any other item which is treated as income from shares by the taxation laws of the State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident through a permanent establishment situated therein and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment situated in that other State, nor subject the company’s undistributed profits to a tax on undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in that other State.

ARTICLE 11

Interest

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, interest arising in a Contracting State may also be taxed in that State according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the interest is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, interest arising in a Contracting State shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the beneficial owner of the interest being a resident of the other Contracting State is:

- a) the Government of a Contracting State;
- b) the central bank of a Contracting State;
- c) a statutory body;
- d) a bank;
- e) any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of a Contracting State as may be agreed from time to time by the competent authorities.

4. The term “interest” as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor's profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. The term shall not include any item which is treated as a dividend under the provisions of Article 10 as well as penalty charges for late payment.

5. The provisions of paragraph 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises through a permanent establishment situated therein and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

6. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated.

7. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds, for whatever reason, the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

ARTICLE 12

Royalties

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, royalties arising in a Contracting State may also be taxed in that State according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.

3. The term “royalties” as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for information (know-how) concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience, or for the use of, or the right to use industrial, commercial or scientific equipment.

4. The provisions of paragraph 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise through a permanent establishment situated therein and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated.

6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid exceeds, for whatever reason, the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

ARTICLE 13

Capital gains

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of shares in a company, other than shares that are traded, regularly and in substantial volumes, on a Stock Exchange, or other comparable interests in a partnership or similar structure, where more than 50 per cent of the asset value of that company, partnership or structure derives directly or indirectly from immovable property situated in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.

3. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise), may be taxed in that other State.

4. Gains that an enterprise of a Contracting State that operates ships or aircraft in international traffic derives from the alienation of such ships or aircraft, or from movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft, shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

5. Gains from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

ARTICLE 14

Income from employment

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 15, 17, and 18 of the Convention, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State if:

- a) the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned; and
 - b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other State; and
 - c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment which the employer has in the other State.
3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic (other than aboard a ship or aircraft operated solely within the other Contracting State) shall be taxable only in that State.

ARTICLE 15

Directors' fees

Directors' fees and other similar payments derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as a member of the board of directors of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

ARTICLE 16

Artistes and sportsmen

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 14, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, circus, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsman, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsman in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsman himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7 and 14, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.

ARTICLE 17

Pensions

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 18 of this Convention, pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.

ARTICLE 18

Government service

1. a) Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.

b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that State and the individual is a resident of that State who:
 - (i) is a national of that State; or
 - (ii) did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of rendering the services;and is subject to tax in that State on such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration.
2. a) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, pensions and other similar remuneration paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.

b) However, such pensions and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the individual is a resident of, and a national of, that State.
3. The provisions of Articles 14, 15, 16 and 17 shall apply to salaries, wages, pensions, and other similar remuneration in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

ARTICLE 19

Students

Payments which a student or business apprentice who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who is present in the first-mentioned State solely for the purpose of his education or training receives for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training shall not be taxed in that State, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that State.

ARTICLE 20

Other income

1. Items of income beneficially owned by a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Convention shall be taxable only in that State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, where an amount of income is paid to a resident of a Contracting State out of income received by trustees or personal representatives administering the estates of deceased persons and those trustees or personal representatives are residents of the other Contracting State, that amount shall be treated as arising from the same sources, and in the same proportions, as the income received by the trustees or personal representatives out of which that amount is paid.

Any tax paid by the trustees or personal representatives in respect of the income paid to the beneficiary shall be treated as if it had been paid by the beneficiary.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income, other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, if the beneficial owner of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

4. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the resident referred to in paragraph 1 and some other person, or between both of them and some third person, the amount of the income referred to in that paragraph exceeds, for whatever reason, the amount (if any) which would have been agreed upon between them in the absence of such a relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such a case, the excess part of the income shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other applicable provisions of this Convention.

ARTICLE 21

Capital

1. Capital represented by immovable property referred to in Article 6, owned by a resident of a Contracting State and situated in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.

2. Capital represented by movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

3. Capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State represented by ships and aircraft operated in international traffic, and by movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships and aircraft shall be taxable only in that State.

4. All other elements of capital of a resident of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.

ARTICLE 22

Elimination of double taxation

1. In the case of Belarus double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

Where a resident of Belarus derives income or profit or owns property which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in the United Kingdom, Belarus shall allow:

- a) as a deduction from the tax on the income or tax on profit of that resident, an amount equal to the tax on income or tax on profit paid in the United Kingdom respectively;
- b) as a deduction from the tax on property of that resident, an amount equal to the tax on property paid in the United Kingdom.

Such deduction in either case shall not, however, exceed that part of the income (profit) tax or property tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable, as the case may be, to the income (profit) or capital which may be taxed in the United Kingdom.

Where in accordance with any provision of the Convention income derived or capital owned by a resident of a Contracting State is exempt from tax in that State, such State may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income or capital of such resident, take into account the exempted income or capital.

2. Subject to the provisions of the law of the United Kingdom regarding the allowance as a credit against United Kingdom tax of tax payable in a territory outside the United Kingdom or, as the case may be, regarding the exemption from United Kingdom tax of a dividend arising in a territory outside the United Kingdom or of the profits of a permanent establishment situated in a territory outside the United Kingdom (which shall not affect the general principle hereof):

- a) Belarusian tax payable under the laws of Belarus and in accordance with this Convention, whether directly or by deduction, on profits, income or chargeable gains from sources within Belarus (excluding in the case of a dividend tax payable in respect of the profits out of which the dividend is paid) shall be allowed as a credit against any United Kingdom tax computed by reference to the same profits, income or chargeable gains by reference to which the Belarusian tax is computed;

- b) a dividend which is paid by a company which is a resident of Belarus to a company which is a resident of the United Kingdom shall be exempted from United Kingdom tax when the exemption is applicable and the conditions for exemption under the law of the United Kingdom are met;

- c) the profits of a permanent establishment in Belarus of a company which is a resident of the United Kingdom shall be exempted from United Kingdom tax when the exemption is applicable and the conditions for exemption under the law of the United Kingdom are met;

- d) in the case of a dividend not exempted from tax under sub-paragraph b) above which is paid by a company which is a resident of Belarus to a company which is a resident of the United Kingdom and which controls directly or indirectly at least 10 per cent of the voting power in the company paying the dividend, the credit mentioned in sub-paragraph a) above shall also take into account the Belarusian tax payable by the company in respect of its profits out of which such dividend is paid.

For the purposes of this paragraph, profits, income and capital gains owned by a resident of the United Kingdom which may be taxed in Belarus in accordance with this Convention shall be deemed to arise from sources in Belarus.

ARTICLE 23

Non-discrimination

1. Nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other State in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected.

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other State carrying on the same activities.

3. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 7 of Article 11, paragraph 6 of Article 12, or paragraph 4 of Article 20 apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned State. Similarly, any debts of an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable capital of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been contracted to a resident of the first-mentioned State.

4. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of the first-mentioned State are or may be subjected.

5. Nothing contained in this Article shall be construed as obliging either Contracting State to grant to individuals not resident in that State any of the personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes which are granted to individuals so resident or to its nationals.

ARTICLE 24

Mutual agreement procedure

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those States, present his case to the competent authority of either Contracting State. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at a satisfactory solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with this Convention. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting States.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of this Convention. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Convention.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs.

5. Where,

- a) under paragraph 1, a person has presented a case to the competent authority of a Contracting State on the basis that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States have resulted for that person in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, and
- b) the competent authorities are unable to reach an agreement to resolve that case pursuant to paragraph 2 within two years from the presentation of the case to the competent authority of the other Contracting State,

any unresolved issues arising from the case shall be submitted to arbitration if the person so requests. These unresolved issues shall not, however, be submitted to arbitration if a decision on these issues has already been rendered by a court or administrative tribunal of either State. Unless a person directly affected by the case does not accept the mutual agreement that implements the arbitration decision, that decision shall be binding on both Contracting States and shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic laws of these States. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this paragraph.

ARTICLE 25

Exchange of information

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Convention or to the administration or enforcement of domestic laws concerning taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their political subdivisions or local authorities, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Convention. The exchange of information is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2.

2. Any information received under paragraph 1 by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes referred to in paragraph 1, or the oversight of the above. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, information received by a Contracting State may be used for other purposes when such information may be used for such other purposes under the laws of both States and the competent authority of the supplying State authorises such use.

3. In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

- a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
- b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
- c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy.

4. If information is requested by a Contracting State in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting State shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other State may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the limitations of paragraph 3 but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.

5. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 3 be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, nominee or person acting in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interests in a person.

ARTICLE 26

Members of diplomatic missions and consular posts

Nothing in this Convention shall affect the fiscal privileges of members of diplomatic missions or consular posts under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

ARTICLE 27

Special provisions

1. The Protocol to the Convention between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Belarus for the elimination of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital and the prevention of tax evasion and avoidance shall form an integral part of the Convention.

2. This Convention may be amended from time to time by amending protocols, which the Contracting States may agree upon as circumstances require. Such protocols would be subject to the procedures required by the laws of both Contracting States for their entry into force.

3. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Convention, a benefit under this Convention shall not be granted in respect of an item of income or a capital gain if it is reasonable to conclude, having regard to all relevant facts and circumstances, that obtaining that benefit was one of the principal purposes of any arrangement or transaction that resulted directly or indirectly in that benefit, unless it is established that granting that benefit in these circumstances would be in accordance with the object and purpose of the relevant provisions of this Convention.

ARTICLE 28

Entry into force

1. Each of the Contracting States shall notify the other in writing, through diplomatic channels, of the completion of the procedures required by its law for the bringing into force of this Convention. This Convention shall enter into force on the date of the later of these notifications and shall thereupon have effect:

- a) in Belarus:
 - (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, on income derived or credited on or after the first day of the third month next following the date on which this Convention enters into force;
 - (ii) in respect of other taxes, for taxes chargeable for any tax period beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following the date on which this Convention enters into force.
- b) in the United Kingdom:

- (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, for amounts paid or credited on or after the first day of the third month next following the date on which this Convention enters into force;
- (ii) in respect of income tax and capital gains tax, for any year of assessment beginning on or after 6th April next following the date on which this Convention enters into force;
- (iii) in respect of corporation tax, for any financial year beginning on or after 1st April next following the date on which this Convention enters into force.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, the provisions of Article 24 and Article 25 shall have effect from the date of entry into force of this Convention, without regard to the taxable period to which the matter relates.

3. From the last date upon which the provisions of this Convention have effect in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article, the Convention between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital gains, signed in London on 31 July 1985, shall cease to apply between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Belarus.

ARTICLE 29

Termination

This Convention shall remain in force until terminated by one of the Contracting States. Either Contracting State may terminate this Convention in writing, through diplomatic channels, by giving notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year beginning after the expiry of five years from the date of entry into force of this Convention. In such event, this Convention shall cease to have effect:

- a) in Belarus:
 - (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, on income derived or credited on or after the first day of the third month next following the date on which the notice of termination is given;
 - (ii) in respect of other taxes, for taxes chargeable for any tax period beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following the date on which the notice of termination is given.
- b) in the United Kingdom:
 - (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, for amounts paid or credited on or after the first day of the third month next following the date on which notice of termination was given;
 - (ii) in respect of income tax and capital gains tax, for any year of assessment beginning on or after 6th April next following the date on which the notice is given;
 - (iii) in respect of corporation tax, for any financial year beginning on or after 1st April next following the date on which the notice is given.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done in duplicate at Minsk this 26th day of September 2017 in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence between the texts, the English text shall prevail.

**For the Government of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**

**For the Government of the
Republic of Belarus:**

Sir Alan Duncan

Vladimir Makei

PROTOCOL
TO THE CONVENTION
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION WITH RESPECT
TO TAXES ON INCOME AND ON CAPITAL AND THE PREVENTION OF
TAX EVASION AND AVOIDANCE

At the time of signing the Convention between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Belarus for the elimination of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital and the prevention of tax evasion and avoidance (the Convention), the two Contracting States have agreed the following provisions which shall form an integral part of the Convention:

1. With reference to the whole Convention:

It is understood that:

- a) in the case of Belarus the term “capital” means property;
- b) the term “political subdivision” applies only to the United Kingdom;

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of Article 1:

It is understood that the term “fiscally transparent” refers to situations where, under the law of a Contracting State, the income or gain of the entity, partnership or other structure established in that State is not taxed at the level of the entity, partnership or structure but at the level of the persons who have an interest (participation) in that entity, partnership or structure.

3. With reference to Article 4:

It is understood that:

- a) the term “resident of a Contracting State” includes a pension scheme established in that State under the law of that State which:
 - (i) operates to administer or provide pension or retirement benefits or to earn income for the benefit of one or more such arrangements; and
 - (ii) is exempt from income taxation in accordance with the law of the State and in the ordinary course of events.

- b) in the case of the United Kingdom “pension scheme” means a pension scheme (other than a social security scheme) registered under Part 4 of the Finance Act 2004, including pension funds or pension schemes arranged through insurance companies and unit trusts where the unit holders are exclusively pension schemes;
 - c) in the absence of a mutual agreement by the competent authorities of the Contracting States referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 4, the person shall not be entitled to any relief or exemption from tax provided by the Convention except to the extent and in such manner as may be agreed upon by the competent authorities of the Contracting States.
4. With reference to Article 6:

It is understood that in the case of Belarus, unless the term “immovable property” is amended under its domestic law, income derived from immovable property which is taxable in accordance with Article 6 shall also include income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources.

5. With reference to Article 12:

It is understood that:

- a) commercial equipment can include road vehicles used for the transport of cargo;
- b) literary, artistic or scientific work includes computer software;
- c) the amount taxable under paragraph 2 of Article 12 in respect of the use of or right to use industrial, commercial or scientific equipment is limited to the amount which is calculated as the difference between the gross amount of the payment and duly confirmed expenses related thereto incurred on the equipment insurance, interest paid to a bank and reimbursement of the equipment value;
- d) notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 12 payments beneficially owned by a resident of a Contracting State for the use of or the right to use industrial, commercial or scientific equipment shall be taxable only in that State where the contract under which those payments are made had been concluded, and the equipment provided under the contract had been delivered to the territory of the other Contracting State, before the date of signature of this Convention;
- e) it is agreed that if any agreement between the Republic of Belarus and one of the current (as of the date of signature of this Protocol) member states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development signed after the date of signature of this Convention provides that royalties paid by a company resident in Belarus shall be exempted or taxed in Belarus at a lower rate than that which is applied by virtue of paragraph 2 of Article 12, then such exemption or lower rate shall automatically apply to royalties governed by that paragraph. In such case, it is further understood that the competent authority of Belarus will inform the competent authority of the United Kingdom without delay that the conditions for the application of this paragraph have been met.

Draft Legislation: This is a draft item of legislation. This draft has since been made as a UK Statutory Instrument: *The Double Taxation Relief and International Tax Enforcement (Belarus) Order 2018 No. 778*

6. With reference to paragraph 2 of Article 13:

It is understood that the term “Stock Exchange” means:

- a) the JSC Belarusian Currency and Stock Exchange;
- b) the London Stock Exchange; and
- c) any other stock exchange agreed upon by the competent authorities of the Contracting States.

7. With reference to Article 24:

It is understood that notwithstanding the provisions of Article 28, where the law or administrative practice of Belarus allows the application of arbitration procedures, paragraph 5 of Article 24 will apply from a date to be agreed in an exchange of diplomatic notes between the Contracting States.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, duly authorized thereto, have signed this Protocol.

Done in duplicate at Minsk this 26th day of September 2017 in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence between the texts, the English text shall prevail.

**For the Government of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**

**For the Government of the
Republic of Belarus:**

Sir Alan Duncan

Sergei Nalivaiko

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

The Schedule to the Order contains a Convention (“the Arrangements”) between the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Belarus dealing with the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion. The Order brings the Arrangements into effect.

The Arrangements aim to eliminate the double taxation of income and gains arising in one country and paid to residents of the other country. This is done by allocating the taxing rights that each country has under its domestic law over the same income and gains, and/or by providing relief from double taxation. There are also specific measures which combat discriminatory tax treatment and provide for assistance in international tax enforcement.

Article 1 provides for citation.

Article 2 makes a declaration as to the effect and content of the Arrangements.

The Arrangements will enter into force on the date of the later of the notifications by each country of the completion of its legislative procedures.

The Arrangements will take effect as follows:

- (a) in respect of Article 25 (Mutual agreement procedure) and Article 26 (Exchange of information) from the date of entry into force of the Arrangements, without regard to the taxable period to which the matter relates,
- (b) in respect of taxes withheld at source, for amounts paid or credited on or after the first day of the third month next following the date on which the Arrangements enter into force,
- (c) in Belarus, in respect of the other taxes, for taxes chargeable for any tax period beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following the date on which the Arrangements enter into force,
- (d) in the United Kingdom:
 - (i) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, in respect of income tax and capital gains tax, for any year of assessment beginning on or after the sixth day of April next following the date on which the Arrangements enter into force, and
 - (ii) in respect of corporation tax, for any financial year beginning on or after the first day of April next following the date on which the Arrangements enter into force.

The date of entry into force will, in due course, be published in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes.

A Tax Information and Impact Note has not been produced for the Order as it gives effect to a double tax agreement. Double taxation agreements impose no obligations on taxpayers, rather they seek to eliminate double taxation and fiscal evasion.