

30 October 2019

# **Strictly Personal and Confidential**

Mrs Christine Hodgson

Bronagh Kennedy Severn Trent Centre 2 St John's Street Coventry CV1 2LZ

Dear Christine,

Appointment as Non-Executive Director from 1 January 2020, and subsequent appointment as Non-Executive Chair, of Severn Trent Plc and Severn Trent Water Limited ("Severn Trent") in April 2020.

On behalf of Severn Trent, I am writing to confirm the terms of your appointment as Non-Executive Director of the Boards of Severn Trent Plc and Severn Trent Water Limited (the "Board") with effect from 1 January 2020, and your subsequent appointment as Non-Executive Chair of the Board in April 2020, upon Andrew Duff's retirement (the "Appointment").

#### Appointment and Term of Office

Your Appointment will have to be confirmed by the shareholders of Severn Trent Plc at the next Annual General Meeting ("AGM") on 15 July 2020 and will be subject to the provisions of the articles of association of Severn Trent Plc (the "Articles") for the time being in force and to any necessary resolutions of shareholders. It is agreed that this is a contract for services and not a contract of employment.

The Appointment is for an initial three year term. This may be extended for a further three year term by mutual agreement. In compliance with the UK Corporate Governance Code, Directors are required to submit themselves for annual re-election by shareholders at each AGM. This is stipulated by the Articles and will apply to you. Subsequent continuation of your Appointment is therefore conditional on satisfactory performance and re-election at AGMs.

At any time during the term of your Appointment you may cease to hold office as a Director:

- if at any time you resign by written notice. It is desirable that you give the Board a reasonable period of notice of your intention to resign or not to seek re-election where possible so that they can plan for succession of skills and experience on the Board; and
- in accordance with the law or Articles of Severn Trent Plc, Shareholders are entitled to change the Articles at any time.

On Appointment you will become a member of the Corporate Responsibility, Nominations and Remuneration Committees, and you will become Chair of the Nominations Committee upon

Andrew Duff's retirement. The Board may from time to time request you to participate in other Board Committees, subject to your agreement.

# Duties

You shall have particular regard to the UK Corporate Governance Code and associated Guidance on Board Effectiveness in respect of the role of the Board, Remuneration Committee and the role of the Non-Executive Directors and the Chair.

The Board as a whole is collectively responsible for the success of the Company. The Board's role is to:

- Promote the long-term success of the Company, generating value for shareholders and contributing to wider society;
- Establish the Company's purpose, values and strategy and satisfy itself that these and its culture are aligned;
- Act with integrity, lead by example and promote Severn Trent's culture;
- Ensure that the necessary resources are in place for the Company to meet its objectives and measure performance against them;
- Establish a framework of prudent and effective controls, which enable risk to be assessed and managed;
- Ensure effective engagement with, and encourage participation from, shareholders and stakeholders; and
- Ensure that workforce policies and practices are consistent with the Company's values and support its long term sustainable success.

As the Non-Executive Chair there are certain expectations that apply to this role, as set out in the attached Charter of Expectations, including to:

# **Board Leadership and Management**

- Demonstrate ethical leadership and uphold the highest standards of integrity and probity, setting clear expectations concerning the Group's culture, values and behaviours.
- Provide leadership of the Board and manage the business of the Board through setting its agenda and taking full account of the issues and the concerns of Board members.
- Ensure that Board agendas are primarily focused on strategy, performance and key value creation issues.
- Ensure that members of the Board receive accurate, timely and high quality supporting information, in particular about the Company's performance, to enable the Board to take sound decisions, monitor effectively and provide advice to promote the success of the Company.
- Ensure that Board decision-making processes are effective.
- Manage Board processes to ensure that sufficient time is allowed for discussion of complex or contentious issues, where appropriate arranging for informal meetings beforehand to enable thorough preparation for the Board's discussion.
- Facilitate and encourage active engagement and appropriate challenge by members of the Board, particularly on matters of risk and strategy or other major proposals; by drawing on Directors' skills, diverse experience, knowledge and where appropriate, independence.
- Ensure that there are no impediments to the Board's effective oversight of risk.
- Build an effective and complementary Board, initiating change and regularly considering succession planning and Board composition, working with the Nominations Committee.
- Foster relationships founded on mutual respect and open communication between Non-Executive Directors and management, both inside and outside the Boardroom.

- Ensure Board Committees are clearly structured with appropriate Terms of Reference.
- Ensure that there is sufficient time at Board meetings for discussion of all major issues considered by Board Committees.

The Chair will also:

- Provide effective leadership for the Company, including representing the Company and understanding the views of shareholders.
- Establish and develop effective working relationships with management, in particular, developing a relationship of trust with the CEO, providing support and advice, while respecting Executive responsibility.
- Consult with the Senior Independent Director on Board matters in accordance with the UK Corporate Governance Code (the "UK Code").
- Establish good working relations and open lines of communication with other Group Executive Committee members.
- Subject to the provisions of the UK Code, be a member of the Remuneration Committee.

# Board Induction, Evaluation and Development

- Ensure that a properly constructed induction programme is provided for new Directors.
- Consider and address the development needs of individual Directors and the Board as a whole to maintain the necessary depth and breadth of knowledge and skills, and enhance the effectiveness of the Board as a team.
- Lead the Board in the ongoing monitoring and annual evaluation of the performance of the CEO.
- Ensure that the performance of individual Board members, and of the Board and Board Committees as a whole, is evaluated at least once a year.
- Ensure appropriate action plans are put in place and implemented as a result of the Board Evaluation.

# Relationship with Shareholders and other Stakeholders

 Maintain effective communication with shareholders and other stakeholders and ensure that members of the Board develop and maintain an understanding of the views of major investors and other key stakeholders, and report on the nature and extent of the communication with major shareholders.

You shall also have particular regard to the general duties of the Companies Act 2006, including the duty to promote the success of the Company, acting in the way you consider, in good faith, to be most likely to promote the success of the Company for the benefit of its members as a whole. In doing so, you must have regards (among other matters) for:

- The likely consequences of any decisions in the long term;
- The interest of the Company's employees;
- The need to foster the Company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
- The impact of the Company's operations on the community and the environment;
- The desirability of the Company to maintain a reputation for high standards of business conduct; and
- The need to act fairly as between the members of the Company.

## Time commitment

You are aware that the nature of the role makes it impossible to be specific about the time commitment required. The Board expects you to commit sufficient time to allow you to meet your obligations to the Company. This will include travel to, and attendance at, scheduled and adhoc Board meetings, meetings of any Board Committee to which you are appointed and the AGM of Severn Trent Plc. In addition, you will be expected to devote appropriate preparation time ahead of each meeting.

As set out in the Charter of Expectations, it is anticipated that your duties as Non-Executive Chair of the Board will involve a commitment of approximately 80 days in each year. Currently, this would typically comprise attendance at:

- ten scheduled Board meetings, at our Corporate Head Office in Coventry or our London office in Gracechurch Street (but possibly at other Company locations or off site);
- Board dinners;
- an offsite Strategy Day meeting;
- the Severn Trent Plc AGM;
- site visits;
- meetings of the Non-Executive Directors without Executive Directors present;
- meetings with major shareholders;
- meetings as part of the Board evaluation process; and
- Board Committee meetings which occur outside those days set aside for Board meetings.

You may be required to devote additional time to the Company in respect of preparation time and adhoc matters which may arise, particularly when the Company is undergoing a period of increased activity.

A rolling schedule of Board and Committee meetings is available at any time from me. A copy of the 2019 - 2021 schedules are also enclosed.

By accepting this Appointment, you confirm that you are able to allocate sufficient time to meet these expectations. Personal attendance will be required at Board meetings and Board Committee meetings unless agreed otherwise in advance. You should consult with the Nominations Committee before you accept any additional commitments (including other Board appointments) which may conflict with, or impact upon, the time you are able to devote to your role as the Non-Executive Chair of the Board. Your appropriate commitment of time to the affairs of the Severn Trent Group will be one of the issues addressed in performance reviews.

#### Independence and other interests

You have already disclosed to the Board the significant existing commitments you have outside your role in the Company. You must inform the Board in advance of any changes to these commitments.

Disclosure of external business interests is a continuing obligation. If your circumstances change, and you acquire any office or property which may conflict with your office as a Director of the Board, then you must disclose its character and extent at the next meeting of the Board. This should be done in writing. You may wish to consult with me, or the Senior Independent Director, as soon as you become aware of any potential conflict. Please find attached a copy of the Company's Conflicts of Interest Policy.

You should be aware that under the law and the Articles you will generally not be entitled to attend any part of a Board meeting, or to vote, on any matter in which you have a material personal interest unless the other Directors unanimously decide otherwise. Any material interests are required to be disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts.

# Overboarding

To support you in taking into account your other commitments, and ensure that you are able to allocate sufficient time to the Company to discharge your responsibilities, the Company applies the following advisory guidelines on the number of Board appointments held at publicly listed companies. Our advisory guidelines will be updated in line with market practice and we will inform you when any changes are made.

- A Board Chair should not hold an Executive position elsewhere, or more than one other Chair position, but may hold up to three other Non-Executive directorships.
- A Non-Executive Director who does not hold Executive or Chair positions may hold up to four other Non-Executive Directorships.

You do not currently breach any of these guidelines.

## Remuneration and expenses

You will be paid an annual fee of £300,000 for your duties as Non-Executive Chair. Fees are payable monthly and will be deposited into your bank account. The Board may from time to time request you to participate in other Board Committees, subject to your agreement.

Directors may, in addition, receive a fee for devoting special attention to the business of the Severn Trent Group which is outside the scope of ordinary duties.

You are entitled to be paid other expenses you properly incur concerning Severn Trent's affairs. Except for expenses associated with travelling, you should obtain the approval of the Company Secretary for the expense before you incur it. Please find attached a copy of the Company's Travel and Expenses Policy and a proforma Director's Expense Claim form.

You will not be entitled to a retirement allowance or pension.

#### **Continuous improvement and Directors' appraisal**

Severn Trent believes that progressive organisations appreciate the challenge of operating in today's business environment. You agree that you will lead the development and participate in:

- Continuous improvement plans from time to time determined by the Board as being appropriate for Directors, at the expense of Severn Trent and whether or not those plans are offered by Severn Trent; and
- Participate in processes of internal and external review of Director, Board and Committee
  effectiveness as may be determined to be appropriate by the Board from time to time. You
  acknowledge that such processes may result in positive or negative recommendations in
  relation to your candidacy for reappointment to the Board.

If there are any issues which cause you concern about the Board or your individual performance, or the performance of any Committee, you should feel free to raise them with the Senior Independent Director, or me, at any time.

#### Induction

The Company will provide a comprehensive, formal and tailored induction, including site visits and meetings with management, members of the workforce, other key stakeholders and the Company's Auditors. Major shareholders will have the opportunity to meet you.

We will liaise with you to arrange face to face induction meetings and site visits as per the suggested induction schedule sent to you.

## Independent advice

You may seek independent professional advice, at the expense of Severn Trent, on any matter connected with the discharge of your responsibilities with my prior approval. Copies of this advice must be made available to, and for the benefit of, all Board members, unless otherwise agreed.

## **Insurance Arrangements and Deed of Indemnity**

I enclose a summary of our Directors' and Officers' Insurance arrangements together with a Deed of Indemnity in your favour. Please return the duplicate copy to me, duly endorsed.

#### Policies

Severn Trent has developed a range of policies which govern conduct of the Directors and employees and set out the processes, values and standards of the Severn Trent Group in dealing with all stakeholders. These will be included in your induction material. You acknowledge that your compliance with these policies will be an aspect of any assessment of your performance as a Director of the Board.

## Inside Information and Dealing in the Company's Shares

During your period of appointment you are in particular required to comply with the provisions of the Market Abuse Regulation ("MAR") and the Company's Inside Information and Share Dealing Policy in relation to dealing in the Company's shares. All "persons closely associated" with you, as defined in MAR ("PCAs") also need to comply with these provisions.

I enclose our MAR questionnaire for completion, including details of your PCAs. Please return this to me and keep me updated with any changes to the list of your PCAs. We will contact you every six months to confirm the PCA information we hold is correct. A copy of the supporting policies will be provided in your induction pack.

# **Company Secretary**

I am Severn Trent's Group General Counsel and Company Secretary and all Directors have access to my advice and services.

#### Confidentiality

All information obtained during your Appointment is confidential to Severn Trent and should not be released, either during your Appointment or following termination (by whatever means) to third parties without prior clearance from me, or as required by law or by Severn Trent's policies and procedures. Please advise if you have a PA who has access to your emails so that they can be requested to comply with this undertaking also.

#### Technology

By consenting to become a Director, you consent to the use of video, telephone, electronic mail, any other technology which permits each Director to communicate with every other Director, or any combination of these technologies for the purpose of calling and holding Directors' meetings and communicating with major shareholders and at the AGM.

## Documents to be returned

We look forward to welcoming you to the Board. Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries in relation to the above. Finally, I would be grateful if you could please sign and return the duplicate copy of this letter together with a copy of your passport and the duplicate copy of your Deed of Indemnity in the enclosed self-addressed envelope marked for my attention.

Yours sincerely

BRACH HOBERS

Bronagh Kennedy General Counsel and Company Secretary

# Acknowledgment

I, Christine Hodgson, hereby accept the terms of Appointment set out in this letter.

Hodersm Signature

119 1/11/ Date