



Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments **IWC.CCG.1179**

Invitation to Vote in Postal Ballot

Circular Communication IWC.CCG.1171 of 16 October 2015 notified Commissioners of the imminent sale of the IWC headquarters in Cambridge, United Kingdom, and the resulting opportunity for the Commission to purchase these premises.

This Communication distributes two documents in connection with that opportunity and invites Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners to participate in a postal ballot.

The first document, entitled 'Evaluation of Options' summarises information relevant to the opportunity to purchase. It sets out the alternative costs of continuing to rent versus purchasing, and explains how finance can be obtained through a commercial mortgage to fund a purchase.

The analyses contained within this document indicate that purchasing the Red House will save the Commission an estimated £149,000 (equivalent to US\$ 225,000) over the first five years, with annual savings of £23,000 (US\$ 35,000) thereafter.

The opportunity to purchase will free the Commission from the constraints of long term commercial lease arrangements. This will allow the Commission to repair and develop the Red House as it sees fit, or to move to alternative modern accommodation in the local Cambridge area should cost effective options become available.

The document explains the effect of a purchase on the Commission's cash reserves. It also explains that there would be no effect on Contracting Government contributions.


The document also sets out the process and timescale for the postal ballot.

The second document is a ballot sheet which should be returned to the Secretariat by email at secretariat@iwc.int. All responses from individual Commissioners will be acknowledged and the outcome of the ballot and voting record will be distributed openly to the Commission after the close of the voting period.

Commissioners are requested to return their votes within four weeks, i.e. by **Thursday 31 December** 2015 at the latest.

Circular Communication IWC.CCG.1170 of 6 October 2015 notified those Contracting Governments with unpaid contributions from 2015 and earlier of the suspension of voting rights under Financial Regulation F. Subsequent to IWC.CCG.1170, the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, St Lucia, Colombia and Laos have re-instated their votes (see Communications IWC.CCG. 1172, 1176 and 1177).

Any Government wishing to pay its fees in order to recover voting rights can do so at any stage prior to the closure of the voting period on 31 December 2015. Contracting Governments wishing to pay dues are encouraged to contact finance@iwc.int for assistance with payment instructions and invoices. Please be aware that although votes can be returned to the Secretariat at any time prior to 31 December, the office will be closed over the Christmas period (i.e. from 24 December 2015 to 4 January 2016).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Brockington', written over a horizontal line.

Simon Brockington
Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC