



## Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments

### IWC.CCG.1188

#### Red House – Outcome of 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.

Subsequently, Circular Communication IWC.CCG.1179 of 26 November 2015 invited Contracting Governments to participate in a postal ballot to decide whether to purchase the premises.

Voting remained open for five weeks and closed on 31 December 2015. During this time a total of 52 votes were returned to the Secretariat comprising 49 yes votes; 0 no votes and 3 abstentions. A list of votes received is attached to this Communication.

At the present time the Commission's membership is 88 Contracting Governments, of whom 24 have their voting rights suspended for non-payment of financial contributions.

The 49 yes votes exceed the simple majority of the total number of Contracting Governments whose right to vote has not been suspended as set out in Rule of Procedure E.4. Consequently the Commission has decided to purchase its headquarters premises.

I will now proceed with the final conveyancing and loan arrangements which are required for the purchase. This is likely to take around 4 to 6 weeks, meaning the Commission will commence ownership in February 2016. I will provide a full update to the Commission at its next meeting in October 2016 and would like to take this opportunity to thank all Contracting Governments for the time spent in consideration of this issue.

Simon Brockington  
Executive Secretary

*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*