

Original Charter

Royal Charter of Incorporation of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce granted in the tenth year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria and the 93rd Session of the Society ANNO DOMINI 1847 (incorporating amendments proposed by the Council and passed at General Meetings on 30th September 1987, 28th September 1988, 13th January 1992, 7th October 1998, 2nd October 2002, 1st October 2003 and 6th October 2015, in each case subsequently allowed by The Queen in Council)

VICTORIA by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith:

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME GREETING WHEREAS Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid Baronet Baron de Goldsmid de Palmeira in the Kingdom of Portugal Sir Josiah John Guest Baronet a member of our Commons House of Parliament William Pole of Lincoln's Inn in the County of Middlesex and William Tooke of Russell Square in the same County Esquires and others of our loving subjects members of a Society established in the year One thousand seven hundred and fifty three for the encouragement of the Arts Manufactures and Commerce of the Country by bestowing rewards for such productions inventions or improvements as should tend to the employment of the poor to the increase of trade and to the riches and honour of the Kingdom by promoting industry and emulation and which Society from that period hitherto as is represented to us has been engaged in promoting those objects of national interest by bestowing pecuniary and honorary rewards for meritorious works in the various departments of the Fine Arts for discoveries inventions and improvements in Agriculture Chemistry Mechanics Manufactures and other useful Arts for the application of such natural and artificial products whether of home colonial or foreign growth and manufacture as appeared likely to afford fresh objects of industry and to increase the trade of the realm by extending the sphere and operations of British Commerce.

AND WHEREAS it has been further represented to us that in the prosecution of these said several objects the same Society has since its establishment expended a sum of One hundred thousand Pounds or thereabouts and is still actively engaged in the advancement development and practical application of every department of Science in connexion with the Arts Manufactures and Commerce of the Country as aforesaid and is in possession of funds by bequests endowments donations and subscriptions for efficiently continuing to carry on the purposes aforesaid and has also a House Museum and Library.

AND WHEREAS in order to secure the property of the said Society and to extend its useful operations and at the same time to give it a more permanent establishment among the Literary and Scientific Institutions of our Kingdom many of which in various subdivisions of Art and Science have emanated from it we have been besought to grant to the said Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid Sir Josiah John Guest William Pole and William Tooke and to those who now are or shall hereafter become Members of the same Society our Royal Charter of Incorporation for the purposes aforesaid.

NOW KNOW YE that we being desirous of encouraging a design so laudable and salutary of our especial grace certain knowledge and mere motion HAVE WILLED GRANTED AND DECLARED and DO by these presents for us our heirs and successors WILL GRANT AND DECLARE that the said Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid Sir Josiah John Guest William Pole and William Tooke and such others of our loving subjects and others as now are Members of the said Society or shall at any time hereafter become Members thereof according to such regulations or Bye Laws as shall be hereafter framed or enacted shall by virtue of these presents be the Members of and form one body politic and corporate for the *encouragement of the Arts Manufactures and Commerce of the Country firstly by bestowing rewards for such productions inventions or improvements as should tend to the employment of the poor to the increase of trade and to the riches and honour of the Kingdom by promoting industry and emulation and which the Society from that period hitherto as is represented to us has been engaged in promoting those objects of national interest by bestowing pecuniary and honorary rewards for meritorious works in the various departments of the Fine Arts for discoveries inventions and improvements in Agriculture Chemistry Mechanics Manufactures and other useful Arts for the application of such natural and artificial products whether of home or foreign growth and manufacture as appeared likely to afford fresh objects of industry and to increase the trade of the realm by extending the sphere and operations of Commerce and secondly by the advancement of education in and the encouragement and conduct of research into the sustainable context within which the said Arts Manufactures and Commerce may prosper and be managed efficiently including research on all Commerce Design Industry Public Services Science Technology Social Enterprises Voluntary and other Arts to make both such research findings available to the public as well as all other exclusively charitable purposes* by the name of "THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ARTS MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE" by which name they shall have perpetual succession and a common seal with full power and authority to alter vary break and renew the same at their discretion and by the same name to sue and be sued implead and be impleaded answer unto in every court of us our heirs and successors and be for ever able and capable in the law to purchase receive possess hold and enjoy to them and their successors any goods and chattels whatsoever and also to be able and capable in the law to take purchase possess hold and enjoy to them and their successors a Hall or House and any Messuages Lands Tenements or Hereditaments whatsoever and to act in all the concerns of the said body politic and corporate for the purposes aforesaid as fully and effectively to all intents effects constructions and purposes whatsoever as any other of our liege subjects or any other body politic in our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland not being under any disability might do in their respective concerns.

AND we do hereby grant our special licence and authority unto all and every person and persons bodies politic and corporate otherwise competent to grant sell lien and convey in Mortmain unto and to the use of the said body politic and corporate and their successors any messuages lands tenements or hereditaments And our will and pleasure is and we further grant and declare that there shall be a General Meeting or General Meetings of the Members of the said body politic and corporate to be held from time to time as hereinafter mentioned and that there shall be a Board of Trustees to direct and manage the concerns of the said body politic and corporate and a Council for the purposes described in the Bye-laws hereinafter mentioned and that the said Board shall have the entire direction and management of the same in the manner and subject to the Bye-Laws hereinafter mentioned But our will and pleasure is that at all meetings of the said Board the

majority of the Trustees present and having a right to vote thereat shall decide upon the matters propounded at such meetings the person presiding therein having in case of an equality of numbers a second or casting vote and that at all General Meetings the matters propounded thereat shall be decided by a majority or (in the case of the revocation or amendment of or addition to this Our Charter or any Charter supplemental thereto) by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon in accordance with the procedure prescribed from time to time by the Bye Laws

AND we do hereby also will grant and declare that there shall be a President Deputy Presidents and two Treasurers of the said body politic and corporate and that the said Board shall consist of the Chair, the Deputy Chair, the Treasurers and not more than ten other Members of the said body politic and corporate

AND we do hereby further will and declare that our Royal Consort HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA shall be the first President of the said body politic and corporate and the other persons now being the Vice-Presidents Treasurers and other Members of the Council of the said Society shall be the first Members of the Council of the said body politic and corporate and shall continue such until the election of Officers shall be made in pursuance of these presents

AND we do hereby further will and declare that it shall be lawful for the Members of the said body politic and corporate hereby established to hold a general meeting once in the year or oftener for the purposes hereinafter mentioned namely That the election of the Board of Trustees in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Bye Laws shall be declared at or as soon as possible following the Annual General Meeting That the general meetings shall from time to time make and establish such Bye Laws as they shall deem to be useful and necessary for the regulation of the said body politic and corporate and make such new and other Bye Laws as they shall think most useful and expedient for the said body politic and corporate so that the same be not repugnant to these presents or to the laws and statutes of this our realm and shall and may also enter into any resolution and make any regulations respecting any of the affairs and concerns of the said body politic and corporate that shall be thought necessary and proper

AND we do further will and declare that the first such general meeting as aforesaid for the election of Officers shall take place within twelve calendar months from the date of these presents and that the present rules and regulations of the said Society so far as they are not inconsistent with these presents shall continue in force until the same shall be altered by a General Meeting

AND we further will grant and declare that the said Board shall have the sole management of the income and funds of the said body politic and corporate and also the entire management and superintendence of all the other affairs and concerns thereof and shall and may but not inconsistently with or contrary to the provisions of this Our Charter or any existing Bye Law or laws and statutes of this realm do all such acts and deeds as shall appear to them necessary or essential to be done for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects and views of the said body politic and corporate

PROVIDED always and we do will and declare that the said Board shall from time to time render to a General meeting a particular account of all such their proceedings as aforesaid and that it shall be lawful for every member of the body politic and corporate to see and examine the accounts of the receipts and payments of the said body politic and corporate.

AND we further will grant and declare that the whole property of the said body politic and corporate shall be vested and we do hereby vest the same solely and absolutely in the Members thereof and that they shall have full power and authority to sell alienate charge and otherwise dispose of the same as they shall think proper but that no sale mortgage incumbrance or other disposition of the House of the said body politic and corporate at 8 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EZ shall be made except with the approbation and concurrence of a General Meeting and that any sale of land or property shall be only for purposes which are only charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 or succeeding laws or statutes of our realm.

AND we do hereby further will and declare that the service of the President Deputy Presidents Treasurers and the Members of the Board and of the Council shall be honorary and that it shall not be lawful for them or any of them to receive any pecuniary payment for their attendance or other services in or about the affairs of the said body politic and corporate and that no dividend gift division or bonus in money shall be made out of the funds of the said body politic and corporate unto or between any of its Members except that the said body politic and corporate shall have power to provide indemnity insurance to cover the liability of the members of the Board which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default, breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the said body politic and corporate; provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the members of the Board knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the members of the Board in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the members of the Board in their capacity as members of the Board.

AND we lastly declare it to be our royal will and pleasure that no resolution or Bye Laws shall on any account or pretence whatsoever be made by the said body politic and corporate in opposition to the general scope true intent and meaning of this our Charter or the laws or statutes of our realm and that if any such rule or Bye Law shall be made the same shall be absolutely null and void to all intents effects construction and purposes whatsoever.

IN WITNESS whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent.

WITNESS Ourselves at our palace at Westminster this tenth day of June in the tenth year of our reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal
EDWARDS