MES Interco
Extracts from the statutory Report & Accounts for y/e 31.12.23

Section 172(1) Statement

This statement contains an overview of how the Directors have performed their duty to promote the success of the Company as set out in Section 172(1) of the UK's Companies Act 2006. That section requires a Director of a company to act in the way he considers, in good faith, would most likely promote the success of the company for the benefit of its shareholders. In doing this, the Director must have regard, amongst other matters, to:

a) the likely consequences of any decision in the long term;
b) the interests of the Company's employees;
c) the need to foster the Company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
d) the impact of the Company's operations on the community and the environment;
e) the desirability of the Company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct; and
f) the need to act fairly as between members of the Company.

Decision making

The Operational Framework sets out the principles of good governance to which BAE Systems Group subsidiaries are required to adhere, together with BAE Systems Group's values, policies and processes. Decisions affecting a subsidiary are required to be taken in line with the Operational Framework, including in accordance with applicable delegations of authority. In making such decisions the Directors have regard to a variety of matters including the interests of various stakeholders, the consequences of their decisions in the long term and the long term reputation of the Company and its businesses.

Employees

The Company itself has no employees but is the parent of a Group which has more than 250 employees. Through the implementation by the Company's Group of the BAE Systems Group-wide employee processes and policies referred to below, the Directors of the Company are satisfied that employee engagement is a primary focus for management of the Company's Group and that regard is had to the interests of employees – connecting employees to the strategy and purpose of the Company's Group and the BAE Systems Group and empowering them to contribute to improving performance and creating an environment in which everyone can fulfil their potential.

The Company's Group used a range of channels to engage with employees throughout the year, as well as keeping employees informed about the performance, developments and prospects of the BAE Systems Group. This included in-person and virtual meetings, engagement through the Group's intranet, employee app, email, videos, podcasts, newsletters, leadership communications, virtual discussions and briefings, and through line managers who played a key role in keeping their teams connected and engaged. This includes continuing to focus on two-way communications, ensuring there are channels through which employees can express their views, feedback and any concerns, helping the Company's Group understand employee sentiment on an ongoing basis and respond appropriately. These engagement activities form part of the Company's implementation of the BAE Systems group-wide employee engagement processes and policies which are described on pages 24 and 56 of BAE Systems plc's 2023 Annual Report (available at: www.baesystems.com/investors).

Fostering business relationships with suppliers, customers and others

The Company is a holding company and thus has no suppliers and customers itself. The Directors recognise that fostering business relationships with key stakeholders, such as customers and suppliers, is essential to the success of the Company's Group and are satisfied that the Company's Group has close relationships with its customers, suppliers and industry partners which help create best-in-class, cost-effective equipment, goods, services and solutions.

The Company's Group's largest customers are UK and International governments and government bodies. Strong and collaborative relationships with its principal customers help it to identify their requirements and to position the Company's Group as a trusted provider. Management is in regular contact with the principal customers of the Company's Group.

The Company's Group, through its supply chain function, works with its suppliers to provide goods and services that meet its customers' requirements. The Company's Group's supplier relationships are often long-term due to the length of the product life-cycles and meetings are held with key suppliers to foster broader engagement with the supply chain and to develop strategic relationships with key suppliers. The Group's supply chain function continues to actively manage supply lead times against demand requirements.

The community and the environment

The Directors recognise the importance of leading a company that not only generates value for shareholders but also contributes to wider society. The Directors are satisfied that the Company's Group implements the requirements of the BAE Systems Group's Community Investment Policy, which is mandated through the Operational Framework and looks to ensure that we build and nurture mutually beneficial relationships between our business, our people and local stakeholders. Giving back to the communities in which we operate, and to charities that have meaning to our business, is vitally important to our Company's Group and its employees, allowing them to make a positive difference and have an impact where it counts.

The Directors recognise that the Company's Group's manufacturing operations have an impact on the environment – from the energy and resources it uses, to the products it manufactures and the waste that it generates. As an organisation, the BAE Systems Group is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its operations and products, minimising its environmental footprint and, in turn, decreasing its operational costs. Through the Operational Framework the Directors are satisfied that the Company's Group implements the requirements of the BAE Systems Group's Environmental Policy, which details its commitment to high standards of environmental management. In particular, the Company's Group is supporting the Group's target of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions across the Group's operations (scope 1 and 2) by 2030 and its target of working towards a net zero value chain by 2050.

All the above activities form part of the Company's implementation of the BAE Systems Group-wide community and environment processes and policies and the BAE Systems Group's impacts thereon which are described on pages 59 to 60 and pages 48 to 55, respectively, of BAE Systems plc's 2023 Annual Report (available at: www.baesystems.com/investors).

Maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct

The BAE Systems Group aims to be a recognised leader in business conduct which helps us to earn and maintain stakeholder trust and sustain business success. The Directors consider it fundamental to maintain a culture focused on embedding responsible business behaviours. All employees of the Company are expected to act in accordance with the requirements of BAE

Systems Group policies, including the Code of Conduct, at all times. As well as being the right thing to do, this reduces the risk of compliance failure and supports the Company in attracting and retaining high-calibre employees.

Detailed information on the BAE Systems Group-wide business conduct processes and policies are described on pages 62 to 65 in BAE Systems plc's 2023 Annual report (available at: www.baesystems.com/investors).