Common Auction Conditions

for auctions of real estate in England and Wales



Common Auctions Conditions for auctions of real estate in England and Wales Edition 3.

Adopted by the National Association of Valuers and Auctioneers (NAVA)

© Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, 2009 ISBN: 978-1-84219-529-1

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Where the auctioneer is a member of the RICS and uses the Common Auction Conditions the auctioneer must also comply with the current RICS Guidance for Auctioneers Selling Real Estate. An auctioneer who is not a member of the RICS is not bound by this Guidance.

Chairman's foreword

This edition has been written in response to the feedback and suggestions we have received since 2005 but more particularly the widespread consultation process conducted over the last six months. We have tried to incorporate all the suggestions made where we believe they reflect the original aims of the conditions. It may be worth reminding ourselves of the original reasons for the creation of the Conditions.

- To strike a balance between the contractual needs of the seller and the buyer while recognising that the seller will wish to determine the principal terms under which they wish to sell
- To make it easier to see all the contract terms by having one document that embodies all the terms within it rather than by reference to other documents such as the 'Standard Conditions of Sale'
- 3. To ensure the contract is as user-friendly as possible by adopting simple headings and by using plain English
- 4. To increase the convenience of going to auction for the benefit of sellers and buyers, by providing a common set of conditions for all auctioneers in England and Wales
- 5. To reduce the legal costs to buyers and sellers by using a contract that is in common usage, that is easy to read and understand and that comes with a simple to complete legal form for the property-specific special conditions of sale
- 6. To highlight differences in the general conditions used by individual auctioneers, through the need to indicate separately any extra general conditions of sale.

To ensure that the conditions evolve to meet the current needs of the market place, a steering group has been set up under the auspices of RICS. The group, which comprises auctioneers and solicitors, meets regularly to consider feedback and make recommendations for future editions.

If you use these conditions either as a solicitor or an auctioneer, please give us your feedback. You have a valuable part to play in ensuring that we continue to achieve our aims. We would also be very pleased to receive comments from the most important of all our stakeholders, the sellers and the buyers. Without you we would have no auctions!

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank Paul Clark and the Real Estate Legal Review Group for their immense contribution to the creation of these conditions.

Richard H Auterac Chairman of RICS Real Estate Auction Group August 2009

Important note

You may use the Common Auction Conditions freely, but if you do you must:

- rely on your own legal advice as to their suitability for your use;
- agree that the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and those who advised it have no liability to you or anyone who relies on the Conditions;
- reproduce the Common Auction Conditions in full or show clearly where you have made changes to them;
- acknowledge that they are reproduced with the consent of the RICS; and
- state that you have used the Common Auction Conditions (3rd Edition).

The conditions have been produced for real estate auctions in England and Wales in the hope that they will be adopted by most auction houses and set a common standard across the industry.

The following introduction explains what the common auction conditions are and how they apply. The introduction does not itself form part of the conditions and auctioneers who use the conditions may adapt the introduction as part of their own notes if they prefer.

Introduction

The Common Auction Conditions have been produced for real estate auctions in England and Wales to set a common standard across the industry. They are in three sections:

Glossary

The glossary gives special meanings to certain words used in both sets of conditions.

Auction Conduct Conditions

The Auction Conduct Conditions govern the relationship between the auctioneer and anyone who has a catalogue, or who attends or bids at the auction. They cannot be changed without the auctioneer's agreement.

We recommend that these conditions are set out in a two-part notice to bidders in the auction catalogue, part one containing advisory material – which auctioneers can tailor to their needs – and part two the auction conduct conditions.

Sale Conditions

The Sale Conditions govern the agreement between each seller and buyer. They include general conditions of sale and template forms of special conditions of sale, tenancy and arrears schedules and a sale memorandum.

Important notice

A prudent buyer will, before bidding for a lot at an auction:

- Take professional advice from a conveyancer and, in appropriate cases, a chartered surveyor and an accountant;
- Read the conditions;
- Inspect the lot;
- Carry out usual searches and make usual enquiries;
- Check the content of all available leases and other documents relating to the lot;
- Check that what is said about the lot in the catalogue is accurate;
- Have finance available for the deposit and purchase price;
- Check whether VAT registration and election is advisable;

The conditions assume that the buyer has acted like a prudent buyer.

If you choose to buy a lot without taking these normal precautions you do so at your own risk.

Glossary

This glossary applies to the **auction conduct conditions** and the **sale conditions**.

Wherever it makes sense:

- singular words can be read as plurals, and plurals as singular words;
- a "person" includes a corporate body;
- words of one gender include the other genders;
- references to legislation are to that legislation as it may have been modified or re-enacted by the date of the auction or the contract date (as applicable); and
- where the following words printed in bold black type appear in bold blue type they have the specified meanings.

Actual completion date

The date when **completion** takes place or is treated as taking place for the purposes of apportionment and calculating interest.

Addendum

An amendment or addition to the **conditions** or to the **particulars** or to both whether contained in a supplement to the **catalogue**, a written notice from the **auctioneers** or an oral announcement at the **auction**.

Agreed completion date

Subject to condition G9.3:

- (a) the date specified in the special conditions; or
- (b) if no date is specified, 20 business days after the contract date;

but if that date is not a business day the first subsequent business day.

Approved financial institution

Any bank or building society that has signed up to the Banking Code or Business Banking Code or is otherwise acceptable to the **auctioneers**.

Arrears

Arrears of rent and other sums due under the **tenancies** and still outstanding on the **actual completion date**.

Arrears schedule

The arrears schedule (if any) forming part of the **special** conditions.

Auction

The auction advertised in the catalogue.

Auction conduct conditions

The conditions so headed, including any extra auction conduct conditions.

Auctioneers

The auctioneers at the auction.

Business day

Any day except (a) a Saturday or a Sunday; (b) a bank holiday in England and Wales; or (c) Good Friday or Christmas Day.

Buyer

The person who agrees to buy the **lot** or, if applicable, that person's personal representatives: if two or more are jointly the **buyer** their obligations can be enforced against them jointly or against each of them separately.

Catalogue

The catalogue to which the **conditions** refer including any supplement to it.

Completion

Unless otherwise agreed between **seller** and **buyer** (or their conveyancers) the occasion when both **seller** and **buyer** have complied with their obligations under the **contract** and the balance of the **price** is unconditionally received in the **seller's** conveyancer's client account.

Condition

One of the auction conduct conditions or sales conditions.

Glossary

Contract

The contract by which the **seller** agrees to sell and the **buyer** agrees to buy the **lot**.

Contract date

The date of the **auction** or, if the **lot** is not sold at the **auction**:

- (a) the date of the sale memorandum signed by both the seller and buyer; or
- (b) if contracts are exchanged, the date of exchange. If exchange is not effected in person or by an irrevocable agreement to exchange made by telephone, fax or electronic mail the date of exchange is the date on which both parts have been signed and posted or otherwise placed beyond normal retrieval.

Documents

Documents of title (including, if title is registered, the entries on the register and the title plan) and other documents listed or referred to in the **special conditions** relating to the **lot**.

Financial charge

A charge to secure a loan or other financial indebtness (not including a rentcharge).

General conditions

That part of the **sale conditions** so headed, including any extra general conditions.

Interest rate

If not specified in the **special conditions**, 4% above the base rate from time to time of Barclays Bank plc. (The **interest rate** will also apply to judgment debts, if applicable.)

Lot

Each separate property described in the **catalogue** or (as the case may be) the property that the **seller** has agreed to sell and the **buyer** to buy (including **chattels**, if any).

Old arrears

Arrears due under any of the **tenancies** that are not "new tenancies" as defined by the Landlord and Tenant (Covenants) Act 1995.

Particulars

The section of the **catalogue** that contains descriptions of each **lot** (as varied by any **addendum**).

Practitioner

An insolvency practitioner for the purposes of the Insolvency Act 1986 (or, in relation to jurisdictions outside the United Kingdom, any similar official).

Price

The price that the **buyer** agrees to pay for the **lot**.

Ready to complete

Ready, willing and able to complete: if **completion** would enable the **seller** to discharge all **financial charges** secured on the **lot** that have to be discharged by **completion**, then those outstanding financial charges do not prevent the **seller** from being **ready to complete**.

Sale conditions

The general conditions as varied by any special conditions or addendum.

Sale memorandum

The form so headed (whether or not set out in the **catalogue**) in which the terms of the **contract** for the sale of the **lot** are recorded.

Seller

The person selling the **lot**. If two or more are jointly the **seller** their obligations can be enforced against them jointly or against each of them separately.

Special conditions

Those of the sale conditions so headed that relate to the lot.

Tenancies

Tenancies, leases, licences to occupy and agreements for lease and any documents varying or supplemental to them.

Tenancy schedule

The tenancy schedule (if any) forming part of the **special conditions**.

Glossary

Transfer

Transfer includes a conveyance or assignment (and "to transfer" includes "to convey" or "to assign").

TUPE

The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

VAT

Value Added Tax or other tax of a similar nature.

VAT option

An option to tax.

We (and us and our)

The auctioneers.

You (and your)

Someone who has a copy of the **catalogue** or who attends or bids at the **auction**, whether or not a **buyer**.

Auction conduct conditions

A1 Introduction

- A1.1 Words in bold blue type have special meanings, which are defined in the Glossary.
- A1.2 The catalogue is issued only on the basis that you accept these auction conduct conditions. They govern our relationship with you and cannot be disapplied or varied by the sale conditions (even by a condition purporting to replace the whole of the Common Auction Conditions). They can be varied only if we agree.

A2 Our role

- A2.1 As agents for each **seller** we have authority to:
 - (a) prepare the catalogue from information supplied by or on behalf of each seller;
 - (b) offer each lot for sale;
 - (c) sell each lot;
 - (d) receive and hold deposits;
 - (e) sign each sale memorandum; and
 - (f) treat a contract as repudiated if the buyer fails to sign a sale memorandum or pay a deposit as required by these auction conduct conditions.
- A2.2 Our decision on the conduct of the auction is final.
- A2.3 **We** may cancel the **auction**, or alter the order in which **lots** are offered for sale. **We** may also combine or divide **lots**. A **lot** may be sold or withdrawn from sale prior to the **auction**.
- A2.4 You acknowledge that to the extent permitted by law we owe you no duty of care and you have no claim against us for any loss.

A3 Bidding and reserve prices

- A3.1 All bids are to be made in pounds sterling exclusive of any applicable **VAT**.
- A3.2 **We** may refuse to accept a bid. **We** do not have to explain why.

- A3.3 If there is a dispute over bidding **we** are entitled to resolve it, and **our** decision is final.
- A3.4 Unless stated otherwise each **lot** is subject to a reserve price (which may be fixed just before the **lot** is offered for sale). If no bid equals or exceeds that reserve price the **lot** will be withdrawn from the **auction**.
- A3.5 Where there is a reserve price the **seller** may bid (or ask **us** or another agent to bid on the **seller**'s behalf) up to the reserve price but may not make a bid equal to or exceeding the reserve price. **You** accept that it is possible that all bids up to the reserve price are bids made by or on behalf of the **seller**.
- A3.6 Where a guide price (or range of prices) is given that guide is the minimum price at which, or range of prices within which, the **seller** might be prepared to sell at the date of the guide price. But guide prices may change. The last published guide price will normally be at or above any reserve price, but not always as the **seller** may fix the final reserve price just before bidding commences.

A4 The particulars and other information

- A4.1 We have taken reasonable care to prepare particulars that correctly describe each lot. The particulars are based on information supplied by or on behalf of the seller. You need to check that the information in the particulars is correct.
- A4.2 If the **special conditions** do not contain a description of the **lot**, or simply refer to the relevant **lot** number, you take the risk that the description contained in the **particulars** is incomplete or inaccurate, as the **particulars** have not been prepared by a conveyancer and are not intended to form part of a legal contract.

Auction conduct conditions

- A4.3 The **particulars** and the **sale conditions** may change prior to the **auction** and it is **your** responsibility to check that **you** have the correct versions.
- A4.4 If **we** provide information, or a copy of a document, provided by others **we** do so only on the basis that **we** are not responsible for the accuracy of that information or document.

A5 The contract

- A5.1 A successful bid is one **we** accept as such (normally on the fall of the hammer). This **condition** A5 applies to **you** if **you** make the successful bid for a **lot**.
- A5.2 You are obliged to buy the lot on the terms of the sale memorandum at the price you bid plus VAT (if applicable).
- A5.3 You must before leaving the auction:
 - (a) provide all information we reasonably need from you to enable us to complete the sale memorandum (including proof of your identity if required by us);
 - (b) sign the completed sale memorandum; and
 - (c) pay the deposit.
- A5.4 If you do not we may either:
 - (a) as agent for the seller treat that failure as your repudiation of the contract and offer the lot for sale again: the seller may then have a claim against you for breach of contract; or
 - (b) sign the sale memorandum on your behalf.
- A5.5 The deposit:
 - (a) is to be held as stakeholder where VAT would be chargeable on the deposit were it to be held as agent for the seller, but otherwise is to be held as stated in the sale conditions; and
 - (b) must be paid in pounds sterling by cheque or by bankers' draft made payable to us on an approved financial institution. The extra auction conduct conditions may state if we accept any other form of payment.

- A5.6 **We** may retain the **sale memorandum** signed by or on behalf of the **seller** until the deposit has been received in cleared funds.
- A5.7 If the **buyer** does not comply with its obligations under the **contract** then:
 - (a) **you** are personally liable to buy the **lot** even if **you** are acting as an agent; and
 - (b) **you** must indemnify the **seller** in respect of any loss the **seller** incurs as a result of the **buyer**'s default.
- A5.8 Where the **buyer** is a company **you** warrant that the **buyer** is properly constituted and able to buy the **lot**.

A6 Extra Auction Conduct Conditions

A6.1 Despite any **special condition** to the contrary the minimum deposit **we** accept is £.......... (or the total **price**, if less). A **special condition** may, however, require a higher minimum deposit.

Words in bold blue type have special meanings, which are defined in the Glossary.

The **general conditions** (including any extra general conditions) apply to the **contract** except to the extent that they are varied by **special conditions** or by an **addendum**.

G1. The lot

- G1.1 The **lot** (including any rights to be granted or reserved, and any exclusions from it) is described in the **special conditions**, or if not so described the **lot** is that referred to in the **sale memorandum**.
- G1.2 The **lot** is sold subject to any **tenancies** disclosed by the **special conditions**, but otherwise with vacant possession on **completion**.
- G1.3 The lot is sold subject to all matters contained or referred to in the documents, but excluding any financial charges: these the seller must discharge on or before completion.
- G1.4 The **lot** is also sold subject to such of the following as may affect it, whether they arise before or after the **contract date** and whether or not they are disclosed by the **seller** or are apparent from inspection of the **lot** or from the **documents**:
 - (a) matters registered or capable of registration as local land charges;
 - (b) matters registered or capable of registration by any competent authority or under the provisions of any statute;
 - (c) notices, orders, demands, proposals and requirements of any competent authority;
 - (d) charges, notices, orders, restrictions, agreements and other matters relating to town and country planning, highways or public health;
 - (e) rights, easements, quasi-easements, and wayleaves;
 - (f) outgoings and other liabilities;
 - (g) any interest which overrides, within the meaning of the Land Registration Act 2002;

- (h) matters that ought to be disclosed by the searches and enquiries a prudent buyer would make, whether or not the **buyer** has made them; and
- (i) anything the **seller** does not and could not reasonably know about.
- G1.5 Where anything subject to which the **lot** is sold would expose the **seller** to liability the **buyer** is to comply with it and indemnify the **seller** against that liability.
- G1.6 The **seller** must notify the **buyer** of any notices, orders, demands, proposals and requirements of any competent authority of which it learns after the **contract date** but the **buyer** must comply with them and keep the **seller** indemnified.
- G1.7 The **lot** does not include any tenant's or trade fixtures or fittings.
- G1.8 Where chattels are included in the **lot** the **buyer** takes them as they are at **completion** and the **seller** is not liable if they are not fit for use.
- G1.9 The **buyer** buys with full knowledge of:
 - (a) the **documents**, whether or not the **buyer** has read them; and
 - (b) the physical condition of the lot and what could reasonably be discovered on inspection of it, whether or not the buyer has inspected it.
- G1.10 The **buyer** is not to rely on the information contained in the **particulars** but may rely on the **seller's** conveyancer's written replies to preliminary enquiries to the extent stated in those replies.

G2. Deposit

- G2.1 The amount of the deposit is the greater of:
 - (a) any minimum deposit stated in the auction conduct conditions (or the total price, if this is less than that minimum); and
 - (b) 10% of the **price** (exclusive of any **VAT** on the **price**).

G2.2 The deposit

- (a) must be paid in pounds sterling by cheque or banker's draft drawn on an approved financial institution (or by any other means of payment that the auctioneers may accept); and
- (b) is to be held as stakeholder unless the auction conduct conditions provide that it is to be held as agent for the seller.
- G2.3 Where the **auctioneers** hold the deposit as stakeholder they are authorised to release it (and interest on it if applicable) to the **seller** on **completion** or, if **completion** does not take place, to the person entitled to it under the **sale conditions**.
- G2.4 If a cheque for all or part of the deposit is not cleared on first presentation the seller may treat the contract as at an end and bring a claim against the buyer for breach of contract.
- G2.5 Interest earned on the deposit belongs to the **seller** unless the **sale conditions** provide otherwise.

G3. Between contract and completion

- G3.1 Unless the **special conditions** state otherwise, the **seller** is to insure the **lot** from and including the **contract date** to **completion** and:
 - (a) produce to the **buyer** on request all relevant insurance details:
 - (b) pay the premiums when due;
 - (c) if the buyer so requests, and pays any additional premium, use reasonable endeavours to increase the sum insured or make other changes to the policy;
 - (d) at the request of the buyer use reasonable endeavours to have the buyer's interest noted on the policy if it does not cover a contracting purchaser;
 - (e) unless otherwise agreed, cancel the insurance at completion, apply for a refund of premium and (subject to the rights of any tenant or other third party) pay that refund to the buyer; and

- (f) (subject to the rights of any tenant or other third party) hold on trust for the **buyer** any insurance payments that the **seller** receives in respect of loss or damage arising after the **contract date** or assign to the **buyer** the benefit of any claim;
- and the **buyer** must on **completion** reimburse to the **seller** the cost of that insurance (to the extent not already paid by the **buyer** or a tenant or other third party) for the period from and including the **contract date** to **completion**.
- G3.2 No damage to or destruction of the lot nor any deterioration in its condition, however caused, entitles the buyer to any reduction in price, or to delay completion, or to refuse to complete.
- G3.3 Section 47 of the Law of Property Act 1925 does not apply.
- G3.4 Unless the **buyer** is already lawfully in occupation of the **lot** the **buyer** has no right to enter into occupation prior to **completion**.

G4. Title and identity

- G4.1 Unless **condition** G4.2 applies, the **buyer** accepts the title of the **seller** to the **lot** as at the **contract date** and may raise no requisition or objection except in relation to any matter that occurs after the **contract date**.
- G4.2 If any of the **documents** is not made available before the **auction** the following provisions apply:
 - (a) The buyer may raise no requisition on or objection to any of the documents that is made available before the auction.
 - (b) If the lot is registered land the seller is to give to the buyer within five business days of the contract date an official copy of the entries on the register and title plan and, where noted on the register, of all documents subject to which the lot is being sold.

- (c) If the lot is not registered land the seller is to give to the buyer within five business days an abstract or epitome of title starting from the root of title mentioned in the special conditions (or, if none is mentioned, a good root of title more than fifteen years old) and must produce to the buyer the original or an examined copy of every relevant document.
- (d) If title is in the course of registration, title is to consist of certified copies of:
 - (i) the application for registration of title made to the land registry;
 - (ii) the documents accompanying that application;
 - (iii) evidence that all applicable stamp duty land tax relating to that application has been paid; and
 - (iv) a letter under which the seller or its conveyancer agrees to use all reasonable endeavours to answer any requisitions raised by the land registry and to instruct the land registry to send the completed registration documents to the buyer.
- (e) The buyer has no right to object to or make requisitions on any title information more than seven business days after that information has been given to the buyer.
- G4.3 Unless otherwise stated in the **special conditions** the **seller** sells with full title guarantee except that (and the **transfer** shall so provide):
 - (a) the covenant set out in section 3 of the Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1994 shall not extend to matters recorded in registers open to public inspection; these are to be treated as within the actual knowledge of the buyer; and
 - (b) the covenant set out in section 4 of the Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1994 shall not extend to any condition or tenant's obligation relating to the state or condition of the lot where the lot is leasehold property.
- G4.4 The **transfer** is to have effect as if expressly subject to all matters subject to which the **lot** is sold under the **contract**.

- G4.5 The **seller** does not have to produce, nor may the **buyer** object to or make a requisition in relation to, any prior or superior title even if it is referred to in the **documents**.
- G4.6 The seller (and, if relevant, the buyer) must produce to each other such confirmation of, or evidence of, their identity and that of their mortgagees and attorneys (if any) as is necessary for the other to be able to comply with applicable Land Registry Rules when making application for registration of the transaction to which the conditions apply.

G5. Transfer

- G5.1 Unless a form of **transfer** is prescribed by the **special** conditions:
 - (a) the buyer must supply a draft transfer to the seller at least ten business days before the agreed completion date and the engrossment (signed as a deed by the buyer if condition G5.2 applies) five business days before that date or (if later) two business days after the draft has been approved by the seller; and
 - (b) the seller must approve or revise the draft transfer within five business days of receiving it from the buyer.
- G5.2 If the **seller** remains liable in any respect in relation to the **lot** (or a **tenancy**) following **completion** the **buyer** is specifically to covenant in the **transfer** to indemnify the **seller** against that liability.
- G5.3 The **seller** cannot be required to **transfer** the **lot** to anyone other than the **buyer**, or by more than one **transfer**.

G6. Completion

G6.1 Completion is to take place at the offices of the seller's conveyancer, or where the seller may reasonably require, on the agreed completion date. The seller can only be required to complete on a business day and between the hours of 0930 and 1700.

- G6.2 The amount payable on **completion** is the balance of the **price** adjusted to take account of apportionments plus (if applicable) **VAT** and interest.
- G6.3 Payment is to be made in pounds sterling and only by:
 - (a) direct transfer to the seller's conveyancer's client account; and
 - (b) the release of any deposit held by a stakeholder.
- G6.4 Unless the **seller** and the **buyer** otherwise agree, **completion** cannot take place until both have complied with their obligations under the **contract** and the balance of the **price** is unconditionally received in the **seller**'s conveyancer's client account.
- G6.5 If **completion** takes place after 1400 hours for a reason other than the **seller's** default it is to be treated, for the purposes of apportionment and calculating interest, as if it had taken place on the next **business day**.
- G6.6 Where applicable the **contract** remains in force following **completion**.

G7. Notice to complete

- G7.1 The seller or the buyer may on or after the agreed completion date but before completion give the other notice to complete within ten business days (excluding the date on which the notice is given) making time of the essence.
- G7.2 The person giving the notice must be **ready to complete**.
- G7.3 If the **buyer** fails to comply with a notice to complete the **seller** may, without affecting any other remedy the **seller** has:
 - (a) terminate the contract;
 - (b) claim the deposit and any interest on it if held by a stakeholder;
 - (c) forfeit the deposit and any interest on it;
 - (d) resell the lot; and
 - (e) claim damages from the buyer.

- G7.4 If the **seller** fails to comply with a notice to complete the **buyer** may, without affecting any other remedy the **buyer** has:
 - (a) terminate the contract; and
 - (b) recover the deposit and any interest on it from the **seller** or, if applicable, a stakeholder.

G8. If the contract is brought to an end

If the **contract** is lawfully brought to an end:

- (a) the buyer must return all papers to the seller and appoints the seller its agent to cancel any registration of the contract; and
- (b) the seller must return the deposit and any interest on it to the buyer (and the buyer may claim it from the stakeholder, if applicable) unless the seller is entitled to forfeit the deposit under condition G7.3.

G9. Landlord's licence

- G9.1 Where the **lot** is or includes leasehold land and licence to assign is required this **condition** G9 applies.
- G9.2 The **contract** is conditional on that licence being obtained, by way of formal licence if that is what the landlord lawfully requires.
- G9.3 The **agreed completion date** is not to be earlier than the date five **business days** after the **seller** has given notice to the **buyer** that licence has been obtained.
- G9.4 The seller must:
 - (a) use all reasonable endeavours to obtain the licence at the **seller's** expense; and
 - (b) enter into any authorised guarantee agreement properly required.
- G9.5 The buyer must:
 - (a) promptly provide references and other relevant information; and
 - (b) comply with the landlord's lawful requirements.

G9.6 If within three months of the **contract date** (or such longer period as the **seller** and **buyer** agree) the licence has not been obtained the **seller** or the **buyer** may (if not then in breach of any obligation under this **condition** G9) by notice to the other terminate the **contract** at any time before licence is obtained. That termination is without prejudice to the claims of either **seller** or **buyer** for breach of this **condition** G9.

G10. Interest and apportionments

- G10.1 If the actual completion date is after the agreed completion date for any reason other than the seller's default the buyer must pay interest at the interest rate on the price (less any deposit paid) from the agreed completion date up to and including the actual completion date.
- G10.2 Subject to condition G11 the seller is not obliged to apportion or account for any sum at completion unless the seller has received that sum in cleared funds. The seller must pay to the buyer after completion any sum to which the buyer is entitled that the seller subsequently receives in cleared funds.
- G10.3 Income and outgoings are to be apportioned at **actual** completion date unless:
 - (a) the **buyer** is liable to pay interest; and
 - (b) the seller has given notice to the buyer at any time up to completion requiring apportionment on the date from which interest becomes payable by the buyer;

in which event income and outgoings are to be apportioned on the date from which interest becomes payable by the **buyer**.

- G10.4 Apportionments are to be calculated on the basis that:
 - (a) the seller receives income and is liable for outgoings for the whole of the day on which apportionment is to be made;
 - (b) annual income and expenditure accrues at an equal daily rate assuming 365 days in a year, and income and expenditure relating to some other period accrues at an equal daily rate during the period to which it relates; and

(c) where the amount to be apportioned is not known at completion apportionment is to be made by reference to a reasonable estimate and further payment is to be made by seller or buyer as appropriate within five business days of the date when the amount is known.

G11. Arrears

Part 1 Current rent

- G11.1 "Current rent" means, in respect of each of the **tenancies** subject to which the **lot** is sold, the instalment of rent and other sums payable by the tenant in advance on the most recent rent payment date on or within four months preceding **completion**.
- G11.2 If on completion there are any arrears of current rent the buyer must pay them, whether or not details of those arrears are given in the special conditions.
- G11.3 Parts 2 and 3 of this **condition** G11 do not apply to **arrears** of current rent.

Part 2 Buyer to pay for arrears

- G11.4 Part 2 of this **condition** G11 applies where the **special conditions** give details of **arrears**.
- G11.5 The **buyer** is on **completion** to pay, in addition to any other money then due, an amount equal to all **arrears** of which details are set out in the **special conditions**.
- G11.6 If those arrears are not old arrears the seller is to assign to the buyer all rights that the seller has to recover those arrears.

Part 3 Buyer not to pay for arrears

- G11.7 Part 3 of this condition G11 applies where the special conditions:
 - (a) so state; or
 - (b) give no details of any arrears.

- G11.8 While any arrears due to the seller remain unpaid the buyer must:
 - (a) try to collect them in the ordinary course of management but need not take legal proceedings or forfeit the tenancy;
 - (b) pay them to the seller within five business days of receipt in cleared funds (plus interest at the interest rate calculated on a daily basis for each subsequent day's delay in payment);
 - (c) on request, at the cost of the seller, assign to the seller or as the seller may direct the right to demand and sue for old arrears, such assignment to be in such form as the seller's conveyancer may reasonably require;
 - (d) if reasonably required, allow the seller's conveyancer to have on loan the counterpart of any tenancy against an undertaking to hold it to the buyer's order;
 - (e) not without the consent of the seller release any tenant or surety from liability to pay arrears or accept a surrender of or forfeit any tenancy under which arrears are due; and
 - (f) if the buyer disposes of the lot prior to recovery of all arrears obtain from the buyer's successor in title a covenant in favour of the seller in similar form to part 3 of this condition G11.
- G11.9 Where the **seller** has the right to recover **arrears** it must not without the **buyer's** written consent bring insolvency proceedings against a tenant or seek the removal of goods from the **lot**.

G12. Management

- G12.1 This **condition** G12 applies where the **lot** is sold subject to **tenancies**.
- G12.2 The **seller** is to manage the **lot** in accordance with its standard management policies pending **completion**.

- G12.3 The seller must consult the buyer on all management issues that would affect the buyer after completion (such as, but not limited to, an application for licence; a rent review; a variation, surrender, agreement to surrender or proposed forfeiture of a tenancy; or a new tenancy or agreement to grant a new tenancy) and:
 - (a) the seller must comply with the buyer's reasonable requirements unless to do so would (but for the indemnity in paragraph (c)) expose the seller to a liability that the seller would not otherwise have, in which case the seller may act reasonably in such a way as to avoid that liability;
 - (b) if the seller gives the buyer notice of the seller's intended act and the buyer does not object within five business days giving reasons for the objection the seller may act as the seller intends; and
 - (c) the buyer is to indemnify the seller against all loss or liability the seller incurs through acting as the buyer requires, or by reason of delay caused by the buyer.

G13. Rent deposits

- G13.1 This condition G13 applies where the seller is holding or otherwise entitled to money by way of rent deposit in respect of a tenancy. In this condition G13 "rent deposit deed" means the deed or other document under which the rent deposit is held.
- G13.2 If the rent deposit is not assignable the **seller** must on **completion** hold the rent deposit on trust for the **buyer** and, subject to the terms of the rent deposit deed, comply at the cost of the **buyer** with the **buyer**'s lawful instructions.
- G13.3 Otherwise the **seller** must on **completion** pay and assign its interest in the rent deposit to the **buyer** under an assignment in which the **buyer** covenants with the **seller** to:
 - (a) observe and perform the seller's covenants and conditions in the rent deposit deed and indemnify the seller in respect of any breach;
 - (b) give notice of assignment to the tenant; and
 - (c) give such direct covenant to the tenant as may be required by the rent deposit deed.

G14. VAT

- G14.1 Where a sale condition requires money to be paid or other consideration to be given, the payer must also pay any VAT that is chargeable on that money or consideration, but only if given a valid VAT invoice.
- G14.2 Where the **special conditions** state that no **VAT option** has been made the **seller** confirms that none has been made by it or by any company in the same **VAT** group nor will be prior to **completion**.

G15. Transfer as a going concern

- G15.1 Where the special conditions so state:
 - (a) the seller and the buyer intend, and will take all practicable steps (short of an appeal) to procure, that the sale is treated as a transfer of a going concern; and
 - (b) this condition G15 applies.

G15.2 The seller confirms that the seller

- (a) is registered for **VAT**, either in the **seller's** name or as a member of the same **VAT** group; and
- (b) has (unless the sale is a standard-rated supply) made in relation to the lot a VAT option that remains valid and will not be revoked before completion.

G15.3 The buyer confirms that:

- (a) it is registered for **VAT**, either in the **buyer's** name or as a member of a **VAT** group;
- (b) it has made, or will make before completion,
 a VAT option in relation to the lot and will not revoke it before or within three months after completion;
- (c) article 5(2B) of the Value Added Tax (Special Provisions) Order 1995 does not apply to it; and
- (d) it is not buying the lot as a nominee for another person.

- G15.4 The **buyer** is to give to the **seller** as early as possible before the **agreed completion date** evidence:
 - (a) of the buyer's VAT registration;
 - (b) that the buyer has made a VAT option; and
 - (c) that the VAT option has been notified in writing to HM Revenue and Customs;

and if it does not produce the relevant evidence at least two business days before the agreed completion date, condition G14.1 applies at completion.

- G15.5 The **buyer** confirms that after **completion** the **buyer** intends to:
 - (a) retain and manage the lot for the buyer's own benefit as a continuing business as a going concern subject to and with the benefit of the tenancies; and
 - (b) collect the rents payable under the **tenancies** and charge **VAT** on them
- G15.6 If, after **completion**, it is found that the sale of the **lot** is not a transfer of a going concern then:
 - (a) the seller's conveyancer is to notify the buyer's conveyancer of that finding and provide a VAT invoice in respect of the sale of the lot;
 - (b) the **buyer** must within five **business days** of receipt of the **VAT** invoice pay to the **seller** the **VAT** due; and
 - (c) if VAT is payable because the buyer has not complied with this condition G15, the buyer must pay and indemnify the seller against all costs, interest, penalties or surcharges that the seller incurs as a result.

G16. Capital allowances

- G16.1 This **condition** G16 applies where the **special conditions** state that there are capital allowances available in respect of the **lot**.
- G16.2 The **seller** is promptly to supply to the **buyer** all information reasonably required by the **buyer** in connection with the **buyer**'s claim for capital allowances.
- G16.3 The value to be attributed to those items on which capital allowances may be claimed is set out in the special conditions.

G16.4 The seller and buyer agree:

- (a) to make an election on completion under Section 198 of the Capital Allowances Act 2001 to give effect to this condition G16; and
- (b) to submit the value specified in the special conditions to HM Revenue and Customs for the purposes of their respective capital allowance computations.

G17. Maintenance agreements

- G17.1 The **seller** agrees to use reasonable endeavours to transfer to the **buyer**, at the **buyer**'s cost, the benefit of the maintenance agreements specified in the **special conditions**.
- G17.2 The **buyer** must assume, and indemnify the **seller** in respect of, all liability under such contracts from the **actual completion date**.

G18. Landlord and Tenant Act 1987

- G18.1 This **condition** G18 applies where the sale is a relevant disposal for the purposes of part I of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987.
- G18.2 The **seller** warrants that the **seller** has complied with sections 5B and 7 of that Act and that the requisite majority of qualifying tenants has not accepted the offer.

G19. Sale by practitioner

- G19.1 This **condition** G19 applies where the sale is by a **practitioner** either as **seller** or as agent of the **seller**.
- G19.2 The **practitioner** has been duly appointed and is empowered to sell the **lot**.
- G19.3 Neither the **practitioner** nor the firm or any member of the firm to which the **practitioner** belongs has any personal liability in connection with the sale or the performance of the **seller's** obligations. The **transfer** is to include a declaration excluding that personal liability.

G19.4 The lot is sold:

- (a) in its condition at completion;
- (b) for such title as the seller may have; and
- (c) with no title guarantee;

and the **buyer** has no right to terminate the contract or any other remedy if information provided about the **lot** is inaccurate, incomplete or missing.

G19.5 Where relevant:

- (a) the documents must include certified copies of those under which the practitioner is appointed, the document of appointment and the practitioner's acceptance of appointment; and
- (b) the **seller** may require the **transfer** to be by the lender exercising its power of sale under the Law of Property Act 1925.
- G19.6 The **buyer** understands this **condition** G19 and agrees that it is fair in the circumstances of a sale by a **practitioner**.

G20. TUPE

- G20.1 If the **special conditions** state "There are no employees to which **TUPE** applies", this is a warranty by the **seller** to this effect.
- G20.2 If the **special conditions** do not state "There are no employees to which **TUPE** applies" the following paragraphs apply:
 - (a) The seller must notify the buyer of those employees whose contracts of employment will transfer to the buyer on completion (the "Transferring Employees"). This notification must be given to the buyer not less than 14 days before completion.
 - (b) The buyer confirms that it will comply with its obligations under TUPE and any special conditions in respect of the Transferring Employees.
 - (c) The buyer and the seller acknowledge that pursuant and subject to TUPE, the contracts of employment between the Transferring Employees and the seller will transfer to the buyer on completion.
 - (d) The **buyer** is to keep the **seller** indemnified against all liability for the Transferring Employees after **completion**.

G21. Environmental

- G21.1 This condition G21 only applies where the **special** conditions so provide.
- G21.2 The **seller** has made available such reports as the **seller** has as to the environmental condition of the **lot** and has given the **buyer** the opportunity to carry out investigations (whether or not the **buyer** has read those reports or carried out any investigation) and the **buyer** admits that the **price** takes into account the environmental condition of the **lot**.
- G21.3 The **buyer** agrees to indemnify the **seller** in respect of all liability for or resulting from the environmental condition of the **lot**.

G22. Service Charge

- G22.1 This **condition** G22 applies where the **lot** is sold subject to **tenancies** that include service charge provisions.
- G22.2 No apportionment is to be made at **completion** in respect of service charges.
- G22.3 Within two months after **completion** the **seller** must provide to the **buyer** a detailed service charge account for the service charge year current on **completion** showing:
 - (a) service charge expenditure attributable to each tenancy;
 - (b) payments on account of service charge received from each tenant;
 - (c) any amounts due from a tenant that have not been received:
 - (d) any service charge expenditure that is not attributable to any **tenancy** and is for that reason irrecoverable.
- G22.4 In respect of each **tenancy**, if the service charge account shows that:
 - (a) payments on account (whether received or still then due from a tenant) exceed attributable service charge expenditure, the seller must pay to the buyer an amount equal to the excess when it provides the service charge account;
 - (b) attributable service charge expenditure exceeds payments on account (whether those payments have been received or are still then due), the **buyer** must use all reasonable endeavours to recover the shortfall from the tenant at the next service charge reconciliation date and pay the amount so recovered to the **seller** within five **business days** of receipt in cleared funds;

but in respect of payments on account that are still due from a tenant **condition** G11 (arrears) applies.

- G22.5 In respect of service charge expenditure that is not attributable to any **tenancy** the **seller** must pay the expenditure incurred in respect of the period before **actual completion date** and the **buyer** must pay the expenditure incurred in respect of the period after **actual completion date**. Any necessary monetary adjustment is to be made within five **business days** of the **seller** providing the service charge account to the **buyer**.
- G22.6 If the **seller** holds any reserve or sinking fund on account of future service charge expenditure or a depreciation fund:
 - (a) the **seller** must pay it (including any interest earned on it) to the **buyer** on **completion**; and
 - (b) the buyer must covenant with the seller to hold it in accordance with the terms of the tenancies and to indemnify the seller if it does not do so.

G23. Rent reviews

- G23.1 This **condition** G23 applies where the **lot** is sold subject to a **tenancy** under which a rent review due on or before the **actual completion date** has not been agreed or determined.
- G23.2 The **seller** may continue negotiations or rent review proceedings up to the **actual completion date** but may not agree the level of the revised rent or commence rent review proceedings without the written consent of the **buyer**, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed.
- G23.3 Following completion the buyer must complete rent review negotiations or proceedings as soon as reasonably practicable but may not agree the level of the revised rent without the written consent of the seller, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed.
- G23.4 The seller must promptly:
 - (a) give to the buyer full details of all rent review negotiations and proceedings, including copies of all correspondence and other papers; and
 - (b) use all reasonable endeavours to substitute the buyer for the seller in any rent review proceedings.

- G23.5 The **seller** and the **buyer** are to keep each other informed of the progress of the rent review and have regard to any proposals the other makes in relation to it.
- G23.6 When the rent review has been agreed or determined the buyer must account to the seller for any increased rent and interest recovered from the tenant that relates to the seller's period of ownership within five business days of receipt of cleared funds.
- G23.7 If a rent review is agreed or determined before completion but the increased rent and any interest recoverable from the tenant has not been received by completion the increased rent and any interest recoverable is to be treated as arrears.
- G23.8 The **seller** and the **buyer** are to bear their own costs in relation to rent review negotiations and proceedings.

G24. Tenancy renewals

- G24.1 This **condition** G24 applies where the tenant under a **tenancy** has the right to remain in occupation under part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 (as amended) and references to notices and proceedings are to notices and proceedings under that Act.
- G24.2 Where practicable, without exposing the **seller** to liability or penalty, the **seller** must not without the written consent of the **buyer** (which the **buyer** must not unreasonably withhold or delay) serve or respond to any notice or begin or continue any proceedings.
- G24.3 If the **seller** receives a notice the **seller** must send a copy to the **buyer** within five **business days** and act as the **buyer** reasonably directs in relation to it.

G24.4 Following completion the buyer must:

- (a) with the co-operation of the seller take immediate steps to substitute itself as a party to any proceedings;
- (b) use all reasonable endeavours to conclude any proceedings or negotiations for the renewal of the tenancy and the determination of any interim rent as soon as reasonably practicable at the best rent or rents reasonably obtainable; and
- (c) if any increased rent is recovered from the tenant (whether as interim rent or under the renewed tenancy) account to the seller for the part of that increase that relates to the seller's period of ownership of the lot within five business days of receipt of cleared funds.
- G24.5 The **seller** and the **buyer** are to bear their own costs in relation to the renewal of the **tenancy** and any proceedings relating to this.

G25. Warranties

- G25.1 Available warranties are listed in the special conditions.
- G25.2 Where a warranty is assignable the seller must:
 - (a) on completion assign it to the buyer and give notice of assignment to the person who gave the warranty;
 and
 - (b) apply for (and the seller and the buyer must use all reasonable endeavours to obtain) any consent to assign that is required. If consent has not been obtained by completion the warranty must be assigned within five business days after the consent has been obtained.
- G25.3 If a warranty is not assignable the **seller** must after **completion**:
 - (a) hold the warranty on trust for the buyer; and
 - (b) at the buyer's cost comply with such of the lawful instructions of the buyer in relation to the warranty as do not place the seller in breach of its terms or expose the seller to any liability or penalty.

G26. No assignment

The **buyer** must not assign, mortgage or otherwise transfer or part with the whole or any part of the **buyer's** interest under this **contract**.

G27. Registration at the Land Registry

- G27.1 This condition G27.1 applies where the **lot** is leasehold and its sale either triggers first registration or is a registrable disposition. The **buyer** must at its own expense and as soon as practicable:
 - (a) procure that it becomes registered at Land Registry as proprietor of the lot;
 - (b) procure that all rights granted and reserved by the lease under which the **lot** is held are properly noted against the affected titles; and
 - (c) provide the seller with an official copy of the register relating to such lease showing itself registered as proprietor.
- G27.2 This condition G27.2 applies where the **lot** comprises part of a registered title. The **buyer** must at its own expense and as soon as practicable:
 - (a) apply for registration of the transfer;
 - (b) provide the **seller** with an official copy and title plan for the **buyer's** new title; and
 - (c) join in any representations the **seller** may properly make to Land Registry relating to the application.

G28. Notices and other communications

G28.1 All communications, including notices, must be in writing. Communication to or by the **seller** or the **buyer** may be given to or by their conveyancers.

G28.2 A communication may be relied on if:

- (a) delivered by hand; or
- (b) made electronically and personally acknowledged (automatic acknowledgement does not count); or
- (c) there is proof that it was sent to the address of the person to whom it is to be given (as specified in the sale memorandum) by a postal service that offers normally to deliver mail the next following business day.

G28.3 A communication is to be treated as received:

- (a) when delivered, if delivered by hand; or
- (b) when personally acknowledged, if made electronically; but if delivered or made after 1700 hours on a **business day** a communication is to be treated as received on the next **business day**.
- G28.4 A communication sent by a postal service that offers normally to deliver mail the next following **business day** will be treated as received on the second **business day** after it has been posted.
- G29. Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999
 No one is intended to have any benefit under the contract pursuant to the Contract (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

G30. Extra General Conditions

Special conditions of sale

Words in bold blue type have special meanings, which are defined in the Glossary. Words that are neither in square brackets nor in italics constitute the special conditions applicable to the relevant lot. References to the general conditions are for convenience only and are not intended to be comprehensive. Name and address of the seller [Name and address] Undisclosed. To be identified in the sale memorandum. Name, address and reference of the seller's conveyancer [Name, address and reference] Brief description of the lot (see condition G1.1) [Postal address] Rights to be granted (see condition G1.1) None. [Details] Rights to be reserved (see condition G1.1) None. [Details] Exclusions (see condition G1.1) None. [Details] Tenancies (see condition G1.2) There are no tenancies. [The tenancies are listed in the tenancy schedule.] What the sale is subject to (see condition G1) The matters set out in the general conditions

[list existing covenants and encumbrances and any new ones to be created on sale]

Special conditions of sale

Deposit (see condition G2)

10% of the **price** to be paid to the **auctioneer** and held by the **auctioneer** (or, if the **auctioneer** chooses, the **seller's** conveyancer) as stakeholder.

[[10%] of the **price** [plus **VAT**] to be held by [

] as [stakeholder][agent for the seller]]

Insurance (see condition G3)

For the period from and including the **contract date** up to **completion** the **seller** is to insure the **lot**.

[The seller has no obligation to insure the lot after the contract date.]

Title (see condition G4)

Freehold.

[Leasehold brief description of terms of lease]

Registered or unregistered?

Registered

[at name of land registry with quality of title

title number number]

[Unregistered commencing with describe root of title]

Title guarantee (see condition G4.3)

Full title guarantee, subject to condition G4.3.

[Limited title guarantee]

[No title guarantee, for such right and title as the seller may have]

[As set out in the **transfer**]

Transfer (see condition G5)

There is no prescribed form of transfer.

[A copy of the prescribed form of transfer has been made available prior to the auction.]

[The transfer is to contain the following provisions:

]

Agreed completion date (see condition G6.1)

Twenty business days after the contract date.

[Date]

Interest rate (see condition G10) 4% over Barclays Bank Base rate from time to time. [[]% over [] base rate from time to time] Arrears (see condition G11) Parts 1 and 3 of condition G11 apply. [Parts 1 and 2 of condition G11 apply and details of arrears are set out in the arrears schedule.] VAT (see conditions G14 and 15) VAT is not payable as the transaction is exempt. [VAT is payable on completion.] [The sale is intended to be a transfer of a going concern to which condition G15 applies.] Capital allowances (see condition G16) No capital allowances are available. [Capital allowances are available in respect of the following items, to which the value attributed is Maintenance agreements (see condition G17) There are no maintenance agreements. [Details of maintenance agreements are: Details] TUPE (see condition G20) There are no employees to which **TUPE** applies. [Details of the contracts of employment for those employees to whom TUPE applies are: Details] Environmental (see condition G21) Condition G21 does not apply. [Condition G21 applies. The following reports have been supplied by the seller: Details

Special conditions of sale

Warranties (see condition G25)

There are no available warranties.	
[The following warranties are to be assigned to or held in trust for the buyer : Details	1
Amendments to the general conditions	
None.	
[The following conditions replace the general conditions of the same number: Details	1
Extra special conditions	
None.	
[Details]

Special conditions of sale Arrears schedule

These are the arrears referred to in condition G11:

roperty	Current tenant	Current rent	Date rent last paid

Special conditions of sale Tenancy schedule

The lot is sold subject to and with the benefit of the tenancies listed below:

Property	Date	Original landlord and tenant	Current tenant	Term	Current Rent

Special conditions of sale Sale memorandum

Date
Name and address of seller
Name and address of buyer
The lot
The price (excluding any VAT)
Deposit paid
The seller agrees to sell and the buyer agrees to buy the lot for the price . This agreement is subject to the sale conditions so far as they apply to the lot .
We acknowledge receipt of the deposit
Signed by the buyer
Signed by us as agent for the seller
The buyer's conveyancer is Name
Address
Contact
The seller's conveyancer is Name
Address
Contact



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