

O-447-17

ORDER under the Companies Act 2006

In the matter of application

No. 1482 by Diageo plc

For a change of company name of registration

No. 10267102

DECISION

The company name DIAGEO EXPRESS FOODS GROUP (INTERNATIONAL) LIMITED has been registered since 14 July 2016.

By an application filed on 22 June 2017, Diageo plc applied for a change of name of this registration under the provisions of section 69(1) of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act).

A copy of the application was sent by Royal Mail recorded delivery to the primary respondent's registered office on 06 July 2017, in accordance with rule 3(2) of the Company Names Adjudicator Rules 2008. On 06 July 2017, the Tribunal also wrote to Mr Tofikuddin Ovaysi to inform him that the applicant had requested that he be joined to the proceedings. That letter was returned to the Tribunal and re-sent on 19 July 2017. It was again returned marks 'RTS'. On 24 August 2017, Mr Tofikuddin Ovaysi was joined as a co-respondent and the parties were advised that, as no defence had been received to the application, the adjudicator may treat the application as not being opposed. A period of 14 days to request a hearing was allowed in relation to this matter. No request for a hearing was made.

The primary respondent did not file a defence within the one month period specified by the adjudicator under rule 3(3). Rule 3(4) states

“The primary respondent, before the end of that period, shall file a counter-statement on the appropriate form, otherwise the adjudicator may treat it as not opposing the application and may make an order under section 73(1).”

Under the provisions of this rule, the adjudicator may exercise discretion so as to treat the respondent as opposing the application. In this case I can see no reason to exercise such discretion and, therefore, decline to do so.

As the primary respondent has not responded to the allegations made, it is treated as not opposing the application. Therefore, in accordance with section 73(1) of the Act I make the following order:

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- (a) DIAGEO EXPRESS FOODS GROUP (INTERNATIONAL) LIMITED shall change its name **within one month** of the date of this order to one that is not an offending nameⁱ;
- (b) DIAGEO EXPRESS FOODS GROUP (INTERNATIONAL) LIMITED and Mr Tofikuddin Ovaysi shall:
- (i) take such steps as are within their power to make, or facilitate the making, of that change;
 - (ii) not cause or permit any steps to be taken calculated to result in another company being registered with a name that is an offending name.

In accordance with s. 73(3) of the Act, this order may be enforced in the same way as an order of the High Court or, in Scotland, the Court of Session.

In any event, if no such change is made within one month of the date of this order, I will determine a new company name as per section 73(4) of the Act and will give notice of that change under section 73(5) of the Act.

All respondents, including individual co-respondents, have a legal duty under Section 73(1)(b)(ii) of the Companies Act 2006 not to cause or permit any steps to be taken calculated to result in another company being registered with an offending name; this includes the current company. *Non-compliance may result in an action being brought for contempt of court and may result in a custodial sentence.*

Diageo plc, having been successful, is entitled to a contribution towards its costs. I order DIAGEO EXPRESS FOODS GROUP (INTERNATIONAL) LIMITED and Mr Tofikuddin Ovaysi, being jointly and severally liable, to pay Diageo plc costs on the following basis:

Fee for application:	£400
Statement of case:	£400
Total:	£800

This sum is to be paid within seven days of the expiry of the appeal period or within seven days of the final determination of this case if any appeal against this decision is unsuccessful.

Any notice of appeal against this decision to order a change of name must be given within one month of the date of this order. Appeal is to the High Court in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and to the Court of Session in Scotland.

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The company adjudicator must be advised if an appeal is lodged, so that implementation of the order is suspended.

Dated this 21st day of September 2017



Beverley Hedley
Company Names Adjudicator

¹An "offending name" means a name that, by reason of its similarity to the name associated with the applicant in which he claims goodwill, would be likely to be the subject of a direction under section 67 (power of Secretary of State to direct change of name), or to give rise to a further application under section 69.