



Treaty Series No. 6 (2013)

Protocol amending the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Singapore for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains signed at Singapore on 12 February 1997

Singapore, 24 August 2009

[The Protocol entered into force on the 8 January 2011]

Second Protocol amending the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Singapore for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains signed at Singapore on 12 February 1997 as amended by a Protocol signed at Singapore on 24 August 2009

Singapore 15 February 2012

[The Protocol entered into force on the 27 December 2012]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
February 2013*

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**PROTOCOL AMENDING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF SINGAPORE FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND
THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES
ON INCOME AND CAPITAL GAINS SIGNED AT SINGAPORE ON 12
FEBRUARY 1997**

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Singapore,

Desiring to amend the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Singapore for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital gains signed at Singapore on 12 February 1997¹ (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”),

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The text of Article 27 of the Agreement is deleted and replaced by the following:

“1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic laws concerning taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their political subdivisions or local authorities, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2.

2. Any information received under paragraph 1 by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, the determination of appeals in relation to the taxes referred to in paragraph 1, or the oversight of the above. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

3. In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;

¹ Treaty Series No. 041 (2000) Cm 4683

- (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy.

4. If information is requested by a Contracting State in accordance with the provisions of this Article, the other Contracting State shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other State may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the limitations of paragraph 3 of this Article but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.

5. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 3 be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, nominee or person acting in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interests in a person.”

ARTICLE II

The United Kingdom shall notify Singapore, through diplomatic channels, of the completion of the procedures required by its law for the bringing into force of this Protocol. Upon such notification, when the necessary requirements for entry into force of this Protocol in Singapore have been complied with, Singapore shall notify the United Kingdom through diplomatic channels. The Protocol shall enter into force 30 days after the date of notification made by Singapore to the United Kingdom.

ARTICLE III

This Protocol shall form an integral part of the Agreement and shall remain in force as long as the Agreement remains in force.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorised thereto
, have signed this Protocol.

DONE in duplicate at Singapore on this twenty-fourth day of August 2009, in the English language.

**For the Government of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland:**

STEPHEN TIMMS

**For the Government of the Republic
of Singapore:**

**THARMAN
SHANMUGARATNAM**

**SECOND PROTOCOL AMENDING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF SINGAPORE FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND
THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES
ON INCOME AND CAPITAL GAINS SIGNED AT SINGAPORE ON 12
FEBRUARY 1997 AS AMENDED BY A PROTOCOL SIGNED AT
SINGAPORE ON 24 AUGUST 2009**

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Singapore,

Desiring to amend the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital gains signed at Singapore on 12 February 1997² as amended by a Protocol signed at Singapore on 24 August 2009³ (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”),

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

With respect to Article 3 (General Definitions) of the Agreement:

1. Paragraph 1(e) shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“(e) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;”
2. Paragraph 1(i)(i) shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“(i) in the case of the United Kingdom, the Commissioners for Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs or their authorised representative;”
3. Paragraph 1(k) shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“(k) the term "fiscal year" means,

 - (i) in the case of the United Kingdom:

² Treaty Series No. 041 (2000) Cm 4683

³ The preceding Protocol on this Command Paper

- for the purposes of the income tax, a year of assessment beginning on 6 April in one year and ending on 5 April in the following year;
 - for the purposes of the corporation tax, a year of assessment beginning on 1 April in one year and ending on 31 March in the following year; and,
- (ii) in the case of Singapore, a calendar year.”

4. A new paragraph 2 shall be inserted after paragraph 1 as follows:

“2. For the purposes of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of this Agreement, a trustee subject to tax in a Contracting State in respect of dividends, interest or royalties shall be deemed to be the beneficial owner of that interest or those dividends or royalties.”

5. The existing paragraph 2 of the Article shall be renumbered as paragraph 3.

ARTICLE II

With respect to Article 4 (Residence) of the Agreement:

1. Paragraph 1 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management, place of incorporation or any other criterion of a similar nature, and also includes that State and any political subdivision, local authority or statutory body thereof.”

2. Paragraph 3 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which its place of effective management is situated. In cases of doubt, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to determine by mutual agreement the State in which the person’s place of effective management is situated taking into consideration all relevant factors. In the absence of a mutual agreement by the competent authorities of the Contracting States, the person shall not be considered a resident of either Contracting State for the purposes of claiming any benefits provided by the Agreement, except those provided by Articles 23, 25 and 26.”

ARTICLE III

With respect to Article 5 (Permanent Establishment) of the Agreement,

Paragraph 4(b) shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“(b) it furnishes services, including consultancy services, through employees or other personnel engaged by the enterprise for such purpose, but only where activities of that nature continue (for the same or a connected project) within the other Contracting State for a period or periods aggregating more than 183 days in the fiscal year concerned;

provided that the provisions of subparagraph (b) shall cease to have effect for any fiscal year beginning after five years from the date on which the Second Protocol first had effect.”

ARTICLE IV

With respect to Article 10 (Dividends) of the Agreement:

1. Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State and beneficially owned by a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other Contracting State.

2. However,

(a) dividends paid by a real estate investment trust which is a resident of the United Kingdom may also be taxed, according to its laws, in the United Kingdom. However, if the beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of Singapore, the tax so charged shall not exceed 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends;

(b) distributions paid by a real estate investment trust which is organised in Singapore may also be taxed, according to its laws, in Singapore. However, if the beneficial owner of the distributions is a resident of the United Kingdom, the tax so charged shall not exceed 15 per cent of the gross amount of the distributions.

This paragraph and paragraph 1 shall not affect the taxation of the company or the real estate investment trust in respect of the profits out of which the dividends or distributions are paid.

3. For the purposes of paragraph 2 of this Article, a real estate investment trust means:

- (a) in the case of the United Kingdom, a real estate investment trust within the meaning of Part 12 of Corporation Tax Act 2010 and a property authorised investment fund within the meaning of Part 4A of the Authorised Investment Funds (Tax) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/964);
- (b) in the case of Singapore, a trust that is constituted as a collective investment scheme authorised under section 286 of the Securities and Futures Act (Chapter 289) and listed on the Singapore Exchange, and that invests or proposes to invest in immovable property and immovable property-related assets.”

2. There shall be inserted at the end of paragraph 4 the following additional sentence:

“For the purposes of paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of this Article, the term “dividends” also includes distributions within the meaning of subparagraph b) of paragraph 2 of this Article and reference to a company shall be read as including reference to a real estate investment trust as appropriate.”

ARTICLE V

With respect to Article 11 (Interest) of the Agreement:

1. Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:
 - “2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the interest the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of interest.
 - 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other State if the recipient is the beneficial owner of that interest and:
 - (a) is the Government of the other Contracting State;
 - (b) is a bank or similar financial institution; or
 - (c) the interest is paid by a bank or similar financial institution.
4. For the purposes of paragraph 3 of this Article, the term Government:

- (a) in the case of Singapore, means the Government of Singapore and shall include:
 - (i) the Monetary Authority of Singapore;
 - (ii) the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Pte Ltd;
 - (iii) a statutory body; and
 - (iv) any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of Singapore as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting States;

- (b) in the case of United Kingdom, means the Government of the United Kingdom and shall include:
 - (i) the Bank of England;
 - (ii) the United Kingdom Export Credits Guarantee Department;
 - (iii) CDC Group plc;
 - (iv) a statutory body; and
 - (v) any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of the United Kingdom as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting States.”

2. The first sentence of paragraph 7 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State.”

ARTICLE VI

With respect to Article 12 (Royalties) of the Agreement:

1. Paragraph 2 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the royalties the tax so charged shall not exceed 8 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.”

2. Paragraph 3 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“3. The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work (including cinematograph films, and films or tapes for radio or television broadcasting), any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for information (know-how) concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.”

3. Paragraph 4 shall be deleted and the reference to paragraph 4 in paragraph 5 shall be deleted. The remaining paragraphs shall not be renumbered.

4. The first sentence of paragraph 6 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State.”

ARTICLE VII

With respect to Article 14 (Independent Personal Services) of the Agreement:

Paragraph 1 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“1. Income derived by an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character shall be taxable only in that State except in the following circumstances when such income may also be taxed in the other Contracting State:

- (a) if he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other State for the purpose of performing his activities; in that case, only so much of the income as is attributable to that fixed base may be taxed in that other State; or
- (b) if his stay in the other State is for a period or periods exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the fiscal year concerned; in that case, only so much of the income as is derived from his activities performed in that other State may be taxed in that other State;

provided that the provisions of subparagraph (b) shall cease to have effect for any fiscal year beginning after five years from the date on which the Second Protocol first had effect.”

ARTICLE VIII

With respect to Article 15 (Dependent Personal Services) of the Agreement:

1. Paragraph 1 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18 and 19 of this Agreement, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other State.”

2. Paragraph 3 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic by an enterprise of a Contracting State may be taxed in that State.”

ARTICLE IX

With respect to Article 18 (Pensions) of the Agreement:

Subparagraph (a) of paragraph 1 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“(a) pensions and other similar remuneration paid in consideration of past employment or self-employment,”

ARTICLE X

With respect to Article 20 (Students and Trainees) of the Agreement:

Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“ Payments which a student or business apprentice who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who is present in the first-mentioned State solely for the purpose of his education or training receives for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training shall not be taxed in that State, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that State.”

ARTICLE XI

Article 21 (Teachers) of the Agreement shall be deleted and the subsequent Articles shall not be renumbered.

ARTICLE XII

With respect to Article 22 (Other Income) of the Agreement:

Paragraph 3 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, where an amount of income is paid to a resident of Singapore out of income received by trustees or personal representatives who are residents of the United Kingdom, that amount shall be treated as arising from the same sources, and in the same proportions, as the income received by the trustees or personal representatives out of which that amount is paid. Any tax paid by the trustees or personal representatives in respect of the income paid to the beneficiary shall be treated as if it had been paid by the beneficiary.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, withdrawals made by a resident of the United Kingdom from his Supplementary Retirement Scheme account under section 10L of the Singapore Income Tax Act (Chapter 134)(revised edition 2008) may be taxed in Singapore.”

ARTICLE XIII

With respect to Article 23 (Elimination of Double Taxation) of the Agreement:

1. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

“1. Subject to the provisions of the law of the United Kingdom regarding the allowance as a credit against United Kingdom tax of tax payable in a territory outside the United Kingdom or, as the case may be, regarding the exemption from United Kingdom tax of a dividend arising in a territory outside the United Kingdom (which shall not affect the general principle hereof):

- (a) Singapore tax payable under the laws of Singapore and in accordance with this Agreement, whether directly or by deduction, on profits, income or chargeable gains from sources within Singapore (excluding in the case of a dividend tax payable in respect of the profits out of which the dividend is paid) shall be allowed as a credit against any United Kingdom tax computed by reference to the same profits, income or chargeable gains by reference to which the Singapore tax is computed;
- (b) a dividend which is paid by a company which is a resident of Singapore to a company which is a resident of the United Kingdom shall be exempted from United Kingdom tax, when the conditions for exemption under the law of the United Kingdom are met;

- (c) in the case of a dividend not exempted from tax under sub-paragraph (b) above (because the conditions for exemption under the law of the United Kingdom are not met) which is paid by a company which is a resident of Singapore to a company which is a resident of the United Kingdom and which controls directly or indirectly at least 10 per cent of the voting power in the company paying the dividend, the credit mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) above shall also take into account the Singapore tax payable by the company in respect of its profits out of which such dividend is paid.
2. In Singapore, double taxation shall be avoided as follows:
- (a) Where a resident of Singapore derives income from the United Kingdom which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, may be taxed in the United Kingdom, Singapore shall, subject to its laws regarding the allowance as a credit against Singapore tax of tax payable in any country other than Singapore, allow the United Kingdom tax paid, whether directly or by deduction, as a credit against the Singapore tax payable on the income of that resident. Where such income is a dividend paid by a company which is a resident of the United Kingdom to a resident of Singapore which is a company owning directly or indirectly not less than 10 per cent of the share capital of the first-mentioned company, the credit shall take into account the United Kingdom tax paid by that company on the portion of its profits out of which the dividend is paid.
 - (b) Where a resident of Singapore derives income from the United Kingdom, Singapore shall, subject to the conditions for exemption of income received from outside Singapore provided for in the Singapore Income Tax Act being satisfied, exempt such income from tax in Singapore.”
2. Paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 shall be deleted.

ARTICLE XIV

Article 24 (Limitation of Relief) of the Agreement shall be deleted and the subsequent Articles shall not be renumbered.

ARTICLE XV

With respect to Article 26 (Mutual Agreement Procedure) of the Agreement, there shall be inserted at the end of paragraph 3 the following additional sentence:

“They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Agreement.”

ARTICLE XVI

The United Kingdom shall notify Singapore, through diplomatic channels, of the completion of the procedures required by its law for the bringing into force of this Second Protocol. Upon such notification, when the necessary requirements for entry into force of this Second Protocol in Singapore have been complied with, Singapore shall notify the United Kingdom through diplomatic channels. The Second Protocol shall enter into force on the date of the notification made by Singapore to the United Kingdom and shall thereupon have effect:

- (a) in the United Kingdom:
 - (i) in respect of income tax and capital gains tax, for any year of assessment beginning on or after 6th April in the calendar year next following that in which the Second Protocol enters into force;
 - (ii) in respect of corporation tax, for any financial year beginning on or after 1st April in the calendar year next following that in which the Second Protocol enters into force;
- (b) in Singapore:

in respect of Singapore tax for any year of assessment beginning on or after 1st January in the second calendar year following that in which the Second Protocol enters into force.

ARTICLE XVII

This Second Protocol, which shall form an integral part of the Agreement, shall remain in force as long as the Agreement remains in force and shall apply as long as the Agreement itself is applicable.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments have signed this Protocol.

DONE in duplicate at Singapore on this fifteenth day of February 2012.

**For the Government of
the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland:**

**For the Government of
the Republic of Singapore:**

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