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## THIS ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINS INSIDE INFORMATION

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 April 2024

#### RECOMMENDED CASH ACQUISITION

OF

#### **TCLARKE PLC**

BY

## **REGENT ACQUISITIONS LIMITED**

# Update on the interests of the Wider Regent Group in TClarke Shares

Earlier today, the boards of directors of Regent Acquisitions Limited ("Regent") and TClarke plc ("TClarke") made an announcement pursuant to Rule 2.7 of the Code (the "Rule 2.7 Announcement") of Regent's firm intention to make a recommended cash offer for the entire issued and to be issued share capital of TClarke not already held by any member of the Wider Regent Group (the "Acquisition").

Pursuant to the requirements under Rule 2.7(c)ix of the Takeover Code, Regent confirms that as at the close of business on 15 April 2024, being the last Business Day prior to the date of the Rule 2.7 Announcement, the Wider Regent Group, including for these purposes any TClarke Shares held as nominee for the Wider Regent Group's pension scheme, has an interest in TClarke Shares (being 11,366,407 TClarke Shares representing approximately 21.51 per cent. of the existing issued share capital of TClarke as of that date), as more particularly described in the table below.

Beneficial Holder	Registered Holder	Number of TClarke Shares owned	Percentage of TClarke Shares*
Regent Acquisitions Limited	Interactive Brokers LLC	1,150,189	2.18%
Regent Gas Holdings Limited	Diagonal Nominees Ltd	10,136,218	19.18%
Regent Gas Retirement Benefit Scheme	Interactive Investors Services Nominees	80,000	0.15%
		11,366,407	21.51%

<sup>\*</sup>Percentage of TClarke's issued share capital as at 15 April 2024, being the last Business Day prior to the date of the Rule 2.7 Announcement.

Capitalised terms used in this announcement (the "**Announcement**"), unless otherwise defined, shall have the meanings given to them in the Rule 2.7 Announcement.

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# **Important Notices**

SPARK Advisory Partners Limited ("<u>SPARK</u>"), which is authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by the FCA, is acting as financial adviser to Regent and no-one else in connection with the matters described in this Announcement and will not be responsible to anyone other than Regent for providing the protections afforded to clients of SPARK or for providing advice in connection with the matters referred to in this Announcement. Neither SPARK nor any of its affiliates (nor their respective directors, officers, employees or agents) owes or accepts any duty, liability or responsibility whatsoever (whether direct or indirect, whether in contract, in tort, under statute or otherwise) to any person who is not a client of SPARK in connection with this Announcement, any statement contained herein, the Acquisition or otherwise. No representation or warranty, express or implied, is made by SPARK as to the contents of this Announcement.

#### **Inside Information**

This Announcement contains inside information as stipulated under the Market Abuse Regulation no 596/2014 (incorporated into UK law by virtue of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 as amended by virtue of the Market Abuse (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019). Upon the publication of this Announcement via a Regulatory Information Service, this inside information is now considered to be in the public domain.

## **Further information**

This Announcement is for information purposes only and is not intended to and does not constitute, or form any part of any offer, invitation or the solicitation of an offer to purchase, otherwise acquire, subscribe for, sell or otherwise dispose of any securities, or the solicitation of any vote or approval in any jurisdiction, pursuant to the Acquisition or otherwise, nor shall there be any sale, issuance or transfer of securities of TClarke in any jurisdiction in contravention of applicable law. The Acquisition will be made and implemented solely pursuant to the terms of the Scheme Document (or if the Acquisition is implemented by way of a Takeover Offer, the Offer Document), which, together with the Forms of Proxy, will contain the full terms and conditions of the Acquisition, including details of how to vote in respect of the Acquisition. Any vote in respect of, or other response to, the Acquisition should be made only on the basis of the information contained in the Scheme Document (or if the Acquisition is implemented by way of a Takeover Offer, the Offer Document).

Regent and TClarke will prepare the Scheme Document (or if the Acquisition is implemented by way of a Takeover Offer, the Offer Document) to be distributed to (amongst others) TClarke Shareholders. Regent and TClarke urge TClarke Shareholders to read the Scheme Document (or if the Acquisition is implemented by way of a Takeover Offer, the Offer Document) when it becomes available because it will contain important information relating to the Acquisition.

This Announcement does not constitute a prospectus, prospectus equivalent document or an exempted document.

The statements contained in this Announcement are made as at the date of this Announcement, unless some other times is specified in relation to them, and publication of this Announcement shall not give rise to any implication that there has been no change in the facts set forth in this Announcement since such date.

## **Overseas Shareholders**

This Announcement has been prepared in accordance with, and for the purposes of complying with, English law, the Code, the Market Abuse Regulation, the Listing Rules and the Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules, and information disclosed may not be the same as that which would have been disclosed if this Announcement had been prepared in accordance with the laws of jurisdictions outside of England.

The release, publication or distribution of this Announcement in, into or from jurisdictions other than the United Kingdom may be restricted by law and therefore any persons who are subject to the laws of any jurisdiction other than the United Kingdom should inform themselves about, and observe, any applicable legal or regulatory requirements.

The availability of the Acquisition to TClarke Shareholders who are not resident in and citizens of the United Kingdom may be affected by the laws of the relevant jurisdiction in which they are located or of which they are a citizen. Persons who are not resident in the United Kingdom should inform themselves of, and observe any applicable legal or regulatory requirements of their jurisdictions. Any person (including, without limitation, nominees, trustees and custodians) who would, or otherwise intends to, forward this Announcement, the Scheme Document or any accompanying document to any jurisdiction outside the United Kingdom should refrain from doing so and seek appropriate professional advice before taking any action. In particular, the ability of persons who are not resident in the United Kingdom to vote their TClarke Shares at the Court Meeting or the General Meeting, or to execute and deliver Forms of Proxy appointing another to vote their TClarke Shares in respect of the Court Meeting or the General Meeting on their behalf, may be affected by the laws of the relevant jurisdiction in which they are located.

Any failure to comply with the applicable legal or regulatory requirements may constitute a violation of the laws and/or regulations of any such jurisdiction. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the companies and persons involved in the Acquisition disclaim any responsibility and liability for the violation of such restrictions by any person. Further details in relation to Overseas Shareholders will be contained in the Scheme Document.

Unless otherwise determined by Regent or required by the Code, and permitted by applicable law and regulation, the Acquisition will not be made, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, in or into or from a Restricted Jurisdiction where to do so would constitute a violation of the relevant laws or regulations of such jurisdiction and no person may vote in favour of the Acquisition by any such use, means, instrumentality or from within a Restricted Jurisdiction or any other jurisdiction if to do so would constitute a violation of the laws of that jurisdiction. Copies of this Announcement and any formal documentation relation to the Acquisition are not being, and must not be, directly or indirectly, mailed or otherwise forwarded, distributed or sent in or into or from any Restricted Jurisdiction and persons receiving such documents (including custodians, nominees and trustees) must not mail or otherwise forward, distribute or send it in or into or from any Restricted Jurisdiction. Doing so may render invalid any related purported vote in respect of the Acquisition. If the Acquisition is implemented by way of a Takeover Offer (unless otherwise permitted by applicable law and regulation), the Takeover Offer may not be made directly or indirectly, in or into, or by the use of mails or any means or instrumentality (including, but not limited to, facsimile, e-mail or other electronic transmission, telex or telephone) of interstate or foreign commerce of, or of any facility of a national, state or other securities exchange of any Restricted Jurisdiction and the Takeover Offer may not be capable of acceptance by any such use, means, instrumentality or facilities.

The Acquisition will be subject to English law and the jurisdiction of the Court, and the applicable requirements of the Takeover Code, the Takeover Panel, the FCA, the London Stock Exchange (including pursuant to the Listing Rules) and the Registrar of Companies.

#### Notice to US investors in TClarke

The Acquisition relates to the securities of an English company and is proposed to be effected by means of a scheme of arrangement under English law. This Announcement, the Scheme Document and certain other documents relating to the Acquisition have been or will be prepared in accordance with English law, the Code and UK disclosure requirements, format and style, all of which differ from those in the United States. A transaction effected by means of a scheme of arrangement is not subject to the tender offer rules or the proxy solicitation rules under the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "US Exchange Act"). Accordingly, the Acquisition is subject to the procedural and disclosure requirements of and practices applicable in the UK to schemes of arrangement, which differ from the procedural and disclosure requirements of the United States tender offer and proxy solicitation rules. However, if Regent elects to implement the Acquisition by way of a Takeover Offer and determines to extend the offer into the United States, the Takeover Offer will be made in compliance with applicable United States laws and regulations, including, without limitation and to the extent applicable, under section 14(e) of the US Exchange Act and Regulation 14E thereunder, as well as the US Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Financial statements, and all financial information that is included in this Announcement or that may be included in the Scheme Document, or any other documents relating to the Acquisition, have been or will be prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards or other reporting standards or accounting practice which may not be comparable to financial statements of companies in the United States or other companies whose financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States.

The receipt of cash by a US holder of TClarke Shares as consideration for the transfer of its Scheme Shares pursuant to the Scheme may be a taxable transaction for United States federal income tax purposes and under applicable United States state and local, as well as foreign and other, tax laws. Each TClarke Shareholder (including US holders) is urged to consult its independent professional adviser immediately regarding the tax consequences of the Acquisition applicable to them.

It may be difficult for US holders of TClarke Shares to enforce their rights and claims arising out of the US federal securities laws, since Regent and TClarke are located in countries other than the United States, and some of their officers and directors may be residents of countries other than the United States. US holders of TClarke Shares may have difficulty effecting service of process within the United States upon those persons or recovering against judgments of US courts, including judgments based upon the civil liability provisions of the US federal securities laws. US holders of TClarke Shares may not be able to sue a non-US company or its officers or directors in a non-US court for violations of US securities laws. Further, it may be difficult to compel a non-US company and its affiliates to subject themselves to a US court's judgement.

In accordance with normal UK practice and consistent with Rule 14e-5(b) of the US Exchange Act, Regent, certain affiliated companies and their nominees or brokers (acting as agents) may make certain purchases of, or arrangements to purchase, shares in TClarke outside of the US, other than pursuant to the Acquisition, until the date on which the Acquisition and/or Scheme becomes Effective in accordance with its terms, lapses or is otherwise withdrawn. If such purchases or arrangements to purchase were to be made, they would be made outside the United States and would comply with applicable law, including the US Exchange Act. These purchases could occur either in the open market at prevailing prices or in private transactions at negotiated prices. Any information about such purchases or arrangements to purchase will be disclosed as required in the UK, will be reported to a Regulatory Information Service and will be available on the London Stock Exchange website at www.londonstockexchange.com.

This Announcement does not constitute or form a part of any offer to sell or issue, or any solicitation of any offer to purchase, subscribe for or otherwise acquire, any securities in the United States.

Neither the US Securities and Exchange Commission nor any securities commission of any state or other jurisdiction of the United States has approved the Acquisition, passed upon the fairness of the Acquisition, or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this Announcement. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offence in the United States.

## **Publication on website**

In accordance with Rule 26.1 of the Code, a copy of this Announcement and the documents required to be published under Rule 26 of the Code, will be made available (subject to certain restrictions relating to persons resident in Restricted Jurisdictions), free of charge, on TClarke's website at: <a href="https://www.regentacquisitions.co.uk">www.tclarke.co.uk/investors</a> and on Regent's website at <a href="https://www.regentacquisitions.co.uk">https://www.regentacquisitions.co.uk</a> by no later than 12:00 noon on the Business Day following the date of this Announcement. For the avoidance of doubt, neither the contents of these websites nor the content of any other website accessible from hyperlinks on such websites is incorporated into, or forms part of, this Announcement.

# Rounding

Certain figures included in this Announcement have been subjected to rounding adjustments. Accordingly, figures shown for the same category presented in different tables may vary slightly and figures shown as totals in certain tables may not be an arithmetic aggregation of the figures that precede them.

# **Dealing and Opening Position Disclosure Requirements of the Code**

Under Rule 8.3(a) of the Code, any person who is interested in 1% or more of any class of relevant securities of an offeree company or of any securities exchange offeror (being any offeror other than an offeror in respect of which it has been announced that its offer is, or is likely to be, solely in cash) must make an Opening Position Disclosure following the commencement of the offer period and, if later, following the announcement in which any securities exchange offeror is first identified.

An Opening Position Disclosure must contain details of the person's interests and short positions in, and rights to subscribe for, any relevant securities of each of (i) the offeree company and (ii) any securities exchange offeror(s). An Opening Position Disclosure by a person to whom Rule 8.3(a) applies must be made by no later than 3:30 p.m. (London time) on the 10th business day following the commencement of the offer period and, if appropriate, by no later than 3:30 p.m. (London time) on the 10th business day following the announcement in which any securities exchange offeror is first identified. Relevant persons who deal in the relevant securities of the offeree company or of a securities exchange offeror prior to the deadline for making an Opening Position Disclosure must instead make a Dealing Disclosure.

Under Rule 8.3(b) of the Code, any person who is, or becomes, interested in 1% or more of any class of relevant securities of the offeree company or of any securities exchange offeror must make a Dealing Disclosure if the person deals in any relevant securities of the offeree company or of any securities exchange offeror. A Dealing Disclosure must contain details of the dealing concerned and of the person's interests and short positions in, and rights to subscribe for, any relevant securities of each of (i) the offeree company and (ii) any securities exchange offeror(s), save to the extent that these details have previously been disclosed under Rule 8. A Dealing Disclosure by a person to whom Rule 8.3(b) applies must be made by no later than 3:30 p.m. (London time) on the business day following the date of the relevant dealing.

If two or more persons act together pursuant to an agreement or understanding, whether formal or informal, to acquire or control an interest in relevant securities of an offeree company or a securities exchange offeror, they will be deemed to be a single person for the purpose of Rule 8.3.

Opening Position Disclosures must also be made by the offeree company and by any offeror and Dealing Disclosures must also be made by the offeree company, by any offeror and by any persons acting in concert with any of them (see Rules 8.1, 8.2 and 8.4).

Details of the offeree and offeror companies in respect of whose relevant securities Opening Position Disclosures and Dealing Disclosures must be made can be found in the Disclosure Table on the Takeover Panel's website at <a href="https://www.thetakeoverpanel.org.uk">www.thetakeoverpanel.org.uk</a>, including details of the number of relevant securities in issue, when the offer period commenced and when any offeror was first identified. You should contact the Takeover Panel's Market Surveillance Unit on +44 (0)20 7638 0129 if you are in any doubt as to whether you are required to make an Opening Position Disclosure or a Dealing Disclosure.

# Independent advice

If you are in any doubt about the contents of this Announcement or the action you should take, you are recommended to seek your own independent financial advice immediately from your stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor or independent financial adviser duly authorised under FSMA if you are resident in the United Kingdom or, if not, from another appropriately authorised independent financial adviser.