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## Preface

The fifth edition of this book went to print in 2009 shortly before the final provisions of the Companies Act 2006 came into force. Three years on, and we have now had the opportunity to see in practice how the new legislation has been operating and how legal practitioners have been coping with the new regime. We have also been able to "road test" the new precedents which were included in the previous version of this book.

With the introduction of the Companies Act 2006, company law has undergone its most radical overhaul since 1948. Significant changes to United Kingdom company law introduced by the Companies Act 2006 include:

- · the codification of directors' duties;
- the removal of the prohibition on private companies giving financial assistance in connection with the acquisition of their shares;
- · the replacement of Table A with the new form of model articles;
- · the establishment of a new procedure for derivative claims;
- the ability for private companies to reduce their capital without court approval;
- · the abolition of the concept of authorised share capital;
- the extension of the regime of electronic and web-based communications;
- the abolition of the requirement for private companies to have a company secretary; and
- the abolition of objects clauses in a company's memorandum of association.

The Companies Act 2006 has had a significant effect on the form of share-holder arrangements and particularly upon the form of a company's articles of association that sit alongside such arrangements.

This sixth edition updates our previous publication in a number of key areas including: