

Covidien plc
Form DEFA14A
January 23, 2014

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of

the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

COVIDIEN PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

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(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Renewal of Existing
Board Authority Relating
to Share Issuances
January 2014

Covidien plc -
Company Background
Incorporated in Ireland in 2009.
Listed solely on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).
Subject to the reporting requirements of the U.S. Securities and
Exchange Commission (SEC), the mandates of U.S. securities laws
and the corporate governance rules and listing standards of the

NYSE.

Considered a U.S. domestic issuer under SEC rules. Not a foreign private issuer.

Has always followed U.S. capital markets and governance standards.

At its 2014 Annual General Meeting, Covidien will be asking

shareholders to renew the directors

existing authority relating to share

issuances (Share Issuance Authority).

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Authority Renewals

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Existing Share Issuance Authority
General Share Issuance

Subject to existing NYSE and SEC rules and regulations, our directors are currently authorized to issue shares, without further shareholder approval, up to a maximum of our authorized but unissued share capital.

Pre-emptive Rights Opt-Out

Subject to existing NYSE and SEC rules and regulations, our directors are currently authorized to issue shares for cash, up to a maximum of our authorized but unissued share capital, without first offering shares to existing shareholders.

Authority Duration

These authorities have been in place for five years (since we re-domiciled in Ireland) and will expire on May 13, 2014, unless renewed by shareholders.

Under Irish law, shareholders may renew the Share Issuance Authority for up to five years.

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Authority Renewals

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Renewal of Existing Share Issuance Authority

As detailed in Proposals 6 and 7 in Covidien's Proxy Statement filed with the SEC, Covidien is asking shareholders to renew the existing Share Issuance Authority for a further five-year period.

Renewal of the existing Share Issuance Authority will not increase

Covidien's authorized share capital.

Renewal will simply provide directors continued flexibility to issue shares that are currently authorized for issuance under our Articles of Association, subject to applicable SEC and NYSE rules.

We currently are not contemplating any share issuances for which renewal of the Share Issuance Authority is necessary. We do, however, intend to continue to issue shares to our directors and employees under our shareholder-approved Stock and Incentive Plan.

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Importance of the Share Issuance Authority Renewal
Renewal of the Share Issuance Authority is fundamental to our business and will provide directors with the ability to issue shares that are currently part of our authorized share capital.

General Share Issuance.

Without the general share issuance authority, the Company

would not be able to issue any of its authorized shares, other than to employees pursuant to employee share programs.
Pre-emptive Rights Opt-Out.

Even if the general share issuance authority is renewed, without the pre-emptive rights opt-out, the Company would be unable to issue shares for cash, unless the Company first offers the shares to existing shareholders pro-rata to their existing shareholdings.

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Our Approach to Governance Standards and Practices is Clear and Consistent

We are committed to good governance practices, as illustrated in Appendix A.

As an NYSE-listed company incorporated in Ireland, we follow NYSE governance standards and U.S. market practices, to the extent permitted by Irish law.

U.S.-incorporated and listed companies generally are not required to and do not seek shareholder approval to renew their Share Issuance Authority at all.

However, as an Irish-incorporated company, we are legally required to seek shareholder approval to renew our Share Issuance Authority at least every five years.

We are therefore seeking renewal of our existing Share Issuance Authority for a further five years in order to keep us on par with our NYSE-listed peers while still complying with Irish law.

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Irish Capital Market Practice is Different

While not required under Irish law, it has become customary practice for companies listed on the Irish Stock Exchange (ISE) to request share issuance authority that is more limited in both size and duration than our Share Issuance Authority. Specifically, they typically request authorization:

to issue shares up to an amount equal to one-third of their issued share capital for a period of 12 to 18 months, rather than to issue shares up to an amount equal to their authorized but unissued share capital for five years; and

to apply the pre-emptive rights opt-out to a number of shares equal to 5% of their issued share capital for a period of 12 to 18 months, rather than apply the opt-out to a number of shares equal to their authorized but unissued share capital for a five-year period.

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Irish Capital Market Practice is Different
. . . but Not Relevant to NYSE-Listed Issuers
Irish capital market practice, however, is not relevant to us.
Covidien is:

not
listed on the ISE;

not
subject to ISE listing rules; and

not
governed by the corporate governance codes
applicable to ISE-listed companies.
The U.S. is our capital market.
Covidien is listed solely on the NYSE.
NYSE-listed issuers are subject to rules and regulations that
provide safeguards with respect to share issuances.

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U.S. Market Regulation

The reporting, corporate governance and listing requirements of the SEC and the NYSE provide a robust compliance environment for issuers participating in the U.S. market.

Specifically, our shareholders benefit from protections afforded under NYSE rules which limit our ability to issue shares.

Except in certain limited circumstances, we must obtain shareholder approval before we can issue shares in any transaction or series of related transactions equal to or in excess of 20% of our outstanding shares before the issuance.

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There is no similar restriction under ISE listing rules.

With limited exceptions, we must also seek shareholder approval of our equity compensation plans, including material revisions to such plans.

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Conclusion

We follow the corporate legal requirements of our jurisdiction of incorporation

Ireland.

We follow the governance standards and market practices of our capital market

the United States.

We do not cherry-pick which standards and market practices we apply (i.e., some U.S., some Irish) as we believe that our shareholders expect us to apply U.S. governance standards and market practices.

Renewal of the directors
existing Share Issuance Authority as proposed:

will not
increase our authorized share capital;

will not
exempt the Company from any NYSE requirements, including those
limiting the issuance of shares;

will keep us on par with our NYSE-listed peers, while also complying with
Irish law; and

is fully consistent with U.S. capital markets practice and governance
standards.

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Commitment to our Shareholders

Appendix A

Demonstrated Dedication to Good Governance

Annual election of directors.

Directors elected by majority vote:

incumbent directors who do not receive a majority shareholder vote are not re-

elected to the board, and, immediately after the vote, will no longer be members of the board

no resignation necessary.

No poison pill.

Holders of 10% of outstanding shares may convene a special meeting.

Creation of Shareholder Value

Since our establishment as an independent, publicly-traded company in June 2007, Covidien stock has increased in value by 74% versus 22% for the S&P 500.

In fiscal 2013, we returned \$2.2 billion to our shareholders in the form of dividends and share repurchases.

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Proxy Statement

Covidien plc (Covidien) filed a preliminary proxy statement in connection with its 2014 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders on Monday, December 16, 2013. Covidien shareholders are strongly advised to read the preliminary proxy statement as well as the definitive proxy statement when it becomes available, as each contains important information. Shareholders can obtain the preliminary proxy statement, and the definitive proxy statement when it becomes available, and any amendments or supplements to the proxy statements and other documents filed by Covidien with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) for free at the Internet website maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov. Copies of the preliminary proxy statement, and the definitive proxy statement when it becomes available, and any amendments and supplements to the proxy statements are also available for free at Covidien s website at www.covidien.com. In addition, shareholders can obtain a copy of the definitive proxy statement when it becomes available, and any amendments and supplements to the definitive proxy statement, by contacting our Investor Relations Group at Covidien Investor Relations, 15 Hampshire St., Mansfield, MA 02048, USA. Detailed information regarding the names, affiliations and interests of individuals who are participants in the solicitation of proxies of Covidien s shareholders is available in the preliminary proxy statement filed on Schedule 14A with the SEC on Monday, December 16, 2013.