

Covidien plc
Form DEFA14A
February 08, 2011

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)

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(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):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

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.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

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(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

COVIDIEN PLC

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DUBLIN 2

IRELAND

February 8, 2011

Dear Shareholder of Record:

By now you should have received Covidien's 2010 Annual Report, which includes the proxy statement describing matters to be voted on by shareholders at the Company's Annual General Meeting on March 15, 2011. One of the proposals being put to a shareholder vote relates to a one-for-one hundred reverse split, followed by a one hundred-for-one forward split, of the Company's ordinary shares (the Reverse/Forward Split). The Reverse/Forward Split affects only record holders—those holding their Covidien shares in a record account at our transfer agent, BNY Mellon Shareholder Services (BNY Mellon). The Reverse/Forward Split does not affect beneficial owners—those holding shares in street name in a brokerage account. This letter highlights some of the methods by which you, as a record owner, can avoid being impacted by the Reverse/Forward Split; please read the proxy statement for a full description of the Reverse/Forward Split and its effects.

What the Reverse/Forward Split Means for You

In the event the Reverse/Forward Split is approved and you have a record account with a number of shares that is not evenly divisible by 100 at the time the Reverse/Forward Split occurs, your share holdings will be rounded down to the nearest 100 shares, and you will receive a cash payment for the balance of shares not evenly divisible by 100. By way of example, if you hold 561 shares immediately before the Reverse/Forward Split, you will hold 500 shares immediately following the Reverse/Forward Split and will receive a cash payment for the 61 shares.

How You Can Avoid Being Impacted By the Reverse/Forward Split

If you do not want to have your shares impacted by the Reverse/Forward Split, you can transfer your shares to a brokerage account. You would then be the beneficial owner of the shares, rather than the record owner, and would not be impacted by the Reverse/Forward Split (which affects only record owners). As a beneficial owner, you would still receive any dividend payments and have the ability to direct how your shares are voted on shareholder matters.

How to Transfer to a Brokerage Account

In order to transfer shares from a record account to a brokerage account:

you may instruct your broker to request a DRS book-entry transfer of your shares at BNY Mellon to your brokerage account via the Direct Registration System; or

you may contact BNY Mellon, toll-free at 1-866-210-6572, with questions regarding transferring your shares to a brokerage account.

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*In order to ensure that your transfer is effective prior to the Reverse/Forward Split, we recommend that you have your broker initiate the DRS book-entry transfer no later than **March 8, 2011**.*

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While BNY Mellon does not charge a fee to transfer the shares to street name, you should check with your broker to confirm whether or not they will impose any fees in connection the transfer to a brokerage account.

As an alternative to transferring shares to a brokerage account, you can also avoid being impacted by the Reverse/Forward Split by purchasing shares to be held in your record account BNY Mellon in exactly same name as your existing account or selling shares from your record account at BNY Mellon such that the resulting total number of shares in your record account is evenly divisible by 100. You must, however, take the action by March 8, 2011 so that it is complete and settled before the time the Reverse/Forward Split occurs.

Best regards,

John W. Kapples
Vice President and Corporate Secretary