

June 24, 2022

### 7<sup>th</sup> Circular to Creditors

Dear Sirs,

Torque Group Holdings Limited (In Liquidation) ("Torque") BVI Company Registration Number: 2024611

I refer to the Circular dated 10 May 2021 (the "4<sup>th</sup> Circular"), in which the Liquidators provided creditors with an update on the progress of the Torque liquidation (the "Liquidation") and findings from the preliminary report to creditors ("Liquidators Report"). I also refer to the Circular dated 7 June 2021 (the "5<sup>th</sup> Circular") and the Circular dated 20 October 2021 (the "6<sup>th</sup> Circular"), in which the Liquidators informed creditors of applications OS 439 and ORC 5699 filed by the Liquidators' Singapore counsel, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP, in the Singapore Hight Court.

Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalised terms used in this circular have the same meanings as those defined in the 4<sup>th</sup> Circular (including the Liquidators' Preliminary Report to Creditors dated 7 May 2021 (the "**Liquidators' Report**"), 5<sup>th</sup> Circular and 6<sup>th</sup> Circular (collectively, the "**Circulars**").

The purpose of this circular (the "**7**<sup>th</sup> **Circular**") is to provide creditors with an update on the Liquidators' progress to date and next steps.

## A. Investigations and Planned Recovery Actions

The Liquidators have concluded investigations into the Crypto Asset Losses and have identified legal actions against individuals that will be pursued through the BVI and Singapore Courts as planned recovery actions (the "Planned Recovery Actions"). On 30 May 2022, pursuant to the Singapore Court's direction, the Liquidators administered interrogatories on Bernard Ong requesting further information concerning the business, dealings, affairs and property of Torque, including information that could facilitate the Planned Recovery Actions. Bernard Ong has been directed to respond to

the interrogatories by 27 June 2022, and depending on his response, the Liquidator has the option of requiring Bernard Ong to be examined personally in Court.

- 2. It is important that the Liquidators do not compromise the potential routes to recoveries by disclosing details of the findings of their investigations or Planned Recovery Actions through legal actions publicly. The Liquidators however can disclose that these include legal claims that are broadly of the nature of breach of director's duties and claims available under BVI Law.
- 3. There were no audited financial statements or reliable information from management accounts and no statements of account of the Torque Binance Account or any other account held by Torque on any other cryptocurrency exchange. The Liquidators have worked closely with Kroll Cyber experts and the Binance information technology team to extract transactional information from back-end systems of Binance that has allowed for reconstruction of financial information. This includes reconstruction in relation to the Torque Binance Account involving 100's of millions of lines of transactions across the Main Binance Account that has over 240 sub-accounts.
- 4. In the course of their investigations, the Liquidators have also utilised cryptocurrency analytics and tracing experts regarding asset tracing related to the Crypto Asset Losses, including extensive blockchain analysis. Investigations have revealed an apparent dissipation of assets however the Liquidators have yet to identify viable avenues of direct traceable asset recoveries identified by the Liquidators, including in connection with the Unauthorised Trades and Misappropriated Assets.
- 5. The Liquidators have also utilised outside investigators to try to establish the whereabouts of Zee and his associates and to identify his personal assets. Zee remains at large and the investigations regarding his personal assets continue.

### B. Assets

- 6. On 25 May 2021, the Liquidators obtained an order of the BVI Court (the "**Order**") which confirmed the Liquidators' conclusions, based on BVI and Singapore legal advice, to establish the legal entitlement to Torque's different categories of Crypto Assets as between creditors. Please refer the Order at Annexure A to this 7<sup>th</sup> Circular.
- 7. The Order directed that the Liquidators have the permission of the Court to:
  - 7.1 treat the Trading Wallet Crypto Assets as forming part of the assets of the Liquidation with liberty to apply granted to any person claiming a proprietary interest in the same and aggrieved by the decision;
  - 7.2 treat the Personal Wallet Crypto Assets as not forming part of the assets of the Liquidation;
  - 7.3 reactivate the user personal wallets functionality to allow users to withdraw their assets; and

7.4 convert or otherwise exchange the Torque's Crypto Assets into U.S. dollars (or alternatively, to Tether ("**USDT**"). That conversion is currently continuing.

### Trading and Cold Wallet Crypto Assets

8. The status and value of Torque's Crypto Assets as of 13 June 2022 reflecting the prevailing market prices as of that date is summarised below:

Liquidation Assets	Quantity (Coins)	Est. value (BTC equiv.)	Est. value (USD equiv.)	% Total				
Crypto Holdings								
BTC	39.76	39.76	894,180	25%				
ETH	654.37	35.05	788,241	22%				
XRP	1,433,858.33	19.82	445,646	12%				
BNB	1,763.92	17.45	392,490	11%				
TRX	1,954,840.65	5.55	124,707	3%				
ADA	135,014.89	2.78	62,530	2%				
LTC	1,160.82	2.24	50,264	1%				
IOST	2,776,348	1.67	37,664	1%				
XEC	601,182,121.43	1.02	22,845	1%				
Sub-total	N/A	125.34	2,818,566	78%				
USD Bank Account								
USD	N/A	35.26	792,989	22%				
Total Assets	N/A	160.60	3,611,555	100%				

- 9. The Liquidators gained access to the Torque Trading Accounts on 30 June 2021 and consolidated the Crypto Assets that were held over the Main Binance Account and its over 240 sub-accounts into the Main Binance Account on 9 September 2021 with the cooperation of Binance. Upon consolidation of the Crypto Assets, there were 67 different cryptocurrencies held in the Main Binance Account.
- 10. The estimated USD216.8k equivalent in funds that were identified in the Liquidators' Report as being held in the Cold Wallet Laptop were also consolidated into the Main Binance Account with the support of Kroll's Cyber Risk team on 22 October 2021.
- 11. The Liquidators have made arrangements to be able to convert the Crypto Assets into fiat currency and channel these funds to a fiat currency bank account. A USD bank account was opened with VP Bank on 10 December 2021 (the "USD Bank Account"). An account was also opened on 6 January 2022 with Paxos (the "Paxos Account"), which is a third-party fiat channel service provider, as an intermediary in processing the conversions to USD.
- 12. On 15 March 2022, the Liquidators began to convert coins that were of less significant overall value to USD. There was an initial conversion of 26 coins amounting to just under USD50k equivalent however some of the cryptocurrencies were not able to be converted directly.

- 13. On 18 April 2022, there was a further conversion exercise undertaken to convert cryptocurrencies of very low value by way of a specialised 'convert dust' function on Binance designed for this purpose leaving only 11 different types of realisable cryptocurrencies (ETH, BTC, XRP, BNB, TRX, ADA, LTC, IOST, XEC, BUSD and USDT) remaining in the Main Binance Account. Not all coins were able to be converted. For example conversion/realisation has not been possible for the SXP, DASH, LOOM and GAS balances and Binance had delisted DON and QISWAP of which the balances would have been of negligible or nil value on conversion.
- 14. Overall, USD3.0m equivalent of Crypto Assets have so far been converted to USD and transferred to the USD Bank Account, from which USD2.2m has been paid in relation to the Liquidators' fees and expenses including legal and professional fees to date. The transfers to the USD Bank Account were made on dates ranging from 25 January 2022 (following the opening of the USD Bank Account and Paxos Account) up to today. Over half of the transfers to the USD Bank Account were from existing crypto holdings of UDST with the remaining balance up to USD3.0m requiring conversion of coins other than USDT at an average BTC price of USD39,004.
- 15. The value of Torque's Crypto Assets has varied substantially since the appointment of the Provisional Liquidators on 2 March 2021 (the "Appointment Date"). The price of bitcoin for example, which represents 25% of Torque's current Crypto Asset portfolio and is positively correlated with the prices of a range of other cryptocurrencies, was USD48,379 as of the Appointment Date, reached a high price of USD68,790 on 10 November 2021 (42% higher than as of the Appointment Date) and a low of USD26,350 on 12 May 2022 (46% lower than as of the Appointment Date).
- 16. The last reported estimated value of Torque's Crypto Assets as of 5 May 2021 (Liquidators' Report, Section E) was approximately 238.48 BTC or USD13.7m equivalent based on the prevailing market prices of the cryptocurrencies at the time that were held in the Torque Trading Accounts and Cold Wallet Laptop. The price of bitcoin as of that date was approximately USD57,652 (19% higher than as of the Appointment Date).
- 17. The price of bitcoin as of 13 June 2022 was USD22,487 (54% lower than as of the Appointment Date and 61% lower than on 5 May 2021, which is the valuation date of the Crypto Assets at Section E of the Liquidators' Report).
- 18. In consideration of the substantial price volatility associated with cryptocurrencies, the Liquidators continue to convert the portfolio of Crypto Assets into USDT on a straight-line basis over a 6-month period in order to obtain an average realisation price over a reasonable period of time to mitigate the possible effect of the inherent risks of price volatility. The process of conversion began in April 2022 following consultation with the Torque Ad Hoc Creditors' Committee in a meeting held on 13 April 2022 and is expected to be completed by November 2022.

### Personal Wallet Crypto Assets

- 19. Torque's Personal Wallet hosting was a separate service offered to Torque's Users that allowed Users to store crypto assets in a unique digital wallet address that was owned by the individual User.
- 20. On 24 June 2021, following the Order which confirmed the Liquidators' conclusion that the crypto assets held in the Personal Wallets did not form part of the assets of the Liquidation, the Liquidators reactivated the functionality of the Personal Wallets, allowing the owners of those Personal Wallets access to withdraw their cryptocurrency assets.

## Personal Trading Sub-Accounts

- 21. The Liquidators received a total of five claims against 'trust assets' of the Company, four of which have been rejected.
- 22. To date, one such claim has been assessed as being a valid proprietary claim, where the claimant provided sufficient evidence that certain Personal Trading Sub-Accounts were created exclusively for the use of this individual pursuant to two agreements that had been entered into with the onsite team in Vietnam of Snap Innovations Pte. Ltd. The Liquidators entered into a settlement agreement dated 5 August 2021 (the "Settlement Agreement") in respect of this claim to pay the amounts of 335,221.43 USDT, 3,988,474 DENT and 0.1268 BTC that were held in the relevant Personal Trading Sub-Accounts (overall approximately USD350,630 equivalent as of the date of the Settlement Agreement).

Subject to there being no further proprietary claims proven against the Crypto Assets, the assets of the Company will be available to be shared amongst creditors 'pari passu' (in equal proportions) less any further Crypto Assets that may be established as being trust assets and remaining costs of the Liquidation.

## C. Returns to Creditors

23. There is now more certainty as to the estimated returns to creditors in the Liquidation. Set out below is an update of estimated returns since the last estimate provided to creditors:

Estimated Returns to Creditors	Virtual Town Hall 23 May 2021		7 <sup>th</sup> Circular Update 13 June 2022	
on the Dollar	Low	High	Low	High
Trading Wallet Crypto Assets	0.4c	1.8c	0.1c	0.9c

- 24. The indicative return to creditors of 0.1 to 0.9 cents on the dollar assumes:
  - 24.1 assets of the Company of total estimated value in the range of USD2.8m to USD6.5m based on a range of closing prices of bitcoin from USD22,487 per BTC (which was the closing price on 13 June 2022, and also the lowest of all

- closing prices over the past twelve months) to USD45,000 per BTC which is just over the average price of bitcoin for the past twelve months, after the payment of USD2.2m in Liquidators' fees and expenses, including legal costs;
- 24.2 no recoveries from the Planned Recovery Actions that the Liquidators intend to take however realisations from the pursuit of legal claims will provide a higher return to creditors:
- 24.3 ongoing Liquidators and professional and legal fees and expenses; and
- 24.4 whilst the Liquidators have rejected various trust claims based upon information provided to date, these parties are not prevented from taking further steps which may substantiate and validate their claims.
- 25. Following consultation with the Torque Ad Hoc Creditors' Committee in a meeting held on 19 October 2021, the Liquidators will distribute the proceeds of the Liquidation in cryptocurrency. This is to minimise the substantial cost with payments in fiat currency associated with transfer charges for such a large volume of transactions. Payments in USDT via Binance will enable the Liquidators to substantially reduce conversion costs. For the sake of clarity, distributions will be made in USDT only and there will not be any distributions made in fiat currency.
- 26. The Liquidators intend to make a partial interim dividend to creditors in Q4, 2022. Given on-going litigation matters and price volatility, the Liquidators will review the position in Q3, 2022 and provide a further update to creditors in this regard in due course.

### Creditor Claims Submission Portal

- 27. Permission has been granted by the BVI Court by way of the Order to utilise an online Proof of Debt Form acceptable to the Liquidators to enable creditors of the Company to electronically submit claims in the Liquidation of the Company (the "Claims Portal").
- 28. Adjudication of creditor claims via the Claims Portal will materially reduce the costs of adjudication which otherwise would require substantial man hours and cost to compile and review more than 14,000 claims and will allow for the automation of Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) screening to produce further savings in costs and in terms of the Liquidation timeline.
- 29. The development of the Claims Portal is in the final stages and will be launched in Q3, 2022. An email will be circulated to all creditors at the appropriate time to provide instructions on how to submit claims in the Liquidation via the Claims Portal. Details will also be made available on the Torque website.
- 30. Creditors who intend to claim in the Liquidation are advised to prepare for lodgment of claims in the following way:
  - 30.1 provide the Liquidators with your updated email contact details (if necessary); and

- 30.2 take a screenshot of your Torque Account Username and Trading Wallet Balances via either: (i) the Torque website at: <a href="https://torque.asia/">https://torque.asia/</a>; or (ii) the Torque mobile application. Detailed instructions of how to do so are included at Annexure B of this 7<sup>th</sup> Circular.
- 31. Although the screenshot of your Trading Wallet Balances and Username would not be required in the event that your claim is automatically matched with the records of the Company through the process of the Claims Portal (which will be the majority of cases), in the event that any creditor may not agree with the Company records, the screenshot of the Trading Wallet Balances would be a key factor in substantiating any claim that may differ from the Company records.

Please note that the Torque Trading website is scheduled to be shut down no later than 30 September 2022 and it will not be possible to capture the screenshot after this date.

### D. Liquidation Timeline

- 32. The Liquidators plan to commence legal proceedings to recover further assets, vis-àvis the Planned Recovery Actions, and consequently the Liquidation will take at least a further 12 to 18 months to complete. It should be noted that if legal proceedings are contested, such proceedings can take anywhere up to two to three years to be resolved, excluding any appeals.
- 33. An interim and possibly final dividend is likely on the basis that costs associated with the Planned Recovery Actions are able to be reasonably estimated. A partial interim dividend is expected to be paid before the end of the year. It will take an estimated three to five months from the date of this 7<sup>th</sup> Circular to be distributed to Torque creditors, this is on the basis of a further one to two months for opening of the Claims Portal and two to three months for adjudication of creditor claims and Court sanction(s).

## E. Liquidators' and Other Fees

- 34. The Liquidators continue to ensure that all costs of the Liquidation remain at reasonable levels by: (i) planning and monitoring their work and staffing, (ii) preparing and monitoring budgets for their own work, and (iii) regularly reviewing and adjusting their work focus and staffing.
- 35. The Liquidators have ensured that throughout the Liquidation the value of the services rendered are proportionate to the value and nature of the assets involved, the complexity of the liquidation and the responsibilities involved in dealing with the affairs of the Company. The Liquidators have supervised and managed team members' tasks and have taken all necessary steps to avoid unnecessary duplication, ensure correct staffing levels, and to ensure that work is undertaken by staff of the appropriate level of experience.

- 36. The BVI Court has approved payment of USD2,177,176 in respect of the Liquidators' fees and disbursements and professional and legal fees incurred from the date of appointment of the Provisional Liquidators to 15 October 2021 as follows:
  - 36.1 Liquidators' fees in the amount of USD1,470,800, representing an interim payment of 80% of the fees incurred by the Liquidators form the date of appointment to 15 October 2021;
  - 36.2 100% of out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the amount of USD5,199; and
  - 36.3 100% of professional and legal fees in the amount of USD701,177.
- 37. A detailed breakdown of the BVI Court approvals in relation to the costs of the Liquidation are set out in the table below:

BVI Court Approved Costs of the Liquidation	USD
Liquidators' Fees and Disbursements for the period from 2 March 2021 to 15 October 2021	1,838,500.50
Out-of-Pocket Expenses	5,198.82
Professional and Legal Fees	701,177.10
Total	2,544,876.42
Approved Payment*	2,177,176.32
Unpaid Balance	367,700.10

<sup>\*</sup>The BVI Court has approved the Liquidators' fees as presented, in addition to professional and legal fees, and out-of-pocket expenses with 80% payable immediately. The final fee approval at the end of the Liquidation will confirm the total amount payable.

- 38. A further fee application for approval of fees in the amount of USD777,994 for costs incurred to 28 February 2022 will be submitted to the BVI Court for approval in July 2022.
- 39. Based on the current workstreams, in particular intention to pursue the Planned Recovery Actions, the Liquidators anticipate further costs in the range of USD1.5m to USD2.0m.
- 40. The Liquidators will continue to provide updates to creditors as and when recoveries are made.

## F. Contact Details

Should you have any queries or require further information, please contact myself or Kent McParland. Our contact details are set out below:

## Kroll

Office BVI : +1 284 393 9300
Office SG : +65 6327 1211
Email : bw-torque@kroll.com

Yours faithfully,

Jason Kardachi Joint Liquidator

### Annexures:

- (A) Order of the BVI Court dated 25 May 2021.
- (B) Torque Group Holdings (In Liquidation) Taking a Screenshot of your Torque Account Username and Trading Wallet Balances

Case Number: BVIHCOM2021/0031



IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMERCIAL DIVISION CLAIM NO. BVIHC (COM) 2021/0031

Submitted Date:31/05/2021 09:13

Filed Date:31/05/2021 09:13

Fees Paid:72.59

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 2003
AND IN THE MATTER OF TORQUE GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)

**BETWEEN:** 

PHILIP SMITH AND JASON KARDACHI
IN THEIR CAPACITY AS JOINT LIQUIDATORS OF
TORQUE GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)

Applicants

And

TORQUE GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)

Respondent

### **ORDER**

BEFORE: The Honourable Mr. Justice Gerhard Wallbank (Ag.)

**DATED: 25 May 2021** 

ENTERED: 2 Juna 2021

**UPON THE ORDINARY APPLICATION** of Philip Smith and Jason Kardachi in their capacity as Joint Liquidators of Torque Group Holdings Limited (In Liquidation) (the "Company") dated 12 May 2021

AND UPON READING the First Affidavit of Philip Smith dated 12 May 2021 and Exhibit PS-1 dated 12 May 2021 thereto (exhibiting the Preliminary Report to Creditors dated 7 May 2021)

AND UPON HEARING Mr. Brian Child and Miss Rachael Stitt, counsel for the Applicants

### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DIRECTED THAT:

- 1. Philip Smith and Jason Kardachi, in their capacity as Joint Liquidators of the Company, have the permission of the Court to:
  - a. treat the User Trading Wallets as forming part of the assets of the Company in liquidation with liberty to apply granted to any person claiming a proprietary interest in the User Trading Wallets or any part thereof;

- b. treat the User Personal Wallets as not forming part of the assets of the Company in liquidation;
- c. reactivate the User Personal Wallets functionality to allow Users to withdraw assets;
- d. convert or otherwise exchange the Crypto Assets held by the Company to US Dollars (or, alternatively, to Tether (USDT); and
- e. utilise an online Proof of Debt Form acceptable to the Joint Liquidators and substantially in the form appended to this application to enable creditors of the Company to electronically submit claims in the liquidation of the Company.
- 2. The costs and expenses of this Ordinary Application be costs in the liquidation and be paid out of the assets of the Company as an expense of the Liquidation.

**BY THE COURT** 

Dep. REGISTRAR

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMERCIAL DIVISION CLAIM NO. BVIHC (COM) 2021/0031

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT, 2003 AND IN THE MATTER OF TORQUE GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)

**BETWEEN:** 

PHILIP SMITH AND JASON KARDACHI
IN THEIR CAPACITY AS JOINT LIQUIDATORS OF
TORQUE GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED (IN
LIQUIDATION)

**Applicants** 

And

TORQUE GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)

Respondent

ORDER

Campbells

Floor 4, Banco Popular Building, Road Town, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands Tel: +1 284 494 2423

Reference: 19511-34611 Legal Practitioners for the Applicants



# Torque Group Holdings Limited (In Liquidation)

Taking a Screenshot of your Torque Account Username and Trading Wallet Balances

# 1. Via Torque Website

## **Step 1. Visit the Torque Website**

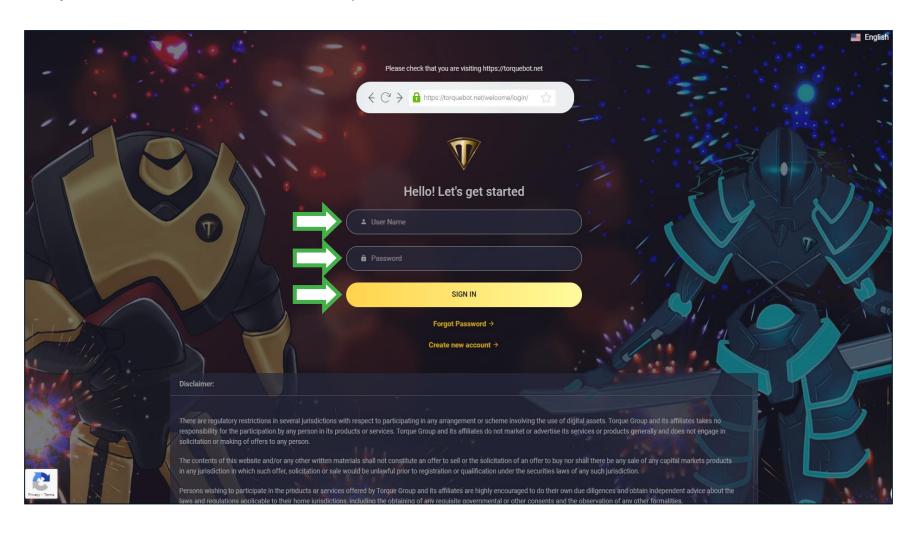
• Go to <a href="https://torque.asia/">https://torque.asia/</a>

• Click "LOGIN" in the top right-hand corner.



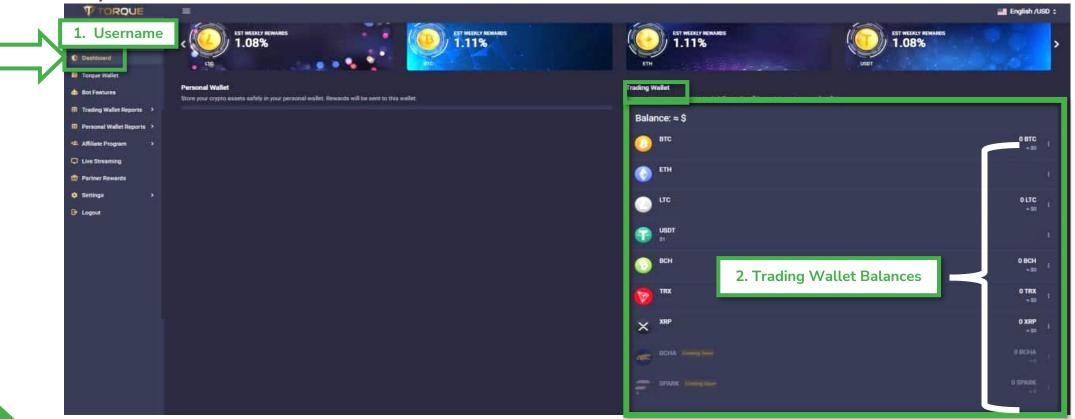
## Step 2. Log in to your user account

• Enter your Torque Username and Password, and press "SIGN IN".



## Step 3. Screenshot Trading Wallet Balance and Username

- Proceed to your **Dashboard** using the icon in the banner at the top of the screen.
- Click **Dashboard** to view your wallet balances.
- Take a full page screenshot which clearly displays (1) your Torque Username and (2) all Trading Wallet Balances you wish to submit your claim for.



## **Step 4. Save your screenshot**

- Please save a copy of your screenshot as an image file (e.g. JPEG, PNG) or PDF.
- You can use this document later as supporting evidence for your claim in the liquidation of Torque Group Holdings Limited (In Liquidation).
- Once you receive your email invitation to submit your claim in the liquidation, the Liquidators will require you to upload this image file / PDF in support of your claim as part of your claims submission process via the Kroll Creditor Claims Portal.



# 2. Via Torque Mobile Application

## Step 1. Log in to your user account

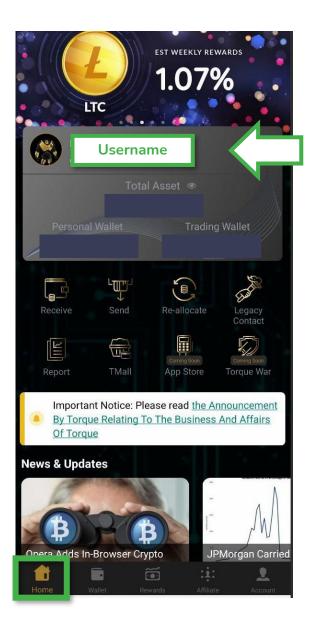
- Open the "Torque" app.
- Enter your Torque Username and Password, and press "LOGIN".





## Step 2. Screenshot your Username

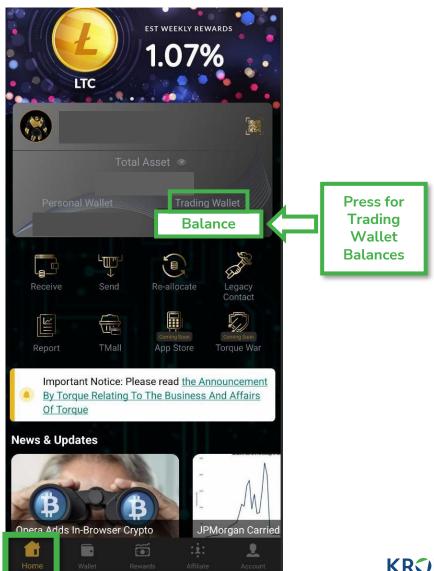
• On the home screen, take a full page screenshot which clearly displays your **Torque Username**.





## Step 3a. Screenshot your Trading Wallet Balances

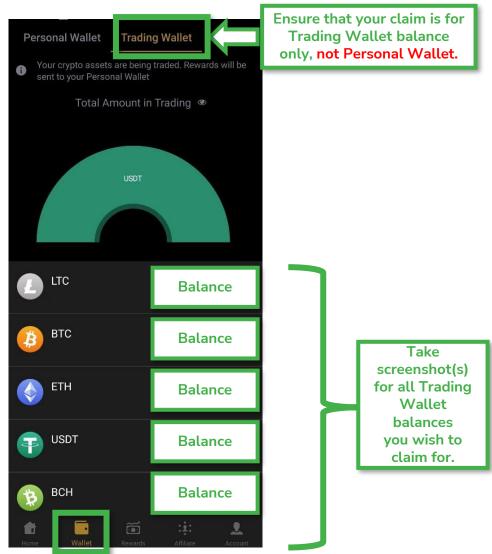
• In order to access your **Trading Wallet** balances, press the "Trading Wallet" balance on your "Home" screen.





## Step 3b. Screenshot your Trading Wallet Balances

- Once on the Wallet page of the Torque application, ensure that you are viewing your Trading Wallet balances and not your Personal Wallet balances.
- Take a full page screenshot(s) which clearly displays all crypto asset balances in your Trading Wallet that you wish to submit a claim for.
- Please ensure that <u>all</u> crypto balances you wish to submit a claim for are clearly visible in your screenshot(s).





## **Step 4. Save your screenshot**

- Please save copies of your screenshot(s) as image files (e.g. JPEG, PNG) or PDF.
- You can use this document later as supporting evidence for your claim in the liquidation of Torque Group Holdings Limited (In Liquidation).
- Once you receive your email invitation to submit your claim in the liquidation, the Liquidators will require you to upload the image file(s) / PDF(s) in support of your claim as part of your claims submission process via the Kroll Creditor Claims Portal.





## For more information, please contact:

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#### About Kroll

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