

Directors' responsibilities statement

This statement, which should be read in conjunction with the independent auditors' report, is made with a view to distinguishing for shareholders the respective responsibilities of the Directors and of the auditors in relation to the financial statements.

The Directors are required by United Kingdom legislation to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and the Group as at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss for the financial year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company keeps proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the Company and which enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with United Kingdom legislation. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The Directors are also responsible for:

- safeguarding the assets of the Company and the Group;
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities; and
- ensuring the maintenance and integrity of the Company's corporate website.