

# Group Profit and Loss Account

for the year ended 31st December 2000

	notes	2000 £000	1999 £000
<b>Turnover</b>	2	<b>278,148</b>	258,942
Operating costs	3	<b>(234,778)</b>	(216,221)
<b>Operating profit</b>	5	<b>43,370</b>	42,721
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	6	<b>(990)</b>	-
<b>Profit before interest</b>		<b>42,380</b>	42,721
Net interest payable	7	<b>(2,213)</b>	(970)
<b>Profit on ordinary activities before taxation</b>	8	<b>40,167</b>	41,751
Taxation on profit on ordinary activities	10	<b>(12,867)</b>	(12,693)
<b>Profit on ordinary activities after taxation</b>		<b>27,300</b>	29,058
Minority interests - equity		<b>(933)</b>	(943)
<b>Profit for the financial year</b>	11	<b>26,367</b>	28,115
Dividends	12	<b>(13,301)</b>	(13,102)
<b>Retained profit for the financial year</b>	26	<b>13,066</b>	15,013
<b>Earnings per share</b>	13		
Before the non-operating item		<b>37.4p</b>	36.1p
After the non-operating item		<b>35.4p</b>	36.1p
<b>Earnings per share (diluted)</b>	13		
Before the non-operating item		<b>37.3p</b>	36.0p
After the non-operating item		<b>35.3p</b>	36.0p
<b>Dividends per share</b>	12	<b>18.0p</b>	17.3p

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

The notes on pages 32 to 45 form an integral part of the accounts.

The historical cost profit is not materially different from the reported profit for 1999 or 2000.