

group profit and loss account

for the year ended 31st december 2004

	notes	2004 £000	2003 £000
Turnover	2	325,833	314,087
Operating costs	3	(274,733)	(268,337)
Operating profit	5	51,100	45,750
Net interest payable	6	(264)	(1,186)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	7	50,836	44,564
Taxation on profit on ordinary activities	9	(17,154)	(15,138)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation		33,682	29,426
Minority interests - equity		(1,135)	(788)
Profit for the financial year attributable to shareholders	10	32,547	28,638
Dividends	11	(16,102)	(15,028)
Retained profit for the financial year	25	16,445	13,610
Earnings per share (basic)	12	43.4p	38.5p
Earnings per share (diluted)	12	43.0p	38.2p
Dividends per share	11	21.4p	20.1p

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

The notes on pages 44 to 61 form an integral part of the accounts.

The historical cost profit is not materially different from the reported profit for 2003 or 2004.