

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report, Remuneration Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Group financial statements

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The directors are required by the International Accounting Standard (IAS) Regulation to prepare the group financial statements under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union. The group financial statements are also required by law to be properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985 and Article 4 of the IAS Regulation.

IAS 1 requires that IFRS financial statements present fairly for each financial year the group's financial position, financial performance and cash flows. This requires the faithful representation of the effects of transactions, other events and conditions in accordance with the definitions and recognition criteria for assets, liabilities, income and expenses set out in the International Accounting Standards Board's 'Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements'. In virtually all circumstances, a fair presentation will be achieved by compliance with all applicable IFRSs. However, directors are also required to:

- properly select and apply accounting policies;
- present information, including accounting policies, in a manner that provides relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable information; and
- provide additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements in IFRSs is insufficient to enable users to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the group's financial position and financial performance.

Parent company financial statements

The directors have elected to prepare the parent company financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The parent company financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company. 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 the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the parent company financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Directors' responsibility statement

We confirm to the best of our knowledge:

1. the financial statements, prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU for the group and UK GAAP for the company give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the group and company, respectively, and the undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole; and
2. the business review, which is incorporated into the Report of the Directors, includes a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the group and company and the undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole, together with a description of the principal risks and uncertainties they face.

By order of the Board

S C Lockett
Chief Executive
25 March 2009

A R C Durrant
Finance Director
25 March 2009