

Directors' Responsibility Statement

The following statement, which should be read in conjunction with the statement of respective responsibilities of directors and auditors below, is made to distinguish the responsibilities of the directors for the financial statements from those of the auditors.

The directors are required by the Companies Act 1985 to prepare financial statements 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. The financial statements must be prepared on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company and Group will continue in their business.

The directors have responsibility for ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Company and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985.

The directors also have a general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Group and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The directors consider that, in preparing the financial statements on pages 64 to 113 inclusive, they have used appropriate accounting policies, consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates, and that all applicable accounting standards have been followed.