Class Meeting Poll Result

At the Separate Class Meeting of the Company's Preference Shareholders held on 16 May 2002, a poll was demanded on the resolution put before the meeting. The result of the poll, as reported by Computershare Investor Services PLC, was as follows:

Resolution (Authority to buy back Ordinary and Preference Shares)

THAT the holders of the Cumulative Convertible Redeemable Preference Shares of 1p each in the Company hereby sanction the passing and implementation of Resolution 10 set out in the Company's Notice of Annual General Meeting dated 9 April 2002 and each and every contract to purchase shares entered into within the terms of the authority thereby conferred.

Votes for: 57,350,116

Votes against: 865,106

Accordingly, the Resolution was passed as an Extraordinary Resolution.

17 May 2002