

# Statement of Directors' responsibilities

The following statement, which should be read in conjunction with the statement of the Auditor's responsibilities on page 42, is made by the Directors to explain their responsibilities.

The Directors are required by the Companies Act 1985 to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which 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 Directors are required to prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate.

The Directors consider that, in preparing the Financial Statements on pages 43 to 78, they have used appropriate accounting policies, consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates and that all accounting standards which they consider applicable have been followed.

The Directors have responsibility for ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and which enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Companies Act 1985.

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

**Rod Kent**  
Chairman  
16 February 2004