

## Statement of Directors' responsibilities

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

Company law requires the directors to prepare Group and Company financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors are required to prepare the Group financial statements in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the EU and have elected to prepare the Company financial statements in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the EU and as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2006.

The Group and Company financial statements are required by law and IFRS as adopted by the EU to present fairly the financial position and performance of the Group and Company; the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2006 provide in relation to such financial statements that references in the relevant part of that Act to financial statements giving a true and fair view are references to their achieving a fair presentation.

In preparing each of the Group and Company financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group and Company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper books of account that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that its financial statements comply with the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2006. They are also responsible for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Group and Company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Under applicable law and the requirements of the Listing Rules issued by the Irish Stock Exchange, the directors are also responsible for preparing a Directors' Report and reports relating to directors' remuneration and corporate governance that comply with that law and those Rules. The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Company's website. Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

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### On behalf of the Board

**T. O'Brien**  
Director

**M. Pratt**  
Director

9 May 2007

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