

Five year statistics

	1999 £m	1998 £m	1997 £m	1996 £m	1995 £m
Turnover	1,679.5	2,082.9	2,358.5	2,455.1	2,459.6
Operating profit before exceptional items	92.7	115.8	135.6	174.3	187.4
Exceptional items	(77.1)	(28.9)	(47.9)	(54.9)	(10.3)
Less: prior year provision	–	1.6	–	–	(0.9)
Operating profit	15.6	88.5	87.7	119.4	176.2
Other exceptional items	86.9	(18.1)	(19.6)	11.1	20.8
Profit before interest and associated companies	102.5	70.4	68.1	130.5	197.0
Share of profits of associated companies	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.5)	0.2	0.2
Amounts written off investments	(16.8)	–	–	–	–
Net interest	(21.7)	(34.5)	(34.3)	(36.3)	(34.7)
Profit before taxation	63.6	35.5	33.3	94.4	162.5
Taxation	(31.3)	(56.2)	(23.6)	(34.1)	(46.9)
Profit/(loss) after taxation	32.3	(20.7)	9.7	60.3	115.6
Preference dividends and minority interests	(3.7)	(5.9)	(9.7)	(4.5)	(5.9)
Profit/(loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders	28.6	(26.6)	0.0	55.8	109.7
Ordinary dividends	(21.1)	(20.9)	(33.1)	(68.4)	(68.1)
Profit/(loss) retained	7.5	(47.5)	(33.1)	(12.6)	41.6
Basic earnings/(loss) per ordinary share	4.1p	(3.8)p	nil	8.0p	15.7p
Diluted earnings/(loss) per ordinary share	4.1p	(3.8)p	nil	7.9p	15.7p
Headline (loss)/earnings per share	(4.3)p	(1.4)p	2.8p	6.7p	13.4p
Dividends per ordinary share (conventional equivalent)	3.0p	3.0p	4.7p	8.8p	8.8p
Goodwill, fixed assets and investments	540.1	626.6	637.5	637.1	677.1
Net current assets	574.4	472.7	527.0	638.2	679.6
Total assets less current liabilities	1,114.5	1,099.3	1,164.5	1,275.3	1,356.7
Creditors due after more than one year	(210.4)	(269.0)	(294.7)	(361.4)	(407.1)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(128.1)	(120.8)	(114.0)	(112.9)	(96.0)
Net assets	776.0	709.5	755.8	801.0	853.6
Net debt	125.1	320.8	361.9	294.5	293.8
Net asset value per ordinary share	99.0p	88.9p	94.6p	103.1p	110.2p
Net gearing including convertible debt	16.1%	45.2%	47.9%	36.8%	34.4%
Cash inflow from normal operating activities	158.5	222.9	210.3	240.2	219.0
Net cash inflow from operating activities	118.4	187.1	177.3	205.6	198.5
Decrease/(increase) in net debt	195.7	41.1	(67.4)	(0.7)	(15.6)
Free cash flow	40.9	61.2	(8.8)	41.2	50.1