

Following the poor weather during March and over the key Easter bank holiday period, and the lack of sufficient uplift during May, sales in our core retail and professional business have been erratic and are lower than expected. Consequently trading prospects for the year ending 30 June 2004 for the Group are likely to fall below current market expectations.

This should not affect the payment of the final dividend at the anticipated level in respect of the year ending 30 June 2004.

Contacts:

William Sinclair Holdings plc

Peter Barton, Chairman 01522 537561

Stephen Rowland, Finance Director 01522 537561

Arbuthnot Securities

Richard Welton 0121 632 2100