

Five year summary

Earnings and dividends	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Earnings per share	32.1p	27.4p	20.3p	25.7p	25.1p
Basic earnings per share before amortisation of goodwill and exceptional items	38.8p	34.5p	37.2p	41.7p	47.8p
Dividend per share	20.6p	20.6p	21.0p	21.7p	23.3p
Dividend cover	1.88	1.67	1.77	1.92	2.05
Interest cover	11.6	8.0	7.6	9.3	12.0
Profit by division	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Experian					
Experian North America	149	145	156	155	171
Experian International	45	56	61	69	85
	194	201	217	224	256
Argos Retail Group					
Argos	117	137	161	204	238
Homebase	–	–	–	–	2
Home Shopping – UK & Ireland	106	15	30	34	15
Financial Services	–	14	4	(5)	5
Home Shopping – Continental Europe	30	25	22	22	25
	253	191	217	255	285
Burberry	11	22	69	90	117
Other	105	98	58	49	42
	563	512	561	618	700
Interest expense	(49)	(64)	(74)	(67)	(58)
Profit before amortisation of goodwill, exceptional items and taxation	514	448	487	552	642
Amortisation of goodwill	(73)	(79)	(92)	(99)	(143)
Exceptional items	9	11	(85)	(72)	(90)
Profit before taxation	450	380	310	380	409
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	(118)	(105)	(106)	(122)	(141)
Profit after taxation	332	275	204	258	268
Equity minority interests	–	–	–	(1)	(17)
Profit for the year	332	275	204	257	251
Balance sheet	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Goodwill	1,504	1,438	1,516	1,422	2,436
Other fixed assets	1,212	1,238	1,213	1,349	1,559
Trading assets	1,947	1,994	1,627	1,394	1,017
Net borrowings (including non-recourse borrowings)	(2,070)	(1,931)	(1,712)	(1,485)	(2,086)
Dividends and taxation	(196)	(273)	(221)	(257)	(286)
Net assets	2,397	2,466	2,423	2,423	2,640