

Group profit and loss account

	Note	Six months ended 30 June 2001			Six months ended 30 June 2000			Year ended 31 December 2000		
		Before exceptional items £m	Exceptional items (Note 2) £m	Total £m	Before exceptional items £m	Exceptional items (Note 2) £m	Total £m	Before exceptional items £m	Exceptional items (Note 2) £m	Total £m
Turnover – group and share of joint ventures										
Continuing operations		500.9	–	500.9	515.5	–	515.5	1,058.8	–	1,058.8
Discontinued operations		5.5	–	5.5	707.8	–	707.8	1,047.6	–	1,047.6
		506.4	–	506.4	1,223.3	–	1,223.3	2,106.4	–	2,106.4
Less: share of joint ventures' turnover		(15.7)	–	(15.7)	(69.6)	–	(69.6)	(131.4)	–	(131.4)
Group turnover		490.7	–	490.7	1,153.7	–	1,153.7	1,975.0	–	1,975.0
Group operating (loss)/profit										
Continuing operations		(9.3)	(14.3)	(23.6)	34.5	(8.2)	26.3	35.7	(37.4)	(1.7)
Discontinued operations		(13.7)	–	(13.7)	24.8	(21.8)	3.0	35.0	(25.2)	9.8
Group operating (loss)/profit		(23.0)	(14.3)	(37.3)	59.3	(30.0)	29.3	70.7	(62.6)	8.1
Share of operating (loss)/profit in joint ventures and associates	3	(3.4)	–	(3.4)	1.7	–	1.7	(18.6)	–	(18.6)
Total operating (loss)/profit		(26.4)	(14.3)	(40.7)	61.0	(30.0)	31.0	52.1	(62.6)	(10.5)
Profit on sale and closure of businesses (discontinued operations)		–	16.3	16.3	–	71.0	71.0	–	2,146.7	2,146.7
(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities before interest		(26.4)	2.0	(24.4)	61.0	41.0	102.0	52.1	2,084.1	2,136.2
Net interest income/(expense)	4	31.3	–	31.3	(39.8)	–	(39.8)	(43.0)	–	(43.0)
Profit on ordinary activities before tax		4.9	2.0	6.9	21.2	41.0	62.2	9.1	2,084.1	2,093.2
Tax on profit on ordinary activities		(18.6)	4.3	(14.3)	(38.3)	(29.2)	(67.5)	(49.6)	(201.5)	(251.1)
(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities after tax		(13.7)	6.3	(7.4)	(17.1)	11.8	(5.3)	(40.5)	1,882.6	1,842.1
Equity minority interests		(1.5)	–	(1.5)	(5.5)	–	(5.5)	(8.9)	–	(8.9)
(Loss)/profit for the period		(15.2)	6.3	(8.9)	(22.6)	11.8	(10.8)	(49.4)	1,882.6	1,833.2
Dividends – equity	7			(37.3)			(56.0)			(112.1)
– non-equity	7			(324.9)			–			–
Dividends	7			(362.2)			(56.0)			(112.1)
Retained (loss)/profit for the period				(371.1)			(66.8)			1,721.1
Earnings/(loss) per share										
– before amortisation of intangible assets and exceptional items	5			11.8p			18.8p			27.4p
– basic	5			(2.1)p			(2.2)p			365.7p
– diluted	5			(2.1)p			(2.2)p			348.9p

Analysis of turnover

	Six months ended 30 June 2001		Six months ended 30 June 2000		Year ended 31 December 2000	
	Group £m	Group share of joint ventures £m	Group £m	Group share of joint ventures £m	Group £m	Group share of joint ventures £m
Turnover by division						
Continuing operations:						
Professional media	302.3	7.0	332.8	3.7	656.0	11.6
News distribution	66.9	4.5	60.2	0.2	121.6	8.7
Market research	76.1	–	66.8	–	162.1	–
Business to business media	445.3	11.5	459.8	3.9	939.7	20.3
Consumer media	29.2	–	31.7	–	60.7	–
Continuing operations before online businesses	474.5	11.5	491.5	3.9	1,000.4	20.3
Online businesses	14.9	–	20.1	–	38.1	–
Continuing operations	489.4	11.5	511.6	3.9	1,038.5	20.3
Discontinued operations:						
Professional media	–	–	127.3	15.9	169.4	18.2
Consumer media	–	–	511.0	45.3	757.9	83.4
Online businesses	1.3	4.2	3.8	4.5	9.2	9.5
Discontinued operations	1.3	4.2	642.1	65.7	936.5	111.1
Turnover	490.7	15.7	1,153.7	69.6	1,975.0	131.4

Analysis of activities

	Six months ended 30 June 2001						Six months ended 30 June 2000						Year ended 31 December 2000					
	Group £m	Group share of joint ventures £m	Group share of associates £m	Subtotal £m	Exceptional items (Note 2) £m	Total £m	Group £m	Group share of joint ventures £m	Group share of associates £m	Subtotal £m	Exceptional items (Note 2) £m	Total £m	Group £m	Group share of joint ventures £m	Group share of associates £m	Subtotal £m	Exceptional items (Note 2) £m	Total £m
Operating profit/(loss) before amortisation of intangible assets by division																		
Continuing operations:																		
Professional media	34.8	0.6	–	35.4	(4.0)	31.4	70.4	0.3	–	70.7	(6.2)	64.5	122.3	1.7	–	124.0	(25.2)	98.8
News distribution	19.6	1.6	–	21.2	(5.0)	16.2	19.6	1.4	–	21.0	(0.6)	20.4	37.9	2.8	–	40.7	(4.7)	36.0
Market research	10.6	–	–	10.6	(0.1)	10.5	9.9	–	–	9.9	–	9.9	22.6	–	–	22.6	–	22.6
Business to business media	65.0	2.2	–	67.2	(9.1)	58.1	99.9	1.7	–	101.6	(6.8)	94.8	182.8	4.5	–	187.3	(29.9)	157.4
Consumer media	6.0	–	–	6.0	(0.4)	5.6	7.2	–	–	7.2	(1.4)	5.8	11.4	–	–	11.4	(2.2)	9.2
Online businesses	(13.7)	–	–	(13.7)	(4.8)	(18.5)	(13.2)	–	–	(13.2)	–	(13.2)	(37.3)	–	–	(37.3)	(5.3)	(42.6)
Continuing operations	57.3	2.2	–	59.5	(14.3)	45.2	93.9	1.7	–	95.6	(8.2)	87.4	156.9	4.5	–	161.4	(37.4)	124.0
Discontinued operations:																		
Professional media	–	–	–	–	–	–	28.6	6.0	–	34.6	(20.1)	14.5	41.9	4.4	(1.4)	44.9	(0.2)	44.7
Consumer media	–	–	–	–	–	–	69.3	0.2	8.1	77.6	(1.7)	75.9	104.5	0.8	5.2	110.5	(25.0)	85.5
Online businesses	(13.7)	(3.9)	(1.5)	(19.1)	–	(19.1)	(24.8)	(4.2)	(1.2)	(30.2)	–	(30.2)	(65.0)	(9.1)	(4.0)	(78.1)	–	(78.1)
Discontinued operations	(13.7)	(3.9)	(1.5)	(19.1)	–	(19.1)	73.1	2.0	6.9	82.0	(21.8)	60.2	81.4	(3.9)	(0.2)	77.3	(25.2)	52.1
Operating profit/(loss) before amortisation of intangible assets	43.6	(1.7)	(1.5)	40.4	(14.3)	26.1	167.0	3.7	6.9	177.6	(30.0)	147.6	238.3	0.6	(0.2)	238.7	(62.6)	176.1
Amortisation of intangible assets	(66.6)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(66.8)	–	(66.8)	(107.7)	–	(8.9)	(116.6)	–	(116.6)	(167.6)	(0.2)	(18.8)	(186.6)	–	(186.6)
Operating (loss)/profit by division																		
Continuing operations:																		
Professional media	(19.9)	0.5	–	(19.4)	(4.0)	(23.4)	22.4	0.3	–	22.7	(6.2)	16.5	19.3	1.7	–	21.0	(25.2)	(4.2)
News distribution	17.9	1.6	–	19.5	(5.0)	14.5	18.0	1.4	–	19.4	(0.6)	18.8	33.8	2.7	–	36.5	(4.7)	31.8
Market research	8.9	–	–	8.9	(0.1)	8.8	8.3	–	–	8.3	–	8.3	19.7	–	–	19.7	–	19.7
Business to business media	6.9	2.1	–	9.0	(9.1)	(0.1)	48.7	1.7	–	50.4	(6.8)	43.6	72.8	4.4	–	77.2	(29.9)	47.3
Consumer media	5.6	–	–	5.6	(0.4)	5.2	6.8	–	–	6.8	(1.4)	5.4	10.5	–	–	10.5	(2.2)	8.3
Online businesses	(21.8)	–	–	(21.8)	(4.8)	(26.6)	(21.0)	–	–	(21.0)	–	(21.0)	(47.6)	–	–	(47.6)	(5.3)	(52.9)
Continuing operations	(9.3)	2.1	–	(7.2)	(14.3)	(21.5)	34.5	1.7	–	36.2	(8.2)	28.0	35.7	4.4	–	40.1	(37.4)	2.7
Discontinued operations:																		
Professional media	–	–	–	–	–	–	15.1	6.0	–	21.1	(20.1)	1.0	30.4	4.3	(1.4)	33.3	(0.2)	33.1
Consumer media	–	–	–	–	–	–	34.5	0.2	(0.7)	34.0	(1.7)	32.3	69.6	0.7	(9.3)	61.0	(25.0)	36.0
Online businesses	(13.7)	(3.9)	(1.6)	(19.2)	–	(19.2)	(24.8)	(4.2)	(1.3)	(30.3)	–	(30.3)	(65.0)	(9.0)	(8.3)	(82.3)	–	(82.3)
Discontinued operations	(13.7)	(3.9)	(1.6)	(19.2)	–	(19.2)	24.8	2.0	(2.0)	24.8	(21.8)	3.0	35.0	(4.0)	(19.0)	12.0	(25.2)	(13.2)
Operating (loss)/profit	(23.0)	(1.8)	(1.6)	(26.4)	(14.3)	(40.7)	59.3	3.7	(2.0)	61.0	(30.0)	31.0	70.7	0.4	(19.0)	52.1	(62.6)	(10.5)
by geographic market																		
United Kingdom	(20.1)	(3.9)	(1.5)	(25.5)	(11.4)	(36.9)	7.3	(5.1)	(3.7)	(1.5)	(23.6)	(25.1)	2.3	(8.1)	(17.8)	(23.6)	(34.9)	(58.5)
North America	(7.7)	1.9	(0.1)	(5.9)	(3.1)	(9.0)	47.9	1.2	–	49.1	(5.9)	43.2	59.3	2.2	(4.1)	57.4	(27.7)	29.7
Europe and Middle East	(1.5)	–	–	(1.5)	–	(1.5)	(1.8)	6.0	–	4.2	(0.3)	3.9	(1.1)	6.0	–	4.9	–	4.9
Pacific	6.3	0.2	–	6.5	0.2	6.7	5.9	1.6	1.7	9.2	(0.2)	9.0	10.2	0.3	2.9	13.4	–	13.4
Operating (loss)/profit	(23.0)	(1.8)	(1.6)	(26.4)	(14.3)	(40.7)	59.3	3.7	(2.0)	61.0	(30.0)	31.0	70.7	0.4	(19.0)	52.1	(62.6)	(10.5)

Discontinued operations in 2001 include a number of online business to business and business to consumer activities which have been disposed or closed. Discontinued operations in the six months ended 30 June 2000 include the Television business, Miller Freeman Europe and certain Miller Freeman businesses in the US, Visual Communications Group and United Advertising Periodicals, Inc. In addition, discontinued operations in the year ended 31 December 2000 also included Express Newspapers.

Group balance sheet

	30 June 2001 £m	30 June 2000 £m	31 December 2000 £m
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	1,126.2	1,569.3	1,105.6
Tangible assets	90.5	204.6	78.3
Investments in joint ventures:			
– share of gross assets	14.3	123.6	42.2
– share of gross liabilities	(2.8)	(119.3)	(58.7)
	11.5	4.3	(16.5)
Loans to joint ventures	–	50.7	33.8
Investment in joint ventures	11.5	55.0	17.3
Investments in associated undertakings	1.3	87.8	34.7
Other investments	116.7	30.9	48.6
	1,346.2	1,947.6	1,284.5
Current assets			
Stocks	22.7	166.8	17.1
Debtors	260.5	434.2	279.8
Investments	15.8	6.1	3.4
Short term liquid funds	354.2	–	1,066.0
Cash at bank and in hand	541.2	110.1	1,115.2
	1,194.4	717.2	2,481.5
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(672.1)	(1,015.3)	(717.5)
Net current assets/(liabilities)	522.3	(298.1)	1,764.0
Total assets less current liabilities	1,868.5	1,649.5	3,048.5
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
Bank and other loans	(438.4)	(819.3)	(413.0)
Other creditors	(13.2)	(19.4)	(23.7)
Convertible debt	(176.5)	(177.2)	(177.5)
	(628.1)	(1,015.9)	(614.2)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(8.4)	(9.7)	(8.4)
Net assets	1,232.0	623.9	2,425.9
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	97.2	126.1	126.8
Share premium account	305.0	285.5	299.5
Merger reserve	31.3	31.3	31.3
Other reserves	148.7	560.5	125.0
Profit and loss account	646.8	(399.2)	1,841.3
Shareholders' funds	1,229.0	604.2	2,423.9
Equity minority interests	3.0	19.7	2.0
	1,232.0	623.9	2,425.9
Equity shareholders' funds	1,218.6	623.9	2,425.9
Non-equity shareholders' funds	13.4	–	–
	1,232.0	623.9	2,425.9

Group cash flow statement

	Six months ended 30 June 2001 £m	Six months ended 30 June 2000 £m	Year ended 31 December 2000 £m
Net cash inflow from operating activities	17.3	181.3	112.0
Dividends received from joint ventures and associates	0.5	3.9	7.7
Returns on investment and servicing of finance	(286.8)	(47.2)	(32.1)
Taxation	(18.5)	(16.8)	(81.6)
Capital expenditure and financial investment	(65.6)	20.3	(13.5)
Acquisitions and disposals	(30.8)	417.3	3,013.1
Equity dividends paid to shareholders	(56.8)	(56.1)	(111.4)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow before use of liquid resources and financing	(440.7)	502.7	2,894.2
Management of liquid resources	1,317.9	(56.6)	(2,125.5)
Net cash inflow before financing	877.2	446.1	768.7
Financing			
Issue of ordinary share capital	5.7	14.9	29.5
Return of capital to shareholders	(864.2)	–	–
Increase/(decrease) in bank loans	3.5	(571.0)	(785.1)
Repayment of loan stock	–	–	(3.2)
Increase in other loans	0.2	4.4	–
Financing	(854.8)	(551.7)	(758.8)
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the period	22.4	(105.6)	9.9
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt			
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the period	22.4	(105.6)	9.9
Cash (inflow)/outflow from (increase)/decrease in debt and financing	(3.7)	566.6	788.3
Cash (inflow)/outflow from (decrease)/increase in liquid resources	(1,317.9)	56.6	2,125.5
Changes in net (debt)/cash resulting from cash flows	(1,299.2)	517.6	2,923.7
Non cash movements on disposal of subsidiaries	–	(195.4)	–
Other non cash movements	12.2	(0.3)	(1.3)
Movement in net cash from sale and purchase of subsidiaries	–	0.8	1.2
Translation difference	(15.3)	(59.2)	(65.9)
Movement in net (debt)/cash in the period	(1,302.3)	263.5	2,857.7
Opening net cash/(debt)	1,553.0	(1,304.7)	(1,304.7)
Closing net cash/(debt)	250.7	(1,041.2)	1,553.0
Reconciliation of operating (loss)/profit to net cash inflow from operating activities			
Operating (loss)/profit	(40.7)	31.0	(10.5)
Depreciation charges	12.2	20.6	39.6
Amortisation of intangible assets – group	66.6	107.7	167.6
Share of results of joint ventures	1.8	(3.7)	(0.4)
Share of results of associates	1.6	2.0	19.0
Net (increase)/decrease in working capital	(13.9)	35.5	(87.2)
Other items including movements on provisions	(10.3)	(11.8)	(16.1)
Cash inflow from operating activities	17.3	181.3	112.0

Statement of group total recognised gains and losses

	Six months ended 30 June 2001 £m	Six months ended 30 June 2000 £m	Year ended 31 December 2000 £m
(Loss)/profit for the financial period	(8.9)	(10.8)	1,833.2
Unrealised profit on the sale of assets to associated undertakings	–	–	4.0
Currency translation differences on foreign currency investments:			
Group	34.4	12.7	29.1
Joint ventures	0.4	0.4	(0.2)
Associates	(0.1)	(2.4)	(2.4)
	34.7	10.7	26.5
	34.7	10.7	30.5
Total recognised gains/(losses) relating to the period	25.8	(0.1)	1,863.7

The historical cost profit is not materially different from the reported profit.

Reconciliation of movements in group shareholders' funds

	Six months ended 30 June 2001 £m	Six months ended 30 June 2000 £m	Year ended 31 December 2000 £m
Opening shareholders funds	2,423.9	642.8	642.8
(Loss)/profit for the financial period	(8.9)	(10.8)	1,833.2
Equity dividends	(37.3)	(56.0)	(112.1)
Non-equity dividends on 'B' shares – see below	(324.9)	–	–
	2,052.8	576.0	2,363.9
Other recognised gains and losses relating to the period	34.7	10.7	30.5
New share capital subscribed	5.7	17.5	29.5
Return of capital to shareholders	(864.2)	–	–
Closing shareholders' funds	1,229.0	604.2	2,423.9

The return of capital to shareholders took the form of a subdivision and consolidation of the existing United ordinary shares and was completed in April 2001. The subdivision created a class of 'B' shares with a total value of approximately £1.25 billion. U.K. shareholders had the option to sell these shares for 245 pence per share, to receive a single dividend of 245 pence per share, or to retain the 'B' shares and receive a continuing dividend linked to LIBOR. At 30 June 2001, 350,239,041 'B' shares had been purchased by the Company and 132,484,195 'B' shares had received a single dividend of 245 pence per share.

Notes

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The interim report for the period ended 30 June 2001 has been prepared on the basis of accounting policies set out in the 2000 Annual Report and Accounts.

2. EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

	Six months ended 30 June 2001 £m	Six months ended 30 June 2000 £m	Year ended 31 December 2000 £m
Charged to operating profits:			
Continuing operations			
Costs of acquisition and integration of CMP Media Inc. and others	–	(3.1)	(3.8)
Group Process Review*	(6.6)	(5.1)	(11.5)
Other restructuring costs**	(7.7)	–	(22.1)
Total continuing operations	(14.3)	(8.2)	(37.4)
Abandoned Merger costs	–	(19.6)	(19.6)
Group Process Review*	–	(2.2)	(5.4)
Other restructuring costs**	–	–	(0.2)
Discontinued operations	–	(21.8)	(25.2)
Total charged to operating profits	(14.3)	(30.0)	(62.6)
Credited to profit before tax:			
Sale of professional media businesses	–	32.4	591.6
Sale of consumer media businesses	–	38.6	1,555.1
Sale of online businesses	16.3	–	–
	16.3	71.0	2,146.7
Total credited to profit on ordinary activities before tax	2.0	41.0	2,084.1

* The Group Process Review is a project that aims to improve operating efficiencies.

** Other restructuring costs in 2001, relate to cost reduction programmes completed in the six months to 30 June 2001. In 2000, the costs comprised reorganisation and restructuring costs arising from the refocusing of United as a business to business media group.

Notes

3. SHARE OF OPERATING (LOSS)/PROFIT IN JOINT VENTURES AND ASSOCIATES

	Six months ended 30 June 2001 £m	Six months ended 30 June 2000 £m	Year ended 31 December 2000 £m
Joint ventures and associates – continuing	2.2	1.7	4.5
Joint ventures and associates within discontinued operations	(5.4)	8.9	(4.1)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(0.2)	(8.9)	(19.0)
	(3.4)	1.7	(18.6)

4. NET INTEREST INCOME/(EXPENSE)

	Six months ended 30 June 2001 £m	Six months ended 30 June 2000 £m	Year ended 31 December 2000 £m
Group	31.8	(33.0)	(29.2)
Joint ventures and associates	(0.5)	(6.8)	(13.8)
	31.3	(39.8)	(43.0)

5. EARNINGS/(LOSS) PER SHARE

	Six months ended 30 June 2001 pence	Six months ended 30 June 2000 pence	Year ended 31 December 2000 pence
Profit before amortisation of intangible assets and exceptional items	11.8	18.8	27.4
Adjustment in respect of amortisation of intangible assets	(15.3)	(23.3)	(37.2)
Adjustment in respect of exceptional items:			
– charged to operating profits	(2.3)	(5.8)	(12.5)
– profit on sale and closure of businesses	3.7	8.1	388.0
Basic	(2.1)	(2.2)	365.7
Effect of dilutive securities:			
Options	–	–	(1.8)
Convertible debt	–	–	(15.0)
Diluted	(2.1)	(2.2)	348.9

Basic loss per share is calculated on the loss attributable to shareholders of £8.9 million (June 2000: loss of £10.8 million) and on 439,146,777 shares (June 2000: 500,508,169) being the weighted average number of shares in issue during the period.

For diluted earnings per share, the weighted average number of shares in issue is adjusted to assume conversion of all dilutive potential ordinary shares. The group has three categories of dilutive potential ordinary shares: those share options granted to employees where the exercise price is less than the average market price of the company's ordinary shares during the year, those shares which may be issued under the LTIP and shares attributable to convertible debt.

Notes

6. FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The trading results of overseas subsidiaries, joint ventures and associated companies were translated into sterling at an average of the exchange rates ruling for the period. This resulted in a weighted average rate of exchange in respect of the US dollar for the period of \$1.43: £1 (six months ended 30 June 2000: \$1.56: £1).

7. DIVIDENDS

	Six months ended 30 June 2001 £m	Six months ended 30 June 2000 £m	Year ended 31 December 2000 £m
Equity dividends	(37.3)	(56.0)	(112.1)
Non-equity dividends – 'B' shares	(324.9)	–	–
Dividends	(362.2)	(56.0)	(112.1)

An interim dividend of 11.0 pence (net) per ordinary share (2000: 11.0 pence) will be payable on 25 October 2001 to shareholders on the register at close of business on 17 August 2001.

The non-equity dividends represent the single dividend of 245 pence per share paid to holders of 'B' shares who elected this option, together with the accrual for the LIBOR related dividend of £0.3 million on 'B' shares remaining in issue.

8. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Certain of the group's investments which were previously classified as associated undertakings and joint ventures have been reclassified as fixed asset investments with effect from 1 January 2001. Following the disposal of United's broadcasting businesses during 2000, the nature of the group's commercial relationships and its board representation, and consequently its level of influence, has changed in respect of businesses which were formerly managed within the broadcasting division. These businesses comprise Channel 5 Television Group Limited, Independent Television News Limited and SDN Limited. The group's investment in SIS (Holdings) Limited was reclassified to fixed asset investments during 2000. Additionally, the level of influence exerted by United over two further investments, Paperloop PL Holdings LLC and Creative Planet, Inc is not considered sufficient to meet the requirements of FRS9. Accordingly, these investments have also been reclassified to fixed asset investments. United does not consider that these investments are core to its ongoing activities.

9. ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS

In March 2001, Cyperus, a French corporate communications company was acquired for an initial consideration of £7 million.

On 26 April 2001, Springboard Internet Services Limited (LineOne), the joint venture between United and British Telecommunications was disposed of to Tiscali S.p.A. The consideration received by United comprised 10 million Euros in cash and approximately 2.7 million Tiscali shares.

In June 2001, Allison-Fisher International Inc., a U.S. market research company specialising in the automotive industry, was acquired for an initial consideration of \$45 million.

10. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

On 5 July 2001, 50 per cent of the Dutch national news agency's news release distribution division, ANPPS, was acquired for Euros 6.47 million (£3.9 million) in cash.

On 3 August 2001, United announced that it had agreed to acquire Roper Starch Worldwide, Inc., a US market research business for consideration of \$88 million in cash.

11. STATUS OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The figures for the year ended 31 December 2000 (which do not constitute statutory accounts within the meaning of Section 240 of the Companies Act 1985) have been extracted from the Annual Report and Accounts which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies; the auditors opinion on those accounts was unqualified and did not contain a statement under section 237 of the Companies Act 1985.

The interim financial information was approved by a duly appointed and authorised committee of the board of Directors on 3 August 2001. It is unaudited but has been reviewed by the auditors whose review opinion is set out on page 21.

Independent review report to United Business Media plc

INTRODUCTION

We have been instructed by the Company to review the financial information which comprises a summarised group profit and loss account, statement of group total recognised gains and losses, summarised group balance sheet information as at 30 June 2001, summarised group cash flow statement, comparative figures and associated notes. We have read the other information contained in the interim report and considered whether it contains any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial information.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The interim report, including the financial information contained therein, is the responsibility of, and has been approved by the directors. The directors are responsible for preparing the interim report in accordance with the Listing Rules of the Financial Services Authority which require that the accounting policies and presentation applied to the interim figures should be consistent with those applied in preparing the preceding annual accounts except where any changes, and the reasons for them, are disclosed.

REVIEW WORK PERFORMED

We conducted our review in accordance with guidance contained in Bulletin 1999/4 issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom. A review consists principally of making enquiries of group management and applying analytical procedures to the financial information and underlying financial data and, based thereon, assessing whether the accounting policies and presentation have been consistently applied unless otherwise disclosed. A review excludes audit procedures such as tests of controls and verification of assets, liabilities and transactions. It is substantially less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with United Kingdom Auditing Standards and therefore provides a lower level of assurance than an audit. Accordingly we do not express an audit opinion on the financial information.

REVIEW CONCLUSION

On the basis of our review we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial information as presented for the six months ended 30 June 2001.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS 

Chartered Accountants
London
3 August 2001