

30. Dividends

	2007 £m	2006 £m
Equity dividends		
Prior year final 6.9p dividend per ordinary share paid in the year (2006 6.3p)	221	203
Interim 5.0p dividend per ordinary share paid in the year (2006 4.4p)	175	143
	396	346

After the balance sheet date, the directors proposed a final dividend of 7.8p (2006 6.9p). The dividend, which is subject to shareholder approval, will be paid on 2 June 2008 to shareholders registered on 18 April 2008. The ex-dividend date is 16 April 2008.

Shareholders who do not at present participate in the Company's Dividend Reinvestment Plan and wish to receive the final dividend in shares rather than cash should complete a mandate form for the Dividend Reinvestment Plan and return it to the registrars no later than 9 May 2008.