

30. Dividends

Equity dividends	2008	2007
	£m	£m
Prior year final 7.8p dividend per ordinary share paid in the year (2007 6.9p)	274	221
Interim 5.8p dividend per ordinary share paid in the year (2007 5.0p)	204	175
	478	396

After the balance sheet date, the directors proposed a final dividend of 8.7p (2007 7.8p). The dividend, which is subject to shareholder approval, will be paid on 1 June 2009 to shareholders registered on 24 April 2009. The ex-dividend date is 22 April 2009.

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 8 May 2009.