

# Independent Auditor's Report

## To the Members of Grafton Group plc

We have audited the Group and Company financial statements ( the "financial statements") of Grafton Group plc for the year ended 31 December 2008 which comprise the Group Income Statement, the Group and Company Statements of Recognised Income and Expense, the Group and Company Balance Sheets, the Group and Company Cash Flow Statements, and the related notes on pages 38 to 96. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 193 of the Companies Act 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## Respective responsibilities of Directors and Auditor

The Directors' responsibilities for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the EU are set out in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities on page 35.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the EU, and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2006 and, in the case of the Group financial statements, Article 4 of the IAS Regulation. We also report to you, in our opinion whether proper books of account have been kept by the Company; whether at the balance sheet date, there exists a financial situation requiring the convening of an extraordinary general meeting of the Company; and whether the information given in the Report of the Directors is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit, and whether the Company balance sheet is in agreement with the books of account.

We also report to you if, in our opinion, any information specified by law or the Listing Rules of the Irish Stock Exchange regarding Directors' remuneration and Directors' transactions is not disclosed and, where practicable, include such information in our report.

We review whether the Corporate Governance Statement reflects the company's compliance with the nine provisions of the 2006 FRC Combined Code specified for our review by the Listing Rules of the Irish Stock Exchange, and we report if it does not. We are not required to consider whether the Board's statements on internal control cover all risks and controls, or form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

We read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. The other information comprises only the Report of the Directors, the Chairman's Statement and the Group Finance Review. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

## Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the Directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Group's and Company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

# Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Grafton Group plc

## Opinion

In our opinion:

- the Group financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the EU, of the state of the Group's affairs as at 31 December 2008 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- the Company financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the EU and as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Acts 1963 to 2006, of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2008;
- the Group financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2006 and Article 4 of the IAS Regulation; and
- the Company financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2006.

## Other matters

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the Company. The Company balance sheet is in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion the information given in the Report of the Directors is consistent with the financial statements.

The net assets of the Company, as stated in the Company balance sheet are more than half of the amount of its called-up share capital and, in our opinion, on that basis there did not exist at 31 December 2008 a financial situation which under Section 40 (1) of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1983 would require the convening of an extraordinary general meeting of the Company.

## **KPMG**

Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditor

Dublin

26 February 2009