Nippon Paint (Europe) Limited

Directors' report and consolidated financial statements Registered number 2398802 31 December 2006

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Nippon Paint (Europe) Limited Directors' report and consolidated financial statements 31 December 2006

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Directors' report

The directors present their annual report and the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2006

Principal activities and business review

The principal activities of the holding company, Nippon Paint (Europe) Limited continued to be the performance of technical and business related activities for the ultimate parent company, Nippon Paint Co Limited (NPC), a company incorporated in Japan, together with the procurement and export of paint related raw materials and test equipment from Europe to NPC and the procurement and import of products from NPC for subsequent resale in Europe

The principal activity of the subsidiary undertaking, NP Automotive Coatings (Europe) Limited, continued to be the manufacture and sale of specialised paints for plastics and metals used in the motor industry

The joint venture, Akzo Nobel Nippon Paint Limited, is a joint venture with International Coatings Limited to develop coil coatings businesses in Europe

The directors are of the opinion that future prospects remain good and they are considering further opportunities for investment and expansion into new related activities

Proposed dividend

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (2005 £Nil)

Directors and directors' interests

The directors who held office during the year were as follows

T Funta

S Yamamoto

K Kımoto

None of the directors who held office at the end of the financial year had any disclosable interest in the shares of the company or other group companies

According to the register of directors' interests, no rights to subscribe for shares in, or debentures of, the company or any other group company were granted to any of the directors or their immediate families, or exercised by them, during the financial year

Disabled employees

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled, every effort is made to ensure that their employment with the group continues and that appropriate training is arranged. It is the policy of the group that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical with that of other employees

Directors' report (continued)

Employee consultation

The group places considerable value on the involvement of its employees and keeps them informed on matters affecting them as employees and on the various factors affecting the performance of the group. This is achieved through formal and informal meetings. Employee representatives are consulted regularly on a wide range of matters affecting their current and future interests.

Disclosure of information to auditors

The directors who held office at the date of approval of this directors' report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a director to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information

Auditors

In accordance with Section 384 of the Companies Act 1985, a resolution for the re-appointment of KPMG LLP as auditors of the company is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting

By order of the board

T Fujita
Managing Director

Britannia Trade Park Radway Road Swindon SN3 4ND Wiltshire

2007

Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the Directors' Report and the financial statements

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)

The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that its financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.



KPMG LLP

Arlington Business Park Theale Reading RG7 4SD

Independent auditors' report to the members of Nippon Paint (Europe) Limited

We have audited the group and parent company financial statements (the "financial statements") of Nippon Paint (Europe) Limited for the year ended 31 December 2006 which comprise the Consolidated Profit and Loss Account, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses and the related notes 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 235 of the Companies Act 1985. 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 auditors

The directors' responsibilities for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities on page 3

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 and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed

We read the Directors' Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it

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 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

Opinion

In our opinion

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the group's and the parent company's affairs as at 31 December 2006 and of the group's loss for the year then ended,
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985, and
- the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements

HPMG LLP

KPMG LLP Chartered Accountants Registered Auditor 21/5/2007

Consolidated profit and loss account for the year ended 31 December 2006

	Note	£000	2006 £000	£000	005 £000
Turnover continuing operations: Group and share of joint ventures Less share of joint ventures' turnover		38,545 (27,621)		34,730 (23,226)	
Group turnover Cost of sales	2		10,924 (9,396)		11,504 (9,308)
Gross profit Administrative expenses Amounts written off fixed assets	3 6		1,528 (2,956)		2,196 (3,004) (1,400)
Group operating loss Share of operating profit in joint venture			(1,428) 284		(2,208) 146
Total operating loss Interest receivable and similar income Group Joint venture	4	6 131	(1,144)	5 145	(2,062)
Interest payable and similar charges Group Joint venture	5	(454) (23)	137	(817) (53)	150
			(477)		(870)
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation Tax on loss on ordinary activities	7 10		(1,484)		(2,782)
Parent and subsidiaries Joint venture		(565)		(193)	
			(565)		(193)
Loss for the financial year	18		(2,049)		(2,975)

Consolidated balance sheet

at 31 December 2006

	Note	2	006	26	005
		€000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		5,634		5,885
Investments	12		58		58
Investments in joint venture		* . = - =			
Share of gross assets	12	24,565		25,346	
Share of gross habilities		(9,322)		(8,616)	
			15,243		16,730
			20,935		22,673
Current assets Stocks	13	2 7 7 7		2.402	
Debtors	13 14	2,777		3,493	
Cash at bank and in hand	14	1,838		1,506	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,106		1,192	
		5,721		6,191	
Creditors amounts falling due within one year	15	(3,392)		(3,848)	
Net current assets		***************************************	2,329		2,343
Total assets less current liabilities			23,264		25,016
Creditors amounts falling due after					
more than one year	16		(9,141)		(12,699)
Net assets			14,123		12,317
ivet assets			=		12,317
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	17		23,950		19,950
Profit and loss account	18		(9,827)		(7,633)
					
Equity shareholders' funds			14,123		12,317

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 14 May 2007 and were signed on its behalf by

T Fujita

Managing Director

Company balance sheet at 31 December 2006

	Note	2	006	2	2005
.		£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed assets Tangible assets	11		1		1
Investments	12		7,051		7,051
			7,052		7,052
Current assets				105	
Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	14	735		485 824	
Cash at bank and in hand		822		024	
		1,557		1,309	
Creditors amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,072)		(709)	
Net current assets			485		600
Total assets less current liabilities			7,537		7,652
Creditors: amounts falling due after more	• •				(0.0.0)
than one year	16		(2,250)		(3,350)
N.AA.					4 202
Net assets			5,287		4,302
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	17		23,950		19,950
Profit and loss account	18		(18,663)		(15,648)
Equity shareholders' funds			5,287		4,302

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 14~May~200) and were signed on its behalf by

T Fuuts

Managing Director

Consolidated statement of total recognised gains and losses for the year ended 31 December 2006

	2006 £000	2005 £000
Loss for the financial year Share of exchange loss in joint venture	(2,049) (145)	(2,975) (662)
Total recognised gains and losses relating to the financial year	(2,194)	(3,637)

Reconciliation of movements in shareholders' funds

for the year ended 31 December 2006

	Group		Company	
	2006 £000	2005 £000	2006 £000	2005 £000
Loss for the financial year Issue of shares	(2,049) 4,000	(2,975)	(3,015) 4,000	(10,582)
Other recognised gains and losses relating to the year	(145)	(662)	-	-
Net addition to / (reduction in) shareholders' funds Opening shareholders' funds	1,806 12,317	(3,637) 15,954	985 4,302	(10,582) 14,884
Closing shareholders' funds	14,123	12,317	5,287	4,302

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and under the historical cost accounting rules

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the ultimate holding company, Nippon Paint Co Limited, has agreed to fully support financially the operations of the company in order to ensure its ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future

Under Financial Reporting Standard 1 the company is exempt from the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement on the grounds that a parent undertaking includes the company in its own published consolidated financial statements

As the company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nippon Paint Company Limited (NPC), the company has taken advantage of the exemption contained in FRS 8 and has therefore not disclosed transactions or balances with entities which form part of the group. The consolidated financial statements of NPC can be obtained from the address given in note 22.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the company and its subsidiary undertaking and joint venture made up to 31 December 2006

The acquisition method of accounting has been adopted. Under this method, the results of subsidiary undertakings acquired or disposed of in the year are included in the consolidated profit and loss account from the date of acquisition or up to the date of disposal

A joint venture is an undertaking in which the group has a long term interest and over which it exercises joint control. The group's share of the profits less losses of the joint venture is included in the consolidated profit and loss account and its interest in the net assets is included in investments in the consolidated balance sheet.

In the company's financial statements, investment in subsidiary and joint ventures are stated at cost less any impairment

The company has taken advantage of the exemption in Section 230 of the Companies Act 1985 not to present its own profit and loss account. The company's loss for the financial year, determined in accordance with the Act, was £3,015,000 (2005 loss £10,581,500)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets by equal instalments over their estimated useful economic lives as follows

Freehold buildings - 30 years

Motor vehicles - 3 years or over the lease period (up to 3 years)

Plant and machinery - 15 years Furniture and equipment - 4-5 years

No depreciation is provided on freehold land or assets in the course of construction

Residual value is calculated on prices prevailing at the date of acquisition

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the year end are reported using the rates of exchange prevailing at that date. Any gains or losses arising from a change in exchange rates subsequent to the date of the transaction are included as an exchange gain or loss in the profit and loss account.

Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and the outstanding future lease obligations are shown in creditors. Operating lease rentals are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value

In determining the cost of raw materials, consumables and goods purchased for resale, the weighted average purchase price is used. For work in progress and finished goods cost is taken as production cost, which includes an appropriate proportion of attributable overheads.

Taxation

The charge for taxation is based on the profit for the year and takes into account taxation deferred because of timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes. Provision is made for deferred tax only to the extent that it is probable that an actual liability will crystallise.

Deferred tax is recognised without discounting, in respect of all timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes which have arisen but not reversed by the balance sheet date, except as otherwise required by FRS 19

Pension costs

The company and subsidiary undertaking provide pensions to their employees through defined contribution group personal pension schemes underwritten by Clerical Medical Investment Group

The amount charged to the profit and loss account in respect of pension costs is equal to the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are included as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

Turnover

Turnover represents the amounts (excluding value added tax) derived from the provision of goods and services in the normal course of business

2 Analysis of turnover

Group	2006	2005
•	£000£	£000
By geographical market		
United Kingdom	7,881	8,132
Europe	1,773	1,978
Rest of the world	1,270	1,394
	·	
	10,924	11,504

3 Other operating expenses

	2006 £000	2005 £000
Administrative expenses Service charge income	3,200 (244)	3,356 (352)
	2,956	3,004

The service charge income includes £60,000 (2005 £95,000) arising from transactions with the ultimate parent company, £184,000 (2005 £181,000) with group companies and £nil (2005 £76,000) from transactions with the joint venture

4 Interest receivable and similar income

4 Interest receivable and similar medice		
	2006	2005
	£000	£000
Bank interest receivable and similar income	6	5
Share of joint venture's investment income	131	145
·		
	137	150
	======	
5 Interest payable and similar charges		
	2006	2005
	£000	£000
On bank loans and overdrafts	645	697
On borrowings from other group undertakings, fully	043	077
repaid during the year	20	23
Interest element of finance leases and hire purchase payments	5	3
Share of joint venture's interest payable and similar charges	23	53
Exchange (losses)/gains	(216)	94
	477	870
	<u> </u>	
6 Amounts written-off fixed assets		
	2006	2005
	£000	£000
Impairment of fixed assets	_	1,400
		1,400
	<u> </u>	

During the prior year the subsidiary company, N P Automotive Coatings (Europe) Limited, carried out an impairment review on the carrying value of its tangible fixed assets. This resulted in an impairment loss of £1,400,000 being recognised in 2006

7 Loss on ordinary activities before taxation

Loss on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging	2006 £000	2005 £000
Auditors' remuneration		
for the group audit	38	36
For the company audit	17	16
Fees paid to the auditors and its associates in respect of other qualifying sources	20	22
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible and		
intangible fixed assets		
Owned	335	365
Leased	7	4
Hire of plant and machinery - rentals payable under operating leases	8	9
Hire of other assets - operating leases	84	80

In addition, the group has been charged £7,623 (2005 £9,220) payable to the auditors of the joint venture, Akzo Nobel Nippon Paint Limited, for the performance of an audit of its financial statements

8 Staff numbers and costs

The average number of persons employed by the group (including directors) during the year, analysed by category, was as follows

	Number o	Number of employees	
	2006	2005	
Production	21	19	
Administration	33	33	
	54	52	

8 Staff numbers and costs (continued)

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows

	2006 £000	2005 £000
Wages and salaries	1,913	1,913
Social security costs	149	136
Other pension costs	88	76
	2,150	2,125
	<u></u>	-

9 Remuneration of directors

The directors did not receive any emoluments in respect of their services to the company during the year

There were no share options for directors nor did they receive any shares or share options under long-term incentive schemes

There were no company contributions to pension schemes for the directors

10 Taxation

Analysis of charge in the period

	2006 £000	2005 £000
UK corporation tax		
Current tax on loss for the period Share of Joint Ventures' tax	565	193
Tax on loss on ordinary activities	565	193

10 Taxation (continued)

Factors affecting the tax charge for the current period

The current tax charge for the period differs from the standard rate of corporation tax of 30% (2005 30%) The differences are explained below

	2006 £000	2005 £000
Current tax reconciliation		
Loss on ordinary activities before tax	(1,876)	(3,020)
Current tax at 30% (2005 30%)	(563)	(906)
Effects of		
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	3	1
Movement in other short term timing differences	-	(31)
Depreciation in excess of capital allowances	40	467
Unutilised tax losses and trade charges carried forward to future periods	520	469
		
Total current tax charge (see above)		

The company has approximately £1,966,982 (2005 £1,787,646) of taxation losses available for surrender to group companies or for carry forward and set-off against future trading profits arising from the same activities

Similarly, the subsidiary undertaking has trading losses of approximately £12,279,388 (2005 £10,891,811) of taxation losses available for carry forward for offset against future taxable profits arising from the same trade

The amounts of unrecognised net deferred taxation assets are as follows

	Group			Company	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Timing differences relating to tangible fixed assets	1,810	1,900	2	2	
Other timing differences	51	47	-	-	
Tax effect of losses and unrelieved trade charges carried forward	5,048	4,512	737	684	
•					
	6,910	6,459	739	686	

11 Tangible fixed assets

Group	Freehold land £000	Freehold buildings £000	Assets in course of construction £000	Plant and machinery £000	Motor vehicles £000	Fixtures and equipment £000	Total £000
Cost	1 257	6.446	/10	(272	22	350	14.007
At beginning of year Additions	1,357	5,446	619 4	6,272 77	33	359 10	14,086 91
	-	(20)	4		-	10	
Disposals	-	(20)	(211)	(143)	-	-	(163)
Transfers		-	(311)	311			
At end of year	1,357	5,426	312	6,517	33	369	14,014
Depreciation							
At beginning of year	-	3,114	-	4,754	33	300	8,201
Charge for year	-	123	-	200	-	19	342
On disposals	•	(20)	-	(143)	-	•	(163)
At end of year	-	3,217	-	4,811	33	319	8,380
Net book value At 31 December 2006	1,357	2,209	312	1,706	-	50	5,634
At 31 December 2005	1,357	2,332	619	1,518	_	59	5,885

Included in the fixed assets above are leased assets with net book value of £88,000 (2005 £96,000)

Company	Fixtures and equipment £000	Total £000
Cost At beginning of year and end of the year	38	38
Depreciation		
At beginning of year and end of the year	37	37
Net book value	 	
At 31 December 2006	1	1
At 31 December 2005	1	1

12 Fixed asset investments

				Investments other than
Group				loans
				£000
Valuation At beginning and end of year				58
			Other	
Comment	Shares in group	Participating interests	investments other than loans	Total
Company	undertakings £000	£000	£000	£000
Cost	2000	2000	2000	4000
At beginning and end of year	16,000	6,000	55	22,055
Purchase of additional shares	4,000	-	-	4,000
				
	20,000	6,000	55	26,055
Provisions				
At beginning of year	15,000	•	4	15,004
Impairment	4,000	-	-	4,000
				
At end of year	19,000	•	4	19,004
Net book value				
At 31 December 2006	1,000	6,000	51	7,051
		···		
At 31 December 2005	1,000	6,000	51	7,051
	·			<u>.</u>
		_	-	

Nippon Paint (Europe) Limited have performed an impairment review of its investment in NP Automotive Coatings (Europe) Limited As a result the carrying value of its investment in N P Automotive Coatings (Europe) Limited has been impaired by £4,000,000

12 Fixed asset investments (continued)

The companies in which the group's interest at the year en-	d is more than 20% are as follows
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•	Country of incorporation	Principal activity	Class and percentage of shares held
Subsidiary undertakings NP Automotive Coatings (Europe) Limited	Great Britain	Paint manufacture	100% ordinary shares
Joint venture Akzo Nobel Nippon Paint BV	Netherlands	Coil Coating Manufacture	25% ordinary shares

Joint ventures

The following information is relevant to an understanding of the group's investment in the joint venture

	2006	2005
Shares of assets	£000	£000
Share of fixed assets	9,313	10,986
Share of current assets	15,252	14,360
	24,565	25,346
Share of liabilities	(0.144)	(7.240)
Due within one year	(8,144)	(7,240)
Due after one year	(1,178)	(1,376)
	(9,322)	(8,616)
Share of net assets	15,243	16,730
		

13 Stocks

	Group	
	2006	2005
	0002	£000
Raw materials, consumables and goods in transit	1,921	2,653
Finished goods and goods for resale	856	840
	2,777	3,493

In the opinion of the directors, there is no significant difference between the replacement cost of stocks and their balance sheet value, except for currency valuations

14 Debtors

		Group		mpany
	2006	2005	2006	2005
	000£	£000	£000	£000
Trade debtors	1,608	1,291	652	398
Amounts owed by group undertakings	74	60	61	60
Other debtors	39	42	21	26
Prepayments and accrued income	117	113	1	1
	1,838	1,506	735	485

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

		Group		mpany
	2006	2005	2006	2005
	000£	£000	£000	£000
Obligations under finance leases				
and hire purchase contracts	16	21	-	-
Trade creditors	218	263	49	26
Amounts owed to group undertakings	2,747	2,884	982	637
Taxation and social security	94	102	4	3
Other creditors	5	38	_	2
Accruals and deferred income	312	540	37	41
	3,392	3,848	1,072	709
	 			

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group		Company	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Bank loans and overdrafts	9,100	12,650	2,250	3,350
Obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts	41	49	-	•
				
	9,141	12,699	2,250	3,350

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year (continued)

The group's medium term bank loan comprises two elements

£2,250,000 medium term, unsecured which bears interest at normal commercial rates. The loan has been renewed to 30 June 2009 and is part of a total facility of up to £5,000,000. This facility is supported by a letter provided to the bank from the ultimate holding company Nippon Paint Company Japan.

£6,850,000 medium term, unsecured which bears interest at normal commercial rates. The loan has been renewed to 30 June 2009 and is part of a total facility of up to £12,000,000. This facility is guaranteed by a letter provided to the bank from the ultimate parent company Nippon Paint Company Japan.

The maturity of obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts is as follows

	2006 £000	2005 £000
Within one year In the second to fifth years inclusive	16 41	21 49
		70
17 Called up share capital		
	2006 £000	2005 £000
Authorised Equity Ordinary shares of £1 each	25,000	25,000
Allotted, called up and fully paid Equity Ordinary shares of £1 each	23,950	19,950

18 Reserves

	Profit and los	Profit and loss account		
	Group £000	Company £000		
At beginning of year	(7,633)	(15,648)		
Loss for the year	(2,049)	(3,015)		
Share of exchange gain in Joint venture	(145)	-		
At end of year	(9,827)	(18,663)		

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2005

Notes (continued)

19 Commitments

- (a) There were no capital commitments at the end of the financial year
- (b) Annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows

	2006	2005
Group	£000	£000
Operating leases which expire		
Within one year	12	31
In the second to fifth years inclusive	75	59
After five years	4	•
	91	90
	· 	
Company		
Operating leases which expire		
Within one year	-	-
In the second to fifth years inclusive	-	2
After five years	t	-

20 Pension scheme

The group operates a defined contribution pension scheme The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the group to the fund and amounted to £88,000 (2005 £76,000)

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at 31 December 2006 (2005 £Nil)

21 Contingent liabilities

Nippon Paint co Ltd has guaranteed medium term loans and other banking facilities of the subsidiary undertaking, NP automotive coatings (Europe) Limited The maximum exposure is limited to £12,000,000 (2005 £12,000,000) for the subsidiary undertaking

22 Ultimate parent company and parent undertaking of larger group

The largest group in which the results of the company are consolidated in that headed by Nippon Paint Co Limited, incorporated in Japan

The consolidated accounts of these groups are available to the public and may be obtained from 1-2, 2 Chome, Oyodo-Kita, Kita-Ku, Osaka 531, Japan