JNC James CBE FRICS Executive Deputy Chairman

JNCJ:sls

29 July 1992

Nigel Peace Esq Secretary Committee on the Financial Aspects of Corporate Governance P O Box 433 Moorgate Place London EC2P 2BJ



The Grosvenor Office 53 Davies Street London W1Y 1FH Telephone 071 408 0988 Facsimile 071 62 99 11 5

Dear Sir

FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Directors have closely considered the Code of Best Practice which has been prepared by the Committee. Although we are a group of private companies and so not immediately affected, we concur with the Committee's objectives and the need to raise the standards of future behaviour.

We have examined the various proposals set out in the Code of Best Practice and generally agree with them. However, we have reservations, at least in the context of private companies, on item 2.4. We consider that the suggestion of the Company paying for independent advice sought by nonexecutive directors could lead to possible divisions within the Board.

We already meet many of the standards proposed and, as a large private company wishing to keep in the forefront of proper corporate governance, we will be examining further steps with a view to meeting the Code of Practice as fully as possible.

Yours faithfully

J N C James Executive Deputy Chairman (Signed in Mr James's absence)