

13 December 2004

BOARD APPOINTMENT

P&O is pleased to announce the appointment of David Williams as a Non-executive Director. Mr Williams will join the Board in January 2005. He will succeed Rodney Galpin as Chairman of the Audit Committee when Mr Galpin stands down from the Board at the AGM in May 2005.

David Williams is Finance Director of Bunzl plc, a position he has held since joining the company in 1991. He is also a Non-executive Director of George Wimpey plc where he chairs the Audit Committee.

Commenting on the appointment, P&O Chairman Lord Sterling said: "I am very pleased to welcome David to the Board. His considerable experience in finance from across industry will be a great asset to the Group.

"Rodney is a first class Board member and Audit Committee Chairman. We have greatly benefited from his advice over the eight years he has been a Non-executive Director."

Further information: Peter Smith, Director, Communications and Strategy
Tel: +44 (0)20 7930 4343

Notes to editors:

1. David Williams (58) trained as a chartered accountant after graduating with a BA in Economics from Manchester University. He held a number of finance positions, principally at RHM plc. He joined Tootal Group plc in 1982, becoming Group Finance Director in 1991.
2. He has been a Non-executive Director and Chair of the Audit Committee at George Wimpey plc since 2001. He has previously been a Non-executive Director of Medeva plc (1998-2000) and Dewhirst Group plc (1995-2001).

(ends)