

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Victoria House
76 Milton Street
Nottingham NG1 3QY
Telephone +44 (0) 115 947 3000
Facsimile +44 (0) 115 947 2660

The Boards of Directors of:

Hicking Pentecost PLC (*Registered number 406925*)
Hicking Pentecost (Pension Trustees) Limited (*Registered number 902970*)
Roban Ductile Welding Limited (*Registered number 2707384*)
Dewey Waters Limited (*Registered number 2979346*)
Alan Paine Knitwear Limited (*Registered number 2882559*)
Hicking Pentecost Textiles Limited (*Registered number 2786949*)
Forgemasters plc (*Registered number 2103640*)

Commerce House
9 The Oldway Centre
Monnow Street
Monmouth
NP25 3PS

9 November 1999

Our ref: AMM/STC/PAJ



Dear Sirs

In accordance with Section 392 of the Companies Act 1985 we give notice that we are resigning as auditors of each of the companies to which this letter is addressed with immediate effect.

In accordance with Section 394 of the Companies Act 1985, we confirm with respect to each of the companies to which this letter is address that there are no circumstances connected with our ceasing to hold office as auditors to the company that we consider should be brought to the attention of the company's members or creditors.

Yours faithfully

PricewaterhouseCoopers

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

Secretary

PricewaterhouseCoopers is the successor partnership to the UK firms of Price Waterhouse and Cooper & Lybrand. The principal place of business of PricewaterhouseCoopers and its associate partnerships, and of Cooper & Lybrand, is 1 Embankment Place, London WC2N 6NN. The principal place of business of Price Waterhouse is Southwark Towers, 32 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9SY. Lists of the partners' names are available for inspection at those places.

All partners in the associate partnerships are authorised to conduct business as agents of, and all contracts for services to clients are with, PricewaterhouseCoopers. PricewaterhouseCoopers is authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.