REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1999

\*L5HY4QTS\* 0491
COMPANIES HOUSE 26/05/00

**REGISTERED NUMBER: 1957770** 

## DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1999

The Directors present their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1999.

#### REVIEW OF BUSINESS

The principal activity of the Company is to provide a full wealth management service for private clients and a portfolio management service for charities and pension funds. All the Company's activities are in respect of continuing operations.

The Company is regulated by the Securities and Futures Authority, for the conduct of its investment business.

#### RESULTS AND DIVIDEND FOR THE YEAR

The Directors report that the profit of the Company for the year ended 31 December 1999, after providing for corporation tax, amounted to £6.604m (1998: £5.020m). The Directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend, and the profit will be transferred to reserves.

#### DIRECTORS

The Directors who served during the year are as shown below:

Graeme Percival Hansen Richard James Amos Noland Carter John Kerr Grieves Heather Jill Maizels Alison Jane Malton Charles Frederick Pinney Sir Anthony Reeve Robert George Skinner

#### DIRECTORS' AND OFFICERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY

Barclays Bank PLC continues to maintain liability insurance cover for its Directors and Officers and those of its subsidiary undertakings in the UK and overseas, under a Directors' and Officers' liability insurance policy.

## **DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN SHARES** (as defined by section 325 the Companies Act 1985)

All Directors of the Company are also Directors of Barclays Directors Limited and their interests in shares are disclosed in the accounts of that company.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1999

#### STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The following statement, which should be read in conjunction with the Auditors' report set out on page 4, is made with a view to distinguishing for shareholders the respective responsibilities of the Directors and of the Auditors in relation to the financial statements.

The Directors are required by the Companies Act 1985 to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss for the financial year.

The Directors consider that in preparing the financial statements on pages 5 to 18,

- the Company has used appropriate accounting policies, consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates, and
- that all the accounting standards which they consider to be applicable have been followed, and
- that the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Directors have responsibility for ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Company and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985.

The Directors have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent fraud or other irregularities.

The Directors confirm that they are satisfied the Company has adequate resources to continue its business for the foreseeable future.

#### YEAR 2000 READINESS DISCLOSURE

After more than 3 years of preparation the Barclays Group / Barclays Private Bank Limited managed the transition into the Year 2000 with no material disruption to customers, staff or business around the world.

#### **BACKGROUND**

All areas of the Barclays Group use information technology and therefore had the potential to be affected by the Year 2000 transition, and could also have been impacted by failures in business partners' systems or banking industry networks.

#### **ACTIVITY DURING 1999**

The principal focus during the year was risk mitigation and contingency planning. The Company also finalised internal testing and correction, and continued to work with other banks and external network providers towards industry readiness of the key clearing, payment and settlement infrastructures in the UK and, where appropriate, overseas.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1999

#### COSTS AND BENEFITS

The total amount spent by the Barclays Group on the Year 2000 programme up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1999 was £209m (including £15m of capitalised costs) of which £65m was incurred in the year to December 1999. Year 2000 costs include correction, testing, third party assurance and contingency planning.

In addition to the successful transition, the Group has benefited from enhanced business resumption plans and contingency arrangements, updated and rationalised systems and coding, and improved inventories of hardware, software and suppliers.

#### **ONGOING ISSUES**

Despite the success of the immediate cutover, the Company will remain vigilant as elements of its business processes exercise functionally for the first time during 2000. A system of Operational Quality Control checks has been established to monitor such future output for any effects of Y2K.

#### AUDITORS

On the 13 December 1990 an elective Resolution was passed by the shareholders of the Company pursuant to Section 386 of the Companies Act 1985 to dispense with the obligation to appoint Auditors annually.

PricewaterhouseCoopers has signified its willingness to continue in office.

### BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Barcosec Limited 54 Lombard Street

London EC3P 3AH

19 April 2000

## **AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF**

### BARCLAYS PRIVATE BANK LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 5 to 18 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on pages 7 and 8.

#### Respective responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report. As described on pages 2 and 3, this includes responsibility for preparing the financial statements, in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards. Our responsibilities, as independent auditors, are established in the United Kingdom by statute, the Auditing Practices Board and our profession's ethical guidance.

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. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the directors' report is not consistent with the financial statements, if 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 transactions is not disclosed.

We read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatement or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

#### Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards 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 judgements 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 of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 1999 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Chartered Accountants

and Registered Auditors

London

19 April 2000

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1999

	Notes	1999 £000	1998 £000
Interest receivable Interest payable	2 2	54,065 (40,438)	71,321 (59,433)
NET INTEREST INCOME		13,627	11,888
Fees and commissions receivable		28,808	23,183
OPERATING INCOME		42,435	35,071
Administrative expenses		(32,040)	(26,919)
OPERATING PROFIT BEFORE PROVISIONS		10,395	8,152
Provisions for bad and doubtful debts	3	(60)	23
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	4	10,335	8,175
Taxation	6	(3,731)	(3,155)
PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	18	6,604	5,020
Retained profits brought forward		19,420	14,400
Retained profits carried forward		26,024	<u>19,420</u>

The Company has no recognised gains or losses other than its profit for the year. There is no difference between the results disclosed in the profit and loss accounts and the results on an unmodified historical cost basis.

All the Company's activities are in respect of continuing operations.

The notes on pages 7 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

## **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999**

	Notes	1999 £000	1998 £000
ASSETS		<u> </u>	<u> 2000</u>
Cash and balances at central banks	7	289	319
Loans and advances to banks	8	1,328,104	1,236,268
Loans and advances to clients	9	231,969	152,281
Settlement balances	12	5,240	21,433
Intangible fixed assets	11	33,000	35,000
Tangible fixed assets	10	2,058	2,467
Other assets		1,775	776
Prepayments and accrued income		9,271	8,292
Deferred taxation	16	51	51
Total assets		1,611,757	1,456,887
LIABILITIES		<del></del>	<del></del>
Items in the course of transmission to banks	13	27,948	5,932
Client accounts	14	1,309,970	1,157,735
Settlement balances	12	5,411	21,286
Other liabilities		8,991	5,735
Accruals and deferred income		6,450	5,863
Intra group balances		185,563	199,516
	15		
		1,544,333	1,396,067
SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS			
Called up share capital	17	12,000	12,000
Share premium		29,400	29,400
Profit and loss account		26,024	19,420
Shareholders' funds	18	67,424	60,820
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,611,757	1,456,887
MEMORANDUM ITEMS			
Contingent liabilities	19	35,068	32,299
Commitments	19	49,652	21,698

A statement of movement in shareholders' funds is given in note 18.

The notes on pages 7 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 5 to 18 were approved by the Board of Directors on 19 April 2000.

R.J AMOS DIRECTOR

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999

#### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### (1) Accounting convention

The financial statements are drawn up in accordance with Schedule 9 of the Companies Act 1985 and have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and Statements of Recommended Accounting Practice issued by the British Bankers' Association.

The Company's results are consolidated with Barclays PLC whose financial statements are publicly available. Accordingly, the Company has elected to utilise the exemption provided by Financial Reporting Standard 1 (Revised 1997) on Cash Flow Statements and Financial Reporting Standard 8 (Related Party Disclosures) and has not presented its own cash flow statement nor certain related party disclosures.

#### (2) Interest receivable

Interest income is recognised in the profit and loss account as it accrues other than interest of doubtful collectability which is credited to a suspense account and excluded from interest income. The closing balance on the suspense account is netted in the balance sheet against accrued interest receivable or, as the case may be, the amount debited to the borrower. Suspended interest is written off when there is no longer any realistic prospect of it being recovered.

#### (3) Interest payable

Interest payable is recognised in the profit and loss account as it accrues.

#### (4) Fees and commissions receivable

Fees and commissions receivable are exclusive of VAT and consist of: commission charged to external clients on Stock Exchange transactions; fees for the management of external client portfolios; arrangement fees for loans, guarantees, acceptances and credits; financial planning commissions and banking transaction fees.

#### (5) Depreciation

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets is provided on a straight line basis at the following annual rates:

Computers and similar equipment 20% Fixtures and fittings and other equipments 20%

#### (6) Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided at the estimated rates at which future taxation will become payable on all timing differences between the accounting and taxation treatment of income and expense where, in the opinion of the Directors, it is probable that a liability or asset will crystallise.

## (7) Leases

The Company uses property, furniture and equipment which is provided for use by other companies within the Barclays PLC group. An intercompany recharge is levied and the Company accounts for these costs on an accruals basis.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999 (Continued)

### (8) Foreign exchange

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the settlement of the transaction. Exchange differences are accounted for in the profit and loss account.

### (9) Goodwill

Goodwill arises on the acquisition of subsidiary and associated undertakings and other businesses acquired. It represents the excess of cost over fair value of the share of net tangible assets acquired. Such goodwill is capitalised as an intangible asset and amortised against profit over its expected life, usually twenty years. Capitalised goodwill is written off when judged to be irrecoverable.

#### (10) Bad and doubtful debts

Specific provisions are made against advances for which recovery is considered to be doubtful. General provision is made in respect of losses which although not yet specifically identified, are known from experience to be present in any portfolio of bank advances. Loans and advances are written off when there is no realistic prospect of recovery.

#### (11) Financial Instruments

Certain derivatives are purchased on behalf of clients, the cost of which is borne by the clients and income received is included in fees and commission receivable.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999 (Continued)

## 2 INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND PAYABLE

	Interest receivable		1999 £000	1998 £000
	Loans and advances Loans and advances		47,889 _6,176	66,539 <u>4,782</u>
	Interest payable		54,065	71,321
	Deposits by intra gro	oup banks	31	54
	Client accounts:	Current and demand accounts	12,524	16,681
		Savings accounts Other time deposits	27,883	42,698
			40,438	<u>59,433</u>
3	PPOVISIONS FOI	R BAD AND DOUBTFUL DEBTS		
3	I ROVISIONS FOI	C BAD AND DOUBTFUL DEBTS	1999 £000	1998 £000
	Specific provisions -	credit risk	(10)	23
	General provisions -		(50)	
			(60)	23

## 4 OPERATING PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION

The operating profit on ordinary activities before taxation has been arrived at after charging:

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Amounts paid to related undertakings in respect of operating lease obligations	2,431	2,250
Auditors' remuneration	40	34
Auditors' fees for non audit work	98	14
Depreciation	510	
	3,079	<u>2,298</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999 (Continued)

### 5 EMPLOYEES

With the exception of the Chairman and Chief Executive, all the staff are employed by Barclays Private Banking Services Limited and their costs are recharged by means of an intercompany charge. The Chairman and Chief Executive are employed elsewhere within the Barclays group and the costs of the Chief Executive are recharged to the Company. In 1999 the total recharge was £14,456,098 (1998: £11,890,071).

<u>Directors' emoluments</u>	1999 £000	1998 £000
Directors' emoluments in respect of their services to the Company:		
Aggregate Emoluments	853	871
Aggregate amounts receivable under the long-term incentive schemes	78	78
Compensation for loss of office	-	-
	931	949

No directors (1998: Nil) have retirement benefits accruing under money purchase pension schemes. In addition retirement benefits are accruing to 4 (1998: 5) directors under a Barclays Group defined benefit pension scheme.

Highest Paid Director	1999 £000	1998 £000
Aggregate emoluments and benefits under long-term incentive schemes	254	206
Defined benefit pension scheme: Accrued pension at end of year (£'000 per annum)	52	49

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999 (Continued)

## 5 EMPLOYEES (Continued)

## Contracts with Directors and connected persons and with senior executives

The aggregate amounts outstanding at 31 December 1999 under transactions, arrangements and agreements made by the Company who are, or were during the year, Directors of the Company and persons connected with them and for senior executives, within the meaning of the Banking Act 1987 were:

		Number of Directors -or senior executives	Number of connected persons	Amount £000
	Director loans	None	-	Nil
6	TAXATION		1999 £000	1998 £000
	The taxation charge comprises:			
	Corporation tax at 30.25% (1998: 31.0%) on pro	ofit for the year	3,731	3,155
			3,731	3,155

## 7 CASH AND BALANCES AT CENTRAL BANKS

At 31 December 1999, cash and balances at Central Banks includes physical cash held in vaults of £289,000 (1998: £319,000).

#### 8 LOANS AND ADVANCES TO BANKS

		1999				1998	
	_		000£				
	Intra-group	Other	<u>Total</u>	Intra-group	Other	Total	
Repayable on demand	388,819	_	388,819	488,501	-	488,501	
Not more than three months	791,918	-	791,918	655,275	-	655,275	
Over three months but not							
more than one year	144,129	-	144,129	85,286	-	85,286	
Over one year but not							
more than five years	2,385	-	2,385	6,353	-	6,353	
Over five years	<u>853</u>		853	<u>853</u>		<u>853</u>	
	1,328,104	-	1,328,104	1,236,268	<u></u>	1,236,268	

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999 (Continued)

## 9 LOANS AND ADVANCES TO CLIENTS

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Repayable on demand	35,673	34,505
Not more than three months	116,251	72,202
Over three months but not more than one year	43,214	10,040
Over one year but not more than five years	28,809	18,304
Over five years	8,172	17,426
Less provisions	(150)	(196)
	231,969	152,281

## 10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment	Equipment
	<u>1999</u>	<u> 1998</u>
Cost or valuation	£000	£000
	0.467	27
At beginning of year	2,467	27
Addition at cost	101	2,440
		2,440
Depreciation	<u>(510)</u>	
At end of year	2,058	2,467
At the of year	2,050	2,407

Assets held mainly comprise of capital expenditure and refurbishment on 43 Brook Street, a property held under operating leases.

## 11 GOODWILL

	1999 £000	1998 £000
At beginning of year Additions Amortisation charge for year	35,000 (2,000)	37,000 (2,000)
At end of year	33,000	<u>35,000</u>

Goodwill is amortised through the profit and loss account over 20 years from the date of acquisition.

## 12 SETTLEMENT AMOUNTS

Included within settlement balances recoverable and settlement balances payable are balances with group undertakings of £Nil and £Nil (1998: £Nil and £188,446) respectively.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999 (Continued)

## 13 ITEMS IN THE COURSE OF TRANSMISSION TO BANKS

		Intra-	Other	1999 Total	Intra	Othe	1998 r Total
		Group £000	£000	£000	Group £000	£000	000£
	Repayable on demand	<u>27,948</u>		<u>27,948</u>	<u>5,932</u>		<u>5,932</u>
14	CLIENT ACCOUNTS						
						1 <u>999</u> £000	1998 £000
	Repayable on demand With agreed maturity dates or periods	of notice by ren	agining mot	1301ts/	407	,643	410,913
	- 3 months or less but not repayable o		naming mai	urity	754	,960	654,705
	- 1 year or less but over 3 months				144	,129	85,286
	- 5 years or less but over 1 year				2	2,385	5,978
	- over 5 years					853	<u>853</u>
					<u>1,309</u>	<u>,970</u>	1,157,735
15	OTHER LIABILITIES						
						1999	1998
						£000	£000
	Corporation tax				3	3,811	3,062
	Sundry creditors				_5	<u>5,180</u>	2,673
					8	<u> 3,991</u>	<u>5,735</u>
16	DEFERRED TAXATION					1999 £000	1998 £000
	Balance brought forward Current year charge/(release)				_	(51)	(51) —-
	Balance carried forward				=	(51)	<u>(51)</u>

The deferred tax balance comprises a deferred tax asset of £51,000 (1998: £51,000) in respect of capital allowances

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999 (Continued)

17	CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL	1999	Number 1998	1999 £000	1998 £000
	Authorised Ordinary shares of £1 each	12,000,000	12,000,000	<u>12,000</u>	12,000
	Allotted and fully paid Ordinary shares of £1 each	12,000,000	12,000,000	<u>12,000</u>	12,000
18	RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS	1999 £000	1998 £000		
	Opening shareholders' funds Proceeds of shares issued Profit retained			60,820 - 6,604	55,800 - 
	Closing shareholders' funds			67,424	60,820

### 19 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS

In common with other banks, the Company conducts business involving acceptances, guarantees, performance bonds and indemnities. The majority of these facilities are offset by corresponding obligations of third parties.

Contingent liabilities	1999 Contract or underlying principal amount £000	Contract or underlying principal amount £000
Guarantees and assets pledged as collateral security and other contingent liabilities	29,758	<u>23,521</u>
Commitments  Loans not drawn down	49,652	21,698

From time to time, Barclays Bank PLC will enter into bonds, indemnities, guarantees or other obligations on behalf of clients of Barclays Private Bank Limited under counter indemnities in favour of Barclays Bank PLC. Barclays Private Bank Limited has agreed to indemnify Barclays Bank PLC against all actions, proceedings, liabilities, claims, demands, damages, costs and expenses arising in respect of these transactions.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999 (Continued)

## 19 OFF BALANCE SHEET ITEMS (Continued)

At 31 December 1999 the company held client money of £57,678,800 (1998: £72,314,859) in accordance with the Financial Services (Client Money) Regulations 1991.

#### 20 LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Company has entered into a number of lease agreements with other companies within the Barclays PLC group. The amount payable in respect of the forthcoming year comprises:

	Land and buildings		Furniture and equipment	
		restated		restated
	1999	1998	1999	1998
	£000	$\overline{\mathfrak{t}000}$	£000	$\overline{\mathfrak{t}000}$
Commitments expiring:				
Within one year	1,848	1,773	308	308
Between one and five years	-	-	-	-
Over 5 years	-	-	_	-

#### 21 SEGMENTAL INFORMATION

In the opinion of the Directors there is only one class of business which is conducted from the United Kingdom.

### 22 SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

The Company owns 100% of the issued ordinary share capital of Swan Nominees Limited and Zeban Nominees Limited, which are registered in England and Wales. Swan is a nominee Company which is used to register PEP holdings which are beneficially owned by clients of Barclays Private Bank Limited. Zeban is a nominee company used to register UK holdings which are beneficially owned by clients of Barclays Private Bank Limited. Neither company trades on its own account and therefore are not material for consolidation purposes.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999 (Continued)

### 23 DERIVATIVES AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Company's objectives and policies in managing the risks that arise in connection with the use of financial instruments are set out below.

### **Interest Rate Sensitivity Gap Analysis**

The table below summarises the repricing profiles on the Company's non-trading book as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 1999. Items are allocated to time bands by reference to the earlier of the next contractual interest rate repricing date and the maturity date.

Y. A	Not more than three months	More than three months but not more than six months	More than six months but not more than one	More than one year but not more than	More than Five Years	Non- interest bearing	Total
Interest rate repricing  Assets:	£000	£000	year £000	five years	£000	£000	£000
Loans & advances to banks	1,140,368	86,573	92,933	7,351	853	26	1,328,104
Loans & advances to clients	86,314	108,753	32,616	4,286	_	_	231,969
Other assets	, ,		-	-	_	51,684	51,684
Total assets	1,226,682	195,326	125,549	11,637	853		1,611,757
Liabilities:							
Client accounts	1,075,708	86,573	92,933	7,351	853	46,552	1,309,970
Intra group balances	54,886	108,753	12,519	4,287	-	5,118	185,563
Other liabilities	27,948	-	-	-	-	88,276	116,224
Total liabilities	1,158,542	195,326	105,452	11,638	853	139,946	1,611,757
Interest rate sensitivity gap	68,140	-	20,097	(1)	-	(88,236)	
Cumulative gap	68,140	68,140	88,237	88,236	88,236	-	

## **Currency Risk**

The Company does not maintain a non-trading open currency position and does not have any investments held overseas.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999 (Continued)

### 23 DERIVATIVES AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Continued)

Transactional Currency Exposures

The table below shows the Company's transactional currency exposures in the non-trading book; in other words, those non-structural exposures that give rise to the net currency gains and losses recognised in the profit and loss account. Such exposures comprise the non-trading monetary assets and monetary liabilities of the Company that are not denominated in the operating (or 'functional') currency of the operating unit involved.

	Foreign currency monetary assets/(liabilities) in £000					
	Sterling	US dollar	Euro	Yen	Other	Total
Sterling Equivalent						
Assets	-	749,132	75,543	9,104	39,001	872,780
(Liabilities)	-	(748,908)	(75,499)	(9,105)	(39,001)	(872,513)
Net	-	224	44	(1)	-	267

### Hedging

The Company buys options on behalf of some clients in relation to certain offered products. All options are purchased from creditworthy financial institutions who have been approved by the Treasury Committee.

The Treasury Committee agree and review credit limits on a monthly basis using a combination of risk management techniques. At the year-end the market value of the options is £7.364m (1998: £8.654m) and the liability to the customer would be £7.364m (1998: £8.654m).

The cost of the options at 31 December 1999 is £5.310m (1998: £8.778m) which is borne by the client.

#### Fair Value of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

Financial instruments include both financial assets and liabilities and also derivatives. The fair value of a financial instrument is the amount at which the instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale.

Other than the options referred to above, there is no material difference between the fair value and book values of the other financial assets and liabilities of the Company.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999 (Continued)

### 24 HOLDING COMPANIES

The parent undertaking of the smallest group that presents group accounts is Barclays Bank PLC. The ultimate holding company and the parent company of the largest group that presents group accounts is Barclays PLC. Both companies are incorporated in Great Britain and are registered in England and Wales. Barclays Bank PLC's and Barclays Bank PLC's statutory accounts are available from the Secretary, 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH.