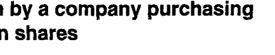
COMPANIES FORM No. 169

Return by a company purchasing its own shares





Please do not write in this margin

Pursuant to section 169 of the Companies Act 1985



Company number

2723534

Please complete legibly, preferably in black type, or bold block lettering

* insert full name of company

ASTRAZENECA

To the Registrar of Companies

(Address overleaf)

Name of company



This return must be delivered to the Registrar within a period of 28 days beginning with the first date on which shares to which it relates were delivered to the company

Shares were purchased by the company under section 162 of the above Act as follows:

For official use

| Class of shares | ORDINARY | ORDINARY | ORDINARY |
|---|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Number of shares purchased | 750,000 | 470,000 | 100,000 |
| Nominal value of each share | US\$ 0.25 | US\$0.25 | US\$ 0.25 |
| Date(s) on which the shares were delivered to the company | 26/02/01 | 01/03/01 | 05/03/01 |
| Maximum prices paid § for each share | 3052·53p | 3079.72 | 3133-21p |
| Minimum prices paid § for each share | 3052.53 | 3079.72, | 3133-21p |

§ A private company is not required to give this information

> The aggregate amount paid by the company for the shares to which this return relates was:

240,501,869.00

Stamp duty payable pursuant to section 66 of the Finance Act 1986 on the aggregate amount at 50p per £100 or part of £100 £202,510.00

‡ Insert Director,

Secretary, Administrator, Administrative Receiver or Receiver (Scotland) as

appropriate

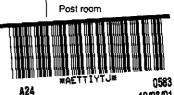
Signed

Designation # SECRETARY

Date 09/03/01

Presentor's name address and reference (if any):

For official Use General Section



A24 COMPANIES HOUSE

10/03/01