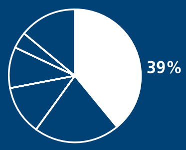
Annual Report & Accounts 2005

DCC

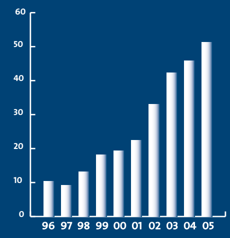
DCC group at a glance

GROUP PBIT %	DESCRIPTION	GROWTH RECORD

ENERGY

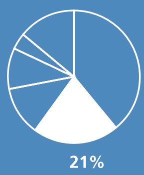


DCC MARKETS AND SELLS liquefied petroleum gas and oil products to commercial / industrial, domestic, catering and agricultural customers in Britain and Ireland.

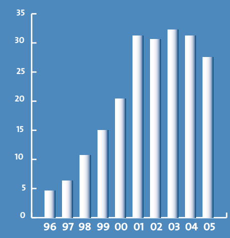


10 Year CAGR **18.0%**

IT DISTRIBUTION

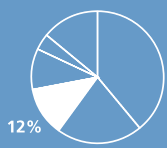


DCC MARKETS AND SELLS a broad range of computer hardware and software products in Britain, Ireland and Continental Europe to computer resellers, high street retailers, computer superstores, on-line retailers and mail order catalogues.

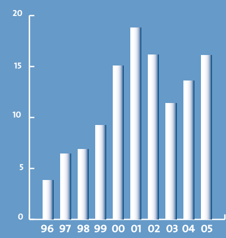


10 Year CAGR **23.9%**

HEALTHCARE

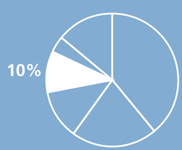


DCC MARKETS AND SELLS medical, surgical, IV pharmaceutical, mobility & rehabilitation and laboratory products to the acute care, community care and laboratory sectors in Ireland and Britain. DCC is also a leading provider of contract manufacturing services to the nutraceuticals and cosmetics industries in Europe.

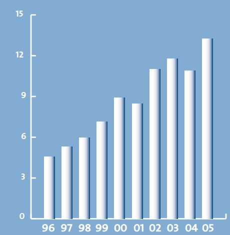


10 Year CAGR **20.3%**

FOOD & BEVERAGE

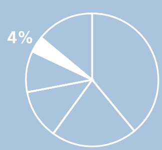


DCC MARKETS AND SELLS food and beverages in Ireland and wine in the UK. These include healthy foods, snackfoods, fresh coffee and wine to a broad range of catering, convenience store, foods service and multiple grocer customers. DCC is also a leading player in frozen food distribution in Ireland.

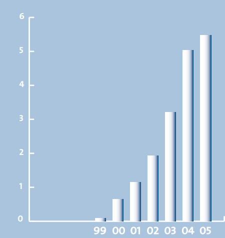


10 Year CAGR **13.9%**

ENVIRONMENTAL

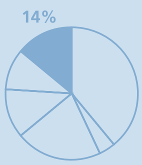


DCC provides specialist waste management services to the industrial/commercial sectors in Ireland including the treatment of waste oils, waste chemicals and contaminated soils and the marketing of effluent water treatment chemicals.

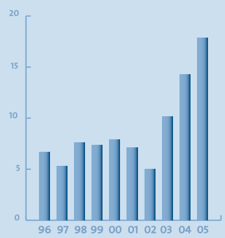


5 Year CAGR **53.0%**

OTHER (HOMEBUILDING AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT)



DCC's other activities principally comprise a 49% shareholding in a leading Irish builder of houses, apartments and related commercial developments and a supply chain management business.



10 Year CAGR **8.0%**

MARKET POSITION	GROWTH FOCUS	STRONG BRANDS	
■ No 1 or 2 in most of its markets ■ 345,500 customers ■ 132 facilities ■ 848 vehicles	■ Organic market share growth in LPG and oil ■ Consolidation opportunities in oil distribution in Britain	**Cawoods Oil*, Emo Oil*, Ergas*, Flogas*, Fuel Card Group*, Fuel Services*, Scottish Fuels*, Shell** **(*DCC owned)**	ENERGY
■ Leading player in each of its markets ■ No 1 distributor for many of the world's leading brands ■ 16,000 customers ■ 585,000 consignments annually	■ Organic market share growth ■ Improving environment for acquisitions ■ Broadening vendor / product portfolio	**Canon, Cisco Systems, Epson, Fujitsu Siemens, HP, IBM, Microsoft, Oracle, Samsung Electronics, Sony, StorageTek, Sun Microsystems, Symantec, Tivoli, Xbox, Xerox**	IT DISTRIBUTION
■ No 1 in Irish medical, surgical and laboratory supplies ■ No 1 in Irish specialist segments in IV pharmaceuticals and related devices ■ Leading player in mobility and rehabilitation products ■ Sole distributor in Ireland for key global brands ■ 3 MHRA approved contract manufacturing facilities	■ General market growth, particularly in non-acute sector ■ Further development of own brands ■ Vertical integration ■ Further acquisitions in Britain and Ireland	**Days Healthcare*, Diagnostica, DiaMed, Fannin Healthcare*, Fresenius Kabi, Grifols, Molnlycke, Oxoid, Portex, Synthes, Strider*** **(*DCC owned)**	HEALTHCARE
■ No 1 in healthy foods and savoury snacks in Ireland ■ No 2 in freshly ground coffee in Ireland ■ Strong position in wine ■ 24% of sales are of owned brands ■ Over 7,000 customers across Ireland	■ Expanding portfolio of strong niche brands ■ Demand growth for healthy foods ■ Pursuing further acquisition opportunities in Britain and Ireland	**Bollinger, Brown Brothers, Dr Oetker, French Connection*, Hipp, Jordans, Kelkin*, KP, Kylemore, Lemons*, Phileas Fogg, Robinsons, Robt. Roberts*, Torres** **(*DCC owned)**	FOOD & BEVERAGE
■ 3 EPA/EHS licensed facilities in Ireland ■ Leading specialist player in Irish environmental market	■ Growing environmental services market ■ Positioned to meet demand for skill-based services from industrial customers ■ Expansion opportunities in Britain as legislation develops	**Atlas, Envirotech, Shannon Environmental Services** **(All DCC owned)**	ENVIRONMENTAL
■ Building c. 600 residential units annually ■ Leading provider of supply chain management services to the technology, telecommunications and medical device sectors	■ Substantial land bank available for future development ■ Trend towards outsourcing supply chain solutions	**Manor Park Homebuilders** **Apple, Canon, Medtronic, Mapinfo, Microsoft, Nortel Networks, Thompson Telecom**	OTHER (HOMEBUILDING AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT)

DCC is a value added sales, marketing and business support services group that has delivered compound annual growth of 17% in adjusted earnings per share over the past 10 years.

2005 Summary Results	% Growth Reported	% Growth Constant Currency
Sales **€2.7 billion**	+24.3	+22.9
Operating profit **€131.5 million**	+8.8	+11.2
Earnings (adjusted earnings per share) **137.25 cent**	+12.6	+15.2
Dividends (dividend per share) **37.26 cent**	+15.0	+15.0

Return on capital employed	
- excluding goodwill	40.5% (39.8%: 2004)
- including goodwill	21.0% (21.3%: 2004)

Board of Directors

Alex Spain

Alex Spain, B Comm, FCA (aged 72), is non-executive Chairman of DCC and is a director of a number of other companies. He was Managing Partner of KPMG in Ireland from 1977 to 1984. He is a former President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and a former Chairman of the Financial Services Industry Association in Ireland. Mr Spain joined the Board and became Chairman in 1976.

Chairman of the Nomination Committee and member of the Remuneration Committee.

Jim Flavin
Chief Executive/Deputy Chairman

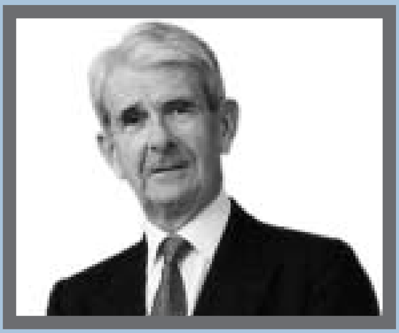
Jim Flavin, B Comm, DPA, FCA (aged 62), founded DCC in 1976 and is Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman. Prior to founding DCC, he was head of AIB Bank's venture capital unit. Mr Flavin is a former Deputy Chairman and Senior Independent Director of eircom plc.

Member of the Nomination Committee.

Paddy Gallagher

Paddy Gallagher, BL, DPA (aged 65), non-executive Director, retired as Head of Legal and Pensions Administration at Guinness Ireland Group in 2000. He previously worked with Aer Lingus, the Irish national airline, and is a former Chairman of the Irish Association of Pension Funds. He is a member of the Committee of Management of Irish Property Unit Trust and is Chairman of the Trustees of the An Post Superannuation Scheme. Mr Gallagher joined the Board in 1976.

Chairman of the Audit Committee and member of the Nomination Committee.



Maurice Keane

Maurice Keane, B Comm, M Econ Sc (aged 64), non-executive Director, was a member of the Court of Directors of Bank of Ireland up to February 2005, having been Chief Executive up to February 2002. He is a director of Axis Capital Holdings Limited and is Chairman of BUPA Ireland and of University College Dublin Foundation Limited. He was also Chairman of Bristol & West plc up to February 2005. Mr Keane joined the Board in 2002.

Member of the Audit and Nomination Committees. Senior Independent Director.

Kevin Murray

Kevin Murray, BE, FCA (aged 46), executive Director, joined DCC in 1988, having previously worked with Shell Chemicals in London and Arthur Andersen in Dublin. He is Managing Director of DCC Healthcare and of DCC Environmental, having previously been Managing Director of DCC Energy from 1996 to 2004 and Managing Director of DCC Food & Beverage from 1999 to 2004. Mr Murray joined the Board in 2000.

Tony Barry

Tony Barry, Chartered Engineer (aged 70), non-executive Director, was Chairman of CRH plc from 1994 to May 2000, having previously been Chief Executive. He was a member of the Court of Directors of Bank of Ireland from 1993 to 2003 and was Deputy Governor from October 1997 to September 2000. He was Chairman of Greencore Group plc up to February 2003. He is a past President of The Irish Business and Employers' Confederation. Mr Barry joined the Board in 1995.

Chairman of the Remuneration Committee and member of the Nomination Committee.

Tommy Breen

Tommy Breen, B Sc (Econ), FCA (aged 46), executive Director, joined DCC in 1985, having previously worked with KPMG. He is Managing Director of DCC Energy, having previously been Managing Director of DCC SerCom from 1996 to 2004. Mr Breen joined the Board in 2000.

Fergal O'Dwyer

Fergal O'Dwyer, FCA (aged 45), executive Director, joined DCC in 1989 having previously worked with KPMG in Johannesburg and Price Waterhouse in Dublin. He was appointed Chief Financial Officer in 1994. Mr O'Dwyer joined the Board in 2000.

Bernard Somers

Bernard Somers, B Comm, FCA (aged 56), non-executive Director, is a non-executive director of Independent News and Media plc, Irish Continental Group plc and Ardagh plc and is Chairman of eTel Group, a central European telecommunications company. He is a former director of the Central Bank of Ireland. Mr Somers is the founder of Somers & Associates, which has built a substantial practice in corporate restructuring. He has also been an investor in and a director of several start-up companies. Mr Somers joined the Board in 2003.

Member of the Audit and Remuneration Committees.

senior management
group and divisional

Jim Flavin **Deputy Chairman**	Group Chief Executive
Tommy Breen **Executive Director**	Managing Director DCC Energy
Kevin Murray **Executive Director**	Managing Director DCC Healthcare and DCC Environmental
Fergal O'Dwyer **Executive Director**	Chief Financial Officer
Frank Fenn	Managing Director DCC Food & Beverage
Donal Murphy	Managing Director DCC SerCom
Ann Keenan	Head of Group Human Resources
Colman O'Keeffe	Deputy Managing Director DCC Energy
Peter Quinn	Head of Group IT
Michael Scholefield	Managing Director Corporate Finance
Gerard Whyte	Group Secretary Compliance Officer Head of Enterprise Risk Management

senior management
subsidiaries

Energy

DCC Energy Northern Ireland	Sam Chambers	Managing Director
Emo Oil	Gerry Wilson	Acting Managing Director
Flogas Ireland	Pat Mercer	Managing Director
Flogas UK	Paddy Kilmartin	Managing Director
Fuel Card Group	Ben Jordan	Chief Operations Officer
GB Oils	Tom Howley	Chief Operating Officer

IT Distribution

Distrilogie	Patrice Arzillier	Managing Director
Gem Distribution	Paul Donnelly	Managing Director
Micro Peripherals	Anthony Catterson	Managing Director
Sharptext	Paul White	Managing Director

Healthcare

Days Healthcare	Barry O'Neill	Managing Director
DCC Nutraceuticals	Stephen O'Connor	Managing Director
Fannin Healthcare Group	Andrew O'Connell	Managing Director
Laleham Healthcare	Vic Hilliard	Managing Director
Virtus	John Leonard	Managing Director

Food & Beverage

Allied Foods	Mitchel Barry	Chairman & Chief Executive
Bottle Green	Jerry Lockspeiser	Managing Director
Broderick Bros	Fintan Corrigan	Managing Director
Kelkin	Bernard Rooney	Managing Director
Robt. Roberts	Ken Peare	Managing Director

Environmental

Atlas Environmental Ireland	Declan Ryan	Managing Director

Supply Chain Management

SerCom Solutions	Kevin Henry	Managing Director

chairman's statement

DCC's business model is focused on generating long term, quality growth in shareholder value. Compound annual growth in reported adjusted earnings per share of 14.8% over the last five years and 17.0% over the last ten years has been achieved while investing sensibly to support future growth and maintaining a strong financial position.

Dividend increase of 15%

The Directors are recommending a final dividend of 23.75 cent per share which, when added to the interim dividend of 13.51 cent per share, gives a total dividend of 37.26 cent per share for the year, a 15% increase over the prior year dividend of 32.40 cent per share. The dividend is covered 3.7 times by adjusted earnings per share (3.8 times: 2004). The final dividend will be paid on 11 July 2005 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 27 May 2005.

Share buybacks

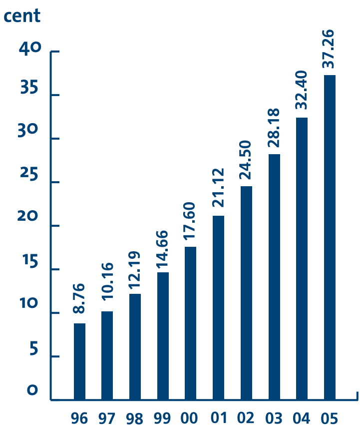
DCC bought back a further 2,065,000 of its own shares on 17 May 2004 (2.53% of the issued share capital at that date) at a price of €12.80 per share and at a total cost of €26.8 million. DCC has bought back a total of 10.45% of its issued share capital since July 2000 at an average price per share of €10.48 and a total cost of €97.7 million.

Propriety of Fyffes share sales in February 2000

On 24 January 2002 Fyffes plc initiated legal action against DCC, its wholly owned subsidiary, Lotus Green, and others in connection with the sale in February 2000 by Lotus Green of 87% of the shareholding it held in Fyffes at that time.

The Board of DCC set out its views on the Fyffes action in a comprehensive Stock Exchange announcement on 24 January 2002 in which it stated that it *"is completely satisfied that none of its officers was in possession of price sensitive information on Fyffes in February 2000, when Lotus Green accepted offers from the market for 87% of its shareholding in Fyffes, and believes that the sales were undertaken with absolute propriety".*

On 3 August 2004 DCC announced to the Stock Exchange that it had made an application to the High Court in Dublin to expedite the hearing of the legal action initiated by Fyffes. As a result, the hearing of the action began in the High Court on 2 December 2004. The hearing is expected



Dividend per share
Compound annual growth rate:
5 years 16.2%
10 years 16.9%

to conclude before the end of July 2005 but it is likely to be a number of months before a judgement is delivered.

The action has been, and is being, fully defended consistent with the view of the Board as set out in DCC's Stock Exchange announcement of 24 January 2002 and the Directors have concluded that no provision should be made in respect of this matter, other than expensing ongoing costs in relation to the action.

Acquisitions and development

Acquisition and development expenditure amounted to €131.3 million. DCC's ongoing acquisition programme resulted in a number of acquisitions being completed during the year, at a total committed cost of €89.3 million, of which €11.1 million was deferred. Capital expenditure amounted to €42.0 million. The cash impact of acquisitions in the period was €81.1 million.

In October 2004, DCC Energy completed the acquisition of the business of Shell Direct UK which supplies heating oils and transport fuels to domestic, agricultural and small commercial and industrial customers in Britain.

DCC is now the largest independent oil marketing and distribution business in Britain. In January 2005, DCC Energy acquired Dyneley Holdings Limited, a British company that sells motor fuel through fuel cards under the BP, Esso and Texaco brands.

DCC Healthcare broadened its nutraceuticals business through the acquisition, in December 2004, of 77.5% of Laleham Healthcare Limited, a contract manufacturer and packer of creams and other liquid products for the health and beauty market. The enlarged business is a leading supplier of contract services – product development, manufacturing and packaging – to the European nutraceuticals sector.

In August 2004, DCC Food & Beverage completed the acquisition of Bottle Green Limited, a UK based wine sales and marketing business, and increased its shareholding from 51.5% to 100% in Allied Foods Limited, a leading player in the Irish chilled and frozen foods distribution market.

The Group is actively pursuing further acquisitions in each of its divisions.

Corporate governance

The Board of DCC is committed to maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance. The Board is satisfied that the Group has effective ongoing processes for identifying, evaluating and managing risks faced by the Group. A detailed statement, set out on pages 37 to 42, describes how DCC has complied with all of the Principles of Good Governance and Code of Best Practice as set out in the July 2003 Combined Code on Corporate Governance.

The future

DCC is commercially and financially well placed to generate ongoing growth both organically and by acquisition.

Alex Spain
Chairman
13 May 2005

chief executive's review

It is pleasing to report another excellent year of growth, with sales increasing by 22.9% to €2.73 billion and adjusted earnings per share by 15.2% to 137.25 cent (constant currency). The return on capital employed was excellent at 40.5% on tangible assets and 21.0% on assets inclusive of acquisition goodwill.

Sales and marketing strengths

- Efficient service to suppliers and customers
- Concentration on business-to-business sales
- Focused sales teams
- Efficient telesales
- Tight control of working capital
- Excellent procurement
- Experienced management
- Strong market positions
- Sales and distribution reach

Core competencies

The core expertise of DCC is business to business valued added sales and marketing. In particular, providing an efficient service to both suppliers and customers, applying effective sales practices and ensuring tight control of working capital are consistent features throughout the Group. This expertise, combined with a depth of experience and skill in executing shareholder value enhancing acquisitions, has driven DCC's strong earnings growth record, high returns on capital employed and excellent shareholder returns.

DCC has pursued a consistent strategy of applying its core skills across different markets. The success of this strategy is borne out by DCC's shareholder return outperformance. DCC floated on the Irish and London Stock Exchanges in May 1994 at a flotation price of €3.17 and on 31 March 2005 DCC's shares closed at €17.94, an appreciation of 465%, or 525% when dividends paid during the period are included. Over the same period the ISEQ index appreciated by 231% and the FTSE 100 index by 57%.

DCC has developed a track record of excellence in identifying, executing and integrating bolt-on acquisitions, to which it committed €89 million in the past year. The Group has succeeded in identifying businesses that fit with existing operations and acquiring them at sensible operating profit multiples. The entrepreneurial management teams that have successfully built these acquired businesses normally remain with DCC following acquisition and contribute both to the extraction of synergies through integration with DCC's existing operations and to future growth.

Increasing focus on sales of DCC owned brands

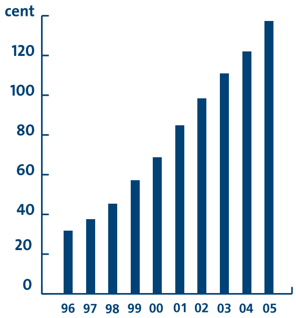
DCC seeks to deploy its sales and marketing expertise to add real value for the third party principals whose brands it sells and markets, and increasingly for DCC's own brands. Sales of DCC's own brands have grown to approximately 43% of total sales. The Group's strategy to continue growing the proportion of total sales represented by DCC's own brands will enhance margin opportunities and reduce exposure to changing channel and brand strategies of third party principals. DCC's sourcing and procurement expertise is an important enabling factor supporting this strategy.

UK - primary geographic focus for further expansion

The proportion of DCC's profits generated in the UK has grown significantly over recent years and in the last financial year amounted to 53% of total operating profit. The UK market offers a considerable growth opportunity for each of DCC's divisions and will, therefore, be the primary geographic focus for DCC's development in the next number of years.

In Energy, DCC is now the largest independent oil marketing and distribution business in Britain. Following the acquisition during the year of the business of Shell Direct UK, DCC has an operating structure that will enable it to be a consolidator in the downstream oil sales and marketing business in Britain.

In IT Distribution, DCC has achieved significant organic growth in sales of software and



Adjusted earnings per share

Compound annual growth rate:

5 years 14.8%
10 years 17.0%

consumer products to the retail channel – which now account for over 30% of DCC's total IT sales. DCC is now the leading consumer software distributor in Britain. This retail channel strength will continue to provide opportunities for organic and acquisition growth as the consumer digital product market continues to grow.

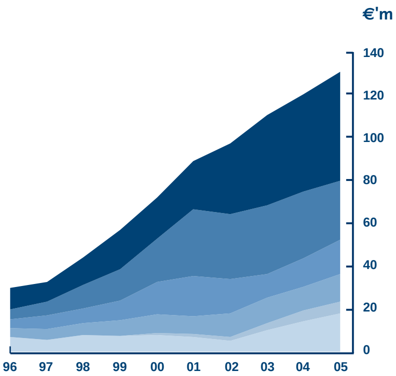
In Healthcare, DCC has a market leading position in acute and community care products in Ireland under its *Fannin Healthcare* brand. From this platform, DCC is well positioned to pursue niche growth opportunities in acute care, particularly intravenous pharmaceuticals, in Britain. DCC's community care business is well placed to continue the growth of its *Days Healthcare* brand, both in Britain and in European markets. The growth of both the *Fannin Healthcare* and *Days Healthcare* businesses is supported by a strong procurement resource. DCC has a team of six specialists in China who are creating competitive advantage in the areas of supplier selection, cost management, maintenance of quality and supply chain optimisation for the Healthcare division. The acquisition of Laleham Healthcare, a British based contract manufacturer and packer of creams and other liquid products for the health and beauty market, complements and further strengthens DCC's nutraceuticals business. The enlarged business is a leading supplier of contract services – product development, manufacturing and packaging – to the European nutraceuticals sector from its British base.

Healthy foods and wines now account for over 50% of DCC Food & Beverage's profits. Both areas have been growing faster than the overall food and beverage market in recent years and offer continued above-average growth potential in the years ahead. Following the acquisition of Bottle Green during the year, DCC has a strong presence and specialist skill-base in the UK wine market that leaves the business well positioned to pursue further organic growth opportunities. Over the past year Bottle Green has significantly increased sales of its own brands, such as *French Connection,* which now represent approximately 40% of its total sales. In healthy foods, DCC's own *Kelkin* brand, the clear market leader in Ireland, has achieved consistently strong growth and DCC is seeking opportunities to develop a UK healthy foods business from this strong base in Ireland.

In Environmental, DCC has achieved strong growth in Ireland in recent years, particularly in the knowledge-intensive areas of waste oils, chemicals and contaminated soils treatment, and in the marketing of effluent water treatment chemicals under a DCC-owned brand. DCC has a small but growing business in the marketing of water treatment chemicals in Britain where it is seeking to leverage its skills to replicate the success of the Irish environmental services business, both organically and by acquisition.

Optimal use of shareholders' funds

DCC seeks to make optimal use of shareholders' funds through the development and acquisition of businesses with low working capital intensity. Working capital days at 31 March 2005 equated to



Market sector analysis of operating profit from continuing activities

Compound annual growth rate:

	Continuing	Reported
5 years	12.7%	11.1%
10 years	17.0%	14.9%

- Energy
- IT Distribution
- Healthcare
- Food & Beverage
- Environmental
- Other

10.5 days' sales. This focus on cash generative businesses drives higher returns on capital employed. In addition, DCC has adopted an opportunistic approach to earnings enhancing share buybacks, and has bought back 10.45% of its issued share capital in recent years at an average price of €10.48 per share.

Outlook

The long term outlook for DCC is exciting. The increasing proportion of the Group's total sales represented by DCC's own brands and the potential for further expansion in the UK by each of the Group's divisions support this view. Having completed several acquisitions during the past year, DCC is focused on leveraging its business platforms, management capacity and financial strength to deliver continued organic and acquisition growth, strong cash generation and excellent returns on capital.

Jim Flavin
Chief Executive/Deputy Chairman
13 May 2005

operating review

DCC achieved excellent growth in the profitability of its Energy, Healthcare, Food & Beverage, Environmental and Other activities. IT Distribution profits declined due to very challenging market conditions.

Tommy Breen
Managing Director
Energy

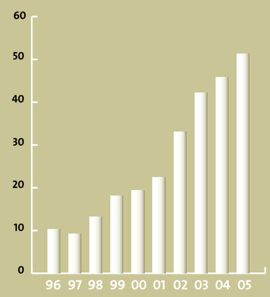
Kevin Murray
Managing Director
Healthcare and Environmental

Frank Fenn
Managing Director
Food & Beverage

Donal Murphy
Managing Director
IT Distribution

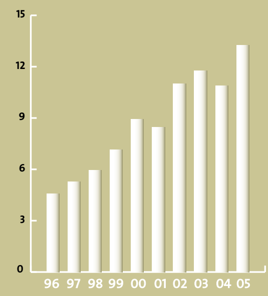
	2005 €'m	% Change Reported	% Change Constant Currency*
Energy	51.3	+12.0	+15.4
IT Distribution	27.5	-11.9	-8.9
Healthcare	16.1	+18.4	+20.2
Food & Beverage	13.2	+21.7	+22.6
Environmental	5.5	+8.5	+10.2
Other (Homebuilding and Supply Chain Management)	17.9	+25.0	+25.0
Total	**131.5**	**+8.8**	**+11.2**

* All constant currency figures quoted in this report are based on retranslating current year figures at the prior year translation rate



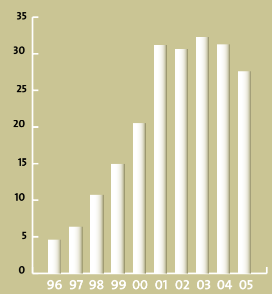
10 Year CAGR **18.0%**

energy



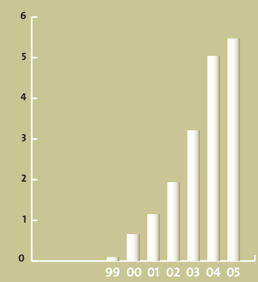
10 Year CAGR **13.9%**

food & beverage



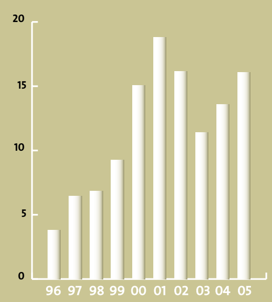
10 Year CAGR **23.9%**

IT distribution



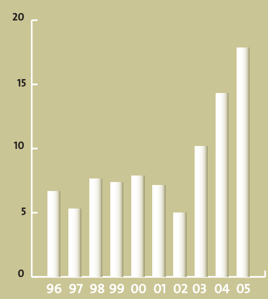
5 Year CAGR **53.0%**

environmental



10 Year CAGR **20.3%**

healthcare



10 Year CAGR **8.0%**

other

(Homebuilding and
Supply Chain Management)

energy

DCC Energy achieved strong growth in the year with operating profit increasing, on a constant currency basis, by 15.4%. During the year the business delivered 2.47 billion litres of product, an increase of 20%, further strengthening its position as the leading independent marketer of LPG and oil products in Britain and Ireland. DCC Energy now sells to approximately 345,500 customers from 132 facilities.

DCC's LPG business performed well in a challenging operating environment of increasing product prices and milder weather conditions.

DCC's oil business grew strongly, benefiting from good organic volume growth in Britain and the Republic of Ireland. The scale of the business was significantly increased by two acquisitions during the year and DCC is now the leading independent marketer of lpg and oil products in both Britain and Ireland. In October 2004, DCC acquired the trade, assets and goodwill of the business of Shell Direct UK, which supplies heating oils and transport fuels to domestic, agricultural and small commercial and industrial customers. In January 2005, DCC acquired Dyneley Holdings Limited, a British company that sells motor fuel, via fuel cards, under the BP, Esso and Texaco brands. Both of these acquisitions performed in line with expectations.

Energy	2005	2004	% change Reported	% change Constant Currency
Sales	€1,240.6m	€841.3m	+47.4	+45.5
Operating profit	€51.3m	€45.8m	+12.0	+15.4
Return on capital employed				
- excluding goodwill	47.2%	39.4%		
- including goodwill	23.7%	21.9%		

This page: DCC's subsidiary, Emo Oil distributes Shell branded heating oils and transport fuels to domestic, agricultural and small commercial and industrial customers in Britain, including The House of Commons.

Opposite page: Flogas UK, a DCC subsidiary, supplies LPG for domestic, commercial, transport, agricultural and industrial uses. Photographed here in Stapleford Park, one of England's finest stately homes, Sous Chef, Matt Bird prepares dinner for guests, using Flogas.

IT distribution

IT Distribution	2005	2004	% change Reported	% change Constant Currency
Sales	€878.2m	€859.4m	+2.2	+0.8
Operating profit	€27.5m	€31.3m	-11.9	-8.9
Operating margin	3.1%	3.6%		
Return on capital employed				
- excluding goodwill	34.2%	41.9%		
- including goodwill	21.4%	25.5%		

Following an excellent first half performance, the second half of the year was impacted by very difficult trading conditions in the IT distribution sector. The business achieved very good sales volume growth of approximately 15% during the year. However, this was offset by severe product price deflation, a highly competitive marketplace and adverse changes in terms and conditions with some key suppliers.

DCC's UK hardware distribution business achieved good sales volume growth, with particularly strong growth in both PCs and printers, but profits were impacted by severe product price deflation and margin pressure in a very competitive UK hardware marketplace. Trading was more difficult in the last quarter of the financial year and remains challenging.

DCC's UK software distribution business had an excellent year, with particularly strong growth in sales of computer games, security software and peripheral products into the major retailers. The Christmas trading period was strong, with the business distributing the number one game for each of the Xbox, Playstation and PC platforms. The business continues to broaden its product range in line with its strategy to be a specialist distributor to the retail channel of software, peripherals and consumer electronics.

DCC's Irish IT distribution business had a satisfactory performance, leveraging its position as the leading IT distributor in Ireland, to grow its market share in a very competitive marketplace.

DCC's Continental European IT distribution business had a very difficult year. Its performance was impacted by changes in terms with some key suppliers and significant levels of price deflation as the suppliers heavily discounted their products to grow market share in the very competitive European enterprise infrastructure market.

This page: Gem Distribution, a DCC subsidiary, is a leading supplier of leisure products to the retail sector in the UK, including Nintendo DS games consoles and Creative Labs MP3 players.

Opposite page: DCC's subsidiary, Distrilogie, markets and sells enterprise infrastructure including computer storage products in Europe. Here, Bertrand Bombe, HP's Director of Storage - Business Units, meets with Patrice Arzillier, Managing Director of Distrilogie.

healthcare

DCC Healthcare achieved good sales and profit growth and all areas of activity developed well.

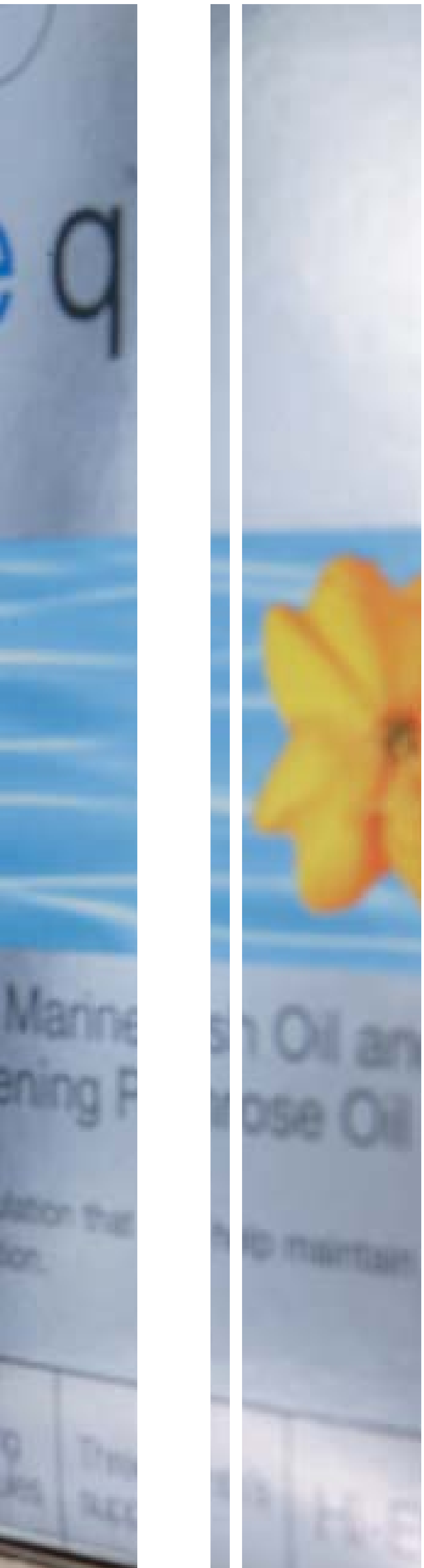
Good profit growth was achieved in the acute and community care sector with particularly strong growth in the sales of IV pharmaceutical products, and related specialist delivery systems to support their use. These products, which are used in the management of critically ill patients, include haematology, oncology, anaesthesia and anti-infective compounds. Days Healthcare, the mobility and rehab business, achieved good sales growth in Germany, Britain and other European markets, aided by increased investment in procurement resources in China.

The nutraceuticals business enjoyed excellent organic growth, benefiting from its success in broadening its branded customer base particularly in Britain, Scandinavia and the Benelux countries. In December 2004, DCC acquired 77.5% of Laleham Healthcare Limited, a contract manufacturer and packer of creams and other liquid products for the health and beauty market. The acquisition broadens DCC Nutraceuticals' contract services offering, comprising product development, manufacturing and packaging, to the European nutraceuticals sector and creates opportunities to cross sell products and services.

Healthcare	2005	2004	% change Reported	% change Constant Currency
Sales	€170.7m	€149.0m	+14.6	+13.7
Operating profit	€16.1m	€13.6m	+18.4	+20.2
Operating margin	9.4%	9.1%		
Return on capital employed				
- excluding goodwill	40.3%	37.0%		
- including goodwill	13.0%	12.1%		

This page: Technicians in the compounding unit of DCC's subsidiary, Fannin Healthcare, prepare Ambisome infusions for use in intensive care units in Dublin hospitals.

Opposite page: Well-known branded nutraceuticals in tablet, capsule, liquid and stick pack form, such as Equazen's eye q capsules and sachets, are manufactured by DCC Nutraceuticals for the European market.



food & beverage

DCC Food & Beverage achieved strong sales and profit growth reflecting an increased shareholding (from 51.5% to 100%) in Allied Foods Limited, a leading player in the Irish chilled and frozen foods distribution market, and the acquisition of Bottle Green Limited. Bottle Green is a Leeds based wine sales and marketing business, supplying branded and exclusive label solutions to the UK wine market. The business is increasing the share of its profits coming from its own higher margin brands, such as French Connection. Both Bottle Green and Allied Foods have performed in line with expectations.

There was good organic growth in wine and healthfoods, with the Kelkin brand performing particularly well. Kelkin is the number one healthfood business in Ireland and will continue to capitalise on the growing demand for healthy foods and beverages by expanding its product range and increasing selling and marketing activities behind the brand. Increased focus is being given to Northern Ireland and options are being explored to expand the business into Britain.

The increasingly competitive environment in the Irish grocery and foodservice sectors continued to impact margins for the division as a whole.

Food & Beverage	2005	2004	% change Reported	% change Constant Currency
Sales	€242.3m	€170.7m	+42.0	+41.5
Operating profit	€13.2m	€10.9m	+21.7	+22.6
Operating margin	5.5%	6.4%		
Return on capital employed				
- excluding goodwill	40.8%	42.0%		
- including goodwill	18.2%	21.4%		

This page: DCC's subsidiary, Bottle Green supplies branded and exclusive label solutions to the UK multiple wine market. Here, Managing Director, Jerry Lockspeiser, presents the company's French Connection brand.

Opposite page: DCC markets and sells healthy foods and beverages, snackfoods and fresh coffee to a broad range of customers in Ireland under its own Kelkin and Robt. Roberts brands, as well as marketing and selling third party branded products such as KP and Robinsons.

environmental

DCC Environmental is a leading specialist player in the Irish environmental market, operating from three EPA/EHS licensed facilities. The business achieved good sales and profit growth with steady progress made in all areas of activity. DCC Environmental continues to provide a broad range of services including waste chemical, water and oil treatment, soil remediation and emergency response to industrial and commercial customers in Ireland. The business is seeking to expand its activities in Britain, where business opportunities are opening up due to increased UK environmental regulations.

Environmental	2005	2004	% change Reported	% change Constant Currency
Sales	€25.8m	€24.1m	+7.0	+6.5
Operating profit	€5.5m	€5.0m	+8.5	+10.2
Operating margin	21.2%	20.9%		
Return on capital employed				
- excluding goodwill	41.1%	50.8%		
- including goodwill	20.1%	19.8%		

This page: DCC is committed to a cleaner environment and provides services for the treatment of water, waste chemicals and soil.

Opposite page: DCC provides specialist waste management services to the industrial and commercial sectors in Ireland, including customers such as ESB.

other

homebuilding and supply chain management

Manor Park Homebuilders (a 49% owned associate company), which is a leading Irish homebuilding company, contributed operating profit of €19.0 million (€15.2 million: 2004) from house and apartment sales and related commercial development.

SerCom Solutions, the supply chain management business, reported an operating loss for the year of €1.1 million (operating loss of €0.9 million: 2004). The business has successfully completed the restructuring programme announced in January 2005 and has consolidated its Irish based kitting and assembly activities at its recently expanded facility in Limerick. The business is now profitably implementing its strategy of providing world-class supply chain management services.

Other (Homebuilding and Supply Chain Management)	2005	2004	% change Reported	% change Constant Currency
Sales	€174.0m	€153.4m	+13.4	+13.4
Operating profit	€17.9m	€14.3m	+25.0	+25.0

financial review

The year to 31 March 2005 was another year of growth and development at DCC plc and represented DCC's eleventh year of uninterrupted profit growth since becoming a public company in 1994.

Fergal O'Dwyer
Chief Financial Officer

Overview of Results

Turnover grew by 22.9% on a constant currency basis (24.3% reported) to €2,731.5 million and operating profit increased by 11.2% on a constant currency basis (8.8% reported) to a record €131.5 million (as detailed in Table 1), approximately 40% of which growth was organic and the balance from shareholder value enhancing bolt on acquisitions. Organic profit growth was held back by the very challenging market conditions in IT Distribution which have prevailed since late 2004. DCC's five other areas of activity performed very well, generating profit growth on a constant currency basis of 18.3% (16.0% reported).

The Group's operating margin was 4.8% (5.5%: 2004); however, it is important to note that this measurement of the overall Group margin is of limited relevance due to the influence of changes in oil product costs on the percentage. While changes in oil product costs will change percentage operating margins, this has little relevance in the downstream energy market in which DCC Energy operates, where profitability is driven by absolute contribution per litre (or tonne) of product sold, and not a percentage margin. Excluding Energy, the Group's operating margin was 5.4% compared to 5.5% in the previous year.

A detailed operating review is set out on pages 12 to 24.

The net interest charge was €5.6 million, an increase of €0.8 million on the prior year. Acquisition, development and share buyback expenditure of €142.0 million was partially offset by cash flow from operations of €114.9 million. Interest cover was 23.6 times (25.2 times: 2004).

Profit before net exceptional items, goodwill amortisation and tax rose by 11.0% on a constant currency basis (8.5% reported) to €126.0 million.

Net exceptional items

As announced in January 2005, net exceptional charges of €16.0 million were incurred. These arose mainly in relation to the restructuring of SerCom Solutions, acquisition related restructuring in DCC Energy and legal costs.

The consolidation of SerCom Solutions' kitting and assembly

Table 1: Operating profit

	2005			2004			% Change Reported			% Change Constant Currency		
	H1 €'m	H2 €'m	FY €'m	H1 €'m	H2 €'m	FY €'m	H1 %	H2 %	FY %	H1 %	H2 %	FY %
Energy	10.1	41.2	51.3	10.7	35.1	45.8	-5%	+17%	+12%	-4%	+21%	+15%
IT Distribution	13.0	14.5	27.5	11.6	19.7	31.3	+13%	-26%	-12%	+16%	-23%	-9%
Healthcare	7.1	9.0	16.1	6.5	7.1	13.6	+10%	+26%	+18%	+11%	+28%	+20%
Food & Beverage	5.8	7.4	13.2	5.0	5.9	10.9	+17%	+26%	+22%	+17%	+27%	+23%
Environmental	2.7	2.8	5.5	2.3	2.7	5.0	+16%	+2%	+9%	+19%	+3%	+10%
Other	7.3	10.6	17.9	5.1	9.2	14.3	+41%	+16%	+25%	+41%	+16%	+25%
Total	**46.0**	**85.5**	**131.5**	**41.2**	**79.7**	**120.9**	**+12%**	**+7%**	**+9%**	**+14%**	**+10%**	**+11%**

All constant currency figures quoted in this report are based on retranslating current year figures at the prior year translation rate.

activities at its recently extended Limerick facility resulted in the closure of its loss making Dublin facility. Following this restructuring programme, the business is now profitable and cash generative.

Following the acquisition by DCC Energy of the business of Shell Direct UK, planned exceptional restructuring costs were incurred in order to improve the overall efficiency of the business.

DCC incurred costs in relation to the Fyffes plc legal action and in relation to the pursuit in Taiwan of the damages, costs and interest (amounting to €19.4 million at 31 March 2005) awarded to DCC by the High Court in London following the successful legal action against Pihsiang Machinery Manufacturing Company Limited, a Taiwanese public company, Donald Wu, its chairman and major shareholder, and Jenny Wu, his wife and director (the Defendants). DCC has not recognised the €19.4 million due from the Defendants in its accounts pending its collection.

Taxation

The Group's taxation charge on ordinary activities, before goodwill amortisation and net exceptional items, for the year represents an effective tax rate of 12.0%. The effective tax rate reflects, in part, lower rates of tax in Ireland, including manufacturing relief at 10.0%. The standard rate of corporation tax in Ireland is 12.5% since 1 January 2003. An analysis of the taxation charge is contained in note 11 to the financial statements.

Adjusted Earnings per Share

Adjusted earnings per share increased by 15.2% on a constant currency basis (12.6% reported) to 137.25 cent. DCC has achieved compound annual growth in reported adjusted earnings per share of 14.8% over the last five years and 17.0% over the last ten years.

Dividend

The total dividend for the year of 37.26 cent per share represents an increase of 15% over the previous year. The dividend is covered 3.7 times (3.8 times: 2004) by adjusted earnings per share.

Return on Capital Employed

A core strength of DCC is the creation of shareholder value through delivering consistent, long term returns in excess of DCC's cost of capital. In the year under review,

Table 2: Return on capital employed

	2005		2004	
	ROCE (excl Goodwill)	ROCE (incl Goodwill)	ROCE (excl Goodwill)	ROCE (incl Goodwill)
Energy	47.2%	23.7%	39.4%	21.9%
IT Distribution	34.2%	21.4%	41.9%	25.5%
Healthcare	40.3%	13.0%	37.0%	12.1%
Food & Beverage	40.8%	18.2%	42.0%	21.4%
Environmental	41.1%	20.1%	50.8%	19.8%
Other	36.3%	31.1%	35.5%	29.5%
Group	**40.5%**	**21.0%**	**39.8%**	**21.3%**

DCC again achieved excellent returns on capital employed (as detailed in Table 2), generating a return of 40.5% excluding goodwill and 21.0% including goodwill (39.8% and 21.3% respectively: 2004). DCC's return on capital employed has remained consistently high due to a combination of achieving attractive acquisition valuations and excellent integration synergies.

Cash flow

DCC focuses on operating cash flow to maximise shareholder value over the long term. Operating cash flow is principally used to fund investment in existing operations, complementary bolt-on acquisitions, dividend payments and selective share buybacks. DCC's record of excellent cash generation continued with operating cash flow of €114.9 million compared to €151.9 million in the previous year, which benefited from the correction of relatively unfavourable working capital conditions which existed at 31 March 2003. Despite an increase in sales of €533.6 million, working capital increased by just €23.6 million, equating to 10.5 days' sales at 31 March 2005, compared to 11.6 days' at 31 March 2004, as detailed in Table 4.

Acquisition and development expenditure amounted to €131.3 million. DCC's ongoing acquisition programme resulted in a number of acquisitions being completed during the year, at a total committed cost of €89.3 million, of which €11.1 million was deferred. The cash impact of acquisitions in the year was €81.1 million. Capital expenditure was €42.0 million (inclusive of expenditure of €13.9 million on land and buildings). Net of disposals, capital expenditure was €34.1 million.

Table 3: Summary of Cash Flows

	2005 €'m	2004 €'m
Inflows		
Operating cash flow	**114.9**	**151.9**
Share issues (net)	6.8	1.2
	121.7	153.1
Outflows		
Capital expenditure (net)	34.1	28.1
Acquisitions	81.1	14.3
Share buyback	26.8	25.0
Interest and tax paid	12.0	8.9
Dividends paid	27.2	24.8
Net exceptional costs	6.6	10.7
	187.8	111.8
Net cash (outflow)/inflow	**(66.1)**	**41.3**
Translation adjustment	(4.8)	1.3
Opening net cash	**62.7**	**20.1**
Closing net (debt)/cash	**(8.2)**	**62.7**

Table 4: Working Capital Days

	2005 Days	2004 Days
Stocks	13.8	15.8
Debtors	46.4	46.5
Creditors	(49.7)	(50.7)
	10.5	**11.6**

Table 5: Analysis of Net (Debt)/Cash

	2005 €'m	2004 €'m
Cash and term deposits	352.4	320.6
Bank and other debt repayable within one year	(45.1)	(143.7)
Bank and other debt repayable after more than one year	(10.4)	(16.6)
Unsecured notes due 2008 to 2016	(305.1)	(97.6)
Net (debt)/cash	**(8.2)**	**62.7**

Balance sheet

DCC has a very strong balance sheet with shareholders' funds of €493.7 million at 31 March 2005. The composition of net debt at 31 March 2005 is analysed in Table 5. Cash and term deposits are analysed in note 22 to the financial statements. An analysis of DCC's debt at 31 March 2005, including currency, interest rates and maturity periods, is shown in notes 23 to 26 to the financial statements. In April 2004 DCC completed a private placement of debt raising the equivalent of €212.1 million in 10 and 12 year funding (average maturity 10.3 years) which further strengthens the Group's capital structure and its capacity to pursue organic and acquisition growth opportunities in all of its core business areas. The strength of DCC's business model and attractive market conditions at the time of the placement led to the funds being raised on very good terms.

International Financial Reporting Standards

It is mandatory for all EU listed companies to report their consolidated financial statements under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005. The Group will prepare its financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2006 under IFRS, including comparative information. Interim financial statements for the period to 30 September 2005, including comparatives, will be prepared under IFRS.

The principal changes for the Group arising from this transition from Irish GAAP to IFRS will be:

- Goodwill on acquisitions: IFRS 3 requires the identification of intangible assets acquired on business combinations. These intangible assets will be amortised over an appropriate period. In addition, goodwill is no longer amortised, rather it will be subject to annual reviews to test for impairment;
- Share based payments: IFRS 2 requires share options to be expensed through the Group Income Statement (Profit and Loss Account);
- Post employment benefits: The requirements of International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS 19) are broadly similar to those of FRS 17 as disclosed in note 32(b). The assets and liabilities of the Group's pension schemes will be recognised on the balance sheet and pension expenses will be charged to the Group Income Statement;
- Financial instruments: IAS 39 requires companies to recognise all financial instruments, including all derivatives. Derivatives include forward foreign exchange contracts, currency and interest rate swaps and must be measured at fair value. DCC does not take speculative positions and where permissable, will apply hedge accounting treatment which recognises the offsetting effects of changes in the fair values of the cash flows of the hedging instrument and the hedged item.

As a result of a detailed review of the full implications of the transition to IFRS, the Group is satisfied that it is prepared for the introduction of IFRS.

Treasury policy and management

The principal objective of the Group's treasury policy is the minimisation of financial risk at reasonable cost. This policy is reviewed and approved annually by the Board. The Group does not take speculative positions but seeks, where considered appropriate, to hedge underlying trading and asset/liability exposures by way of derivative financial instruments (such as interest rate and currency swaps and forward contracts). DCC's Group Treasury function centrally manages the Group's funding and liquidity requirements. Divisional and subsidiary management, in conjunction with Group Treasury, manage foreign currency and commodity price exposures within approved guidelines. An analysis of the Group's hedging positions is contained in note 27(b) to the financial statements.

Currency risk management

DCC's reporting currency and that in which its share capital is denominated is the euro. Exposures to other currencies, principally sterling and the US dollar, arise in the course of ordinary trading. Trading related foreign currency exposures are generally hedged by using forward contracts to cover specific or highly probable forecasted purchases and receivables. Although over half of the Group's operating profits are sterling denominated, certain natural economic hedges exist within the Group, for example, a proportion of the purchases by certain of its Irish businesses are sterling denominated. The Group does not consider it necessary to put in place further hedges in this respect.

Interest rate risk management

The Group borrows at both fixed and floating rates of interest and utilises interest rate swaps to manage its exposure to interest rate fluctuations.

Credit risk management

DCC transacts with a variety of financial institutions for the purpose of placing deposits and entering into derivative contracts. The Group actively monitors its credit exposure to each counterparty within guidelines approved by the Board.

Commodity price risk management

Commodity forwards and swaps are frequently used to fully or partly hedge potential price movements in LPG products and oil products to be purchased by the Group's energy businesses in Britain and Ireland. All such contracts are entered into with counterparties approved by the Board and usually for a period not exceeding three months.

corporate social responsibility

The continued development of a best-practice framework underpins DCC's proactive approach to Corporate Social Responsibility.

This approach reflects DCC's commitment to all key stakeholders - communities, customers, employees, the environment and shareholders.

Commitment

DCC's commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) benefits DCC and its key stakeholders – communities, customers, employees, the environment and shareholders. Understanding the needs of all stakeholders strengthens DCC's ability to take advantage of business opportunities, to contribute to the community at large, to support enduring, sustainable competitive advantage and to maximise shareholder value.

Progress

The continued development of a best-practice framework underpins the Group's proactive approach to CSR within the following key areas:

- Marketplace
- Environment, Health and Safety
- Community
- Workplace

A review of each of these areas is provided on the following pages.

Plans

DCC is continuing its strategy of building awareness and understanding of the implications and benefits of CSR throughout the Group. DCC encourages its management to lead by example and to be uncompromising in ensuring that its activities are undertaken in a socially responsible and ethically correct manner, in the interests of DCC and all its stakeholders. The Group is confident that this integration of CSR into key procedures and controls will lead to superior returns and enhance DCC's reputation and success for the longer term.

Marketplace

Products & Services
DCC is committed to enhancing the lives of its stakeholders and reflects this in the design, delivery and management of its products and services. For example, in the Energy sector, Flogas distributes LPG, which is a non-toxic, clean burning, sulphur and smoke free fuel. In the Food & Beverage sector, Kelkin actively promotes "better for you" products, with strictly no additives, preservatives or colourings. In the Environmental sector, DCC specialises in waste, effluent and chemical treatment, helping to provide a cleaner, safer environment for the benefit of all. Simply put, DCC regards socially and environmentally responsible behaviour as an integral part of good business management.

Sustainable growth
DCC's commitment to the principles of CSR has been recognised in recent years by DCC's inclusion in a number of CSR indices and ethical funds. In the interests of shareholders and other stakeholders, we will strive to achieve further recognition of this commitment by continuing to expand the Group's CSR measurement and benchmarking processes.

Recognition of excellence in financial reporting
DCC's commitment to best financial reporting practice was again recognised during the year when DCC was short listed as a finalist by the Leinster Society of Chartered Accountants in their annual Published Accounts Awards. This is the most prestigious award for excellence in financial reporting in Ireland and was won by DCC in 2003.

Environment, Health and Safety (EHS)

Employee safety
The safety of our employees is paramount. All potentially hazardous activities are formally risk assessed. Where possible, processes are designed to eliminate potential risk. Any residual exposure is minimised through appropriate control measures including mechanical isolation, safe systems of work, training and the use of personal protective equipment. In addition, should any unsafe working conditions occur, employees are encouraged to report this to management.

EHS management systems
DCC is committed to the continual evolution of comprehensive EHS management systems across the Group, reflecting the individual nature and scale of risks associated with the different operations.

All subsidiaries operate comprehensive EHS management systems, in many cases based on the environmental ISO14001 standard or the Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series 18001 specification. These systems provide a robust and consistent approach for the continuous, proactive identification and management of risk.

Learning
DCC continually adds to its pool of knowledge and expertise through training programmes, recruitment of EHS professionals and the acquisition of new businesses. Sharing information, skills and experiences through formal and

informal communication channels improves DCC's EHS performance and contributes to the overall financial performance of the Group.

EHS auditing

Scheduled EHS audits of subsidiaries continue to be carried out by DCC's Enterprise Risk Management function. EHS policies, procedures and documentation are reviewed by reference to regulatory compliance and the implementation of best practice.

Community

Committed corporate neighbour

DCC is sensitive to any impact its operations may have on its neighbours and is committed to ensuring that the needs, views and interests of the local communities in which its subsidiaries operate are taken into consideration. This commitment is reflected in well-established practices throughout the Group.

Philanthropic approach

DCC supports a large number of charitable causes and a number of educational initiatives that target disadvantaged students, as well as a number of specific third level education programmes. In the communities in which they operate, DCC's subsidiaries and their employees support many local initiatives in education, sports, job creation and general social activities.

DCC is a very active member of the broader business community, contributing to various industry and professional organisations. Many DCC executives dedicate their own time to the support and development of these organisations.

Workplace

High performance culture

People are the key element of DCC's success – their talent, innovation and entrepreneurial flair have been the essential ingredients in DCC's consistent strong growth. The nurturing of a high performance culture is at the heart of DCC's human resource strategies.

Equal opportunity

High performance can only be achieved through a culture of full employee engagement and motivation, founded on respect and equality of opportunity. DCC is strongly committed to the principle of equal opportunity. Diversity is valued and recruitment and progression is based entirely on performance, skill and experience. DCC's employment policies demand, at a minimum, full compliance with legal requirements and the Group's human resource function facilitates the sharing and promotion of best human resource practices across the Group.

Employee financial participation

DCC values employee dedication and commitment to the business. Through its remuneration, incentive and share option programmes, DCC employees share in the financial success of the business. An example of this is the DCC Sharesave Scheme, in which DCC employees were invited to participate. Through this and other share schemes, a significant percentage of employees have become shareholders in DCC.

Learning organisation
Sustained competitive advantage is dependent on continuous employee development, which DCC addresses in various ways throughout the Group. DCC's continuous growth, both organic and through acquisition, provides exceptional development opportunities, allowing employees to experience and learn from the Group's increasing scale and from its new customers, products and markets. DCC has implemented training and performance management systems to support management and staff as the business develops and grows.

Entrepreneurial leadership
Strong entrepreneurial subsidiary management teams, whose deep industry knowledge and market awareness have been critical to the Group's success, support DCC's business model. DCC recognises that it is essential to maintain an environment and culture that will provide the flexibility and opportunity to promote innovation and entrepreneurial flair. DCC has a structured process to identify, nurture and develop talented, energised people who will drive high performance and continued business growth.

corporate governance

The Board of DCC is committed to maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance.

The following report describes how DCC has applied the Principles set out in the July 2003 Combined Code on Corporate Governance.

The Board of Directors

Role

The Board of DCC is responsible for the leadership, strategic direction and overall management of the Group and has a formal schedule of matters specifically reserved to it for decision, which covers key areas of the Group's business including approval of financial statements, budgets (including capital expenditure), acquisitions and dividends. The Board has delegated responsibility for the management of the Group, through the Chief Executive, to executive management. There is a clear division of responsibilities between the Chairman and the Chief Executive, which is set out in writing and has been approved by the Board. Certain additional matters are delegated to Board Committees.

Composition

The Board consists of four executive and five non-executive Directors. Brief biographies of the Directors are set out on pages 2 and 3. At least one third of the Directors retire at each Annual General Meeting and all of the Directors are subject to re-election at least every three years. Non-executive Directors who have served on the Board for more than nine years are subject to annual re-election in accordance with Provision A.7.2 of the Combined Code.

All of the Directors bring independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, risk, performance, resources, key appointments and standards. The Board has recently evaluated the independence of each of its non-executive Directors. In the case of Alex Spain, Tony Barry and Paddy Gallagher, the Board gave due consideration to the fact that they have served on the Board for more than nine years from the date of their first election. The Board has concluded that all of the non-executive Directors are independent of management and free of any relationships which could interfere with the exercise of their independent judgement.

The Board has appointed Maurice Keane as the Senior Independent Director. Mr. Keane is available to shareholders who have concerns that cannot be addressed through the Chairman or the Chief Executive/Deputy Chairman.

Board Procedures

There is an established procedure for Directors to take independent professional advice in the furtherance of their duties if they consider this necessary. All Directors have access to the advice and services of the Company Secretary who is responsible to the Board for ensuring that Board procedures are followed and that applicable rules and regulations are complied with.

The Board recognises the need for Directors, in particular new Directors, to be aware of their legal responsibilities as directors and, in addition, the Board ensures that Directors are kept up to date on the latest corporate governance guidance and best practice. There is a formal induction process for new non-executive Directors, which includes detailed presentations on the Group's operations.

Meetings

The Board holds regular meetings and there is contact as required between meetings in order to progress the Group's business. During the year, the Board held five meetings.

Individual attendance at these meetings is set out in the table on page 41.

Remuneration

Details of remuneration paid to the Directors are set out in the Report of the Remuneration Committee on pages 46 to 49.

Board Committees

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprises three non-executive Directors, Paddy Gallagher (Chairman), Maurice Keane and Bernard Somers. The Board has determined that Bernard Somers is the Committee's financial expert. The Committee normally meets three times during the year. In the year ended 31 March 2005, the Committee met twice and individual attendance at these meetings is set out in the table on page 41.

The Chief Executive/Deputy Chairman, Chief Financial Officer, Head of Enterprise Risk Management, Group Internal Auditor, other Directors and executives and representatives of the external auditors may be invited to attend all or part of any meeting. The Committee also meets separately with the external auditors and with the Group Internal Auditor without executive management present.

The role and responsibilities of the Audit Committee are set out in its written terms of reference, which are available on request and on the Company's website www.dcc.ie, and include:

- monitoring the integrity of the financial statements of the Company and any formal announcements relating to the Company's financial performance and reviewing significant financial reporting judgements contained in them;
- reviewing the half-year and annual financial statements before submission to the Board;
- considering and making recommendations to the Board in relation to the appointment, re-appointment and removal of the external auditors and approving the audit fee and terms of engagement of the external auditors;
- approving the remuneration of the external auditors, whether fees for audit or non-audit services, and ensuring that the level of fees is appropriate to enable an adequate audit to be conducted;
- assessing annually the independence and objectivity of the external auditors and the effectiveness of the audit process, taking into consideration relevant professional and regulatory requirements and the relationship with the auditors as a whole, including the provision of any non-audit services;
- reviewing the operation and the effectiveness of the Group Internal Audit function;
- reporting to the Board on its annual assessment of the operation of the Group's system of internal control, making any recommendations to the Board thereon and reviewing the Company's statements on internal control and risk management prior to endorsement by the Board; and
- reviewing the Group's arrangements for its employees to raise concerns, in confidence, about possible wrongdoing in financial reporting or other matters and ensuring that these arrangements allow

proportionate and independent investigation of such matters and appropriate follow up action.

These responsibilities are discharged through its meetings and receipt of reports from the Risk Committee and the Enterprise Risk Management function (incorporating Group Internal Audit and Group Environmental, Health and Safety).

The Committee has a process in place to ensure that the independence of the audit is not compromised, which includes monitoring the nature and extent of services provided by the external auditors through its annual review of fees paid to the external auditors for audit and non-audit work. The Committee also reviews the safeguards which the external auditors have put in place to ensure their objectivity and independence in accordance with professional and regulatory requirements.

Details of the amounts paid to the external auditors during the year for audit and other services are set out in note 10 on page 64.

Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee comprises three non-executive Directors, Tony Barry (Chairman), Bernard Somers and Alex Spain and its report is set out on pages 46 to 49. The Committee met four times during the year. Individual attendance at these meetings is set out in the table on page 41.

The role and responsibilities of the Remuneration Committee are set out in its written terms of reference, which are available on request and on the Company's website www.dcc.ie. The principal responsibilities of the Committee are determining the policy for the remuneration of the executive Directors and determining their remuneration packages, determining pension arrangements for the executive Directors and the granting of share options under the DCC plc 1998 Employee Share Option Scheme.

The Chief Executive/Deputy Chairman is consulted about remuneration proposals for the other executive Directors. The Remuneration Committee is authorised to obtain access to professional advice if deemed desirable.

Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee comprises four non-executive Directors, Alex Spain (Chairman), Tony Barry, Paddy Gallagher and Maurice Keane, and the Chief Executive/Deputy Chairman, Jim Flavin. The Committee met once during the year. Individual attendance at this meeting is set out in the table on page 41.

The role and responsibilities of the Nomination Committee are set out in its written terms of reference, which are available on request and on the Company's website www.dcc.ie. The principal responsibilities of the Committee are keeping under review the structure, size and composition (including the skills, knowledge and experience) required of the Board and the leadership needs of the organisation, both executive and non-executive, and giving full consideration to succession planning for Directors, in particular the Chairman and Chief Executive.

The Committee has decided that two new non-executive directors should be co-opted to the Board in the current financial year. One high quality candidate has been

Directors' Attendance at Meetings

	Board	Audit Committee	Remuneration Committee	Nomination Committee
Number of meetings held during the year:	5	2	4	1
Director	**Number of meetings attended**			
Alex Spain	4	-	4	1
Jim Flavin	5	-	-	1
Tony Barry	5	-	4	1
Tommy Breen	4	-	-	-
Morgan Crowe*	1	-	-	-
Paddy Gallagher	4	2	-	1
Maurice Keane	5	2	-	1
Kevin Murray	5	-	-	-
Fergal O'Dwyer	5	-	-	-
Bernard Somers	4	1	3	-

** retired on 8 July 2004*

identified and is expected to join the Board later this year.

Performance Evaluation

Performance evaluation of the Board, its Committees and individual Directors was conducted during the year.

The Directors evaluated the performance of the Board as a whole and the performance of its principal Committees, the Audit, Remuneration and Nomination Committees, using the 'Performance Evaluation Guidance' set out in the Higgs Suggestions for Good Practice.

The Chairman appraised each of the non-executive Directors individually. The Chairman, with the non-executive Directors, evaluated the performance of the executive Directors.

The Senior Independent Director held a meeting with the executive Directors to seek their views on the Chairman's performance and then met with the non-executive Directors, in the absence of the Chairman, to evaluate his performance.

Relations with Shareholders

DCC is committed to excellent shareholder communications and has a well-established investor relations function.

The Board is kept informed of the views of shareholders through the executive Directors' attendance at investor presentations and results presentations and through a review of investor relations reports at Board meetings. Brokers' notes are circulated to the entire Board on a regular basis.

The Company's web site, www.dcc.ie, provides the full text of annual and interim reports as well as all press releases. It also incorporates audio and slide show investor presentations.

The Company's Annual General Meeting affords shareholders the opportunity to question the Chairman and the Board. The chairmen of the Audit, Remuneration and Nomination Committees are also available to answer questions at the Annual General Meeting. The Chief Executive/Deputy Chairman makes a presentation at the Annual General Meeting and answers questions on the Group's business and its performance during the prior year. Shareholders can meet with the Chairman or the Senior Independent Director on request.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting, the Form of Proxy and the Annual Report are sent to shareholders at least 20 working days before the meeting. At the meeting, after each resolution has been dealt with, details are given of the level of proxy votes cast on each resolution and the numbers for and against.

The 2005 Annual General Meeting will be held at 11 a.m. on 5 July 2005 at The Four Seasons Hotel, Simmonscourt Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland.

Internal Control

The Board is responsible for the Group's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. Such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

In accordance with the Turnbull guidance for directors on internal control, *Internal Control: Guidance for Directors on the Combined Code*, the Board confirms that there is an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing any significant risks faced by the Group, that it has been in place for the year under review and up to the date of approval of the financial statements and that this process is regularly reviewed by the Board.

The key risk management and internal control procedures, which are supported by detailed controls and processes, include:

- skilled and experienced Group and divisional management;
- an organisation structure with clearly defined lines of authority and accountability;
- a comprehensive system of financial reporting involving budgeting, monthly reporting and variance analysis;
- the operation of approved risk management policies (including treasury and IT);
- a Risk Committee, comprising Group senior management, whose main role is to keep under review and report to the Audit Committee on the principal risks facing the Group, the controls in place to manage those risks and the monitoring procedures;
- an independent Enterprise Risk Management function, which incorporates Group Internal Audit and Group Environmental, Health and Safety; and
- a formally constituted Audit Committee which reviews the operation of the Risk Committee and the Enterprise Risk Management function, liaises with the external auditors and reviews the Group's internal control systems.

The Board has reviewed the effectiveness of the Group's system of internal control. This review took account of the principal business risks facing the Group, the controls in place to manage those risks (including financial, operational and compliance controls and risk management) and the procedures in place to monitor them.

Going Concern

After making enquiries, the Directors have formed a judgement, at the time of approving the financial statements, that there is a reasonable expectation that the Company and the Group as a whole have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. The Directors' responsibility for preparing the financial statements is explained on page 50 and the reporting responsibilities of the auditors are set out in their report on pages 51 and 52.

Compliance Statement

DCC has complied, during the year ended 31 March 2005, with the provisions as set out in Section 1 of the July 2003 Combined Code on Corporate Governance.

directors' report and financial statements

report of the directors

for the year ended 31 March 2005

The Directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2005.

Principal Activities

DCC is a sales, marketing and business support services group focused on the energy, IT distribution, healthcare, food & beverage and environmental markets.

A summary of the Group's activities is set out on pages 12 to 24.

Subsidiary and Associated Companies

Details of the Company's principal operating subsidiaries are set out on pages 89 to 91. Details of its principal associated undertakings are set out on page 69, in note 18 to the financial statements.

A full list of subsidiary and associated undertakings will be annexed to the Annual Return of the Company to be filed with the Irish Registrar of Companies.

Results and Business Review

The profit for the financial year attributable to Group shareholders amounted to €83.8 million as set out in the Consolidated Profit and Loss Account on page 55.

The Chairman's Statement on pages 6 to 7, the Chief Executive's Review on pages 8 to 11, the Operating Review on pages 12 to 24 and the Financial Review on pages 26 to 31 contain a review of the development of the Group's business during the year, of the state of affairs of the business at 31 March 2005, of recent events and of likely future developments.

Dividends

An interim dividend of 13.51 cent per share, amounting to €10.80 million, was paid on 1 December 2004. The Directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of 23.75 cent per share, amounting to €19.07 million. Subject to shareholders' approval at the Annual General Meeting on 5 July 2005, this dividend will be paid on 11 July 2005 to shareholders on the register on 27 May 2005. The total dividend for the year ended 31 March 2005 amounts to 37.26 cent per share, a total of €29.87 million.

The balance of profit attributable to Group shareholders, which is retained in the business, amounts to €54.3 million.

Share Buyback and Treasury Shares

The number of shares held in Treasury at the beginning of the year was 6,667,734 (7.56% of the issued share capital) with a nominal value of €1.667 million. The maximum number of shares held in Treasury was 8,732,734 (9.90% of the issued share capital) with a nominal value of €2.183 million.

On 17 May 2004, the Company purchased 2,065,000 of its own shares (2.34% of the issued share capital) with a nominal value of €0.516 million. The total consideration paid was €26.762 million.

A total of 858,848 shares (0.97% of the issued share capital) with a nominal value of €0.215 million were re-issued during the year at prices ranging from €6.22 to €11.25 consequent to the exercise of share options, leaving a balance held in Treasury at 31 March 2005 of 7,873,886 shares (8.92% of the issued share capital) with a nominal value of €1.968 million.

At the Company's Annual General Meeting on 8 July 2004, the Company was granted authority to purchase up to 8,822,940 of its own shares (10% of the issued share capital) with a nominal value of €2.206 million. This authority has not been exercised and will expire on 5 July 2005, the date of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company. A special resolution will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting to renew this authority.

Research and Development

Certain Group companies carry out development work aimed at improving the quality, competitiveness and range of their products. This expenditure is not material in relation to the size of the Group and is written off to the profit and loss account as it is incurred.

Substantial Shareholdings

The Company has been advised of the following interests in its share capital as at 13 May 2005:

	No. of €0.25 Ordinary Shares	% of Issued Share Capital (including Treasury Shares)	% of Issued Share Capital (excluding Treasury Shares)
FMR Corp. and Fidelity International Limited and their direct and indirect subsidiaries *	9,011,460	10.21%	11.21%
Bank of Ireland Asset Management Limited *	8,699,679	9.86%	10.83%
Schroder Investment Management Limited and Schroder & Co. Limited *	7,932,577	8.99%	9.87%
Jim Flavin	2,456,033	2.78%	3.06%

** Notified as non-beneficial interests*

Directors

The names of the Directors and a short biographical note on each Director appear on pages 2 and 3.

In accordance with Article 80 of the Articles of Association, Paddy Gallagher, Maurice Keane and Kevin Murray retire by rotation at the 2005 Annual General Meeting and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. In compliance with Provision A.7.2 of the Combined Code on Corporate Governance, Tony Barry and Alex Spain retire at the Meeting, each having served in excess of nine years, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

None of the retiring Directors has a service contract with the Company or with any member of the Group with a notice period in excess of one year or with provisions for predetermined compensation on termination which exceeds one year's salary and benefits in kind.

Details of the Directors' interests in the share capital of the Company are set out in the Report of the Remuneration Committee on pages 46 to 49.

Health and Safety

It is the policy of the Group to ensure the safety, health and welfare of employees by maintaining a safe working environment and complying with the provisions and requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989 and all other statutory provisions and codes of practice. Each operating company in the Group has documented and implemented comprehensive safety policies and procedures which are kept under regular review by company management and by the Group Environmental, Health and Safety function.

Political Contributions

There were no political contributions which require to be disclosed under the Electoral Act, 1997.

Auditors

The auditors, Pricewaterhouse-Coopers, will continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 160(2) of the Companies Act, 1963.

Alex Spain, Jim Flavin, Directors

DCC House, Stillorgan,
Blackrock, Co Dublin
13 May 2005

Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee comprises three independent non-executive Directors, Tony Barry (Chairman), Bernard Somers and Alex Spain.

The role and responsibilities of the Remuneration Committee are set out in its written terms of reference, which are available on request and on the Company's website www.dcc.ie. The principal responsibilities of the Committee are determining the policy for the remuneration of the executive Directors and determining their remuneration packages, determining pension arrangements for the executive Directors and the granting of share options under the DCC plc 1998 Employee Share Option Scheme.

The Chief Executive/Deputy Chairman is consulted about remuneration proposals for the other executive Directors. The Remuneration Committee is authorised to obtain access to professional advice if deemed desirable.

Remuneration Policy

The Company's remuneration policy recognises that employment and remuneration conditions for the Group's senior executives must properly reward and motivate them to perform in the best interests of the shareholders. In formulating this policy, the Committee has given due regard to the provisions of the Combined Code on Corporate Governance.

Directors' Service Agreements

Other than for the Chief Executive/Deputy Chairman, there are no service agreements between any Director of the Company and the Company or any of its subsidiaries. The Chief Executive/Deputy Chairman's service agreement provides for one year's notice of termination by the Company.

Directors' Remuneration

Executive Directors' Remuneration

The typical elements of the remuneration package for executive Directors are basic salary, performance related remuneration consisting of performance related annual bonuses and share options, pension benefits and a company car.

Salaries

The salaries of executive Directors are reviewed annually on 1 January having regard to personal performance, Company performance and competitive market practice. No fees are payable to executive Directors.

Performance Related Annual Bonuses

Performance related annual bonuses are payable to the executive Directors, in respect of the financial year to 31 March. The performance targets, which are reviewed annually, are tailored to the responsibilities of each executive Director and include growth in Group earnings, divisional performance, Group and divisional development and an element related to individual performance and contribution. The maximum bonus potential, as a percentage of basic salary, for each executive Director is reviewed and set annually and amounted to 65% of basic salary for the year ended 31 March 2005.

Pension Benefits

The Company funds pension schemes which, for executive Directors, aim to provide, on the basis of actuarial advice, a pension of two thirds of pensionable salary at normal retirement date. Pensionable salary is calculated as 105% of basic salary and does not include any performance related bonuses or benefits.

Non-Executive Directors' Remuneration

The remuneration of the non-executive Directors is determined by the Board. The fees paid to non-executive Directors reflect their experience and ability and the time demands of their Board and Board Committee duties.

Directors' Remuneration Details

The table below sets out the details of the remuneration payable in respect of Directors who held office for any part of the financial year.

	Salary and Fees[2]		Bonus		Benefits[3]		Pension Contribution[4]		Total	
	2005 €'000	2004 €'000	**2005 €'000**	2004 €'000	**2005 €'000**	2004 €'000	**2005 €'000**	2004 €'000	**2005 €'000**	2004 €'000
Executive Directors										
Jim Flavin	**768**	734	**384**	220	**37**	35	**115**	155	**1,304**	1,144
Tommy Breen	**329**	314	**175**	140	**20**	18	**98**	86	**622**	558
Morgan Crowe[1]	**115**	334	**52**	167	**7**	20	**33**	88	**207**	609
Kevin Murray	**329**	314	**175**	140	**19**	18	**90**	86	**613**	558
Fergal O'Dwyer	**299**	284	**175**	130	**20**	14	**85**	79	**579**	507
Total for executive Directors	**1,840**	1,980	**961**	797	**103**	105	**421**	494	**3,325**	3,376
Non-executive Directors										
Alex Spain	**130**	118	-	-	-	-	-	27	**130**	145
Tony Barry	**54**	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	**54**	49
Paddy Gallagher	**57**	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	**57**	49
Maurice Keane	**54**	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	**54**	49
Bernard Somers	**54**	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	**54**	24
Total for non-executive Directors	**349**	289	-	-	-	-	-	27	**349**	316
Pension payment in respect of retired Director									**10**	10
Total									**3,684**	3,702

Notes
1 Morgan Crowe retired from the Board on 8 July 2004.
2 Fees are payable only to non-executive Directors and include Chairman's and Board Committee fees.
3 In the case of the executive Directors, benefits relate principally to the use of a company car.
4 Executive Director pension contributions in the year ended 31 March 2005 were made to a defined contribution arrangement for Jim Flavin and to a defined benefit scheme for the other executive Directors.

Directors' Defined Benefit Pensions

The table below sets out the increase in the accrued pension benefits to which executive Directors have become entitled during the year ended 31 March 2005 and the transfer value of the increase in accrued benefit, under the Company's defined benefit pension scheme:

	Increase in accrued pension benefit (excl inflation) during the year[2]	Transfer value equivalent to the increase in accrued pension benefit[3]	Total accrued pension benefit at year end[4]
	€'000	€'000	€'000
Executive Directors			
Tommy Breen	9	74	118
Morgan Crowe[1]	18	329	225
Kevin Murray	8	68	103
Fergal O'Dwyer	8	62	87
Total	**43**	**533**	**533**

Notes
1 Morgan Crowe ceased accruing benefits in July 2004.
2 Increases are after adjustment for inflation over the year and reflect additional pensionable service and salary.
3 The transfer value equivalent to the increase in accrued pension benefit has been calculated on the basis of actuarial advice in accordance with Actuarial Guidance Note GN11. The transfer values do not represent sums paid to or due to the Directors named, but are the amounts that would transfer to another pension scheme in respect of the increase in accrued pension benefit during the year.
4 Figures represent the total accrued pension payable from normal retirement date, based on pensionable service at 31 March 2005.

Share Options

DCC plc 1998 Employee Share Option Scheme

Executive Directors and other senior executives participate in the DCC plc 1998 Employee Share Option Scheme, which was approved by shareholders in 1998. The Scheme encourages identification with shareholders' interests by enabling management to build, over time, a shareholding in the Company which is material to their net worth.

The percentage of share capital which can be issued under the Scheme, the phasing of the grant of options and the limit on the value of options which may be granted to any individual comply with guidelines published by the institutional investment associations. The Scheme provides for the grant of both basic and second tier options, in each case up to a maximum of 5% of the Company's issued share capital. Basic tier options may not normally be exercised earlier than three years from the date of grant and second tier options not earlier than five years from the date of grant.

Basic tier options may normally be exercised only if there has been growth in the adjusted earnings per share of the Company equivalent to the increase in the Consumer Price Index plus 2%, compound, per annum over a period of at least three years following the date of grant.

Second tier options may normally be exercised only if the growth in the adjusted earnings per share over a period of at least five years is such as would place the Company in the top quartile of companies on the ISEQ index in terms of comparison of growth in adjusted earnings per share and if there has been growth in the adjusted earnings per share of the Company equivalent to the increase in the Consumer Price Index plus 10%, compound, per annum in that period.

Directors are encouraged to hold their options beyond the earliest exercise date.

The following are details of share options granted to Directors and the Company Secretary under the DCC plc 1998 Employee Share Option Scheme:

	At 31 March 2004	Granted in year	At 31 March 2005	Weighted Average Exercise Price €	Normal Exercise Period
Executive Directors					
Jim Flavin					
Basic Tier	350,000	25,000	375,000	8.3364	June 2001 – Nov 2014
Second Tier	395,000	-	395,000	8.1063	June 2003 – Nov 2012
Tommy Breen					
Basic Tier	165,000	15,000	180,000	9.0219	June 2001 – Nov 2014
Second Tier	190,000	-	190,000	8.6786	June 2003 – Nov 2012
Kevin Murray					
Basic Tier	165,000	15,000	180,000	9.0219	June 2001 – Nov 2014
Second Tier	190,000	-	190,000	8.6786	June 2003 – Nov 2012
Fergal O'Dwyer					
Basic Tier	140,000	15,000	155,000	8.8196	June 2001 – Nov 2014
Second Tier	165,000	-	165,000	8.4366	June 2003 – Nov 2012
Company Secretary					
Gerard Whyte					
Basic Tier	65,000	10,000	75,000	9.4737	June 2001 – Nov 2014
Second Tier	80,000	-	80,000	8.8716	June 2003 – Nov 2012

No options were exercised by or allowed to lapse by Directors or the Company Secretary under the DCC plc 1998 Employee Share Option Scheme during the year.

DCC Sharesave Scheme

The Group established the DCC Sharesave Scheme in 2000. On 15 June 2001, options were granted under the Scheme to those Group employees, including executive Directors, who entered into associated savings contracts. The options were granted at an option price of €8.79 per share, which represented a discount of 20% to the then market price as permitted by the rules of the Scheme. These options are exercisable between June 2004 and February 2007. On 10 December 2004, a second grant of options under this Scheme was approved. These options were granted to Group employees at an option price of €12.63 per share, which represented a discount of 20% to the then market price. These options are exercisable between March 2008 and February 2011. At 31 March 2005, Group employees held options to subscribe for 986,912 ordinary shares under the DCC Sharesave Scheme.

The following are details of the share options granted to executive Directors and the Company Secretary under the DCC Sharesave Scheme:

	No. of Ordinary Shares At 31 March 2005	No. of Ordinary Shares At 31 March 2004
Executive Directors		
Jim Flavin	2,383	2,383
Tommy Breen	2,383	2,383
Kevin Murray	2,383	2,383
Fergal O'Dwyer	2,383	2,383
Company Secretary		
Gerard Whyte	2,006	1,877

The market price of DCC shares on 31 March 2005 was €17.94 and the range during the year was €12.10 to €18.50.

Additional information in relation to the DCC plc 1998 Employee Share Option Scheme and the DCC Sharesave Scheme appears in note 33 on page 82.

Directors' and Company Secretary's Interests

The interests of the Directors and the Company Secretary (including their respective family interests) in the share capital of DCC plc at 31 March 2005, together with their interests at 31 March 2004, were:

	No. of Ordinary Shares At 31 March 2005	No. of Ordinary Shares At 31 March 2004
Directors		
Alex Spain	25,634	20,634
Jim Flavin	2,456,033	2,456,033
Tony Barry	17,000	17,000
Tommy Breen	211,512	211,512
Paddy Gallagher	5,040	5,040
Maurice Keane	5,000	5,000
Kevin Murray	187,306	212,306
Fergal O'Dwyer	212,506	212,506
Bernard Somers	-	-
Company Secretary		
Gerard Whyte	125,353	124,667

All of the above interests were beneficially owned. There were no changes in the interests of the Directors and the Company Secretary between 31 March 2005 and 13 May 2005. Apart from the interests disclosed above, the Directors and the Company Secretary had no interests in the share capital or loan stock of the Company or any other Group undertaking at 31 March 2005. The Company's Register of Directors' Interests (which is open to inspection) contains full details of Directors' shareholdings and share options.

statement of directors responsibilities

The following statement, which should be read in conjunction with the statement of auditors' responsibilities set out within their report on pages 51 and 52, 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 company law to ensure that the Company prepares financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and the Group and of the profit or loss of the Group for that year.

Following discussions with the auditors, the Directors consider that in preparing the financial statements on pages 53 to 88, which have been prepared on the going concern basis, the Company has used appropriate accounting policies, consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates, and that all accounting standards which they consider applicable have been followed (subject to any explanations or material departures disclosed in the notes to the financial statements).

The Directors are required to take all reasonable steps to secure compliance by the Company with its obligations in relation to the preparation and maintenance of proper books of account and financial statements which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2003 and the European Communities (Companies: Group Accounts) Regulations, 1992. The Directors have a general duty to act in the best interests of the Company and must, therefore, take such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Group and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Books of Account

The measures taken with regard to keeping proper books of account include the use of systems and procedures appropriate to the business and the employment of competent and reliable persons. The books of account are kept at DCC House, Stillorgan, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

To the Members of DCC plc

We have audited the financial statements on pages 53 to 88 and the detailed information on directors' emoluments, pensions and interests in shares and share options on pages 46 to 49. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out in the statement of accounting policies on pages 53 and 54.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The directors' responsibilities for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland are set out on page 50 in the statement of directors' responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements, auditing standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board applicable in Ireland and the Listing Rules of the Irish Stock Exchange. This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the Company's members as a body in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act 1990 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

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 Irish statute comprising the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2003, and the European Communities (Companies: Group Accounts) Regulations, 1992. We state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether the Company balance sheet is in agreement with the books of account. We also report to you our opinion as to:

- whether the Company has kept proper books of account;
- whether the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- whether at the balance sheet date there existed a financial situation which may require the Company to convene an extraordinary general meeting; such a financial situation may exist if the net assets of the Company, as stated in the Company balance sheet, are not more than half of its called-up share capital.

We also report to you if, in our opinion, information specified by law or the Listing Rules 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 misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. The other information comprises only the chairman's statement, the chief executive's review, the operating review, the financial review, the corporate social responsibility statement, the corporate governance statement and the directors' report.

We review whether the corporate governance statement reflects the Company's compliance with the nine provisions of the Combined Code (issued 2003) specified for our review by the Listing Rules and we report if it does not. We are not required to consider whether the board's statements on internal control cover all risks and controls or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's or Group's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

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 affairs of the Company and the Group at 31 March 2005 and of the profit and cash flows of the Group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2003, and the European Communities (Companies: Group Accounts) Regulations, 1992.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Company. The Company balance sheet is in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion, the information given in the Report of the Directors on pages 43 to 45 is consistent with the financial statements.

The net assets of the Company, as stated in the balance sheet on page 58, are more than half of the amount of its called up share capital and, in our opinion, on that basis there did not exist at 31 March 2005 a financial situation which, under Section 40(1) of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1983, would require the convening of an extraordinary general meeting of the Company.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants and
Registered Auditors
Dublin
13 May 2005

Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The currency used in these financial statements is the euro, denoted by the symbol €.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and Irish statute comprising the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2003. Accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland in preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view are those published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

Basis of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the Company and all its subsidiaries.

The results of subsidiary and associated undertakings acquired or disposed of during the year are included in the consolidated profit and loss account from the date of their acquisition or up to the date of their disposal.

Goodwill

Goodwill comprises the excess of consideration paid to acquire new businesses over the fair value of the identifiable net assets acquired.

Goodwill arising on the acquisition of subsidiaries prior to 1 April 1998 was eliminated from the balance sheet through reserves in the year in which it arose. Goodwill arising on the acquisition of subsidiaries since 1 April 1998 is capitalised on the balance sheet and amortised on a straight line basis over its estimated useful economic life. On disposal of an undertaking acquired prior to 1 April 1998, goodwill eliminated against reserves in respect of that undertaking is included in the determination of the profit or loss on disposal.

In the case of interests acquired by the Group in associated undertakings, goodwill is capitalised as part of their carrying value and amortised over its expected useful economic life. In the case of similar interests acquired by associated undertakings of the Group, the accounting treatment followed in respect of goodwill is that adopted by the associated undertakings.

The useful economic life of capitalised goodwill arising on acquisitions since 1 April 1998 is estimated to be 20 years.

Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are included in the Company balance sheet at cost less provision for any impairment in value.

Associated Undertakings

Associated undertakings are companies other than subsidiaries in which the Group holds, on a long-term basis, a participating interest in the voting equity share capital and exercises significant influence.

Associated undertakings are included in the Company balance sheet at cost less provision for any impairment in value. Income from associated undertakings included in the Company profit and loss account comprises dividends received and receivable.

The appropriate share of results of associated undertakings is included in the consolidated profit and loss account by way of the equity method of accounting. Associated undertakings are stated in the consolidated balance sheet at cost plus the attributable portion of their retained reserves from the date of acquisition less goodwill amortised.

Turnover

Turnover comprises the invoiced value, including excise duty and excluding value added tax, of goods supplied and services rendered.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Cost is determined on a first in first out basis and in the case of raw materials, bought-in goods and expense stocks comprises purchase price plus transport and handling costs less trade discounts and subsidies. Cost, in the case of products manufactured by the Group, consists of direct material and labour costs together with the relevant production overheads based on normal levels of activity.

Net realisable value represents the estimated selling price less costs to completion and appropriate selling and distribution costs.

Provision is made, where necessary, for slow moving, obsolete and defective stocks.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at the rates stated below, which are estimated to reduce the assets to their residual level values by the end of their expected working lives:

Annual Rate	
Freehold and long term leasehold buildings	2%
Plant and machinery	5 - 33 1/3%
Cylinders	6 2/3%
Motor vehicles	10 - 33 1/3%
Fixtures, fittings & office equipment	10 - 33 1/3%

Land is not depreciated.

Leased Assets
Tangible fixed assets, acquired under a lease which transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership to the Group, are capitalised as fixed assets. Amounts payable under such leases (finance leases), net of finance charges, are shown as short, medium or long term lease obligations, as appropriate. Finance charges on finance leases are charged to the profit and loss account over the term of the lease on an actuarial basis.

The annual rentals under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account as incurred.

Deferred Consideration
Where acquisitions involve further payments which are deferred or contingent on levels of performance achieved in the years following the acquisition, a discounted deferred acquisition creditor is accrued. Notional interest is charged to the profit and loss account over the relevant period by reference to the period of deferral, current interest rates and the amount of the likely payments.

Deferred Taxation
Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future or a right to pay less tax in the future have occurred at the balance sheet date.

Timing differences are temporary differences between profit as computed for taxation purposes and profit as stated in the financial statements which arise because certain items of income and expenditure in the financial statements are dealt with in different periods for taxation purposes.

Foreign Currencies
Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into euro at the exchange rates ruling at the balance sheet date or at contracted rates, where appropriate.

The trading results of overseas subsidiaries are translated into euro at the average rate of exchange for the year.

Profits and losses arising on transactions in foreign currencies during the year are included in the profit and loss account at the exchange rate ruling on the date of the transactions.

Exchange differences arising from a re-translation of the opening net investment in subsidiary and associated undertakings are dealt with in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses net of differences on related currency borrowings.

Derivative Financial Instruments
The Group is a party to derivative financial instruments (derivatives), primarily to manage its exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates and to manage its exposure to changes in the prices of certain commodity products.

Gains and losses on derivative contracts used to hedge foreign exchange and commodity price trading exposures are recognised in the profit and loss account when the hedged transactions occur.

As part of exchange rate risk management, foreign currency swap agreements are used to convert US dollar borrowings into euro and sterling borrowings. Gains and losses on these derivatives are deferred and are recognised on the maturity of the underlying debt, together with the matching loss or gain on the debt.

Interest rate swap agreements and similar contracts are used to manage interest rate exposures. Amounts payable or receivable in respect of these derivatives are recognised as adjustments to interest expense over the period of the contracts.

Liquid Resources
Liquid Resources comprise short term deposits which are readily disposable stores of value. These deposits are typically placed on money markets for periods of up to six months.

Capital Grants
Capital grants received and receivable by the Group are credited to capital grants and are amortised to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the expected useful lives of the assets to which they relate.

Pension Costs
Pension costs are accounted for on the basis of charging the expected cost of providing pensions over the period during which the Group benefits from the employees' services. The effect of variations from regular cost are spread over the expected average remaining service lives of the members in the schemes. The basis of contributions are determined on the advice of independent qualified actuaries.

The disclosures required under the transitional arrangements of Financial Reporting Standard 17 'Retirement Benefits' are shown in note 32(b).

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account

for the year ended 31 March 2005

	Notes	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Turnover			
Group turnover	1	**2,627,927**	2,074,465
Share of turnover of associated undertakings	1	**103,597**	123,500
Total turnover		**2,731,524**	2,197,965
Group turnover			
Continuing activities		**2,345,470**	2,051,441
Acquisitions		**282,457**	23,024
	1	**2,627,927**	2,074,465
Cost of sales	2	**(2,248,576)**	(1,739,395)
Gross profit	2	**379,351**	335,070
Net operating costs before operating exceptional items and goodwill amortisation	2	**(269,670)**	(233,395)
Operating profit before operating exceptional items and goodwill amortisation			
- parent and subsidiary undertakings	1	**109,681**	101,675
Share of operating profit before goodwill amortisation			
- associated undertakings	1	**21,855**	19,201
Operating profit before operating exceptional items and goodwill amortisation		**131,536**	120,876
Continuing activities		**123,293**	120,708
Acquisitions		**8,243**	168
		131,536	120,876
Operating exceptional items	7	**(3,815)**	(2,288)
Goodwill amortisation	6	**(10,089)**	(8,282)
Operating profit	2	**117,632**	110,306
Non-operating net exceptional items	7	**(12,152)**	(5,897)
Net interest payable and similar charges			
- parent and subsidiary undertakings	8	**(5,207)**	(3,693)
Share of net interest payable and similar charges			
- associated undertakings	9	**(369)**	(1,109)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	10	**99,904**	99,607
Taxation	11	**(15,115)**	(14,509)
Profit after taxation		**84,789**	85,098
Minority interests	12	**(1,022)**	(771)
Profit for the financial year attributable to Group shareholders	13	**83,767**	84,327
Dividends paid	14	**(10,388)**	(9,748)
Dividends proposed	14	**(19,070)**	(16,824)
Profit retained for the year	36	**54,309**	57,755
Earnings per ordinary share - basic (cent)	15	**104.69c**	101.98c
Earnings per ordinary share - diluted (cent)	15	**102.26c**	100.42c
Adjusted earnings per ordinary share - basic (cent)	15	**137.25c**	121.89c
Adjusted earnings per ordinary share - diluted (cent)	15	**134.07c**	120.03c

Alex Spain, Jim Flavin, Directors

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses

for the year ended 31 March 2005

	2005	2004
	€'000	€'000
Profit for the financial year	**83,767**	84,327
Exchange adjustments - associated companies	**(237)**	(210)
Exchange adjustments - subsidiaries	**(10,084)**	6,652
Total recognised gains for the financial year	**73,446**	90,769

Note of Historical Cost Profits and Losses

for the year ended 31 March 2005

There is no difference between the profit on ordinary activities before taxation and the profit retained for the year on an historical cost basis and the amounts shown in the consolidated profit and loss account on page 55.

Consolidated Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2005

	Notes	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Fixed Assets			
Intangible assets - goodwill	16	**193,762**	129,566
Tangible fixed assets	17	**247,647**	212,252
Financial assets - associated undertakings	18	**64,192**	53,780
		505,601	395,598
Current Assets			
Stocks	20	**123,734**	110,577
Debtors	21	**421,534**	330,385
Cash and term deposits	22	**352,399**	320,616
		897,667	761,578
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year			
Bank and other debt	23	**45,127**	143,732
Trade and other creditors	28	**471,283**	362,688
Corporation tax		**37,122**	36,077
Proposed dividend	14	**19,070**	16,824
		572,602	559,321
Net Current Assets		**325,065**	202,257
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		**830,666**	597,855
Financed by:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			
Bank and other debt	23	**10,370**	16,555
Unsecured Notes due 2008 to 2016	23	**305,094**	97,612
Deferred acquisition consideration		**10,839**	6,799
Capital grants	29	**958**	1,112
		327,261	122,078
Provisions for Liabilities and Charges	30	**5,361**	2,084
		332,622	124,162
Capital and Reserves			
Called up equity share capital	33	**22,042**	22,035
Share premium account	34	**124,506**	124,438
Other reserves	35	**1,400**	1,400
Profit and loss	36	**345,748**	321,739
Equity Shareholders' Funds	37	**493,696**	469,612
Equity minority interests	38	**4,348**	4,081
		498,044	473,693
		830,666	597,855

Alex Spain, Jim Flavin, Directors

Company Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2005

	Notes	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	17	**-**	983
Financial assets			
- associated undertakings	18	**1,300**	1,300
- subsidiary undertakings	19	**145,814**	145,814
		147,114	148,097
Current Assets			
Debtors	21	**277,799**	291,088
Cash and term deposits	22	**248**	367
		278,047	291,455
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year			
Trade and other creditors	28	**226,615**	15,669
Proposed dividend	14	**19,070**	16,824
		245,685	32,493
Net Current Assets		**32,362**	258,962
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		**179,476**	407,059
Financed by:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			
Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings		**10,387**	187,711
Deferred acquisition consideration		**139**	2,016
		10,526	189,727
Provisions for Liabilities and Charges	30	**972**	827
		11,498	190,554
Capital and Reserves			
Called up equity share capital	33	**22,042**	22,035
Share premium account	34	**124,506**	124,438
Other reserves	35	**344**	344
Profit and loss	36	**21,086**	69,688
Equity Shareholders' Funds		**167,978**	216,505
		179,476	407,059

Alex Spain, Jim Flavin, Directors

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 31 March 2005

	Notes	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Cash flow from operating activities	40	**108,300**	141,246
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	41	**(2,904)**	(3,609)
Taxation paid		**(9,093)**	(5,295)
Capital expenditure	41	**(34,146)**	(28,092)
Acquisitions	41	**(81,148)**	(14,460)
Equity dividends paid		**(27,212)**	(24,765)
Cash (outflow)/inflow before management of liquid resources and financing		**(46,203)**	65,025
Increase in liquid resources	42	**(33,245)**	(27,105)
Financing	41	**101,364**	(90,239)
Increase/(decrease) in cash for the year	42	**21,916**	(52,319)

Reconciliation of Net Cash Flow to Movement in Net (Debt)/Cash

for the year ended 31 March 2005

	Notes	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Increase/(decrease) in cash for the year	42	**21,916**	(52,319)
Increase in liquid resources	42	**33,245**	27,105
Unsecured Notes due 2014/16 issued	42	**(212,064)**	-
Net loans repaid	42	**85,734**	61,551
Capital element of finance lease payments	42	**5,062**	4,976
Changes in net (debt)/cash resulting from cash flow		**(66,107)**	41,313
Exchange movements	42	**(4,802)**	1,345
Net (outflow)/inflow in the year		**(70,909)**	42,658
Net cash at start of year	42	**62,717**	20,059
Net (debt)/cash at end of year	42	**(8,192)**	62,717

1. Segmental Information

(a) Segmental Analysis by Class of Business

An analysis by class of business of turnover, profit before taxation and net assets is set out below:

(i) Summary

	2005			2004		
	Turnover €'000	Profit Before Taxation €'000	Net Assets €'000	Turnover €'000	Profit Before Taxation €'000	Net Assets €'000
Energy	**1,240,551**	**51,292**	**112,788**	841,344	45,791	105,434
IT Distribution	**878,153**	**27,562**	**82,459**	859,441	31,274	78,949
Healthcare	**170,686**	**16,097**	**42,769**	148,961	13,595	37,129
Food & Beverage	**242,332**	**13,240**	**37,237**	170,665	10,876	27,634
Environmental	**25,823**	**5,472**	**15,731**	24,131	5,044	10,239
Other	**173,979**	**17,873**	**55,331**	153,423	14,296	43,230
	2,731,524	**131,536**	**346,315**	2,197,965	120,876	302,615
Goodwill amortisation		**(10,089)**			(8,282)	
Net exceptional items (note 7)		**(15,967)**			(8,185)	
Interest (net)		**(5,576)**			(4,802)	
Net (debt)/cash			**(8,192)**			62,717
Amounts due in respect of acquisitions			**(17,923)**			(11,477)
Investments			**100**			100
Capitalised goodwill - subsidiaries			**193,762**			129,566
Capitalised goodwill - associates			**3,052**			6,996
Minority interests			**(4,348)**			(4,081)
Proposed dividend			**(19,070)**			(16,824)
	2,731,524	**99,904**	**493,696**	2,197,965	99,607	469,612

(ii) Split between Subsidiary Undertakings and Associated Undertakings

	2005			2004		
	Subsidiary Undertakings €'000	Associated Undertakings €'000	Total €'000	Subsidiary Undertakings €'000	Associated Undertakings €'000	Total €'000
Turnover	**2,627,927**	**103,597**	**2,731,524**	2,074,465	123,500	2,197,965
Operating profit before goodwill amortisation	**109,681**	**21,855**	**131,536**	101,675	19,201	120,876
Goodwill amortisation	**(9,746)**	**(343)**	**(10,089)**	(7,794)	(488)	(8,282)
Operating profit	**99,935**	**21,512**	**121,447**	93,881	18,713	112,594
Net exceptional items (note 7)	**(15,967)**	**-**	**(15,967)**	(8,185)	-	(8,185)
Interest (net)	**(5,207)**	**(369)**	**(5,576)**	(3,693)	(1,109)	(4,802)
Profit before taxation	**78,761**	**21,143**	**99,904**	82,003	17,604	99,607
Net assets (including capitalised goodwill)	**429,504**	**64,192**	**493,696**	415,832	53,780	469,612

1. Segmental Information - continued

(iii) Other
Other which includes Homebuilding and Supply Chain Management is analysed as follows:

	2005 Turnover €'000	2005 Operating Profit €'000	2005 Net Assets €'000	2004 Turnover €'000	2004 Operating Profit €'000	2004 Net Assets €'000
Homebuilding	**68,649**	**18,979**	**45,660**	65,406	15,188	29,018
Supply Chain Management	**105,330**	**(1,106)**	**9,671**	88,017	(892)	14,212
	173,979	**17,873**	**55,331**	153,423	14,296	43,230

(iv) Acquisitions
Acquisitions in the year contributed turnover of €282.457 million (2004: €23.024 million), operating profit before goodwill amortisation and operating exceptional items of €8.243 million (2004: €0.168 million) and profit before taxation of €4.263 million (2004: €87,000).

(b) Segmental Analysis by Geographical Area
An analysis by geographical area of turnover, profit before taxation and net assets is set out below:

(i) Summary

	2005 Turnover by Origin €'000	2005 Profit Before Taxation €'000	2005 Net Assets €'000	2004 Turnover by Origin €'000	2004 Profit Before Taxation €'000	2004 Net Assets €'000
Ireland	**845,657**	**39,006**	**63,971**	700,036	39,473	62,414
Rest of the World	**1,782,270**	**70,675**	**221,204**	1,374,429	62,202	193,417
	2,627,927	**109,681**	**285,175**	2,074,465	101,675	255,831
Associated undertakings	**103,597**	**21,855**	**61,140**	123,500	19,201	46,784
	2,731,524	**131,536**	**346,315**	2,197,965	120,876	302,615
Goodwill amortisation		**(10,089)**			(8,282)	
Net exceptional items (note 7)		**(15,967)**			(8,185)	
Interest (net)		**(5,576)**			(4,802)	
Net (debt)/cash			**(8,192)**			62,717
Amounts due in respect of acquisitions			**(17,923)**			(11,477)
Investments			**100**			100
Capitalised goodwill - subsidiaries			**193,762**			129,566
Capitalised goodwill - associates			**3,052**			6,996
Minority interests			**(4,348)**			(4,081)
Proposed dividend			**(19,070)**			(16,824)
	2,731,524	**99,904**	**493,696**	2,197,965	99,607	469,612

(ii) Turnover by Destination

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Ireland	**829,122**	682,055
United Kingdom	**1,610,340**	1,226,136
Rest of Europe	**175,683**	153,011
USA	**10,665**	10,256
Other	**2,117**	3,007
Share of associated undertakings	**103,597**	123,500
	2,731,524	2,197,965

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2005

2. Cost of Sales and Net Operating Costs

	2005			2004		
	Continuing Activities €'000	**Acquisitions €'000**	**Total €'000**	Continuing Activities €'000	Acquisitions €'000	Total €'000
Cost of sales	**(1,999,602)**	**(248,974)**	**(2,248,576)**	(1,718,370)	(21,025)	(1,739,395)
Gross profit	**345,868**	**33,483**	**379,351**	333,071	1,999	335,070
Operating costs						
Distribution	**(130,146)**	**(13,858)**	**(144,004)**	(120,270)	(1,093)	(121,363)
Administrative	**(117,491)**	**(12,493)**	**(129,984)**	(113,421)	(738)	(114,159)
Other operating expenses	**(15)**	**-**	**(15)**	(17)	-	(17)
	(247,652)	**(26,351)**	**(274,003)**	(233,708)	(1,831)	(235,539)
Other operating income	**3,222**	**1,111**	**4,333**	2,144	-	2,144
	(244,430)	**(25,240)**	**(269,670)**	(231,564)	(1,831)	(233,395)
Operating exceptional items	**(1,640)**	**(2,175)**	**(3,815)**	(2,288)	-	(2,288)
Goodwill amortisation	**(8,150)**	**(1,596)**	**(9,746)**	(7,720)	(74)	(7,794)
Net operating costs	**(254,220)**	**(29,011)**	**(283,231)**	(241,572)	(1,905)	(243,477)
Operating profit						
- parent and subsidiaries	**91,648**	**4,472**	**96,120**	91,499	94	91,593
- associated undertakings (note 1(a))	**21,512**	**-**	**21,512**	18,713	-	18,713
	113,160	**4,472**	**117,632**	110,212	94	110,306

3. Acquisitions

The profit on ordinary activities before taxation arising from acquisitions represents the aggregate of net incremental profit resulting from the acquisition of subsidiaries and associated undertakings in the relevant financial year.

4. Employee Information

The average weekly number of persons (including executive Directors) employed by subsidiaries of the Group during the year analysed by class of business was:

	2005 Number	2004 Number
Energy	**1,733**	1,414
IT Distribution	**779**	773
Healthcare	**742**	685
Food & Beverage	**528**	350
Environmental	**154**	141
Supply Chain Management	**505**	405
	4,441	3,768

The staff costs for the above were:

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Wages and salaries	**152,281**	124,540
Social welfare costs	**16,210**	13,621
Pension costs	**8,626**	7,242
	177,117	145,403

5. Directors' Emoluments and Interests

Directors' emoluments and interests are given in the Report of the Remuneration Committee on pages 46 to 49.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2005

6. Goodwill Amortisation

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Amortisation of capitalised goodwill arising on the acquisition of subsidiaries after 1 April 1998 (note 16)	**9,746**	7,794
Amortisation of goodwill included in the carrying value of associated undertakings (note 18)	**343**	488
	10,089	8,282

7. Net Exceptional Items

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Operating exceptional items	**3,815**	2,288
Non-operating net exceptional items	**12,152**	5,897
Net exceptional items	**15,967**	8,185

Operating exceptional items and non-operating net exceptional items in the year amounted to €16.0 million in relation to the restructuring of SerCom Solutions, acquisition related restructuring in DCC Energy and legal costs.

SerCom Solutions, DCC's supply chain management subsidiary, restructured its operations by consolidating its kitting and assembly activities at its Limerick facility and by closing its loss making Dublin facility.

As part of the post acquisition integration of the business of Shell Direct UK, exceptional restructuring costs have been incurred, arising in part from an overlap of operations with DCC's Scottish Fuels business, in order to improve the overall efficiency of its business.

DCC incurred costs in relation to the Fyffes plc legal action referred to in the Chairman's statement on page 6, and in relation to the pursuit in Taiwan of the damages, costs and interest awarded to DCC by the High Court in London following the successful legal action against Pihsiang Machinery Manufacturing Company Limited, a Taiwanese public company, Donald Wu, its chairman and major shareholder, and Jenny Wu, his wife and director (the Defendants). The total amount owing jointly and severally by the Defendents at 31 March 2005 was €19.4 million. DCC has not recognised this amount in its accounts pending its collection.

8. Net Interest Payable and Similar Charges - Parent and Subsidiary Undertakings

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Interest receivable and similar income		
Interest on cash and term deposits	**14,062**	8,534
Other interest and similar income receivable	**9**	33
	14,071	8,567
Interest payable and similar charges		
On bank loans, overdrafts and Unsecured Notes 2008 to 2016		
- repayable within 5 years, not by instalments	**(10,519)**	(10,454)
- repayable wholly or partly in more than 5 years	**(7,113)**	(315)
On loan notes		
- repayable within 5 years, not by instalments	**(30)**	(29)
On finance leases	**(1,122)**	(1,143)
Other interest	**(494)**	(319)
	(19,278)	(12,260)
	(5,207)	(3,693)

9. Share of Net Interest Payable and Similar Charges - Associated Undertakings

This comprises the Group's share of the net interest payable and similar charges of its associated undertakings.

10. Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation

Profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Auditors' remuneration - audit fees	**982**	804
Amortisation of capital grants	**(155)**	(173)
Operating leases		
- land and buildings	**4,629**	4,144
- plant and machinery	**160**	138
- motor vehicles	**3,359**	2,174
Depreciation		
- owned assets	**26,820**	25,926
- leased assets	**5,226**	3,475

Fees paid to the auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers, for non-audit services amounted to €2.389 million (2004: €1.257 million).

11. Taxation

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Current Tax		
Irish Corporation Tax principally at 12.5% (2004: 12.5%)	**2,394**	5,636
Less manufacturing relief	**(575)**	(533)
United Kingdom Corporation Tax at 30%	**7,538**	7,207
Other overseas tax	**619**	339
Over provision in respect of prior years	**(1,534)**	(619)
Total current taxation	**8,442**	12,030
Deferred Tax		
Irish at 12.5%	**213**	519
United Kingdom at 30%	**2,182**	(1,158)
Other overseas deferred tax	**-**	339
Under provision in respect of prior years	**1,037**	67
Total deferred tax	**3,432**	(233)
Total subsidiary undertakings tax charge	**11,874**	11,797
Associated undertakings	**3,241**	2,712
	15,115	14,509

Manufacturing relief is scheduled to expire in the year 2010.

	2005	2004
Effective tax rate		
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	**99,904**	99,607
Goodwill amortisation (note 6)	**10,089**	8,282
Net exceptional items (note 7)	**15,967**	8,185
	125,960	116,074
Taxation as a percentage of profit before goodwill amortisation, net exceptional items and taxation	**12.0%**	12.5%

The following table relates the applicable Republic of Ireland statutory tax rate to the effective tax rate of the Group:	**2005 (%)**	2004 (%)
Irish corporation tax rate	**12.5**	12.5
Manufacturing relief	**(0.5)**	(0.5)
Earnings taxed at higher rates	**9.9**	11.0
Over provision in respect of prior years	**(0.4)**	(0.6)
Other timing differences	**-**	(0.3)
Adjustments for earnings taxed at lower rates and other	**(9.5)**	(9.6)
	12.0	12.5

12. Minority Interests

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Subsidiary undertakings	**573**	341
Associated undertakings	**449**	430
	1,022	771

13. Profit for the Financial Year Attributable to Group Shareholders

As permitted by Section 3(2) of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986, a separate profit and loss account for the holding company has not been included in these financial statements. The profit for the financial year attributable to DCC shareholders dealt with in the financial statements of the holding company amounted to €835,000 (2004: €85.853 million).

14. Dividends

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Per Ordinary Share		
Interim dividend of 13.51 cent per share (2004: 11.75 cent per share)	**10,802**	9,823
Dividend attaching to shares bought-back	**(414)**	(75)
	10,388	9,748
Proposed final dividend of 23.75 cent per share (2004: 20.65 cent per share)	**19,070**	16,824
	29,458	26,572

The reduction in the interim dividend for the year ended 31 March 2005 of €414,000 primarily relates to the proposed final dividend for the year ended 31 March 2004 attaching to ordinary shares subsequently bought back by the Company.

15. Earnings per Ordinary Share and Adjusted Earnings per Ordinary Share

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Profit after taxation and minority interests	**83,767**	84,327
Net exceptional items (note 7)	**15,967**	8,185
Goodwill amortisation (note 6)	**10,089**	8,282
Adjusted profit after taxation and minority interests	**109,823**	100,794
Basic earnings per ordinary share	**cent**	cent
Basic earnings per ordinary share	**104.69**	101.98
Net exceptional items	**19.95**	9.90
Goodwill amortisation	**12.61**	10.01
Adjusted basic earnings per ordinary share	**137.25**	121.89
Weighted average number of shares in issue during the year ('000)	**80,018**	82,690
Diluted earnings per ordinary share	**cent**	cent
Diluted earnings per ordinary share	**102.26**	100.42
Net exceptional items	**19.49**	9.75
Goodwill amortisation	**12.32**	9.86
Adjusted diluted earnings per ordinary share	**134.07**	120.03
Diluted weighted average number of ordinary shares ('000)	**81,913**	83,974

The adjusted figures for basic earnings per ordinary share and diluted earnings per ordinary share are intended to demonstrate the results of the Group after eliminating the impact of goodwill amortisation and net exceptional items.

15. Earnings per Ordinary Share and Adjusted Earnings per Ordinary Share - continued

The weighted average number of ordinary shares used in calculating the diluted earnings per share for the year ended 31 March 2005 was 81.913 million (2004: 83.974 million). A reconciliation of the weighted average number of ordinary shares used for the purposes of calculating the diluted earnings per share amounts is as follows:

	2005	2004
	€'000	€'000
Weighted average number of shares in issue used for the calculation of basic earnings per share amounts	**80,018**	82,690
Dilutive effect of options and partly paid shares	**1,813**	1,240
Dilutive effect of shares potentially issuable under deferred contingent consideration arrangements	**82**	44
Weighted average number of shares in issue used for the calculation of diluted earnings per share	**81,913**	83,974

The earnings used for the purpose of the diluted earnings per share calculations were €83.767 million (2004: €84.327 million) and €109.823 million (2004: €100.794 million) for the purposes of the adjusted diluted earnings per share calculation.

16. Intangible Assets - Goodwill

Group

The movement in goodwill arising on the acquisition of subsidiaries is as follows:

	2005	2004
	€'000	€'000
Cost		
At 1 April	**157,184**	151,868
Additions (note 39)	**75,523**	7,881
Disposals	**-**	(265)
Other movements	**(1,581)**	(2,300)
At 31 March	**231,126**	157,184
Amortisation		
At 1 April	**27,618**	19,824
Amortisation for the year (note 6)	**9,746**	7,794
At 31 March	**37,364**	27,618
Net Book Value		
At 31 March	**193,762**	129,566

17. Tangible Fixed Assets

(a) Group

	Freehold & long term leasehold land & buildings €'000	Plant & machinery & cylinders €'000	Fixtures & fittings & office equipment €'000	Motor vehicles €'000	Total €'000
Cost					
At 1 April 2004	82,276	260,457	47,610	61,770	452,113
Acquisitions (note 39)	20,099	13,612	2,225	5,582	41,518
Additions	13,866	14,897	6,343	6,848	41,954
Disposals	(2,870)	(3,647)	(505)	(4,711)	(11,733)
Exchange adjustments	(1,287)	(5,739)	(603)	(1,451)	(9,080)
At 31 March 2005	**112,084**	**279,580**	**55,070**	**68,038**	**514,772**
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2004	13,401	160,719	30,903	34,838	239,861
Acquisitions (note 39)	858	5,577	1,270	390	8,095
Charge for year	1,854	16,451	5,951	7,790	32,046
Disposals	(890)	(3,211)	(504)	(3,708)	(8,313)
Exchange adjustments	(157)	(3,506)	(36)	(865)	(4,564)
At 31 March 2005	**15,066**	**176,030**	**37,584**	**38,445**	**267,125**
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2005	**97,018**	**103,550**	**17,486**	**29,593**	**247,647**
At 31 March 2004	68,875	99,738	16,707	26,932	212,252

The net book value of tangible fixed assets includes an amount of €4.968 million (2004: €7.121 million) in respect of assets held under finance leases.

(b) Company

	Fixtures & fittings & office equipment €'000	Motor vehicles €'000	Total €'000
Cost			
At 1 April 2004	1,288	1,170	2,458
Additions	31	211	242
Disposals	(1,319)	(1,381)	(2,700)
At 31 March 2005	-	-	-
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2004	913	562	1,475
Charge for year	30	64	94
Disposals	(943)	(626)	(1,569)
At 31 March 2005	-	-	-
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2005	-	-	-
At 31 March 2004	375	608	983

18. Financial Assets - Associated Undertakings

(a) Group

	2005 **€'000**	2004 €'000
At 1 April	**53,780**	40,330
Additions	**-**	484
Acquired as a subsidiary during the year (note 39)	**(7,916)**	-
Retained profits less dividends	**18,908**	13,664
Exchange adjustments	**(237)**	(210)
Amortisation of goodwill (note 6)	**(343)**	(488)
At 31 March	**64,192**	53,780

The carrying value of associated undertakings is analysed as follows:

	2005 **€'000**	2004 €'000
Interest in net assets	**6,687**	4,739
Share of post acquisition reserves	**54,475**	42,045
	61,162	46,784
Goodwill (net of amortisation)	**3,030**	6,996
	64,192	53,780

At 31 March 2005 the Group's aggregate share of its associated undertakings' fixed assets, current assets, liabilities due within one year and liabilities due after more than one year was as follows:

	2005 **€'000**	2004 €'000
Fixed assets	**8,940**	13,565
Current assets	**72,701**	65,732
Liabilities due within one year	**(7,324)**	(14,007)
Liabilities due after more than one year and minority interests	**(13,155)**	(18,506)
	61,162	46,784

The movement in goodwill in associated undertakings is as follows:

	2005 **€'000**	2004 €'000
Cost		
At 1 April	**10,114**	9,890
Additions	**-**	224
Disposals	**(5,447)**	-
At 31 March	**4,667**	10,114
Amortisation		
At 1 April	**3,118**	2,630
Amortisation for the year (note 6)	**343**	488
Disposals	**(1,824)**	-
At 31 March	**1,637**	3,118
Net Book Value		
At 31 March	**3,030**	6,996

18. Financial Assets - Associated Undertakings - continued

Details of the Group's principal associated undertakings at 31 March 2005 are set out below. All of these companies are incorporated and operate in Ireland.

Name and Registered Office	Nature of Business	% Ordinary Shareholding
Food & Beverage		
KP (Ireland) Limited, 79 Broomhill Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland.	Manufacture of snack foods.	50.0%
Kylemore Foods Holdings Limited, DCC House, Stillorgan, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.	Holding company for the Kylemore group of companies whose principal activities are the operation of restaurants and par bake bread manufacture.	50.0%
Other		
Manor Park Homebuilders Limited, The Gables, Torquay Road, Foxrock, Dublin 18, Ireland.	Residential homebuilding and property development.	49.0%

(b) Company

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
At 31 March	**1,300**	1,300

19. Financial Assets - Subsidiary Undertakings

Company	**2005 €'000**	2004 €'000
At 1 April	**145,814**	106,653
Additions	**-**	53,116
Disposals	**-**	(13,955)
At 31 March	**145,814**	145,814

The Group's principal operating subsidiary undertakings are shown on pages 89 to 91. All of these subsidiaries are wholly owned except Broderick Bros. Limited (93.8%), Virtus Limited (51.0%), Distrilogie SA (98.36%) where put and call options exist to acquire the remaining 1.64%, DCC Environmental Limited (97.15%) where put and call options exist to acquire the remaining 2.85% and Fannin Limited (96.6%) where put and call options exist to acquire the remaining 3.4%.

The Group's principal overseas holding company subsidiaries are DCC Limited, a company operating, incorporated and registered in England and Wales and DCC International Holdings B.V., a company operating, incorporated and registered in The Netherlands. The registered office of DCC Limited is at Days Healthcare U.K. Limited, Litchard Industrial Estate, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan CF31 2AL, Wales. The registered office of DCC International Holdings B.V. is Teleport Boulevard 140, 1043 EJ Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

20. Stocks

Group	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Raw materials and consumables	**5,783**	3,591
Work in progress	**1,855**	1,049
Finished goods and goods for resale	**116,096**	105,937
	123,734	110,577

The replacement cost of stocks is not considered to be materially different from the amounts shown above.

21. Debtors

	Group		Company	
	2005 €'000	2004 €'000	**2005 €'000**	2004 €'000
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Trade debtors	**366,340**	290,084	**-**	-
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	**-**	-	**267,985**	2,019
Corporation tax recoverable	**-**	-	**-**	5
Deferred tax asset (note 30)	**3,720**	4,527	**-**	-
Value added tax recoverable	**9,925**	1,517	**80**	-
Prepayments and accrued income	**24,516**	17,160	**1,021**	1,390
Other debtors	**4,560**	1,877	**-**	-
	409,061	315,165	**269,086**	3,414
Amounts falling due after more than one year:				
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	**-**	-	**-**	278,233
Investments	**100**	100	**-**	-
Prepayments and other debtors	**12,373**	15,120	**8,713**	9,441
	12,473	15,220	**8,713**	287,674
	421,534	330,385	**277,799**	291,088

22. Cash and Term Deposits

	Group		Company	
	2005 €'000	2004 €'000	**2005 €'000**	2004 €'000
Cash in hand and at bank	**118,590**	115,198	**-**	-
Term deposits	**233,809**	205,418	**248**	367
	352,399	320,616	**248**	367

For the purposes of the consolidated cash flow statement, cash in hand and at bank comprises cash on demand. The movements in cash in hand and at bank and term deposits are set out in note 42.

23. Bank and Other Debt

Group	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Bank loans and overdrafts (note 24)	**38,481**	137,446
Loan notes (note 25)	**731**	827
Obligations under finance leases (note 26)	**16,285**	22,014
	55,497	160,287
Unsecured Notes due 2008 to 2016 (note 24)	**305,094**	97,612
	360,591	257,899
Bank and other loans and leases:		
- repayable within one year	**45,127**	143,732
- repayable after more than one year	**10,370**	16,555
Unsecured Notes due 2008 to 2016	**305,094**	97,612
	360,591	257,899

In September 1996, the Group raised US$100.0 million of senior unsecured notes in a private placement with US institutional investors. Of this amount, US$92.5 million is due in 2008 and US$7.5 million is due in 2011. The funds have been swapped to sterling at a margin over 3 month sterling Libor.

On 19 February 2004, the Group committed to the issuance of US$200.0 million and Stg£30.0 million senior unsecured notes in a private placement with US and UK institutional investors. Of these amounts, US$157.0 million and Stg£30.0 million are due in 2014 and US$43.0 million is due in 2016. The unsecured notes were subsequently issued on 19 April 2004 with funding equivalent to €212.1 million drawn down on that date. The Group has entered into currency and interest rate swaps with the effect that (i) the dollar denominated funds are swapped to euro at a margin over six month Euribor and (ii) the sterling denominated funds are swapped to a margin over six month sterling Libor.

24. Bank Loans, Overdrafts and Unsecured Notes due 2008 to 2016

Group	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Repayable as follows:		
Within one year	**38,481**	137,446
Between two and five years	**87,327**	90,291
After five years	**217,767**	7,321
	343,575	235,058
The above amounts are further analysed as follows:		
Wholly repayable within one year	**38,481**	137,446
Repayable other than by instalments:		
- between two and five years	**87,327**	90,291
- after five years	**217,767**	7,321
	343,575	235,058

25. Loan Notes

Group	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
The loan notes are repayable as follows:		
Within one year	**731**	827

The above loan notes are unsecured and €0.731 million (2004: €0.827 million) are supported by bank guarantees. The Company and certain of its subsidiaries have guaranteed the obligations of the relevant banks in respect of the loan notes.

26. Finance Leases

The net finance lease obligations to which the Group is committed are:

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Within one year	**5,915**	5,459
Between one and two years	**4,894**	5,960
Between two and five years	**5,476**	10,595
	10,370	16,555
	16,285	22,014

27. Derivative and Other Financial Instruments

The Group's treasury activities are designed to finance its operations and to reduce or eliminate the financial risks arising from those operations.

A number of the Group's operating and financial revenues and costs are exposed to movements in the financial and commodity markets which are outside of the Group's control. In particular, interest rates can fluctuate, affecting the cost of borrowings, and commodity price movements can impact on the cost of certain raw materials purchased.

Furthermore, foreign exchange movements can impact on the cost of products sourced and revenues generated from overseas markets and can also impact on the translation of the results and net operating assets or operating liabilities of the Group's overseas operations save to the extent that they are hedged by borrowings or deposits in the same currency. In order to reduce exposures in relation to the Group's revenues and costs, the Group uses various derivative financial instruments to hedge its positions going forward.

All transactions in derivatives (which are mainly interest rate and currency swaps, forward foreign exchange and commodity contracts) are designed to manage risks without engaging in speculative transactions.

(a) Interest Rate Risk Profile of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

The following table analyses the currency and interest rate composition of the Group's gross cash and debt portfolio, as stated on the balance sheet, after taking cross currency and interest rate swaps into account:

	2005 € equivalent			2004 € equivalent		
	Financial Assets €'000	**Financial Liabilities €'000**	**Net €'000**	Financial Assets €'000	Financial Liabilities €'000	Net €'000
€ Fixed	**-**	**-**	**-**	-	-	-
€ Floating	**90,036**	**(170,180)**	**(80,144)**	67,959	(91,964)	(24,005)
€ Total	**90,036**	**(170,180)**	**(80,144)**	67,959	(91,964)	(24,005)
Stg£ Fixed	**88,598**	**(88,598)**	**-**	91,605	(91,605)	-
Stg£ Floating	**168,095**	**(101,807)**	**66,288**	153,670	(74,330)	79,340
Stg£ Total	**256,693**	**(190,405)**	**66,288**	245,275	(165,935)	79,340
US$ Fixed	**-**	**-**	**-**	-	-	-
US$ Floating	**5,670**	**(6)**	**5,664**	7,382	-	7,382
US$ Total	**5,670**	**(6)**	**5,664**	7,382	-	7,382
Total	**352,399**	**(360,591)**	**(8,192)**	320,616	(257,899)	62,717

27. Derivative and Other Financial Instruments - continued

The Group's deferred acquisition consideration of €17.923 million (2004: €11.477 million) as stated on the balance sheet, consists of €7.708 million of € floating rate financial liabilities (2004: €9.859 million of € floating rate financial liabilities) and €10.215 million of Stg£ floating rate financial liabilities (2004: €1.618 million) payable as follows:

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Within one year	**7,084**	4,678
Between one and two years	**2,375**	3,391
Between two and five years	**8,464**	3,408
	17,923	11,477

The Group's floating rate financial assets and financial liabilities primarily bear interest rates based on:

- 1-6 month Euribor
- 1-6 month Sterling Libor
- 0-1 month US$ Libor

Details of the fixed interest rates and corresponding time periods for the Group's fixed rate financial assets and financial liabilities, after taking interest rate swaps into account, are as follows:

	2005 Weighted average interest rate %		2004 Weighted average interest rate %	
	Fixed rate financial assets	**Fixed rate financial liabilities**	Fixed rate financial assets	Fixed rate financial liabilities
€	**n/a**	**n/a**	n/a	n/a
Stg£	**8.0%**	**8.8%**	8.0%	8.8%

	2005 Weighted average period for which rate is fixed		2003 Weighted average period for which rate is fixed	
	Fixed rate financial assets	**Fixed rate financial liabilities**	Fixed rate financial assets	Fixed rate financial liabilities
€	**n/a**	**n/a**	n/a	n/a
Stg£	**3.5 years**	**3.5 years**	4.5 years	4.5 years

The maturity profile of the Group's financial liabilities is set out in notes 24 to 26 and can be summarised as follows:

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Within one year	**45,127**	143,732
Between one and two years	**4,894**	5,960
Between two and five years	**92,803**	100,886
After five years	**217,767**	7,321
	360,591	257,899

27. Derivative and Other Financial Instruments - continued

(b) Gains and Losses on Hedges

The Group enters into forward foreign exchange contracts to eliminate the currency exposures that arise on revenues and costs denominated in foreign currencies. The Group also enters into commodity contracts in order to eliminate the exposure to price movements of oil and LPG. Changes in the fair value of instruments used as hedges are not recognised in the financial statements until the hedged position matures. An analysis of these unrecognised gains and losses is as follows:

	2005			2004		
	Gains €'000	**Losses €'000**	**Total €'000**	Gains €'000	Losses €'000	Total €'000
At 1 April	**1,856**	**(563)**	**1,293**	6,398	(1,188)	5,210
Portion recognised in current year	**(1,856)**	**563**	**(1,293)**	(4,658)	1,161	(3,497)
Arising in current year	**282**	**(129)**	**153**	116	(536)	(420)
At 31 March	**282**	**(129)**	**153**	1,856	(563)	1,293
Of which, expected to be recognised:						
- within one year	**282**	**(129)**	**153**	1,856	(563)	1,293
- after one year	**-**	**-**	**-**	-	-	-
	282	**(129)**	**153**	1,856	(563)	1,293

The above table does not include cross currency interest rate swaps where unrecognised gains or losses on the swaps are matched by equal and opposite gains or losses in the fair value of the Unsecured Notes 2008/11 or the Unsecured Notes 2014/16 as described in the accounting policy for derivative financial instruments and detailed in Note 27(c).

(c) Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts and estimated fair values of the financial assets and financial liabilities of the Group are as follows:

	2005		2004	
	Carrying amount €'000	**Fair value €'000**	Carrying amount €'000	Fair value €'000
Assets:				
Cash and short term deposits	**352,399**	**352,399**	320,616	320,616
Liabilities:				
Deferred acquisition consideration	**(17,923)**	**(17,923)**	(11,477)	(11,477)
Short term debt	**(45,127)**	**(45,127)**	(143,732)	(143,732)
Medium and long term debt	**(10,370)**	**(10,370)**	(16,555)	(16,555)
Unsecured Notes due 2008 to 2016	**(305,094)**	**(305,094)**	(97,612)	(97,612)
Derivative financial instruments:				
Commodity swaps	**-**	**2**	-	12
Forward foreign exchange contracts	**-**	**151**	-	1,281
Interest rate contracts	**-**	**-**	-	-
	(26,115)	**(25,962)**	51,240	52,533

27. Derivative and Other Financial Instruments - continued

The following methods and assumptions were used by the Group in estimating its fair value disclosures for financial instruments:

- Cash, short term deposits and short term debt:

The carrying amount reported in the balance sheet generally approximates to fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments.

- Deferred acquisition consideration:

The carrying amount reported in the balance sheet generally approximates to fair value because the future amounts payable are discounted back to their present value.

- Medium and long term debt:

The carrying amount reported in the balance sheet approximates to fair value because interest rates on these instruments frequently reset to short term market rates.

- Unsecured Notes due 2008/11:

The fair value of the Group's Unsecured Notes due 2008/11 is shown net of the gain or loss on the sterling cross currency interest rate swap used to hedge these loan notes (note 23). At 31 March 2005, the cross currency interest rate swap had a fair value equating to a loss of €11.126 million (2004: loss of €1.855 million) and the fair value of the Unsecured Notes 2008/11 was lower (2004: lower) than the book value by the same amount.

- Unsecured Notes due 2014/16:

The fair value of the Group's Unsecured Notes due 2014/16 is shown net of the gain or loss on the currency and interest rate swaps used to hedge these loan notes (note 23). At 31 March 2005, the currency and interest rate swaps had a fair value equating to a loss of €18.690 million and the fair value of the Unsecured Notes 2014/16 was lower than the book value by the same amount. At 31 March 2004, the currency and interest rate swaps had a fair value equating to a gain of €2.306 million and the fair value of the Unsecured Notes 2014/16, which were issued on 19 April 2004 pursuant to commitments entered into on 19 February 2004 (note 23), was higher by the same amount.

- Commodity and forward foreign exchange contracts:

The fair value of these instruments is based on the estimated replacement cost of equivalent instruments at the balance sheet date.

- Interest rate contracts:

The fair value of these instruments is based on the estimated replacement cost of equivalent instruments at the balance sheet date. The Group uses interest rate contracts to swap floating rate assets and liabilities into fixed rate assets and liabilities. The fair value of the interest rate contracts attributable to financial assets is offset by the fair value of the interest rate contracts attributable to financial liabilities.

(d) Undrawn Borrowing Facilities

While the Group had various bank borrowing facilities available at 31 March 2005, it had no undrawn committed bank facilities.

(e) Short Term Debtors and Creditors

Short term debtors and creditors are not included in the above disclosures of financial assets and financial liabilities.

(f) Treasury Policy

The Group's treasury policy and management of derivatives and financial instruments is discussed in the Financial Review on pages 26 to 31.

28. Trade and Other Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:	Group 2005 €'000	Group 2004 €'000	Company 2005 €'000	Company 2004 €'000
Trade creditors	**367,221**	297,501	**-**	-
Other creditors and accruals	**62,516**	35,588	**761**	1,836
Deferred acquisition consideration	**7,084**	4,678	**2,824**	1,885
PAYE and National Insurance	**5,274**	3,799	**11**	268
Value added tax	**16,693**	12,951	**-**	619
Capital grants (note 29)	**128**	129	**-**	-
Interest payable	**5,332**	1,617	**-**	-
Amounts due in respect of fixed assets	**499**	566	**-**	-
Amounts due to subsidiary undertakings	**-**	-	**223,019**	11,061
Amounts due to associated undertakings	**6,536**	5,859	**-**	-
	471,283	362,688	**226,615**	15,669

29. Capital Grants

Group	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
At 1 April	**1,241**	1,413
Amortisation in year	**(155)**	(173)
Exchange and other adjustments	**-**	1
At 31 March	**1,086**	1,241
Disclosed as due within one year (note 28)	**(128)**	(129)
	958	1,112

30. Provisions for Liabilities and Charges

(a) Group

	2005 Deferred taxation (note 31) €'000	2005 Pension and similar obligations (note 32) €'000	2005 Total €'000	2004 Deferred taxation (note 31) €'000	2004 Pension and similar obligations (note 32) €'000	2004 Total €'000
At 1 April	**(2,454)**	**11**	**(2,443)**	(1,875)	11	(1,864)
Charged/(credited) to profit and loss account	**3,432**	**-**	**3,432**	(233)	-	(233)
Acquisitions	**554**	**-**	**554**	-	-	-
Exchange adjustments and other	**98**	**-**	**98**	(346)	-	(346)
At 31 March	**1,630**	**11**	**1,641**	(2,454)	11	(2,443)
Disclosed as:						
Deferred tax asset (note 21)	**(3,720)**	**-**	**(3,720)**	(4,527)	-	(4,527)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	**5,350**	**11**	**5,361**	2,073	11	2,084
	1,630	**11**	**1,641**	(2,454)	11	(2,443)

30. Provisions for Liabilities and Charges - continued

(b) Company

	2005	2004
	€'000	€'000
At 1 April	**827**	552
Charged to profit and loss account	**145**	275
At 31 March	**972**	827

31. Deferred Taxation

The net deferred taxation liability/(asset) provided in the financial statements is analysed as follows:

(a) Group

	2005	2004
	€'000	€'000
Tax effect of timing differences due to:		
Excess of accelerated capital allowances over depreciation	**4,940**	361
Other short term timing differences	**(3,310)**	(2,815)
	1,630	(2,454)

(b) Company

	2005	2004
	€'000	€'000
Tax effect of timing differences due to:		
Excess of accelerated capital allowances over depreciation	**4**	4
Other short term timing differences	**968**	823
	972	827

32. Pension and Similar Obligations

The Group has continued to account for pensions in accordance with SSAP 24 and the relevant disclosures are given in note (a) below. Financial Reporting Standard 17 - Retirement Benefits (FRS 17) was issued by the Accounting Standards Board in November 2000 and represents a significant change in the method of accounting for pension costs compared with the previous rules as set out in SSAP 24. Full implementation of the new accounting rules prescribed by FRS 17 has been deferred by the Accounting Standards Board. The Group has elected to avail of transitional provisions outlined in the standard which, for 2005, permit the use of the SSAP 24 regulations for determining pension cost but require the additional disclosure of the impact of the adoption of FRS 17 as at 31 March 2005, as shown in note (b).

(a) SSAP 24 Disclosures

The Group operates defined benefit and defined contribution schemes in the parent and subsidiary undertakings. The pension scheme assets are held in separate trustee administered funds.

Total pension costs for the year amounted to €8.626 million (2004: €7.242 million) of which €5.043 million (2004: €4.152 million) was paid in respect of defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs relating to the Group's defined benefit schemes are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. Either the attained age or the projected unit benefits method are used to assess pension costs. The most recent actuarial valuations range from 1 April 2002 to 1 May 2004.

The assumptions which have the most significant effect on the results of the actuarial valuations are those relating to the rates of return on investments and the rates of increase in remuneration and pensions. It was assumed that the rates of return on investments would, on average, exceed annual remuneration increases by 2% and pension increases by 3% per annum.

32. Pension and Similar Obligations - continued

At the dates of the most recent actuarial valuations, the market value of the assets of the Group's defined benefit schemes totalled €50.715 million (2004: €45.350 million).

After allowing for expected future increases in earnings and pension payments, the actuarial values of the various schemes' assets were sufficient to cover between 47% and 102% (Group weighted average cover: 71%) of the benefits that had accrued to the members of the individual schemes. Any actuarial deficits are being spread over the average remaining service lives of current employees.

At 31 March 2005, €2.614 million (2004: €200,000) was included in creditors in respect of pension liabilities and €11.437 million (2004: €10.719 million) was included in debtors in respect of pension prepayments.

In general, actuarial valuations are not available for public inspection, although the results of valuations are advised to the members of the various pension schemes.

(b) Financial Reporting Standard 17 'Retirement Benefits' disclosures

The Group operates eight defined benefit schemes in the Republic of Ireland and three in the UK. Full actuarial valuations were carried out between 1 April 2002 and 1 May 2004 and updated to 31 March 2005 for Financial Reporting Standard 17 disclosure purposes by a qualified independent actuary. The main financial assumptions used in the valuations were:

Irish Schemes	**2005**	2004	2003
Rate of increase in salaries	**4.00%**	4.00%	4.00%
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	**2.25% - 5.00%**	2.25% - 5.00%	2.25% - 5.00%
Discount rate	**4.00% - 4.80%**	5.25%	5.50%
Inflation assumption	**2.25%**	2.25%	2.25%

UK Schemes	**2005**	2004	2003
Rate of increase in salaries	**3.75%**	3.75%	3.75%
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	**2.75% - 4.00%**	2.75% - 4.00%	2.25% - 4.00%
Discount rate	**5.25%**	5.60%	5.25%
Inflation assumption	**2.75%**	2.75%	2.25%

The expected long term rates of return on the assets of the schemes were as follows:

Irish Schemes	**2005**	2004	2003
Equities	**7.20%**	7.50%	7.75%
Bonds	**3.70%**	4.50%	4.75%
Property	**5.20%**	5.50%	5.75%
Cash	**2.40%**	3.00%	4.00%

UK Schemes	**2005**	2004	2003
Equities	**8.10%**	7.50%	7.50%
Bonds	**4.60%**	4.50%	5.00%
Property	**6.10%**	5.50%	6.00%
Cash	**3.50%**	3.00%	4.00%

32. Pension and Similar Obligations - continued

The market value of the assets of the schemes were as follows:

	2005		
	RoI	**UK**	**Total**
	€'000	**€'000**	**€'000**
Equities	**31,920**	**7,150**	**39,070**
Bonds	**9,884**	**1,389**	**11,273**
Property	**2,006**	**7**	**2,013**
Cash	**1,900**	**552**	**2,452**
Total market value at 31 March	**45,710**	**9,098**	**54,808**
Present value of scheme liabilities	**(64,581)**	**(15,458)**	**(80,039)**
	(18,871)	**(6,360)**	**(25,231)**
Related deferred tax asset			**3,028**
Net pension funding deficit at 31 March 2005			**(22,203)**

	2004		
	RoI	UK	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000
Equities	29,020	6,504	35,524
Bonds	7,502	1,161	8,663
Property	2,145	9	2,154
Cash	7,580	159	7,739
Total market value at 31 March	46,247	7,833	54,080
Present value of scheme liabilities	(58,035)	(13,036)	(71,071)
	(11,788)	(5,203)	(16,991)
Related deferred tax asset			2,124
Net pension funding deficit at 31 March 2004			(14,867)

	2003		
	RoI	UK	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000
Equities	19,777	4,633	24,410
Bonds	7,753	998	8,751
Property	2,045	9	2,054
Cash	6,383	167	6,550
Total market value at 31 March	35,958	5,807	41,765
Present value of scheme liabilities	(49,614)	(10,531)	(60,145)
	(13,656)	(4,724)	(18,380)
Related deferred tax asset			2,573
Net pension funding deficit at 31 March 2003			(15,807)

32. Pension and Similar Obligations - continued

If FRS 17 had been adopted in the financial statements, the Group's shareholders' funds and profit and loss reserve would be as follows:

	2005		2004		2003	
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Shareholders' Funds						
Group shareholders' funds excluding pension deficit		493,696		469,612		429,279
Net pension funding deficit		(22,203)		(14,867)		(15,807)
Net pension prepayment	(8,910)		(10,538)		(8,951)	
Related deferred tax asset	1,069		1,317		1,119	
Net pension prepayment		(7,841)		(9,221)		(7,832)
Group shareholders' funds including pension deficit and pension prepayment		463,652		445,524		405,640
Profit and Loss Reserve						
Profit and loss reserve excluding pension deficit		345,748		321,739		281,400
Net pension funding deficit		(22,203)		(14,867)		(15,807)
Net pension prepayment	(8,910)		(10,538)		(8,951)	
Related deferred tax asset	1,069		1,317		1,119	
Net pension prepayment		(7,841)		(9,221)		(7,832)
Profit and loss reserve including pension deficit and pension prepayment		315,704		297,651		257,761

Impact of FRS 17 on reported profit

The following is a pro-forma indication of the impact on the Group profit and loss account if the Group had implemented FRS 17 in full in relation to its defined benefit pension schemes:

	2005			2004		
	SSAP 24 pension expense €'000	Total net pension cost under FRS 17 €'000	Incremental profit impact of FRS 17 €'000	SSAP 24 pension expense €'000	Total net pension cost under FRS 17 €'000	Incremental profit impact of FRS 17 €'000
Impact on Group operating profit						
Pension cost/current service cost	(5,043)	(3,029)	2,014	(4,152)	(2,355)	1,797
Past service cost (benefit enhancements)	-	(392)	(392)	-	(30)	(30)
Total operating charge	(5,043)	(3,421)	1,622	(4,152)	(2,385)	1,767
Impact on other finance income						
Expected return on pension scheme assets	-	3,517	3,517	-	2,848	2,848
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	-	(3,940)	(3,940)	-	(3,303)	(3,303)
Net return	-	(423)	(423)	-	(455)	(455)
Total net impact on reported profits	(5,043)	(3,844)	1,199	(4,152)	(2,840)	1,312

32. Pension and Similar Obligations - continued

Statement of total recognised gains and losses	**2005** **€'000**	2004 €'000	2003 €'000
Actual return less expected return on pension scheme assets	**1,277**	5,362	(13,394)
Experience gains and losses arising on the scheme liabilities	**(1,608)**	(3,424)	(3,005)
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of the scheme liabilities	**(7,421)**	(2,764)	(5,869)
Actuarial loss recognised in the statement of total recognised gains and losses	**(7,752)**	(826)	(22,268)

Movement in deficit during the year	**2005** **€'000**	2004 €'000	2003 €'000
Deficit in scheme at 1 April	**(16,991)**	(18,380)	(3,164)
Movement in year:			
Current service cost	**(3,029)**	(2,355)	(2,160)
Past service cost	**(392)**	(30)	(141)
Acquisitions and other	**(1,825)**	-	-
Contributions paid	**4,998**	5,237	8,275
Other finance (expense)/income	**(423)**	(455)	672
Actuarial loss	**(7,752)**	(826)	(22,268)
Exchange	**183**	(182)	406
Deficit in scheme at 31 March	**(25,231)**	(16,991)	(18,380)

Experience gains and losses	**2005** **€'000**	2004 €'000	2003 €'000
Difference between the expected and actual return on scheme assets	**1,277**	5,362	(13,394)
Percentage of scheme assets	**2%**	10%	(32%)
Experience gains and losses on scheme liabilities	**(1,608)**	(3,424)	(3,005)
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	**2%**	5%	5%
Total recognised in statement of total recognised gains and losses	**(7,752)**	(826)	(22,268)
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	**10%**	1%	37%

33. Called up Equity Share Capital

Group and Company	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Authorised		
152,368,568 ordinary shares of €0.25 each	**38,092**	38,092
Issued		
88,169,404 ordinary shares (including 7,873,886 ordinary shares held as Treasury Shares) of €0.25 each, fully paid (2004: 88,139,404 ordinary shares (including 6,667,734 ordinary shares held as Treasury Shares) of €0.25 each, fully paid)	**22,042**	22,035
60,000 ordinary shares of €0.25 each, €0.0025 paid (2004: 90,000 ordinary shares of €0.25 each, €0.0025 paid)	**-**	-
	22,042	22,035

Movements during year

Ordinary shares of 0.25 each	No of shares ('000)	€'000
At 1 April 2004	**88,229**	**22,035**
Payment up of partly paid shares	**-**	**7**
At 31 March 2005	**88,229**	**22,042**

During the year the Group purchased 2,065,000 of its own ordinary shares of €0.25 each at a total cost of €26.762 million. These shares are held as Treasury Shares and they are not included in the calculation of earnings per share from the date they were purchased by the Group.

Under the DCC plc 1998 Employee Share Option Scheme, Group employees hold basic tier options to subscribe for 2,282,700 ordinary shares and second tier options to subscribe for 2,498,584 ordinary shares. The number of shares in respect of which basic tier and second tier options may be granted under this Scheme may not exceed 5% of the total number of shares in issue in each case.

Under the DCC Sharesave Scheme, Group employees hold options to subscribe for 986,912 ordinary shares. These options are exercisable between June 2004 and February 2011.

Under the terminated DCC Employee Partly Paid Share Scheme, at 31 March 2005, 60,000 shares (2004: 90,000 shares) remain partly paid.

All shares, whether fully or partly paid, carry equal voting rights and rank for dividends to the extent to which the total amount payable on each share is paid up.

34. Share Premium Account

Group and Company	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
At 1 April	**124,438**	124,444
Premium on issue of shares	**68**	-
Share issue expenses	**-**	(6)
At 31 March	**124,506**	124,438

35. Other Reserves

(a) Group

	Capital Conversion Reserve Fund €'000	Other Reserves €'000	Total €'000
At 31 March 2005 and 31 March 2004	**344**	**1,056**	**1,400**

(b) Company

	Capital Conversion Reserve Fund €'000
At 31 March 2005 and 31 March 2004	**344**

36. Profit and Loss

(a) Group

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
At 1 April	**321,739**	281,400
Profit retained for the year	**54,309**	57,755
Share buyback (inclusive of costs)	**(26,762)**	(24,986)
Re-issue of Treasury Shares (net of expenses)	**6,783**	1,128
Exchange adjustments - associated undertakings	**(237)**	(210)
Exchange adjustments - subsidiaries	**(10,084)**	6,652
At 31 March	**345,748**	321,739

In accordance with the Group's accounting policy, goodwill arising on the acquisition of subsidiaries prior to 1 April 1998, eliminated from the balance sheet through reserves, amounts to €100.079 million.

(b) Company

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
At 1 April	**69,688**	34,265
(Loss)/profit retained	**(28,623)**	59,281
Share buyback (inclusive of costs)	**(26,762)**	(24,986)
Re-issue of Treasury Shares (net of expenses)	**6,783**	1,128
At 31 March	**21,086**	69,688

The cost to the Group of €87.112 million to acquire the 7,873,886 shares held in Treasury has been deducted from the Group and Company Profit and Loss Reserves. These shares were acquired at prices ranging from €9.25 to €12.80 each between 28 July 2000 and 17 May 2004.

37. Reconciliation of Movements in Equity Shareholders' Funds

Group	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Profit for the financial year	**83,767**	84,327
Dividends	**(29,458)**	(26,572)
	54,309	57,755
Equity share capital issued (net of expenses)	**6,858**	1,122
Share buyback (inclusive of costs)	**(26,762)**	(24,986)
Exchange adjustments - associated undertakings	**(237)**	(210)
Exchange adjustments - subsidiaries	**(10,084)**	6,652
Net movement in shareholders' funds	**24,084**	40,333
Opening equity shareholders' funds	**469,612**	429,279
Closing equity shareholders' funds	**493,696**	469,612

38. Equity Minority Interests

Group	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
At 1 April	**4,081**	3,632
Minority acquired on acquisition of subsidiary (note 39)	**359**	-
Acquisition of minority interest in subsidiary undertakings (note 39)	**(489)**	-
Share of profit for the financial year (note 12)	**573**	341
Dividends to minorities	**(176)**	(151)
Exchange and other adjustments	**-**	259
At 31 March	**4,348**	4,081

39. Acquisitions of Subsidiary Undertakings

The principal acquisitions completed during the year were Bottle Green (a UK wine sales and marketing company), the business of Shell Direct UK (a Shell branded oil distributor), Dyneley Holdings Limited (a fuel card services company), Laleham Healthcare (a contract manufacturer and packer for the health and beauty market), and a number of small oil and LPG distributors. The Group also purchased the remaining 48.5% shareholding from minority shareholders in Allied Foods Limited.

A summary of the effect of acquisitions is as follows:

	Acquisition of subsidiary undertakings €'000	Fair value adjustments €'000	Fair value of subsidiary undertakings at acquisition €'000	Acquisition of minority interest in subsidiaries €'000	Total €'000
Tangible fixed assets	**33,423**	**-**	**33,423**	**-**	**33,423**
Stocks	**6,927**	**(100)**	**6,827**	**-**	**6,827**
Debtors	**33,671**	**(200)**	**33,471**	**-**	**33,471**
Net cash	**16,528**	**-**	**16,528**	**-**	**16,528**
Creditors	**(44,023)**	**(4,725)**	**(48,748)**	**-**	**(48,748)**
Tax and deferred tax	**(3,407)**	**-**	**(3,407)**	**-**	**(3,407)**
Minority interest	**(359)**	**-**	**(359)**	**489**	**130**
Net assets acquired	**42,760**	**(5,025)**	**37,735**	**489**	**38,224**
Goodwill			**74,382**	**1,141**	**75,523**
Less: carrying value as an associate			**(7,916)**	**-**	**(7,916)**
Cost			**104,201**	**1,630**	**105,831**

Satisfied by:	
Cash	**94,721**
Deferred consideration	**11,110**
	105,831

The fair values set out above include provisional values for certain acquisitions completed during 2004/2005. Any revisions to these provisional valuations will be reflected in the 2005/2006 financial statements. The fair value adjustments primarily relate to onerous contracts and defined benefit pension deficits of subsidiaries acquired. During the year, €1.675 million of the fair value provisions were utilised.

An analysis of the net outflow of cash in respect of the acquisition of subsidiary undertakings is as follows:

	€'000
Cost	**105,831**
Net cash acquired	**(16,528)**
Deferred consideration	**(11,110)**
Net outflow of cash	**78,193**
Comprised of:	
Purchase of subsidiary undertakings (net of cash acquired) (note 41(c))	**77,288**
Purchase of minority interests (note 41(c))	**905**
	78,193

40. Reconciliation of Operating Profit to Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
Operating profit before goodwill amortisation	**131,536**	120,876
Operating profit of associated undertakings	**(21,855)**	(19,201)
Dividends received from associated undertakings	**1,354**	3,094
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**32,046**	29,401
Amortisation of capital grants	**(155)**	(173)
Profit on sale of tangible fixed assets	**(2,050)**	(879)
Increase in stocks	**(8,506)**	(3,905)
Increase in debtors	**(64,144)**	(539)
Increase in creditors	**49,100**	25,050
Other	**(2,466)**	(1,808)
Operating cash flow before exceptional costs	**114,860**	151,916
Exceptional costs	**(6,560)**	(10,670)
Cash flow from operating activities	**108,300**	141,246

41. Analysis of Cashflows for Headings netted in the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
(a) Returns on investments and servicing of finance		
Interest received and similar receipts	**12,833**	8,540
Interest paid and similar payments	**(15,561)**	(11,998)
Dividends paid to minority interests	**(176)**	(151)
Net cash outflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance	**(2,904)**	(3,609)
(b) Capital expenditure		
Expenditure on tangible fixed assets	**(42,021)**	(32,084)
Proceeds on sale of tangible fixed assets	**7,875**	3,992
Net cash outflow from capital expenditure	**(34,146)**	(28,092)
(c) Acquisitions		
Purchase of subsidiary undertakings (net of cash acquired) (note 39)	**(77,288)**	(7,302)
Investment in associated undertakings (note 18)	**-**	(484)
Purchase of minority interests (note 39)	**(905)**	-
Payment of deferred consideration in respect of acquisitions	**(2,955)**	(6,674)
Net cash outflow from acquisitions	**(81,148)**	(14,460)
(d) Financing		
Issues of share capital (including share premium)	**6,858**	1,122
Share buyback	**(26,762)**	(24,986)
Capital element of finance lease payments	**(5,062)**	(4,976)
Unsecured Notes due 2014/16 issued	**212,064**	-
Loans repaid	**(85,734)**	(61,551)
Investment by minorities	**-**	152
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing	**101,364**	(90,239)

42. Analysis of Movement in Net Funds

	At 1 April 2004 €'000	Cash Flow €'000	Exchange Movements €'000	At 31 March 2005 €'000
Cash in hand and at bank	115,198	7,719	(4,327)	**118,590**
Overdrafts	(51,785)	14,197	(893)	**(38,481)**
	63,413	21,916	(5,220)	**80,109**
Term deposits	205,418	33,245	(4,854)	**233,809**
Bank loans and loan notes	(86,488)	85,734	23	**(731)**
Unsecured Notes due 2008 to 2016	(97,612)	(212,064)	4,582	**(305,094)**
Finance leases	(22,014)	5,062	667	**(16,285)**
Total	62,717	(66,107)	(4,802)	**(8,192)**

43. Capital Commitments

Group	**2005 €'000**	2004 €'000
Capital expenditure that has been contracted for but has not been provided for in the financial statements	**10,897**	3,732
Capital expenditure that has been authorised by the Directors but has not yet been contracted for	**35,212**	28,758

44. Operating Lease Commitments

At 31 March 2005 the Group had annual commitments under operating leases expiring as follows:

	2005			2004		
	Land & buildings €'000	**Other €'000**	**Total €'000**	Land & buildings €'000	Other €'000	Total €'000
Expiring within one year	**177**	**890**	**1,067**	436	752	1,188
Expiring between two and five years	**1,745**	**2,468**	**4,213**	1,109	1,743	2,852
Expiring after five years	**3,241**	**-**	**3,241**	3,331	-	3,331
	5,163	**3,358**	**8,521**	4,876	2,495	7,371

45. Contingent Liabilities

(a) Bank and Other Loans
The Company and certain subsidiaries have given guarantees of up to €343.247 million (2004: €256.036 million) in respect of borrowings by the Company and other Group undertakings.

(b) Other
Included in trade creditors is an amount of approximately €6.128 million (2004: €8.616 million) due to creditors who have reserved title to goods supplied. Since the extent to which these creditors are effectively secured at any time depends on a number of conditions, the validity of some of which is not readily determinable, it is not possible to indicate how much of the above amount was effectively secured by reservation of title. However, the amount referred to above is matched in terms of net book value of fixed assets and stocks of raw materials in the possession of the Group which were supplied subject to reservation of title and accordingly the creditors referred to could be regarded as effectively secured to the extent of at least this amount.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 17, Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986, the Company has guaranteed the liabilities of the following subsidiaries; Alvabay Limited, Atlas Oil Refining Company Limited, Classic Fuel & Oil Limited, DCC Business Expansion Fund Limited, DCC Corporate Finance Limited, DCC Energy Limited, DCC Healthcare Limited, DCC Management Services Limited, DCC Nominees Limited, DCC SerCom Limited, Emo Oil Limited, Flogas Ireland Limited, Shannon Environmental Holdings Limited, Sharptext Limited and TechnoPharm Limited. As a result, these companies will be exempted from the filing provisions of Section 7, Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986.

46. Reporting Currency

The primary currency used in these financial statements is the euro which is denoted by the symbol €. The exchange rates used in translating sterling balance sheets and profit and loss account amounts were as follows:

	2005	2004
	€1=Stg£	€1=Stg£
Balance sheet (closing rate)	**0.689**	0.666
Profit and loss (average rate)*	**0.672**	0.647

* Average exchange rates adjusted for the impact of profit and loss hedges.

47. Transactions with Related Parties

On 22 June 2004, the Group increased its shareholding in SerCom Distribution Limited to 100.0% through the acquisition of 0.3% of the issued share capital from the management of that company at a cost of €0.938 million.

On 23 June 2004, the Group increased its shareholding in DCC Environmental Limited to 97.2% by acquiring 2.9% of the issued share capital from the minority shareholder. The consideration amounted to €1.201 million and was satisfied in cash. The remaining 2.8% shareholding is subject to put and call options up to 2010.

On 30 August 2004, the Group increased its shareholding in Allied Foods Limited to 100.0% by acquiring the remaining 48.5% of the issued share capital from the minority shareholders. The consideration amounted to €15.245 million and was satisfied in cash.

48. Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 13 May 2005.

Energy

COMPANY NAME & ADDRESS	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY	TEL/FAX/EMAIL/WEB
DCC Energy Limited DCC House, Stillorgan, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland	Holding and divisional management company	Tel: + 353 1 2799 400 Fax: + 353 1 2831 017 email: energy@dcc.ie www.dcc.ie
DCC Energy Limited Airport Road West, Sydenham, Belfast BT3 9ED, Northern Ireland	Sales, marketing and distribution of petroleum products	Tel: + 44 28 9073 2611 Fax: + 44 28 9073 2020 email: enquiries@emooil.com www.emooil.com
Emo Oil Limited Clonminam Industrial Estate, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, Ireland	Sales, marketing and distribution of petroleum products	Tel: + 353 502 747 00 Fax: + 353 502 747 75 email: info@emo.ie www.emo.ie
Emo Oil Limited Tryst House, Glenbervie Business Park, Larbert, Stirlingshire FK5 4RB, Scotland	Sales, marketing and distribution of petroleum products	Tel: +44 1324 408 000 Fax: +44 1324 408 260 Email: info@emooil.co.uk www.emooil.co.uk
Flogas UK Limited 81 Raynsway, Syston, Leicester LE7 1PF, England	Sales, marketing and distribution of liquefied petroleum gas	Tel: +44 116 2649 000 Fax: +44 116 2649 001 Email: info@flogas.co.uk www.flogas.co.uk
Flogas Ireland Limited Dublin Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth, Ireland	Sales, marketing and distribution of liquefied petroleum gas	Tel: +353 41 9831 041 Fax: +353 41 9834 652 Email: info@flogas.ie www.flogas.ie
Fuel Card Group Limited 8 Kerry Hill, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4AY, England	Sale of motor fuels through fuel cards	Tel: +44 1132 390 490 Fax: +44 1132 098 764 Email: info@fuelcard-group.com www.fuelcard-group.com
GB Oils Limited t/a Scottish Fuels Tryst House, Glenbervie Business Park, Larbert, Stirlingshire FK5 4RB, Scotland	Sales, marketing and distribution of petroleum products	Tel: +44 8453 008 844 Fax: +44 1324 408 260 Email: info@scottishfuels.co.uk www.scottishfuels.co.uk

IT Distribution

COMPANY NAME & ADDRESS	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY	TEL/FAX/EMAIL/WEB
SerCom Distribution Limited DCC House, Stillorgan, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland	Holding and divisional management company	Tel: +353 1 2799 400 Fax: +353 1 2831 017 Email: sercom@dcc.ie www.sercomdistribution.com

Distrilogie SA 12 rue des Frères Caudron, 78147 Vélizy Cedex, France	Distribution of enterprise infrastructure products	Tel: +33 1 34 58 47 00 Fax: +33 1 34 58 47 27 Email: info@distrilogie.com www.distrilogie.com
Gem Distribution Limited St. George House, Parkway, Harlow Business Park, Harlow, Essex CM19 5QF, England	Sales, marketing and distribution of computer software	Tel: +44 1279 822 800 Fax: +44 1279 416 228 Email: info@gem.co.uk www.gem.co.uk
Micro Peripherals Limited Shorten Brook Way, Altham Business Park, Altham, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 5YJ, England	Sales, marketing and distribution of computer products	Tel: +44 1282 776 776 Fax: +44 1282 770 001 Email: info@micro-p.com www.micro-p.com
Sharptext Limited M50 Business Park, Ballymount Road Upper, Dublin 12, Ireland	Sales, marketing and distribution of computer products	Tel: +353 1 4087 171 Fax: +353 1 4193 111 Email: sharptext@sharptext.com www.sharptext.com

Healthcare

DCC Healthcare Limited DCC House, Stillorgan, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland	Holding and divisional management company	Tel: +353 1 2799 400 Fax: +353 1 2831 017 Email: healthcare@dcc.ie www.dcc.ie
Days Healthcare GmbH Gewerbestraße 13, D-32584 Löhne, Germany	Manufacture, sales, marketing and distribution of mobility & rehabilitation products	Tel: +49 5731 786 50 Fax: +49 5731 786 520 Email: info@dayshealthcare.de www.dayshealthcare.de
Days Healthcare UK Limited Litchard Industrial Estate, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan CF31 2AL, Wales	Manufacture, sales, marketing and distribution of mobility & rehabilitation products	Tel: +44 1656 664 700 Fax: +44 1656 664 750 Email: info@dayshealthcare.com www.dayshealthcare.com
EuroCaps Limited Crown Business Park, Dukes Town, Tredegar, Gwent NP22 4EF, Wales	Contract manufacture of soft gel capsule nutraceuticals	Tel: +44 1495 308 900 Fax: +44 1495 308 990 Email: info@softgels.co.uk www.softgels.co.uk
Fannin Healthcare Limited Blackthorn Road, Sandyford Industrial Estate, Dublin 18, Ireland	Sales, marketing and distribution of medical and laboratory equipment and consumables	Tel: +353 1 2944 500 Fax: +353 1 2954 777 Email: information@fanninhealthcare.com www.fanninhealthcare.com
Laleham Healthcare Limited Sycamore Park, Mill Lane, Alton, Hampshire GU34 2PR, England	Contract manufacture and packing of nutraceuticals and cosmetics (liquids and creams)	Tel: +44 1420 566 500 Fax: +44 1420 566 566 Email: reception@laleham-healthcare.com www.laleham-healthcare.com
TechnoPharm Limited Pharmapark, Chapelizod, Dublin 20, Ireland	Sales, marketing and distribution of pharmaceutical products and medical devices	Tel: +353 1 626 5006 Fax: +353 1 626 5071 Email: info@technopharm.com www.technopharm.com
Thompson & Capper Limited 9-12 Hardwick Road, Astmoor Industrial Estate, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 1PH, England	Contract manufacture and packing of tablet and hard gel capsule nutraceuticals	Tel: +44 1928 573 734 Fax: +44 1928 580 694 Email: enquiries@tablets2buy.com www.tablets2buy.com
Virtus Limited Adamstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin, Ireland	Manufacture and distribution of pneumatic healthcare appliances	Tel: +353 1 628 0571 Fax: +353 1 628 0572 Email: info@virtus.ie www.virtus.ie

COMPANY NAME & ADDRESS | PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY | TEL/FAX/EMAIL/WEB

Food & Beverage

DCC Food & Beverage Limited 79 Broomhill Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland	Holding and divisional management company	Tel: +353 1 4047 300 Fax: +353 1 4599 369 Email: foods@dcc.ie www.dcc.ie
Allied Foods Limited Kinsale Road, Cork, Ireland	Chilled and frozen food distribution	Tel: +353 21 4947 300 Fax: +353 21 4961 488 Email: info@alliedfoods.ie
Bottle Green Limited 19 New Street, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4BH, England	Sales, marketing and distribution of wine	Tel: +44 113 205 4500 Fax: +44 113 205 4501 Email: info@bottlegreen.com www.bottlegreen.com
Broderick Bros. Limited Cloverhill Industrial Estate, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Ireland	Sales and service of food equipment	Tel: +353 1 4291 500 Fax: +353 1 4509 570 Email: info@broderickbros.ie
Kelkin Limited Unit 1, Crosslands Industrial Park, Ballymount Cross, Dublin 12, Ireland	Sales, marketing and distribution of branded healthy food and beverages	Tel: +353 1 4600 400 Fax: +353 1 4600 411 Email: info@kelkin.ie www.kelkin.ie
Robt. Roberts Limited 79 Broomhill Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland	Sales, marketing and distribution of food and beverages	Tel: +353 1 4047 300 Fax: +353 1 4599 369 Email: info@robt-roberts.ie www.robt-roberts.ie

Environmental

DCC Environmental Limited DCC House, Stillorgan, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland	Holding and divisional management company	Tel: +353 1 2799 400 Fax: +353 1 2831 017 Email: environmental@dcc.ie www.dcc.ie
Atlas Environmental Ireland Limited Clonminam Industrial Estate, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, Ireland	Specialist waste treatment/ management services	Tel: +353 502 786 00 Fax: +353 502 786 99 Email: info@atlasireland.ie www.atlasireland.ie

Supply Chain Management

SerCom Solutions Limited Sarsfield Road, Raheen Business Park, Limerick, Ireland	Provision of supply chain services	Tel: +353 1 405 6500 Fax: +353 1 405 6555 Email: sales@sercomsolutions.com www.sercomsolutions.com

COMPANY NAME & ADDRESS | PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY | TEL/FAX/EMAIL/WEB

shareholder information

Share Price Data	2005	2004
	€	€
Share price movement during the year		
High	**18.50**	12.25
Low	**12.10**	9.79
Share price at 31 March	**17.94**	12.15
Market capitalisation at 31 March	**1,442m**	991m

Shareholder Analysis at 13 May 2005

Range of shares held	Number of shares*	% of shares	Number of accounts	% of accounts
Over 250,000	64,801,442	80.7	47	1.8
100,001 – 250,000	6,299,219	7.8	37	1.4
10,001 – 100,000	5,986,264	7.5	179	6.9
Less than 10,000	3,208,593	4.0	2,328	89.9
Total	**80,295,518**	**100.0**	**2,591**	**100.0**

** Excludes 7,873,886 shares held as Treasury Shares.*

Share Listings

DCC's shares are traded on the Irish Stock Exchange and the London Stock Exchange. DCC's shares are quoted on the official lists of both the Irish Stock Exchange and the UK Listing Authority.

ISIN: IE0002424939
ISE Xetra: DCC plc
Bloomberg: DCC ID, DCC LN
Reuters: DCC.I, DCC.L

Website - www.dcc.ie

DCC's website provides comprehensive corporate and financial information to the investment community and other interested parties. It incorporates a variety of useful features which enable users to access, analyse and download current and archived financial data and annual reports, register for news and other announcements and view audio and slideshow investor presentations.

Registrar

All administrative queries about the holding of DCC shares should be addressed to the Company's Registrar:

Computershare Investor Services (Ireland) Limited,
Heron House, Corrig Road, Sandyford Industrial Estate, Dublin 18, Ireland.
Tel: + 353 1 216 3100.
Fax: + 353 1 216 3151.
E-mail: web.queries@computershare.ie

Amalgamation of Accounts

Shareholders who receive duplicate sets of Company mailings owing to multiple accounts in their names may write to the Company's Registrar to have their accounts amalgamated.

Dividends

Shareholders are offered the option of having dividends paid in euro or pounds sterling. Shareholders may also elect to receive dividend payments by electronic funds transfer directly into their bank accounts, rather than by cheque. Shareholders should contact the Company's Registrar for details.

Dividend Withholding Tax ('DWT')

The Company is obliged to deduct tax at the standard rate of income tax in Ireland (currently 20%) from dividends paid to its shareholders, unless a particular shareholder is entitled to an exemption from DWT and has completed and returned to the Company's Registrar a declaration form claiming entitlement to the particular exemption. Exemption from DWT may be available to shareholders resident in another EU Member State or in a country with which the Republic of Ireland has a double taxation agreement in place and to non-individual shareholders resident in Ireland (e.g. companies, pension funds, charities etc.).

An explanatory leaflet entitled 'Dividend Withholding Tax – General Information Leaflet' has been published by the Irish Revenue Commissioners and can be obtained by contacting the Company's Registrar at the above address. This leaflet can also be downloaded from the Irish Revenue Commissioners web site at http://www.revenue.ie/pdf/dwtinfv3.pdf. Declaration forms for claiming an exemption are available from the Company's Registrar.

CREST

DCC is a member of the CREST share settlement system. Shareholders may continue to hold paper share certificates or hold their shares in electronic form.

Financial Calendar

- Preliminary results announced
  16 May 2005
- Ex-dividend date for the final dividend
  25 May 2005
- Record date for the final dividend
  27 May 2005
- Annual Report posted
  2 June 2005
- Annual General Meeting
  5 July 2005
- Proposed payment date for final dividend
  11 July 2005
- Interim results announced
  early November 2005
- Payment date for the interim dividend
  early December 2005

Annual General Meeting

The 2005 Annual General Meeting will be held at The Four Seasons Hotel, Simmonscourt Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland on Tuesday 5 July 2005 at 11.00 a.m. The Notice of Meeting together with an explanatory letter from the Chairman and a Form of Proxy accompany this Report.

Electronic Proxy Voting

Shareholders may lodge a Form of Proxy for the 2005 Annual General Meeting via the internet. Shareholders who wish to submit their proxy in this manner may do so by accessing the Company's Registrar's website at www.computershare.com/ie/voting/dcc and following the instructions which are set out on the Form of Proxy.

Investor Relations

For investor enquiries please contact:
Kieran Conlon,
Investor Relations Manager,
DCC plc, DCC House, Brewery Road, Stillorgan, Blackrock, Co Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: + 353 1 2799 400.
Fax: + 353 1 2799 418.
email: investorrelations@dcc.ie

corporate information

Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors
George's Quay
Dublin 2
Ireland

Bankers

ABN AMRO
Allied Irish Banks
Bank of Ireland
BNP Paribas
Deutsche Bank
IIB Bank
KBC Bank
Royal Bank of Scotland
Ulster Bank

Registered and Head Office

DCC House
Stillorgan
Blackrock
Co. Dublin
Ireland

Registrar

Computershare Investor Services
(Ireland) Limited
Heron House
Corrig Road
Sandyford Industrial Estate
Dublin 18
Ireland

Solicitors

William Fry Solicitors
Fitzwilton House
Wilton Place
Dublin 2
Ireland

Stockbrokers

Davy Stockbrokers
49 Dawson Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

JPMorgan Cazenove
20 Moorgate
London EC2R 6DA
England

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5 Year Review

Profit & Loss Account Year ended 31 March	2001 €'m	2002 €'m	2003 €'m	2004 €'m	2005 €'m
Turnover	1,870.1	2,048.9	2,272.4	2,198.0	2,731.5
Operating profit before operating exceptional items	91.7	102.7	114.3	120.9	131.5
Operating exceptional items	-	-	(2.9)	(2.3)	(3.8)
Operating profit	91.7	102.7	111.4	118.6	127.7
Net interest payable	(4.4)	(5.0)	(5.0)	(4.8)	(5.6)
Profit on ordinary activities before goodwill amortisation, non-operating net exceptional items and tax	87.3	97.7	106.4	113.8	122.1
Goodwill amortisation	(4.9)	(5.7)	(7.3)	(8.3)	(10.1)
Non-operating net exceptional items	-	(1.1)	(1.7)	(5.9)	(12.1)
Profit before taxation	82.4	90.9	97.4	99.6	99.9
Taxation	(13.1)	(13.7)	(15.3)	(14.5)	(15.1)
Minority interests	(1.2)	(0.9)	(1.3)	(0.8)	(1.0)
Profit attributable to Group shareholders	68.1	76.3	80.8	84.3	83.8
Earnings per share					
- Basic (cent)	78.98	90.26	96.66	101.98	104.69
- Basic adjusted (cent)	84.69	98.30	111.00	121.89	137.25
Dividend per share (cent)	21.12	24.50	28.18	32.40	37.26
Dividend cover (times)	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7
Interest cover (times)	20.8	20.5	23.0	25.2	23.6

Consolidated Balance Sheet As at 31 March	2001 €'m	2002 €'m	2003 €'m	2004 €'m	2005 €'m
Tangible fixed assets	135.2	159.2	209.4	212.3	247.6
Associated undertakings	38.5	39.0	40.3	53.8	64.2
Goodwill	84.5	118.3	132.1	129.6	193.8
	258.2	316.5	381.8	395.7	505.6
Net current assets	31.1	38.7	45.3	25.3	17.8
Net cash/(debt)	83.2	63.1	20.1	62.7	(8.2)
	372.5	418.3	447.2	483.7	515.2
Shareholders' funds	353.7	391.4	429.3	469.6	493.7
Minority interests	3.5	4.0	3.6	4.1	4.3
Other long term creditors/provisions	15.3	22.9	14.3	10.0	17.2
	372.5	418.3	447.2	483.7	515.2
Movement in working capital	19.9	(6.9)	25.7	(20.6)	23.6
Capital expenditure	34.1	37.3	40.7	30.5	42.0
Acquisitions	20.2	65.6	80.3	9.2	89.3
Development expenditure	74.2	96.0	146.7	19.1	154.9
Operating cash flow	83.4	120.3	98.5	151.9	114.9
Return on tangible capital employed (%)	48.1%	46.3%	42.2%	39.8%	40.5%
Return on total capital employed (%)	23.7%	23.1%	22.0%	21.3%	21.0%
Average number of employees	3,056	3,361	3,685	3,768	4,441

DCC plc
DCC House, Brewery Road,
Stillorgan, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

Tel: +353 1 279 9400
Fax: +353 1 283 1017
Email: info@dcc.ie
www.dcc.ie