

Alexon Group plc

Trading update – January 2003

Alexon Group plc announces that like for like sales for the six weeks ended 4th January 2003 were 2% higher than in the previous year, (the equivalent figure for the previous year was an increase of 15%). Slower sales in Bay Trading and Style, last year's top performers, were compensated by stronger trading in Dolcis and Alexon Brands. Stocks have been clearing well and are in line with plan.

In the 22 weeks ended 4th January 2003 like-for-like sales for the Group increased by 2%. New business and the redistribution of brands amongst our high street shop portfolio have significantly enhanced profitability. We anticipate that operating profit before interest and goodwill amortisation for the year ended 25th January 2003 will be not less than £30.0m, an increase of 24% on the equivalent figure of £24.2m in the prior year, and ahead of consensus forecasts.

The results for the year ending 25th January 2003 are expected to be announced on 24th March 2003.