

Presented pursuant to National Savings Bank Act 1971, c.29, s.19 as amended by section 162 of the Finance Act 1998

National Savings Bank: Ordinary Deposits Account 2006-2007

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Foreword

Background

The National Savings Bank Act 1971 (the 1971 Act) sets out the arrangements for the operation of the National Savings Bank, including the receipt and repayment of Ordinary Deposits. The National Savings Bank is part of National Savings and Investments (NS&I) which is the Government's retail savings agency.

The Department for National Savings was established in 1969, having previously been part of the Post Office. In 1996, National Savings was also established as an Executive Agency of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In February 2002 National Savings launched its new name and corporate identity and is now known as 'National Savings and Investments' (NS&I).

The Director of Savings, who is also NS&I's Chief Executive, is the Accounting Officer responsible for administering NS&I's products including the Ordinary Account.

Ordinary deposits

Ordinary Deposits are invested in Ordinary Accounts. The Ordinary Account was an instant access passbook account where customers were able to deposit or withdraw cash by using the passbook at the Post Office. Withdrawals of up to £100 on demand per day could have been made at any post office on presentation of the passbook.

Management of ordinary deposits

NS&I is responsible for the collection of deposits from investors, the calculation and addition of interest to customer accounts and the repayment of funds to investors. It also maintains customer records and deals with correspondence and enquiries. NS&I is also responsible for transferring the balance of deposits remaining after withdrawals to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt (the Commissioners) under Section 17(1) of the 1971 Act.

There are eight Commissioners

- The Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- The Governor and both Deputy Governors of the Bank of England.
- The Speaker of the House of Commons.
- The Master of the Rolls.
- The Accountant General of the Supreme Court.
- The Lord Chief Justice.

Section 17 (2) of the 1971 Act authorises the Commissioners to invest the balance of Ordinary Deposits remaining after withdrawals by depositors and the payment of expenses, in those securities listed in Section 18 of the 1971 Act. Section 20 of the 1971 Act requires the payment into the Consolidated Fund of any surplus of interest earned on the Commissioners' investments, after deduction of interest paid or credited on Ordinary Deposits, of expenses incurred and of any amount determined by the Treasury to provide for depreciation in the value of investments. It also provides for the Consolidated Fund in any period in which there is a deficiency of interest, to make good the deficiency. The Commissioners have appointed the Secretary and Comptroller General and the Assistant Comptroller to discharge their day to day responsibilities in this regard and to present accounts in respect of their investments annually. The Secretary and Comptroller General is responsible for the propriety, regularity and for the keeping of proper records with regard to this account.

Preparation of the accounts

Section 19 of the 1971 Act, as amended by section 162 of the 1998 Finance Act (the 1998 Act), requires the Director of Savings and the Commissioners to prepare a statement for the year ended 31 March 2007 showing:

- 1 sums received and repaid in respect of Ordinary Deposits, and interest paid or credited to depositors during the year;
- 2 the interest accrued on investments made by the Commissioners and the amount of expenses incurred during the year;
- 3 aggregate liabilities and the nominal value of the investments held by the Commissioners at the end of the year;

and, before the end of August 2007, to transmit it to the Comptroller and Auditor General who shall examine, certify and report on it and lay copies of it, together with copies of his report, before Parliament.

These statements and related notes meet these requirements and provide additional information about the relationship between the Ordinary Deposit transactions, administrative costs and the investment activities of the Commissioners under sections 17, 18 and 20 of the 1971 Act. They have been prepared on an accruals basis and give a true and fair view of transactions with investors and transactions with the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and associated balances held in respect of Ordinary Deposits at the end of the year.

Results

The Finance Act 2003 amended the 1971 Act to enable the closure of Ordinary Deposit accounts. Following this Act the product was removed from sale in January 2004. Ordinary Accounts were closed to subsequent deposits in July 2004 and payments on demand at the Post Office ceased in September 2004. Over the past three years investors have been actively encouraged to close their Ordinary Deposit Accounts and this is reflected by the continued reduction in liability to investors of £35 million and £16 million during 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 respectively.

As reported in the past, the Commissioners' investment remit was changed during 2003-2004 to focus on gilts with a shorter period to maturity. As the future of the Fund became clearer, it was subsequently decided, in July 2005, to sell the Fund's gilt holdings and to invest the proceeds in cash deposits. Since then the Fund has earned a rate of interest close to the Bank of England Official Bank Rate. In 2006-2007 interest receivable amounted to £45 million (2005-2006 £48 million).

Audit

These accounts have been audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General whose Certificate and Report appear on pages 13 to 14.

Events since the end of the year

There have been no other significant events since 31 March 2007 which would affect the transactions for the year or the assets and liabilities at the year-end.

Jane Platt
Director of Savings
NS&I
26 October 2007

Jo Whelan
Secretary and Comptroller General to the
Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt
26 October 2007

Statement of Accounting Officer's responsibilities

The Director of Savings and the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt (CRND) are required to prepare the Ordinary Deposits White Paper account for the year ended 31 March 2007 and to transmit it to the Comptroller and Auditor General by the 31 August 2007.

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the products' balances at the year end and of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year.

HM Treasury has appointed the Director of Savings as Accounting Officer for NS&I, with responsibility for preparing the NS&I Product Accounts and for transmitting them to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) prepared by HM Treasury, and in particular to

- Observe the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- Make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- State whether applicable accounting standards, as set out in the Financial Reporting Manual (FReM), have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the accounts; and
- Prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which an Accounting Officer is answerable and for keeping proper records, are set out in the Accounting Officer's Memorandum issued by HM Treasury and published in Government Accounting.

The Accounting Officer's responsibility for the keeping of information relating to proper records includes the responsibility for the maintenance, integrity and upkeep of these accounts on the NS&I website.

Statement on Internal Control – Director of Savings

1 Scope of responsibility

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of NS&I's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and departmental assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Government Accounting.

Although, as Accounting Officer, I retain sole responsibility for the system of internal control within NS&I, I am assisted in discharging this responsibility by the NS&I Board, which, in addition to me and the other NS&I executive directors, comprises four independent non-executive directors and two representatives of HM Treasury, who provide the key assurance link back to Treasury Ministers.

The Ministers, whilst maintaining accountability, have delegated day-to-day dealings with NS&I to HM Treasury's Debt and Reserves Management (DRM) team. The NS&I Board has assumed overall responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of the Agency's risk management processes. I and my senior staff also hold regular briefing meetings with other relevant HM Treasury teams and a monthly performance report is sent to the Economic Secretary to the Treasury.

2 The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of departmental policies, aims and objectives. It enables management to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised; and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically to an overall level acceptable to NS&I. The system of internal control has been in place in NS&I for the year ended 31 March 2007 and up to the date of approval of the accounts, and accords with HM Treasury guidance.

3 Capability to handle risk

The Board, Audit Committee and Executive Management Team (EMT comprising the Executive Directors and Siemens Account Director) have primary responsibility for identifying and monitoring key risks that face NS&I. At each meeting the EMT considers whether there are any new risks to the business to be registered; and regularly discusses the key risks as part of its quarterly risk review, and the Board formally reviews the key risks at least annually to ensure they remain valid and complete in the light of changing circumstances in the year and business plans for the coming year.

NS&I has a risk management strategy, a risk management policy and agreed risk management reporting protocols which are approved annually by the Board.

The Audit Committee, chaired by an independent director, is responsible for providing assurance, in conjunction with internal and external auditors, to the Board on the existence and effectiveness of the overall processes for managing risk within NS&I and within the part of Siemens concerned with NS&I's business.

NS&I's business model means that we are critically reliant on our business partner, Siemens, for the delivery of our strategic objectives. Consequently, we have established joint processes with Siemens to manage the partnership as one business. These include reciprocal Siemens representation at the NS&I EMT meetings and NS&I representation at Siemens NS&I Account senior management team meetings; joint working between project offices; joint project teams; and a Joint Audit and Risk Management Committee (JARMC). The JARMC updates the Audit Committee on the management of risks to the joint business. Across the whole business, Directors and operational managers are responsible for embedding risk identification and management within the design, documentation and operation of business processes, in line with agreed risk tolerances.

In recognition of the strategic importance of Compliance, 2006-2007 saw the establishment of two formal steering groups: the Compliance Steering Group and the Fraud Steering Group, both of which include Siemens representation.

The risk management process is led by the Executive Management Team, comprising the Executive Directors and the Siemens Account Director responsible for the NS&I account, who are responsible for

- Implementation of the risk management strategy;
- Developing and overseeing the risk management policy;
- Identifying and evaluating strategic risks; and
- Designing, operating and monitoring a suitable system of internal control.

4 The risk process

An analysis of key risks and the consequent significant sub-risks has been established through an ongoing programme of individual and collective discussion with the Executive Directors. With very few exceptions where sub-risks have been retained by the Directors, all sub-risks have been allocated to Business Unit Leaders or senior managers. An organisation-wide risk register records all significant risks identified, links lower level risks through to the key risks, records mitigating controls and named risk managers. The Board reviews the key risks annually to ensure they remain valid and complete in the light of business plans for the coming year. For each key and sub-risk identified, the assessment and scoring of the probability and impact both before and after mitigating controls is performed using a consistent methodology on a risk matrix. The results of this are considered against our agreed organisation risk appetite as approved annually by the Board. Reviews of risks and their risk scores are performed regularly, and at least quarterly by executive directors, Business Unit Leaders, and the Executive Management Team.

Where further action is necessary to reduce exposure, the action, and its intended effect on the status of the risk, is logged, responsibility allocated, and a completion date agreed. Progress on the action is tracked and missed completion dates, if any, on residual key risks are reported monthly through to the Executive Management Team and bi-monthly to the Board via the Corporate Balanced Scorecard. Risks where exposure remains unacceptably high despite controls are flagged as red, are reviewed quarterly by Business Unit Leaders, the Executive Management Team and the Audit Committee, and bi-annually by the Board.

As part of the annual planning cycle, Business Unit Leaders are required to identify the significant risks which could impact on the achievement of each main element of their proposed business plans for the year. These risks are then compared with the existing risk register, which is amended as necessary.

Contingency plans are in place or are being implemented for all sub-risks where exposure is inherently unacceptable.

Our management of risk is embedded in policymaking, planning and delivery by Executive Directors and Business Unit Leaders who are responsible for ensuring the proper management of risks; and cascading implementation of the risk management strategy and policy within their directorates and teams respectively. Business Unit Leaders are responsible for implementation of self assessment processes. A programme management function ensures that all projects are subject to formal project management disciplines including an assessment of inherent and residual risks. Projects are governed by formal project management disciplines including regular review of project and programme risks overseen by the project board, Executive Management Team and the Board.

Business Unit Leaders provide written sign offs to the relevant Executive Directors that they are satisfied that all their sub-risks are either adequately controlled, or that plans are in place to provide that control. In addition, EMT members provide me with equivalent written sign offs for the key risks for which they have responsibility. Executive Directors also provide written assurance that an adequate system of internal control operates within their directorates, and that, to the best of their knowledge, their staff comply with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

These approaches continue to be refined to further embed risk management within NS&I's business, and during 2006-2007 training was provided to all key risk and sub-risk owners in the use of new risk management software which came into use during the year. The new software and associated processes will provide greater ownership of risk and risk management processes.

During 2006-2007, considerable progress continued to be made on developing our business continuity plans.

Compliance policies and procedures have been strengthened during 2006-2007. This has led to

- Further review of the evidence of identity policy to enhance anti-money laundering procedures including a risk based approach to anti-money laundering;
- Strengthening the Compliance resources by recruiting more staff;
- Formalising Compliance governance by the implementation of the Compliance Steering Group with membership from across the business including Siemens;
- The appointment of a Compliance manager by Siemens;
- Implementation of a financial promotions policy development group to provide a consistent approach across media channels;
- Computer based training for awareness on Data Protection Act, Freedom of Information Act and money laundering in the operational areas;
- Implementing a comprehensive compliance – focussed audit programme to give assurance to EMT; and
- Working closely on partnership programmes with Post Office including a review of outsourced arrangements and an extensive Post Office audit.

Plans for 2007-2008 include recruitment of increased central resources to further strengthen the risk management process, an enhanced overall risk framework and the establishment of more formal compliance reviews to complement the internal audit approach.

5 Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I also have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the Executive Directors and managers within the department and Siemens, who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports.

The Board satisfies itself on the adequacy of the risk management process and reviews the management of each key residually red risk at least annually by examining evidence of performance against objectives and targets, the timely identification and assessment of significant risks, the prioritisation of risks and the allocation of resources to address areas of exposure, the ability of NS&I to learn from its experiences and the commitment and speed with which corrective actions are implemented. The Board also reviews the internal and external risk profile for the coming year and considers if current internal control arrangements are likely to be effective.

The Executive Management Team conducts quarterly reviews of the risk register and reports on residually red risks to the Audit Committee, which in turn reviews residually red risks each quarter, and reviews annually the assurance on the overall system of internal control provided by the Head of Internal Audit, and advises the Board of its assessment of the internal control system.

The Head of Internal Audit provides the Audit Committee with regular reports on internal audit activity, including his independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the system of internal control, together with recommendations for improvement.

The overall internal audit plan and audit process for the NS&I business, led by Deloitte Touche is based on management's assessment of risk throughout the business. In my opinion, and that of the Audit Committee, this appreciably enhances the internal audit process, and hence of the value of the internal audit assurance. We will continue our ongoing process for assessing internal controls against best practice across all systems and products. The approach to reviewing effectiveness and plans to ensure the continuous improvement of the systems in place will be further refined in 2007-2008.

Jane Platt
Director of Savings
NS&I

26 October 2007

Statement on Internal Control – Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt

1 Scope of responsibility

The Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt (CRND) are responsible for preparing the accounts. They have appointed me as Secretary and Comptroller General of CRND to discharge their responsibilities in this regard. As Secretary and Comptroller General, I also have responsibility for ensuring the operation of a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of CRND's targets, policies and objectives in managing client investment portfolios whilst safeguarding the public funds for which I am accountable, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me.

CRND is a separate business entity managed within the control framework of the Debt Management Office (DMO). While I am responsible for CRND's system of internal control, the Accounting Officer of the DMO is responsible for the wider control framework within which CRND is managed. In discharging my own control responsibilities I take assurance on the continued sound maintenance of the wider control framework from the Statement of Internal Control for the DMO, although I understand that only reasonable and not absolute assurance can be given that risks have been controlled.

It is also my responsibility to ensure that all CRND fund management activities are conducted with due regard to value for money and operated in line with client instructions. I have put arrangements in place to ensure that there is a proper evaluation of the balance of cost and risk in our operations.

2 The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to an acceptable level, balancing the impact of potential risks with the resources required to manage them, rather than to eliminate all risk. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

Relevant elements of the DMO system of internal control have been implemented for CRND. The system of internal control has been in place for the year ended 31 March 2007 and up to the date of approval of this account, and accords with Treasury guidance. The DMO has made additions to the system of internal control over the course of the year.

3 Capacity to handle risk

The DMO has a formal risk management strategy and policy, which includes CRND activities, set by the DMO Managing Board. The DMO has a Risk Management Assurance Strategy documenting its risk management processes.

The Managing Board is responsible for setting strategic direction and considering high-level operational issues. An executive sub committee of the Managing Board meets weekly. The terms of reference of these committees and those of the Fund Management Committee and Risk Committee were redefined to improve clarity of their roles and responsibilities and to strengthen the capability of the organisation to consider issues and make relevant decisions at the appropriate level.

Staff have attended presentations on relevant elements of the DMO's risk management framework. These have covered specific issues such as anti-money laundering, whistle-blowing, fraud and personal dealing in order to ensure a good level of awareness of DMO's risk policies and controls. All members of staff have job descriptions, including specific key risks to be addressed.

Management in each business function is responsible for ensuring that the operations within their area are compliant with plans, policies, procedures and legislation. Most functional managers are responsible for maintaining compliance arrangements across the DMO in their area of specialism. The Risk Management Unit has issued guidance to the CRND Portfolio Manager on those sections of the Financial Services Authority handbook that are most pertinent to CRND activities in order to support him in meeting his responsibilities in this regard.

4 The risk and control framework

During the year, responsibility for supporting me as Secretary and Comptroller General in matters relating to oversight of the governance, internal control and risk management processes was brought under the supervision of the Exchequer Funds Audit Committee. The Exchequer Funds Audit Committee performs this role for the Accounting Officers of each of the Exchequer Funds which are the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, Debt Management Account (DMO), Public Works Loan Board, Exchange Equalisation Account, National Loans Fund, Consolidated Fund and the Contingencies Fund. Members of the Committee are appointed for periods of up to three years, extendable by no more than one additional three-year period. The Chair of the Committee reports to me on matters relating to the CRND. The current membership of the Committee is:

- Colin Price, Chair, non-executive member of the DMO's Managing Board; until December 2006 Chair of the Lord Chancellor's Strategic Investment Board and formerly Global Pension Fund Adviser/Finance Director at Shell Pensions Management Services Limited;
- Brian Larkman, non-executive member of the DMO's Managing Board and formerly Global Head of Money Markets at the Royal Bank of Scotland PLC; and
- Mark Clarke, Director General Finance and Strategy at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The Exchequer Funds Audit Committee met for the first time on 23 January 2007 and again on 29 March 2007, and will meet four times a year.

The DMO has various formal mechanisms for managing CRND's risks but it is recognised that the most important aspect is that a strong risk management culture pervades the organisation at all levels. This is embedded in both regular operations and the approach taken to new business initiatives. The DMO includes risk management considerations as part of normal business management. The DMO is making on-going efforts to embed a strong risk management culture in every part of the organisation. In support of this Internal Audit and an external risk consultancy firm have carried out reviews on operational risk management during the year. Work is in hand to implement recommendations from these reviews.

The DMO's risk management strategy seeks to achieve a strong risk management culture by linking organisational objectives to the business planning process. Organisational objectives cascade down to individual objectives and job descriptions. Progress has been made in documenting main team objectives with comprehensive coverage planned during 2007-2008. This is intended to promote a clear understanding of the ownership of each risk within the organisation.

Heads of business units and functional teams assess regularly whether risks to their operations are being managed effectively. The DMO has Senior Risk Owners who undertake a cross-functional moderation process to promote better prioritisation of operational risks across the organisation. Project teams use risk registers to monitor and manage identified risks for each DMO project. Managing Board has reviewed during the year the high level risks that the organisation faces, and the adequacy of the relevant controls. This process is supported by the maintenance of exception logs, which identify control weaknesses and resultant actions to improve controls. Key risks, progress on treatment actions, and exceptions are documented in a quarterly report produced by the Risk Management Unit for the Senior Risk Owners and the Managing Board.

A key component of the CRND control framework is the segregation of duties to promote independent checking and avoid concentration of key activities or related controls in individuals or small groups of staff. In particular segregation of duties takes place between front and back office duties. All teams have documented procedures for their main activities and there are clearly defined authorisation levels for committing the DMO externally.

An up-to-date memorandum of understanding is in place with each client, outlining the respective responsibilities of CRND and the client. CRND has adopted a passive style of fund management for each client. CRND has established effective communication channels with each of its clients.

The DMO has policies on anti-fraud measures, money laundering and whistle blowing that cover CRND activities. An independent review of the DMO's money laundering controls was undertaken in 2006-2007. Recommendations to move to a risk-based approach in line with market practice will be implemented in 2007-2008. The DMO has its own anti-money laundering handbook. DMO staff report on anti-money laundering developments and process to the Managing Board.

The DMO's Business Continuity Plan (BCP), including disaster recovery site and other arrangements, is subject to continual review and update with the Senior Risk Owners taking a more active role during the year in progressing BCP improvements. The DMO tested the main elements of the BCP during the year by use of both internal and market-wide test exercises with external stakeholders. Assessment of business continuity requirements is a specific requirement for new projects and major business initiatives.

5 Review of effectiveness

As Secretary and Comptroller General, my review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of executive managers in the DMO who have been delegated responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and by the reports and comments made by the internal and external auditors. I have been supported by the Audit Committee and risk owners in addressing weaknesses and ensuring continuous improvement of the system is in place. The Exchequer Funds Audit Committee considered the 2006-2007 accounts in draft and provided me with its views before I formally signed the accounts.

- The Fund Management Committee, comprising CRND managers, other senior managers and DMO specialist staff, meets regularly to review CRND operational issues. In particular it monitors and advises on development of CRND governance mechanisms.
- A controls team met periodically to review issues affecting the DMO's system of internal control (including CRND), recommend actions to management and to implement changes where appropriate. The controls team comprises senior representatives of the DMO teams responsible for finance, risk, control, compliance and internal audit. The controls team reports periodically to the Audit Committee on progress to improve the internal control system during the year.
- The DMO's Risk Management Unit provides control advice on risks throughout the DMO. In the DMO's management reporting structure the risk management unit is separate and independent of the DMO's trading operations. The risk management function also conducts risk analysis and provides an operational, market and credit risk capability for the DMO.
- The DMO's Risk Management Unit conducts monthly Controls and Compliance testing providing the executive sub-committee of Managing Board with independent assurance on the effectiveness of operational controls and compliance with relevant FSA rules in the dealing and settlements areas.
- During the period of this Statement on Internal Control, Internal Audit has provided reports on the effectiveness of the risk management, control and governance processes for the DMO, including those covering CRND, to the Audit Committee throughout the period. The audits make a series of recommendations that are addressed as part of our focus on continuous improvement in this area. The Internal Audit work programme is approved by the Audit Committee at the start of the year.
- Internal Audit attended each meeting of the Audit Committee to report the results of audit work and the results of follow-up work to confirm that appropriate management action had been taken to address audit recommendations.

- Internal Audit's view was that assurance could be given over the risk management, control and governance arrangements relevant to the accounts. There are no matters arising from the work of Internal Audit in the period that would give rise to a separate comment in the Statement on Internal Control.

Jo Whelan
Secretary and Comptroller General
to the Commissioners for the
Reduction of the National Debt

26 October 2007

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the National Savings and Investments' Ordinary Deposits White Paper Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 under the National Savings Bank Act 1971 (as amended by the Finance Act 1998 and 2003). These comprise the Transactions with Investors Statement, the Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them.

Respective responsibilities of the Accounting Officer and auditor

The Director of Savings and the Commissioners are responsible for preparing the Foreword and the financial statements in accordance with the National Savings Bank Act 1971 (as amended by the Finance Act 1998 and 2003) and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions. These responsibilities are set out in the Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements, and with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report to you my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and whether they have been properly prepared in accordance with the National Savings Bank Act 1971 (as amended by the Finance Act 1998 and 2003). I report to you whether, in my opinion, the Foreword is consistent with the financial statements. I also report whether in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

In addition I report to you if National Savings and Investments or the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt have not kept proper accounting records, or if I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I review whether the Statements on Internal Control reflect National Savings and Investments' and the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt compliance with HM Treasury's guidance, and I report if it does not. I am not required to consider whether these Statements cover all risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of National Savings and Investments' and the Commissioners for the Reduction in National Debt's corporate governance procedures or their risk and control procedures.

I read the information contained in the Foreword, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. My responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of audit opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. My audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts, disclosures and regularity of financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by National Savings and Investments and the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are most appropriate to National Savings and Investments' circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error and that in all material respects the transactions with investors and expenditure and income conform to the authorities which govern them. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements and the Foreword.

Opinions

In my opinion

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with the National Savings Bank Act 1971 (as amended by the National Savings Bank Act 1998 and 2003), of the balances held in respect of National Savings & Investments' Ordinary Deposits at 31 March 2007, and of National Savings and Investments' transactions with investors and Income and Expenditure of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the National Savings Bank Act 1971 (as amended by the National Savings Bank Act 1998 and 2003); and
- information given within the Foreword is consistent with the financial statements.

Audit opinion on regularity

In my opinion in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

John Bourn
Comptroller and Auditor General

30 October 2007

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National Savings and Investments

Ordinary deposits

Transactions with investors for the year ended 31 March 2007

	2006-2007 £'000	2005-2006 £'000
Received from investors	760	1,764
Interest earned by investors	3,571	3,266
	4,331	5,030
Paid to investors	(20,069)	(39,898)
Decrease in liability to investors	(15,738)	(34,868)
Funds invested at beginning of year	328,732	363,600
Funds invested at end of year	312,994	328,732

The notes on pages 18 to 20 form part of these accounts.

Jane Platt
Director of Savings
NS&I

26 October 2007

Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt

Ordinary Deposits

Income and expenditure statement for the year ended 31 March 2007

	Note	2006-2007 £'000	2005-2006 £'000
Income			
Interest on investments		45,039	48,342
Realised net profits(losses) on investment disposals		0	(45,989)
Unrealised profits/(losses) on investments		0	41,524
		45,039	43,877
Expenditure			
Interest earned by investors		(3,570)	(3,266)
Administration expenses	2	(7,972)	(12,479)
Net losses	3	(27)	(15)
		(11,569)	
Surplus for the year		33,470	28,117
Surplus due to the Consolidated Fund	4	(33,470)	(32,582)
(Decrease) in reserves		0	(4,465)
Reserves			
Brought forward from previous year		592,299	596,764
(Decrease) in reserves		0	(4,465)
Reserves carried forward		592,299	592,299

The notes on pages 18 to 20 form part of these accounts.

Jo Whelan
Secretary and Comptroller General to the
Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt

26 October 2007

National Savings and Investments and Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt

Ordinary Deposits

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2007

	Note	31 March 2007 £'000	31 March 2006 £'000
Assets			
Investments	5	924,295	938,837
Cash at bank and in hand		12,668	12,894
Debtors	6	2,007	1,952
		938,970	953,683
Creditors	7	(33,677)	(32,652)
Net assets		905,293	921,031
Liabilities			
Liability to investors	8	312,994	328,732
Reserves		592,299	592,299
		905,293	921,031

The notes on pages 18 to 20 form part of these accounts.

Jane Platt
Director of Savings
NS&I

26 October 2007

Jo Whelan
Secretary and Comptroller General
to the Commissioners for the
Reduction of the National Debt
26 October 2007

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with section 19 of the National Savings Bank Act 1971 as amended by the 1998 Finance Act. They comply with the accounting and disclosure requirements contained in the Government Financial Reporting manual issued by the Treasury and UK generally accepted accounting practice (UK GAAP) to the extent that it is meaningful and appropriate to do so.

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Ordinary Deposits accounts.

1.1 Accounting convention

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the revaluation of investments to market value.

1.2 Receipts from investors

An Ordinary Deposit is recognised as a liability when the payment instrument for a valid investment is received by National Savings and Investments or one of its agents.

1.3 Payments to investors

Payments are recognised on the date of the payment instrument. Where payment instruments are not paid within their stipulated time limit the liability to the investor is reinstated.

1.4 Investors interest

Interest is deemed to capitalise when it starts earning further interest in accordance with the terms and conditions applicable to Ordinary Deposits. Capitalised interest is included within interest earned in the transactions with investors' statement and is included within principal in the liability to investors in the balance sheet. Interest is accrued from the date of receipt or most recent capitalisation to the end of the accounting period.

1.5 Recognition of investment income

Income is recognised within the accounts on the following bases

- Interest on investments is recognised as it accrues rather than on a cash received basis.
- Realised gains and losses on trading activities are taken to the Income and Expenditure Account in the period in which they arise.
- Valuation gains and losses on dealing securities are recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account in the same way as realised gains and losses and are included within the carrying value of those securities on the balance sheet.

1.6 Gains and losses on trading operation

Gains and losses on trading operations are calculated as the difference between the sales proceeds (excluding interest) and the cost of the stock, which is calculated on a First In First Out basis (FIFO).

2 Administration expenses

Expenses incurred by the Director of Savings in connection with the Ordinary Deposits are paid out of the National Savings and Investments Vote. Under section 17 of the National Savings Bank Act 1971 a sum determined by the Treasury to be equal to the amount of the expenses incurred during the period is paid into the Consolidated Fund by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt. The expenses incurred by the Director of Savings and the Commissioners were as follows

Other debtors

	31 March 2007 £'000	31 March 2006 £'000
Director of Savings expenses	7,946	12,447
Commissioners expenses	26	32
	<u>7,972</u>	<u>12,479</u>

The Director of Savings expenses includes £120,944 for Post Office charges (previous period £113,386) and audit fees of £58,000 (same as previous period).

3 Net losses

Losses recognised in the period in respect of theft, fraud and irrecoverable payments were £48,351 (previous period £137,813). During the period £19,069 (previous period £71,737) was recovered from individuals. The Post Office paid £1,890 (previous period £51,083) to cover the balance of its agreed liability for losses. This resulted in a net loss of £27,392 (previous period £14,993).

4 Surplus due to the Consolidated Fund

Under section 20 of the National Savings Bank Act 1971 the Treasury may arrange for an amount to be provided for depreciation in the value of investments held by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, but no provisions have been deemed necessary since 1994. If after allowing for any such provision, the interest earned by the securities held by the Commissioners exceeds the total of interest costs, management expenses and net losses, then the excess is payable to the Consolidated Fund. The surplus comprises

	31 March 2007 £'000	31 March 2006 £'000
Interest on investments	45,039	48,342
Expenditure	(11,569)	(15,760)
Surplus due to the Consolidated Fund	<u>33,470</u>	<u>32,582</u>

5 Investments

	31 March 2007 £'000	31 March 2006 £'000
Cost		
At beginning of year	935,243	977,143
Purchases	45,797	876,108
Disposals	(60,876)	(918,008)
At end of year	920,164	935,243
Market value		
At beginning of year	938,837	956,784
Purchases	45,797	876,108
Disposals at cost	(60,876)	(918,008)
Increase/(decrease) in accrued interest during the year	537	(17,571)
Movement in market value adjustment	–	41,524
At end of year	924,295	938,837
Nominal value	920,164	935,243

All securities held throughout the year were held under section 18(a) of the National Savings Bank Act 1971.

6 Debtors

	31 March 2007 £'000	31 March 2006 £'000
Other National Debt Commissioners Debtors	2,007	1,952
	2,007	1,952

7 Creditors

	31 March 2007 £'000	31 March 2006 £'000
Surplus to be surrendered to the Consolidated Fund	33,470	32,582
Amounts due to National Savings and Investments agents	204	67
Other National Savings and Investments creditors	3	3
	33,677	32,652

8 Liability to investors

	31 March 2007	31 March 2006
Principal	311,822	328,029
Accrued interest	1,172	703
	312,994	328,732

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