

# Auditors Report

To the shareholders of Anglo Irish Bank Corporation plc

We have audited the consolidated financial statements on pages 26 to 76 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on pages 31 to 33.

## RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

The directors are responsible for preparing the annual report. As described on page 21, this includes responsibility for preparing the financial statements in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland. Our responsibilities, as independent auditors, are established in Ireland by statute, the Auditing Practices Board, the Listing Rules of the Irish Stock Exchange and our profession's ethical guidance.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with Irish statute comprising the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2001, and the European Communities (Credit Institutions:Accounts) Regulations, 1992. We also report to you our opinion as to: whether proper books of account have been kept by the company; whether proper returns adequate for the purposes of our audit have been received from branches not visited by us; whether, at the balance sheet date, there exists a financial situation requiring the convening of an extraordinary general meeting of the company; and whether the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether the company's balance sheet is in agreement with the books of account.

We also report to you if, in our opinion, any information specified by law or the Listing Rules of the Irish Stock Exchange regarding directors' remuneration and directors' transactions is not disclosed and, where practicable, include such information in our report.

We review whether the corporate governance statement on pages 18 to 20 reflects the company's compliance with the seven provisions of the Combined Code specified for our review by the Irish Stock Exchange 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 form an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's and the group's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

We read the other information contained in the annual report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

#### **BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's and the group's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### **OPINION**

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company and the group as at 30 September 2001 and of the profit and cash flows of the group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2001, and the European Communities (Credit Institutions: 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 and proper returns adequate for the purpose of our audit have been received from branches not visited by us. The company's balance sheet is in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion, the information given in the directors' report on pages 16 and 17 is consistent with the financial statements.

In our opinion, the balance sheet on page 28 does not disclose a financial situation which, under the provisions of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1983, would require the convening of an extraordinary general meeting of the company.

**Ernst & Young**  
Registered Auditors  
Dublin.

27 November 2001