

Inchcape PLC

26 June 2006

Inchcape pre-close trading statement

Inchcape plc, the international automotive retail group, enters a close period on 1 July 2006 ahead of its interim results announcement for the six months ending 30 June 2006, on 3 August 2006.

The trading performance of the Group, and of the businesses in each of our six core markets, continues to be in line with expectations, as set out in the AGM trading statement issued on 11 May 2006. The 2006 subsidiaries' headline tax rate is likely to be c. 22.0%, around 3.5 percentage points lower than last year's rate, mainly due to the favourable settlement of UK prior years' tax computations.

The Group has successfully concluded the earnings enhancing share buy back programme. Since 15 April 2005, a total of £65.0m has been returned to shareholders through the purchase of 17,880,606 shares at an average price of £3.64 per share.

We remain confident that we will deliver further growth and strong cash generation in 2006, leveraging our broad geographic spread and our focus on operational excellence.

Notes to editors

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Inchcape is a scale automotive retail group operating in Australia, Belgium, Greece, Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK. The Group also has operations in a number of other global markets. In addition to growing our core businesses, we are looking to develop scale operations in new and emerging regions. We represent leading automotive brands and operate either a retail, or a vertically integrated retail model (i.e. exclusive distribution and retail), depending on the market. Our current key manufacturer partners are Toyota/Lexus, Subaru, BMW, the Premier Automotive Group of Ford, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen.

For further information, visit us at www.inchcape.com