

Corporate governance report

Dear Shareholder

On behalf of the board, I am pleased to present the corporate governance report for the year ended 30 June 2011.

Boards of directors are responsible for the governance of their companies, that is to say, the way in which companies are directed and controlled. The responsibilities of the board include setting the company's strategic aims and its values, providing the leadership to put them into effect, supervising and constructively challenging the management who are responsible for the day to day operational running of the business and reporting to shareholders on their stewardship. We continue to believe that Diageo has a board with the appropriate balance of diverse skills, experience, independence and knowledge of the company to enable them to discharge these responsibilities effectively. The description in this report of Diageo's corporate governance structures and procedures and of the work of the board and the executive committee is intended to give a sense of how this is approached.

The principal corporate governance rules applying to UK companies listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE) for the year ended 30 June 2011 are contained in The UK Corporate Governance Code as updated and published by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) in May 2010 (the Code) and the UK Financial Services Authority (FSA) Listing Rules, which require companies listed on the Main Market of the LSE to describe, in their annual report, their corporate governance from two points of view: the first dealing generally with their application of the Code's main principles and the second dealing specifically with non-compliance with any of the Code's provisions. The two descriptions together are designed to give shareholders a picture of governance arrangements in relation to the Code as a criterion of good practice. Diageo has complied with all relevant provisions set out in the Code throughout the year. The Code is publicly available under the heading 'Corporate Governance' at the website of the FRC, www.frc.org.uk.

Diageo must also comply with corporate governance rules contained in the FSA Disclosure and Transparency Rules as well as certain related provisions in the Companies Act 2006 (the Act).

As well as being subject to UK legislation and practice, as a company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), Diageo is subject to the listing requirements of the NYSE and the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Compliance with the provisions of the US Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (SOX), as it applies to foreign issuers, is continually monitored. Whilst the directors believe that the group's corporate governance policies continue to be robust, changes have been and will continue to be made in light of the rules that are in place at any point in time. Diageo follows UK corporate governance practice; differences from the NYSE corporate governance standards are summarised below within this report and on the company's website at www.diageo.com.

The way in which the Code's principles of good governance and relevant provisions of SOX are applied is described within this corporate governance report.



PD Tunnacliffe
Company Secretary

Board of directors

Membership of the board and board committees, other directorships and attendance at meetings

The chairmen, senior non-executive director and other members of the board, audit committee, nomination committee and remuneration committee are as set out above in the biographies of directors and members of the executive committee.

The directors' biographies also show the significant other commitments of the chairman and other directors and whether there have been any changes to them during the year. Directors' attendance during the year at board meetings, meetings of the audit, nomination and remuneration committees and at the annual general meeting was as set out in the table at the end of this report.

The board considers that it is beneficial for the executive directors to hold an external directorship to broaden their experience and normally this would be limited to one company. The chief executive, PS Walsh, holds a UK non-executive directorship in Unilever PLC and a US non-executive directorship in FedEx Corporation. The board considers that, given the importance of the United States to the company's business, the FedEx directorship is of benefit to Mr Walsh in terms of market awareness, US business practices and networking and that the time commitment is not onerous as the meetings can be combined with other business trips to the United States. The chief financial officer, D Mahlan currently holds no non-executive directorships.

There is a clear separation of the roles of the chairman and the chief executive. The chairman, Dr FB Humer, is responsible for the running of the board and for ensuring all directors are fully informed of matters sufficient to make informed judgements. As chief executive, PS Walsh has responsibility for implementing the strategy agreed by the board and for managing the group. He is supported in this role by the executive committee.

The non-executive directors, all of whom the board has determined are independent, are experienced and influential individuals from a range of industries and countries. Their mix of skills and business experience is a major contribution to the proper functioning of the board and its committees, ensuring that matters are fully debated and that no individual or group dominates the board's decision-making processes.

Through the nomination committee, the board ensures that plans are in place for the succession of the executive and non-executive directors.

A summary of the terms and conditions of appointment of the non-executive directors is available at www.diageo.com or on request from the company secretary.

Activities of the board

It is the responsibility of the chairman and the company secretary to work closely together in planning the annual programme and agendas for meetings. During the year, six scheduled board meetings were held, five in the United Kingdom and one in the USA, which incorporated a specific North American business focus and involved visits to distributors and customers. In addition, an annual strategy conference with the full executive committee was held offsite at which the group's strategy was reviewed in depth.

When directors are unable to attend a meeting, they are advised of the matters to be discussed and take advantage of the opportunity to make their views known to the chairman prior to the meeting. The board manages overall control of the company's affairs with reference to the formal schedule of matters reserved for the board for decision. The schedule was last revised in June 2009.

The board makes decisions and reviews and approves key policies and decisions of the company, in particular in relation to: group strategy and operating plans; corporate governance; compliance with laws, regulations and the company's code of business conduct; business development, including major investments and disposals; financing and treasury; appointment or removal of directors and the company secretary; risk management; financial reporting and audit; corporate citizenship, ethics and the environment; and pensions.

The Act sets out directors' general duties concerning conflicts of interest and related matters. The board have agreed an approach and adopted guidelines for dealing with conflicts of interest and have added responsibility for authorising conflicts of interest to the schedule of matters reserved for the board. The board confirmed that it was aware of no situations that may or did give rise to conflicts with the interests of the company other than those that may arise from directors' other appointments as disclosed in their biographies above. In accordance with the articles, the board authorised the chairman or the company secretary, as appropriate, to receive notifications of conflicts of interest on behalf of the board and to make recommendations as to whether the relevant matters should be authorised by the board. The company has complied with these procedures during the year.

All directors are equally accountable for the proper stewardship of the company's affairs.

The non-executive directors have a particular responsibility for ensuring that the business strategies proposed are fully discussed and critically reviewed. This enables the directors to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its shareholders as a whole, whilst having regard to, among other matters, the interests of employees, the fostering of business relationships with customers, suppliers and others, and the impact of the company's operations on the communities in which the business operates and the environment.

The non-executive directors also oversee the operational performance of the whole group. To do this they have full and timely access to all relevant information, with updates also provided on governance and regulatory matters affecting the company. In addition, executive committee members and other senior executives are invited, as appropriate, to board and strategy meetings to make presentations on their areas of responsibility. The chairman and non-executive directors are also invited to attend the executive committee members' senior leadership meetings to gain further insight into different aspects of the business.

In order to fulfil their duties, procedures are in place for directors to seek both independent advice and the advice and services of the company secretary who is responsible for advising the board, through the chairman, on all governance matters.

The non-executive directors meet independently without the chairman present, and also meet with the chairman independently of management, on a regular basis.

The non-executive directors fulfil a key role in corporate accountability. The remits of the audit, the nomination and the remuneration committees of the board are set out below and membership of these committees is as set out above in the 'Board of directors and executive committee' section of this annual report. The company secretary acts as secretary to all of these committees. The terms of reference of the committees are available on the company's website at www.diageo.com/ourbusiness/aboutus/corporategovernance.

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Training

There is a formal induction programme for new directors; they meet with the executive committee members individually and receive orientation training from the relevant senior executive in relation to the group and its business, for example in relation to its assurance processes, environmental and social policies, corporate responsibility policies and practices and governance matters.

All directors are provided with the opportunity, and encouraged to go, for training to ensure they are kept up to date on relevant legal developments or changes and best practice and changing commercial and other risks. Typical training experience for directors includes attendance at seminars, forums, conferences and working groups and during the year also included training on compliance, risk, legal and tax matters. Training for directors is kept under review during the year and forms part of the chairman's individual meetings held with each director, with feedback sought from directors on areas and topics that they want to be covered.

Performance evaluation

During the year, an evaluation of the board's effectiveness, including the effectiveness of the audit committee, nomination committee and the remuneration committee was undertaken by external consultants by way of a written questionnaire followed by individual meetings with all directors. The consultants had no other connection with the company. The board questionnaire focused on the performance of the board throughout the past year in the areas of strategy, performance management, management succession, risk management and boardroom dynamics. The questionnaire for the committees focused on the performance of the respective committees throughout the past year, how the performance could be enhanced and areas of focus for the forthcoming year. A report was prepared for the board on its and its committees' effectiveness. The report concluded that the board and its committees continued to operate effectively, meeting the requirements and the spirit of the Code, with a climate within the boardroom that creates the optimum conditions for good decision making and sound guidance. There were nevertheless areas identified for the board and committees to enhance effectiveness. These will result in a continuing review of the process for ensuring effective meetings and the annual agendas of the board and its committees to ensure they are updated to reflect the feedback received.

Given the context of two independent non-executive directors retiring at the upcoming annual general meeting, the importance of ensuring appropriate succession to the board to maintain the boardroom dynamics and the appropriate balance of skills and experience was also recognised.

The performance of each director, who met individually with the chairman, was evaluated by the chairman based on self-analysis and input from the other directors. The chairman's performance was evaluated by the directors, using an internally produced questionnaire which was completed and returned to the senior non-executive director, who discussed the feedback in a meeting with the executive and non-executive directors and then privately with the chairman. A report on the individual performance evaluation process was given to the nomination committee. Following the performance evaluation of individual directors, the chairman has confirmed that the non-executive directors standing for re-election at this year's annual general meeting continue to perform effectively and demonstrate commitment to their roles. It is the board's intention to continue to review annually its performance and that of its committees and individual directors. A decision is taken each year on the performance evaluation process to be used. In respect of the coming year's evaluation process, no decision has yet been made whether to continue with the same method of facilitation or to revert to internal evaluation.

Audit committee

Role of the audit committee

The audit committee is responsible for monitoring and reviewing:

- the integrity of the financial statements, including a review of the significant financial reporting judgements contained in them;
- the effectiveness of the group's internal control and risk management and of control over financial reporting;
- the effectiveness of the global audit and risk function, including the programme of work undertaken by that function;
- the group's policies and practices concerning business conduct and ethics, including whistleblowing;
- the group's overall approach to securing compliance with laws, regulations and company policies in areas of risk; and
- the company's relationship with the external auditor, including its independence and management's response to any major external audit recommendations.

For the purposes of the Code and the relevant rule under the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act), the board has determined that PG Scott is independent and may be regarded as an audit committee financial expert.

The chairman, the chief financial officer, the group controller, the head of global audit and risk, the director of technical accounting and the external auditor are normally invited to attend meetings.

The audit committee met privately with the external auditor and with the head of global audit and risk as appropriate.

Work of the audit committee

During the year, the audit committee formally reviewed the annual reports and associated preliminary year-end results announcement, focusing on key areas of judgement, provisioning and complexity, critical accounting policies and any changes required in these areas or policies. In addition, the audit committee also reviewed the interim results announcement and the company's interim management statements. The audit committee also reviewed the work of the filings assurance committee described below and was updated on litigation risks by the group's general counsel.

The audit committee received detailed presentations from certain senior executives on the management of key risk and control issues in their respective business areas, reviewed the effectiveness and findings from internal control and risk management processes described below and reviewed the work of the compliance programme and the work of the audit and risk committee, described below.

The audit committee had available to it the resources of the global audit and risk function, the activities of which are described below.

During the year, the audit committee reviewed the external audit strategy and the findings of the external auditor from its review of the interim announcement and its audit of the annual financial statements. The audit committee also met privately with the external auditor.

The audit committee reviews annually the appointment of the auditor and, on the audit committee's recommendation, the board agreed in August 2011 to recommend to shareholders at the annual general meeting in 2011, the re-appointment of the external auditor for a period of one year. The current overall tenure of the external auditor dates from 1997. Any decision to open the external auditor to tender is taken on the recommendation of the audit committee, based on the results of the effectiveness review described below. There are no contractual obligations that restrict the company's current choice of external auditor.

The audit committee assessed the ongoing effectiveness of the external auditor and audit process on the basis of meetings and a questionnaire-based internal review with finance, global audit and risk staff and other senior executives. In reviewing the independence of the external auditor, the audit committee considered a number of factors. These include: the standing, experience and tenure of the external audit director; the nature and level of services provided by the external auditor; and confirmation from the external auditor that it has complied with relevant UK and US independence standards.

The group has a policy on auditor independence and on the use of the external auditor for non-audit services, which is reviewed annually, most recently in June 2011. Under this policy the provision of any non-audit service must be approved by the audit committee, unless the proposed service is both expected to cost less than £250,000 and also falls within one of a number of service categories which the audit committee has pre-approved. These pre-approved service categories may be summarised as follows:

- accounting advice, employee benefit plan audits, and audit or other attestation services, not otherwise prohibited;
- due diligence and other support in respect of acquisitions, disposals, training and other business initiatives; and
- certain specified tax services, including tax compliance, tax planning and related implementation advice in relation to acquisitions, disposals and other reorganisations.

Fees paid to the auditor for audit related and non-audit related services are analysed in note 3 (c) to the financial statements. The main non-audit related services provided by the auditor during the year were in respect of due diligence work for potential acquisitions and tax advice. The auditor was considered to be best placed to provide these services and was the provider that offered the best value. The nature and level of all services provided by the external auditor is a factor taken into account by the audit committee when it reviews annually the independence of the external auditor.

Nomination committee

Role of the nomination committee

The nomination committee is responsible for keeping under review the composition of the board and succession to it, and succession planning for senior management positions. It makes recommendations to the board concerning appointments to the board, whether of executive or non-executive directors, having regard to the balance and structure of the board and the required blend of skills and experience.

The nomination committee also makes recommendations to the board concerning the re-appointment of any non-executive director at the conclusion of his or her specified term and the re-election of any director by shareholders under the retirement provisions of the company's articles of association. No director is involved in determining his or her own re-appointment or re-election.

Any new directors are appointed by the board and, in accordance with the company's articles of association, they must be elected at the next AGM to continue in office. All existing directors retire by rotation every year, as required by the Code.

Activities of the nomination committee

The principal activities of the nomination committee during the year were: the review of individual performance; a review of the executive committee structure, membership and succession planning for it; the consideration of potential non-executive directors; and succession to the role of chief financial officer.

In respect of the appointment of Lord Davies to the board during the year, the recruitment process included the development of a candidate profile and the engagement of a professional search agency specialising in the recruitment of high calibre non-executive directors. Reports on potential appointees were provided to the committee, which, after careful consideration, made a recommendation to the board.

Diageo supports diversity within its board of directors, including gender diversity. Currently there are four female directors, out of a total of eleven board members. We believe that all four bring a wealth of international business experience and are an asset to the company and the board.

Without seeking to set a specific goal for female representation on the board, it remains our aspiration to maintain a high level of diversity, including gender diversity, within the boardroom, appropriate to and reflecting the global nature of the company and the strategic imperatives the board has agreed upon.

For similar reasons, Diageo has set itself a goal to increase the number of women in leadership positions in the company and is making good progress towards this objective with 27% currently filling the leadership positions. The aim of the board is to continue to ensure that the company has the right balance of skills, diversity, in all forms, and experience.

This approach has led us to be well represented by women on the board and having fully considered the succession to the executive committee and to leadership positions over the ensuing years, the board is confident it will continue to be able to report progress on the gender diversity agenda.

Remuneration committee

Role of the remuneration committee

The role of the remuneration committee and details of how the company applies the principles of the Code in respect of directors' remuneration are set out in the directors' remuneration report.

The chairman and the chief executive may, by invitation, attend remuneration committee meetings, except when their own remuneration is discussed. No director is involved in determining his or her own remuneration.

Executive direction and control

Executive committee

The executive committee, appointed and chaired by the chief executive, consists of the individuals responsible for the key components of the business: for the year ended 30 June 2011, North America, Europe, International and Asia Pacific markets, global supply and global functions. With effect from 1 July 2011, the structure has been revised, as set out in the 'Business description' section of this annual report. The members of the committee and their biographies are set out above in the 'Board of directors and executive committee' section of this annual report. It met, fully, four times during the year, and spent most of its time discussing strategy, people, performance (including brands) and governance. Meetings were held in the USA, Russia, the UK and Hungary. In addition, scheduled interim update meetings were held by teleconference throughout the year. Responsibility and authority (within the financial limits set by the board) are delegated by the chief executive to individual members of the executive committee who are accountable to him for the performance of their business units.

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Executive direction and control procedures include approval of annual strategic plans submitted by each business unit executive and periodic business reviews. These reviews are generally attended by the regional president responsible for the market (and in certain cases additional members of the executive committee) and are held in the relevant market. The reviews focus on business performance management and specific issues around brands, people, key business decisions and risk management.

The chief executive has created several executive working groups to which are delegated particular tasks, generally with specific time spans and success criteria. He has also created committees, intended to have an ongoing remit, including the following.

Audit and risk committee

Chaired by the chief executive and responsible for: overseeing the approach to securing effective internal control and risk management in the group; reviewing the adequacy of the group's sources of assurance over the management of key risks; reviewing management's self-assessment process over internal controls; reviewing the effectiveness of the group's compliance programme; and reporting periodically on the above to the audit committee or to the board. In addition, the audit and risk committee is responsible for promoting the culture and processes that support effective compliance with the group's codes of conduct, business guidelines and marketing practices throughout the business and supports the audit committee, board and executive committee in satisfying its corporate governance responsibilities relating to internal control and risk management within the group.

Corporate citizenship committee

Chaired by the chief executive and responsible for making decisions or, where appropriate, recommendations to the board or executive committee concerning policies, issues and measurement and reporting for the following impacts across Diageo's value chain: alcohol in society, water, broader environmental sustainability, community, our people and governance and ethics. Progress in these areas is reported periodically to the board and publicly through a separate Sustainability & Responsibility Report, selected aspects of which are subject to external assurance. This report and the group's social, ethical and environmental policies are published on the Diageo website.

Two executive working groups (one on alcohol in society, chaired by the corporate relations director, and one on environmental performance, chaired by the president, global supply) assist the committee with decisions on specific issues.

Finance committee

Chaired by the chief financial officer and including the chief executive, this committee is responsible for making recommendations to the board on funding strategy, capital structure and management of financial risks and the policies and control procedures (including financial issues relating to treasury and taxation) required to implement the company's financial strategy and financial risk management policies. In certain specific circumstances, the board has delegated authority to the finance committee to make decisions in these areas. Treasury activity is managed centrally within tightly defined dealing authorities and procedures recommended by the finance committee and approved by the board.

Filings assurance committee

Chaired by the chief financial officer and including the chief executive, this committee is responsible for implementing and monitoring the processes which are designed to ensure that the company complies with relevant UK, US and other regulatory reporting and filing provisions, including those imposed by SOX or derived from it. As at the end of the period covered by this report, the filings assurance committee, with the participation of the chief executive and chief financial officer, carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of disclosure controls and procedures. These are defined as those controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in reports filed under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarised and reported within specified time periods. As of the date of the evaluation, the chief executive and the chief financial officer concluded that the design and operation of these disclosure controls and procedures were effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that the company files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to the management, including the company's principal executive and principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding disclosure.

Additional information

Internal control and risk management

Diageo's aim is to manage risk and to control its business and financial activities cost-effectively and in a manner that enables it to: exploit profitable business opportunities in a disciplined way; avoid or reduce risks that can cause loss, reputational damage or business failure; support operational effectiveness; and enhance resilience to external events. To achieve this, an ongoing process has been established for identifying, evaluating and managing risks faced by the group. This process, which complies with the requirements of the Code, has been in place for the full financial year and up to the date the financial statements were approved and accords with the guidance issued by the Financial Reporting Council in October 2005, 'Internal Control: Revised Guidance for Directors on the Combined Code', also known as the Turnbull guidance (as amended by the Flint review).

The board acknowledges that it is responsible for the company's systems of internal control and risk management and for reviewing their effectiveness. The board confirms that, through the activities of the audit committee described above, it has reviewed the effectiveness of the company's systems of internal control and risk management described below.

All significant business units and the executive committee are required to maintain a process to ensure key risks are identified, evaluated and managed appropriately. This process is also applied to major business decisions or initiatives, such as systems implementations, new product development, business combination activity or significant business strategy implementation. Additional risk management activity is focused directly towards operational risks within the business, including health and safety, product quality and environmental risk management.

Business unit risk assessments, and the activities planned to manage those risks, are reviewed by relevant executives, for example at periodic business reviews. The oversight of primary risks, as detailed in the executive committee risk assessment, is allocated as appropriate between the board, board committees and the executive committee. The executive committee risk assessment, and selected key risk assessments, are reviewed by the audit and risk committee and by the audit committee.

In addition, business units are required to self-assess the effectiveness of the design of their internal control framework. Relevant executives review the results of these self-assessments and summary reporting is provided to the audit and risk committee and audit committee. Risk management and internal control processes encompass activity to mitigate financial, operational, compliance and reputational risk. Specific processes are also in place to ensure management maintain adequate internal control over financial reporting, as separately reported on below.

A network of risk management committees is in place, which has overall accountability for supporting the audit and risk committee in its corporate governance responsibilities by working with business units to proactively and effectively manage risk and monitor the effectiveness of internal controls.

Processes are in place to ensure appropriate action is taken, where necessary, to remedy any deficiencies identified through the group's internal control and risk management processes.

The global audit and risk function gives the audit committee, board and executive committee visibility and understanding of the group's key risks and risk management capability and provides assurance over the quality of the group's internal control and management of key risks in line with a plan agreed by the audit committee.

The above risk management processes and systems of internal control, together with the filings assurance processes, are designed to manage, rather than eliminate, the risk of failure to achieve the group's strategic objectives. It should be recognised that such systems can only provide reasonable, not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

During the year, in line with the revised principles of the Code, the board considered the nature and extent of the risks it was willing to take to achieve its strategic goals and adopted an internal statement of risk appetite, which describes existing risk behaviours and identifies a set of high level risk statements underpinning them. The statement of risk appetite serves as a complement to Diageo's risk policy and was considered and recommended to the board by both the audit and risk committee and the audit committee.

The company has in place internal control and risk management systems in relation to the company's financial reporting process and the group's process for preparation of consolidated accounts. These systems are described above and under the headings 'Filings assurance committee', 'Audit and risk committee' and 'Management's report on internal control over financial reporting'. Diageo's filings assurance committee and audit and risk committee are each responsible for overseeing elements of these internal control and risk management systems. Furthermore, a review of the consolidated financial statements is completed by management to ensure that the financial position and results of the group are appropriately reflected therein.

Compliance and ethics programme

Diageo is committed to conducting its business responsibly and in accordance with all laws and regulations to which its business activities are subject. The board has a comprehensive training and education programme for both employees and the network of compliance and ethics ambassadors, whose role it is to be the key point of contact for compliance within each market and function. The code of business conduct is also supported by a set of global policies. Work commenced during the year to simplify these policies and to make access and governance of the policies easier.

The Diageo marketing code together with Diageo's digital code of practice remain the principles that Diageo follows in

relation to marketing and promotional activities of its brands and products.

In addition, in accordance with the requirements of SOX (and related SEC rules), Diageo has adopted a code of ethics covering its chief executive, chief financial officer, regional presidents and other identifiable persons in the group, including those performing senior accounting and controller functions. No amendments to, or waivers in respect of, the code of ethics were made during the year. The full texts of the code of ethics, code of business conduct, marketing code and other Diageo policies that comprise the compliance programme are available on the company's website at www.diageo.com/ourbusiness/aboutus/corporategovernance.

Compliance and ethics programme guidelines specify the manner in which any potential violations of these codes should be dealt with, including line manager reporting and an independent 'SpeakUp' employee help line. The latter is operated independently and all reports are sent, in confidence, to the global compliance and ethics director and head of corporate security for review, and where appropriate, investigation and escalation to the audit committee as required. There is an annual certification requirement for all management level employees to confirm compliance with the code of business conduct and to identify areas of possible non-compliance to the global compliance and ethics director. With the UK Bribery Act coming into force on 1 July 2011, the compliance and ethics director, together with group legal, reviewed the company's compliance and ethics programme and as a result of the review, no material changes to the compliance and ethics programme or planned workstreams were proposed.

Both the audit and risk committee and the audit committee review the operation of the compliance programme.

Relations with shareholders

The company values its dialogue with both institutional and private investors. The board's primary contact with institutional shareholders is through the chief executive and chief financial officer.

The chief executive and chief financial officer are supported by the investor relations department, who are in regular contact with institutional shareholders and sell-side analysts. Coverage of the company by sell-side analysts is circulated to the board. The board also ensures that all directors develop an understanding of the views of major institutional shareholders through an independent survey of shareholder opinion. In addition, major shareholders are invited to raise any company matters of interest to them at an annual meeting with the chairman and senior non-executive director. The chief executive and chief financial officer are normally also present and available to take questions and the chairman reports on the meeting to the board.

Investor seminars and analyst presentations, including those following the announcement of interim results and preliminary year end results, are webcast and other presentations made to institutional investors are available on the company's website.

For the year ended 30 June 2011, Diageo produced an annual report, which is available to all shareholders on its website, or in paper form by election or on request. As an alternative to receiving a paper notification through the post, shareholders may elect to receive email notification that the documents are available to be accessed on the company's website. Shareholders can also choose to receive email notification when new company information is published on www.diageo.com. The website also provides private shareholders with the facility to check their shareholdings online and to send any questions they may have to the company.

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Private shareholders are invited to write to the chairman or any other director and express their views on any issues of concern at any time and the AGM provides an opportunity for private shareholders to put their questions in person. The company also holds an annual presentation to the UK Shareholders' Association.

The chairmen of the audit, nomination and remuneration committees are normally available at the AGM to take any relevant questions and all other directors attend, unless illness or another pressing commitment precludes them from doing so.

At general meetings, a schedule of the proxy votes cast is made available to all shareholders and is published on www.diageo.com. The company proposes a separate resolution on each substantially separate issue and does not bundle resolutions together inappropriately. Resolutions on the receipt of the reports and accounts and the approval of the directors' remuneration report are put to shareholders at the AGM.

Charitable and political donations

During the year, total charitable donations made by the group were £28 million (2010 – £24.9 million). UK group companies made donations of £10.5 million (2010 – £12.0 million) to charitable organisations including £1.1 million (2010 – £1.1 million) to the Diageo Foundation and £7.7 million (2010 – £7.4 million) to the Thalidomide Trust. In the rest of the world, group companies made charitable donations of £17.5 million (2010 – £12.9 million) including £3.0 million to the Thalidomide Foundation Ltd in Australia (2010 – £nil).

The group has not given any money for political purposes in the United Kingdom and made no donations to EU political organisations and incurred no EU political expenditure during the year. The group made contributions to non-EU political parties totalling £0.6 million during the year (2010 – £0.5 million). These were all made, consistent with applicable laws, to federal and state candidates and committees in North America, where it is common practice to make political contributions. No particular political persuasion was supported and contributions were made with the aim of promoting a better understanding of the group and its views on commercial matters, as well as a generally improved business environment.

Supplier payment policies and performance

Given the international nature of the group's operations, there is no group standard in respect of payments to suppliers. The group has moved to a standard term of 60 days in respect of payments to the majority of suppliers. Where this standard term does not yet apply, operating companies are responsible for agreeing terms and conditions for their business transactions when orders for goods and services are placed, so that suppliers are aware of the terms of payment and the relevant terms are included in contracts where appropriate. Creditor days have not been calculated, as Diageo plc had no material trade creditors at 30 June 2011. The company's invoices for goods and services are settled by subsidiaries acting on behalf of the company.

Going concern

The group's business activities together with significant risk factors are set out above in the 'Business description' section of this annual report. The liquidity position, capital resources and risk management processes covering exposure to currency, interest rate, credit, liquidity and price risk are described above in the 'Business review' section of this annual report.

The group has significant financial resources, strong cash generation from operations and good access to debt markets. Consequently, the directors believe that the group is well placed to manage its business risks despite the current uncertain economic outlook.

The directors confirm that, after making appropriate enquiries, they have reasonable expectation that the group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Management's report on internal control over financial reporting

Management, under the supervision of the chief executive and chief financial officer, is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate control over the group's financial reporting. Diageo's internal control over financial reporting includes policies and procedures that: pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect transactions and dispositions of assets; provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as endorsed and adopted for use in the European Union (EU) and IFRS as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB); provide reasonable assurance that receipts and expenditures are made only in accordance with authorisation of management and the directors of the company; and provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of any unauthorised acquisition, use or disposition of assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Management has assessed the effectiveness of Diageo's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13(a)-13(f) and 15(d)-15(f) under the Exchange Act) based on the framework in 'Internal Control – Integrated Framework', issued by the committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on this assessment, management concluded that, as at 30 June 2011, internal control over financial reporting was effective.

Any internal control framework, no matter how well designed, has inherent limitations, including the possibility of human error and the circumvention or overriding of controls and procedures and may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or because the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

During the period covered by this report, there were no changes in internal control over financial reporting that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting.

KPMG Audit Plc, an independent registered public accounting firm, who also audit the group's consolidated financial statements, has audited the effectiveness of the group's internal control over financial reporting, and has issued an unqualified report thereon, which will be included in the company's Form 20-F filed with the SEC.

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Directors' report**Directors' responsibilities in respect of the annual report and financial statements**

The directors are responsible for preparing the annual report, the information filed with the SEC on Form 20-F and the group and parent company financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare group and parent company financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they are required to prepare the group financial statements in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the EU and applicable law and have elected to prepare the parent company financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The directors have taken responsibility to prepare the group financial statements also in accordance with IFRS as issued by the IASB. The directors have also presented certain additional information required by the SEC for the purposes of the company's Form 20-F.

The group financial statements are required by law and IFRS to present fairly the financial position and the performance of the group; the Act provides in relation to such financial statements that references in the relevant part of the Act to financial statements giving a true and fair view are references to their achieving a fair presentation.

The parent company financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the parent company.

In preparing each of the group and parent company financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- for the group financial statements, state whether they have been prepared in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the EU and as issued by the IASB;
- for the parent company financial statements, state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the parent company financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group and the parent company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the parent company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the parent company and enable them to ensure that its financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and, as regard to group consolidated accounts, Article 4 of the IAS Regulation. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the group and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Under applicable UK and US law and regulations, the directors are also responsible for preparing a directors' report, a directors' remuneration report and a corporate governance report that comply with that law and those regulations.

In addition, the directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Responsibility statement

Each of the directors, whose names are set out above in the 'Board of directors and executive committee' section of this annual report, confirms that to the best of his or her knowledge:

- the consolidated financial statements contained in the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2011, which have been prepared in accordance with IFRS as issued by the IASB and as endorsed and adopted for use in the EU, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of the group; and
- the management report represented by the directors' report contained in the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2011 includes a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the group, together with a description of the principal risks and uncertainties that the group faces.

The responsibility statement was approved by the board of directors on 24 August 2011.

New York Stock Exchange corporate governance rules

Under applicable SEC rules and the NYSE's corporate governance rules for listed companies, Diageo must disclose any significant ways in which its corporate governance practices differ from those followed by US companies under NYSE listing standards.

Diageo believes the following to be the significant areas in which there are differences between its corporate governance practices and NYSE corporate governance rules applicable to US companies. This information is also provided on the company's website at www.diageo.com.

- Basis of regulation: UK listed companies are required to include in their annual report a narrative statement of (i) how they have applied the principles of the Code and (ii) whether or not they have complied with the best practice provisions of the Code. NYSE listed companies must adopt and disclose their corporate governance guidelines. Diageo complied throughout the year with the best practice provisions of the Code.
- Director independence: the Code requires at least half the board (excluding the chairman) to be independent non-executive directors, as determined by affirmatively concluding that a director is independent of management and free from any relationship that could materially interfere with the exercise of independent judgement. NYSE rules require a majority of independent directors, according to the NYSE's own 'brightline' tests and an affirmative determination by the board that the director has no material relationship with the listed company. Diageo's board has determined that, in its judgement and without taking into account the NYSE brightline tests, all of the non-executive directors are independent. As such, currently 8 of Diageo's 11 directors are independent.
- Chairman and chief executive: the Code requires these roles to be separate. There is no corresponding requirement for US companies. Diageo has a separate chairman and chief executive.

- Non-executive director meetings: NYSE rules require non-management directors to meet regularly without management and independent directors to meet separately at least once a year. The Code requires non-executive directors to meet without the chairman present at least annually to appraise the chairman's performance. During the year, Diageo's chairman and non-executive directors met six times as a group without executive directors being present, and the independent directors met once without the chairman.
- Board committees: Diageo has a number of board committees that are similar in purpose and constitution to those required by NYSE rules. Diageo's audit, remuneration and nomination committees consist entirely of independent non-executive directors (save that the chairman of the nomination committee, Dr FB Humer, is not independent). Under NYSE standards, companies are required to have a nominating/corporate governance committee, which develops and recommends a set of corporate governance principles and is composed entirely of independent directors. The terms of reference for Diageo's nomination committee, which comply with the Code, do not contain such a requirement. In accordance with the requirements of the Code, Diageo discloses in its annual report the results and means of evaluation of the board, its committees and the directors, and it provides extensive information regarding directors' compensation in the directors' remuneration report.
- Code of ethics: NYSE rules require a code of business conduct and ethics to be adopted for directors, officers and employees and disclosure of any waivers for executive directors or officers. Diageo has adopted a code of business conduct for all directors, officers and employees, as well as a code of ethics for senior officers in accordance with the requirements of SOX. Currently, no waivers have been granted to directors or executive officers.
- Compliance certification: NYSE rules require CEOs to certify to the NYSE their awareness of any NYSE corporate governance violations. Diageo is exempt from this as a foreign private issuer but is required to notify the NYSE if any executive officer becomes aware of any non-compliance with NYSE corporate governance standards. No such notification was necessary during the period covered by this report.

Directors' attendance record at the annual general meeting, board meetings and board committee meetings, for the year ended 30 June 2011 was as set out in the table below. For board and board committee meetings, attendance is expressed as the number of meetings attended out of the number that each director was eligible to attend.

	Annual General Meeting 2010	Board (maximum 6)	Audit committee (maximum 6)	Nomination committee (maximum 3)	Remuneration committee (maximum 7)
Dr FB Humer	✓	6/6	6/6*	3/3	7/7*
PS Walsh	✓	6/6	4/6**	3/3*	7/7*
D Mahlan	✓	6/6	6/6*	3/3	n/a
Lord Hollick	✓	6/6	6/6	3/3	7/7
PB Bruzelius	✓	6/6	6/6	3/3	6/7
LM Danon	✓	6/6	6/6	3/3	7/7
Lord Davies***	✗	3/5	3/5	2/3	5/6
BD Holden	✓	6/6	6/6	3/3	7/7
PG Scott	✓	5/6	5/6	3/3	7/7
HT Stitzer	✓	6/6	6/6	3/3	7/7
PA Walker	✓	6/6	6/6	3/3	6/7

* Attended by invitation.

** Attended by invitation, for part only.

*** Lord Davies was appointed during the year. He was unable to attend some meetings, as a result of prior commitments which were made before he joined the board.