Report of the Independent Auditors

TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND

We have audited the financial statements of the Banking Department on pages 46 to 79, and the statements of account of the Issue Department on pages 80 to 82.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF COURT AND AUDITORS

The responsibilities of the Members of Court for preparing the Annual Report, including the financial statements and statements of account, in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and accounting standards, are set out on page 37.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements and the statements of account. We have taken this responsibility to be that which would have applied if it had been established primarily by the United Kingdom Companies Act and United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for, and only for, the Governor and Company of the Bank of England and its Shareholder in accordance with Section 7 of the Bank of England Act 1998 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or in to whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements of the Banking Department give a fair presentation and are properly prepared on the basis of note 1(a). We also report to you our opinion as to whether the statements of account of the Issue Department give a fair presentation, and are properly prepared on the basis described on page 81. Furthermore, we report to you if, in our opinion, the Report from Members of Court on pages 34 to 40 is not consistent with the financial statements and the statements of account, if the Bank has not kept proper accounting records, or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent mis-statements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements or the statements of account.

BASIS OF 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 and the statements of account. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Members of Court in the preparation of the financial statements and the statements of account, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Bank'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 and the statements of account are free from material mis-statement, 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 of the Banking Department, the basis of which is described in note 1(a), and the statements of account of the Issue Department, the basis of which is described on page 81.

OPINION

In accordance with the Bank of England Act 1998, the financial statements of the Banking Department have been prepared on the basis set out in note 1 (a) to comply with the requirements of Schedule 9 to the Companies Act 1985 and applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom except insofar as the Bank has not considered it appropriate to do so having regard to its functions.

In our opinion

1 The financial statements on pages 46 to 79 present fairly, on the basis referred to above, the state of affairs of the Banking Department at 29 February 2004 and the profit and cash flows for the year then ended.

2 The statements of account on pages 80 to 82 present fairly, on the basis described on page 81, the outcome of the transactions of the Issue Department for the year ended 29 February 2004 and its balances at that date.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

London
13 May 2004

Notes

a The maintenance and integrity of the Bank of England website is the responsibility of the Members of Court; the work carried out by the independent auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the independent auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website.

b Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Banking Department

Profit and loss account for the year ended 29 February 2004

	Notes	2004 £m	*2003 £m*
Profit after provisions and before tax	2	72	*89*
Payable to HM Treasury under Section 1(4) of the Bank of England Act 1946	5	(30)	*(34)*
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	6	(12)	*(21)*
Retained profit for the year	21	**30**	***34***

The difference between the reported profit before tax and retained profit and their historical cost equivalents is shown in note 2(c).

Statement of total recognised gains and losses for the year ended 29 February 2004

	Notes	2004 £m	*2003 £m*
Profit transferred to reserves		30	*34*
Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation of properties	13	24	*(54)*
		54	***(20)***

Balance sheet as at 29 February 2004

	Notes	**2004** £m	*2003* £m
Assets			
Cash		5	*4*
Items in course of collection	8	305	*394*
Due from the European Central Bank in respect of TARGET	9	86	*32*
Loans and advances to banks, the money market and customers	9	5,891	*6,747*
Debt securities	10	8,343	*8,713*
Equity investments and participating interest	11	29	*27*
Shares in group undertakings	12	18	*18*
Tangible fixed assets	13	208	*197*
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	14	628	*692*
Total assets		**15,513**	***16,824***
Liabilities			
Deposits by central banks	15	4,684	*5,104*
Deposits by banks and building societies	16	2,059	*2,578*
Customer accounts	17	1,027	*1,297*
Debt securities in issue	18	5,739	*5,859*
Other liabilities	19	444	*480*
		13,953	***15,318***
Capital	20	15	*15*
Revaluation reserves	21	158	*134*
Profit and loss account	21	1,387	*1,357*
Shareholder's funds	22	1,560	*1,506*
Total liabilities		**15,513**	***16,824***

M A King Governor
A M B Large Deputy Governor
D J S Cooksey Chairman of NedCo
P A C Smout Finance Director

Banking Department continued

Cash flow statement for the year ended 29 February 2004

	Notes	2004 £m	2003 £m
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	23	(500)	*504*
Corporation tax paid		(24)	*(26)*
Capital expenditure and financial investment	23	(3)	*(2)*
		(527)	***476***
Payment to HM Treasury under Section 1(4) of the Bank of England Act 1946		(34)	*(42)*
(Decrease)/increase in cash	23	**(561)**	***434***

Notes to the Banking Department financial statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a Form of presentation of the financial statements

Under the Bank of England Act 1998, the Bank, in preparing the financial statements of the Banking Department, is subject to requirements corresponding to the Companies Act requirements relating to a banking company. The Bank may, however, disregard a requirement to the extent that it considers it appropriate to do so having regard to its functions. The financial statements have, therefore, been prepared so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Banking Department and its profit, cash flows and total recognised gains and losses, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 255 of, and Part 1 of Schedule 9 to, the Companies Act 1985, applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom and Statements of Recommended Accounting Practice issued by the British Bankers' Association, in so far as they are appropriate having regard to its functions: that is, in particular, with the limitations explained below.

In exceptional circumstances, as part of its central banking functions, the Bank may act as "lender of last resort" to financial institutions in difficulty in order to prevent a loss of confidence spreading through the financial system as a whole. In some cases, confidence can best be sustained if the Bank's support is disclosed only when conditions giving rise to potentially systemic disturbance have improved. Accordingly, although the financial effects of such operations will be included in the Banking Department's financial statements in the year in which they occur, these financial statements may not explicitly identify the existence of such support. However, the existence of such support will be disclosed in the Annual Report when the need for secrecy or confidentiality has ceased.

As a result, the Bank's financial statements disclose less detail of the constituent elements of the profit and loss account, particularly of interest income and expense and any provisions for bad and doubtful debts, together with consequential restrictions in detailed disclosures in the balance sheet, cash flow statement and the notes to the financial statements than would be required under the Companies Act and applicable Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis of accounting, modified to include the revaluation of land and buildings. The Bank has adopted the transitional arrangements of FRS 17 (Retirement Benefits) which require supplementary disclosures and these are provided in note 4. The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently.

The Bank of England has no branches or operations abroad. The Members of Court consider that the activities of the Banking Department constitute a single business conducted in the United Kingdom and, accordingly, that no further analysis by business unit or geographic segment is appropriate for financial reporting purposes.

b Sterling debt securities

British Government securities and other sterling debt securities are held as investment securities and are stated at cost adjusted for the amortisation of premiums or discounts on a straight-line basis over the period to maturity; income includes the amortisation of premiums or discounts.

The treatment of non-sterling securities of foreign governments or other foreign institutions is described in (c) and (d) below.

Reverse repurchase agreements (repos) are accounted for as advances.

Notes to the Banking Department Financial Statements continued

c Non-sterling investment securities and the matching funding

Certain securities of foreign governments or other foreign institutions denominated in foreign currencies are held as investment securities by the Bank. Some of these securities are used via repo contracts to provide intra-day liquidity to the TARGET settlement system. The securities are held as investment securities and are recorded at cost, in currency of denomination, adjusted for the amortisation of premiums or discounts on a straight-line basis over the period to maturity. They are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the balance sheet date. These securities are funded by a combination of 3-year Notes and currency and interest rate swaps. Interest rate swaps are used to reduce interest rate repricing risk. Accordingly, the Notes and swaps are treated as hedging the foreign exchange and interest rate exposure of the securities.

Euro Notes are stated at issue proceeds, adjusted for the amortisation of premiums and discounts on a straight-line basis over the period to maturity. They are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the balance sheet date. Accrued interest is included in other liabilities. The treatment of swaps is disclosed in note (e) below.

Any net residual unrealised gain arising from exchange rate movements on the portfolio and the swaps and Notes used to fund it is taken to an investment revaluation reserve. Any net unrealised loss is taken to the profit and loss account.

d Other non-sterling securities and the matching funding

A further portfolio of securities of foreign governments or other foreign institutions denominated in foreign currencies and related currency and interest rate swaps was re-designated as available for active management with effect from 1 March 2003. Accordingly the portfolio and the related swaps have been accounted for at fair values from this date, with all gains and losses taken to the profit and loss account. This portfolio is funded by a rolling programme of Euro Bills.

Euro Bills are stated at issue proceeds plus accrued interest in euro. They are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the balance sheet date.

All exchange gains or losses arising from exchange rate movements on the portfolio and the swaps and Bills used to fund it are taken to the profit and loss account.

e Financial instruments

Financial instruments, including interest rate, currency and foreign exchange swaps, are held as hedging instruments for general banking business, the non-sterling investment portfolio and Euro Notes as described in (c) above. Instruments used for these purposes are recorded on an accruals basis to match the cash flows of the relevant hedged items. Financial instruments, including interest rate, currency and foreign exchange swaps, held in the actively managed portfolio are recorded at fair values. Where applicable, foreign exchange swaps used in money market operations are also recorded at fair value.

f Equity investments and participating interest

Equity investments and the participating interest are held as long-term investments and stated in the balance sheet at cost less any provision for impairment where necessary. The cost of the participating interest in the European Central Bank is its original cost in foreign currency, translated at the exchange rate ruling at the dates of acquisition.

g Tangible fixed assets

The Bank's properties are stated at a professional valuation as at 29 February 2004. The frequency of professional valuations is 3 years, with subsequent additions included at cost and provision made for depreciation as explained below. In the intervening years, Members of Court consider whether there is any circumstance which would necessitate a significant change to the value at which these properties are carried in the Bank's books. No account is taken of any liability to taxation which could arise if the properties were disposed of at their revalued amounts, except in respect of properties where a binding sale contract has been agreed.

Freehold land is not depreciated.

Equipment is stated at cost less depreciation.

Depreciation, on a straight-line basis, is charged as follows:

Freehold buildings	over the estimated future lives which range from ten to twenty-five years
Plant within buildings	over periods ranging from five to twenty years
Computers	over periods ranging from three to five years
Other equipment	over periods ranging from three to twenty years

h Bad and doubtful debts

Provision for bad and doubtful debts is made as considered necessary having regard to both specific and general factors. The general element arises in relation to existing losses which, although not separately identified, are known from experience to be present in any portfolio of bank advances. Provision made (less amounts released) during the year is charged against profits.

Specific provisions relate to identified advances at risk and are raised when it is considered that recovery of the outstanding balance is in serious doubt. The provision is the amount necessary to reduce the carrying value of the advance to its expected net realisable value including available collateral.

The general provision is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it remains appropriate in the context of the perceived risk inherent in the lending portfolio and the prevailing economic climate.

i Commitments on behalf of HM Treasury

Commitments on behalf of HM Treasury in foreign currencies and gold, or on a gold basis, arising in the course of operating the Exchange Equalisation Account, are not included in these financial statements as the Bank is concerned in such transactions only as agent.

j Deferred tax

Deferred tax is provided, at the estimated rates at which future taxation will become payable, on all material timing differences, and on property revaluations where there is a binding sale contract. Deferred tax balances are not discounted.

k Group undertakings

Shares in group undertakings are stated in the balance sheet at cost, less provision for permanent impairment in value. Dividends from group undertakings are included as income when declared.

l Leasing

Operating lease rentals are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the period to which they relate.

m Retirement benefits

The cost of pensions is assessed in accordance with the advice of an independent actuary and accounted for on the basis of charging the cost to the profit and loss account, on a systematic basis, over the employees' service lives using the projected unit method. Variations from the regular cost are spread over the remaining service lives of the members of the scheme.

Other post-retirement benefits, principally healthcare for certain pensioners, are accounted for on a basis similar to that used to account for pension obligations. A deferred tax asset has been recognised in full in respect of this liability under UITF 6.

Additional disclosures are made under the transitional arrangements of FRS 17.

n Foreign currency translation

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the exchange rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Other assets denominated in foreign currency, namely equity investments and participating interests, when held for the long term are stated at cost, being the sterling equivalent of the foreign currency at the date of acquisition of the asset. Income and expenditure are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the time of the transaction.

Notes to the Banking Department Financial Statements continued

2 PROFIT AFTER PROVISIONS AND BEFORE TAX

a Profit after provisions and before tax is stated after:

	2004 £m	2003 £m
i Staff costs (including Governors):		
wages and salaries	77	81
social security costs	7	7
pension costs and other post-retirement benefits	14	13
cost of severance schemes	10	17
ii Income:		
charges for services to HM Government, including charges to the Issue Department in respect of the Note Issue	61	66
iii Charges:		
operating lease rentals: property	2	2
equipment	1	1
depreciation of premises and equipment	13	15
legal fees (including VAT)	22	14
net effect of reclassification of security portfolio funded by Euro Bills and related swaps (note 10)	4	–

More details of the Bank's operations during the year are given in the Annual Report.

b Fees paid to the auditors:

	2004 £	2004 %	2003 £	2003 %
Audit of the Bank's financial statements	168,000	27%	165,000	33%
Audits of the accounts of subsidiary companies that are not consolidated	–	–	8,000	2%
Further assurance services:				
Review of controls on payments systems	110,000	18%	125,000	25%
Other assurance services	184,000	29%	106,000	22%
Sub-total for assurance services	462,000	74%	404,000	82%
Tax advisory services	30,000	5%	19,000	4%
Other non-audit services:				
Acting as liquidator of Minories Finance Ltd	40,000	6%	47,000	10%
Other services	94,000	15%	22,000	4%
Total	**626,000**	100%	***492,000***	100%
Of which borne by the Bank	**586,000**		***437,000***	
Borne by subsidiaries	**40,000**		***55,000***	

The figures shown in the above table for the year ended 28 February 2003 include fees paid to both PricewaterhouseCoopers and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. During the year ended 29 February 2004, an additional £51,000 *(2003 £46,000)* was paid for work performed as auditors of the Bank's pension funds, together with fees for non-audit services of £7,000 *(2003 £nil)*. These fees were borne by the respective funds and are not included in the amounts above.

The Bank's policy is only to use its auditors for non-audit work where it is appropriate to do so in the light of their expertise and experience of the Bank and the nature of the work being performed, or where they are selected on a competitive basis. All such work is notified to the Finance Director, so that it can be assessed if it is appropriate, on both financial and independence grounds. The Chairman of the Audit Committee will be notified of major items before work commences. The Audit Committee also receives a breakdown of all such fees.

c Note of historical cost profits and losses for the year ended 29 February 2004

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
Reported profit before taxation	72	*89*
Realisation of property revaluation gains of previous years	–	*4*
Difference between a historical cost depreciation charge and the actual depreciation charge for the year calculated on the revalued amount	4	*5*
Historical cost profit before taxation	**76**	***98***
Historical cost profit for the year retained after taxation and payments in lieu of dividend	**34**	***43***

3 EMOLUMENTS OF GOVERNORS AND NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

	2004	*2003*
	£	*£*
Remuneration of Governors and Non-Executive Directors	774,642	*811,809*
Payment in respect of notional benefits of travel on Bank business	880	*3,765*
	775,522	***815,574***

Full information on the remuneration (including pension arrangements) of the Members of Court (including the highest-paid Member of Court) is given in the Remuneration Report on pages 30 to 33.

4 PENSION COSTS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

In the preparation of their valuations referred to in this note, the actuaries have used the assumptions indicated, which Members of Court have accepted for the purposes of accounting and disclosure.

a Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits in the financial statements

The Bank operates defined-benefit pension schemes providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The assets of the schemes are held separately by the Bank in independent trustee-administered funds. The Bank also provides other post-retirement benefits, principally healthcare, for certain pensioners.

The main pension scheme, the Bank of England Pension Fund, is valued every three years by an independent qualified actuary with interim reviews in the intervening years. The latest available actuarial valuation was as at 28 February 2002; it used the projected unit method, and showed that the actuarial value of the Fund's assets at 28 February 2002 represented 112% of the benefits that had accrued to members at that date, after allowing for future increases in earnings and pensions in payment. (The interim review conducted as at 29 February 2004 implied a funding position of 106%.) The market value of the Fund's assets at 28 February 2002 was £1,611 million and the required future service contribution rate for the year to 29 February 2004 was 27.2% *(2003 27.2%)* of pensionable earnings. The principal assumptions used in the valuation were that, over the long term, the return on new investments would exceed the rate of increase in salaries by 2.25% p.a. and the rate of increase in pensions by 4.0% p.a. It was also assumed that the equity dividend growth would exceed the rate of future pensions increases by 1.0% p.a. The rate of inflation used in the valuation in 2002 was 2.5%. In computing the pension cost for the profit and loss account, the actuarial surplus is being spread over the average remaining service lives of the current employees, which is assessed at 12 years.

Despite the actuarial surpluses, given the volatility in the equity markets since the last valuation, the Bank made a contribution of 10% of pensionable earnings in respect of the year ended 29 February 2004 and intends to contribute at this rate for the period until the next valuation.

The other post-retirement benefits are unfunded and provision, based on actuarial advice, is made for the liability in the financial statements. The principal assumption used in determining the required provision was that the rate of increase in medical costs would exceed the rate of inflation by 3%.

£3 million *(2003 £4 million)*, representing the excess of the cost over the pension amounts funded, is included in other liabilities. £126 million *(2003 £121 million)* representing the provision in respect of other post-retirement benefits is included in other liabilities. The total cost of all post-retirement benefits for the year was £14 million *(2003 £13 million)*.

b Redundancy provisions

As part of redundancy arrangements with staff, the Bank may give enhanced pension entitlement in the form of added years' service or early pension rights. The costs of such benefits cannot be charged to the pension fund. The costs are therefore borne in the Bank's accounts. Provision is made for the costs of these benefits at the time the redundancy offer is announced based on actuarial advice. The provisions (a separate one is made in respect of each offer) are revalued by the actuary every three years with the latest being in 2004, using the same assumptions as for the pension fund. Interest is added to the provisions at inflation plus 4% on the advice of the actuary. The cost for the year was £10 million *(2003 £17 million)*. Total provisions at 29 February 2004 were £53 million *(2003 £49 million)*.

c Additional information required by FRS 17 is as follows

The Bank accounts for pensions in accordance with SSAP 24. FRS 17 'Retirement Benefits' will change the basis of accounting for pensions and other post-retirement benefits. It requires certain disclosures in the periods prior to adoption.

The financial assumptions used to calculate scheme liabilities on a FRS 17 basis were:

	2004	*2003*	*2002*
	%	*%*	*%*
Rate of increase in salaries	4.3	*4.3*	*4.3*
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	2.5	*2.5*	*2.5*
Discount rate	5.4	*5.3*	*5.8*
Inflation assumption (RPI)	2.5	*2.5*	*2.5*

The assets in the scheme and the expected rate of return were:

	2004		*2003*		*2002*	
	Long-term rate of return expected	**Value**	*Long-term rate of return expected*	*Value*	*Long-term rate of return expected*	*Value*
	%	**£m**	*%*	*£m*	*%*	*£m*
Equities	7.9	1,035	*8.8*	*958*	*7.9*	*1,267*
Bonds	4.7	360	*4.6*	*203*	*5.0*	*226*
Properties	6.6	84	*7.0*	*96*	*6.9*	*110*
Cash and other assets	4.0	34	*4.0*	*19*	*4.6*	*31*
Total market value of investments	6.9	**1,513**	*7.9*	***1,276***	*7.4*	***1,634***
Present value of scheme liabilities		**1,572**		***1,569***		***1,428***
(Deficit)/surplus in the scheme:		**(59)**		***(293)***		***206***
Related deferred tax asset/(liability)		18		*88*		*(61)*
Net pension (liability)/asset		**(41)**		***(205)***		***145***

Other post-retirement benefits, calculated under FRS 17 using the above assumptions, together with a medical claims escalation rate of 5.6% *(2003 5.6%; 2002 5.6%)* would be £94 million *(2003 £72 million)*, with an associated deferred tax asset of £28 million *(2003 £22 million)*. The charge to the profit and loss account in respect of these would be £4 million *(2003 £4 million)*, and a loss of £21 million *(2003 £5 million)*, recognised in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses. The provisions for redundancy-related pension costs arising under (b) above, if calculated according to the requirements of FRS 17, would amount to £55 million *(2003 £57 million)* with an associated deferred tax asset of £17 million *(2003 £17 million)*. The charge to the profit and loss account in respect of these would be £3 million *(2003 £9 million)* and a gain of £1 million *(2003 £1 million)* recognised in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses. The reduction in the provision for other post-retirement benefits under FRS 17 is due to the discount rate, as now prescribed by the Standard, differing to that considered appropriate under current accounting requirements.

Notes to the Banking Department Financial Statements continued

Analysis of the amount chargeable to operating profit:

	2004 £m	2003 £m
Current service cost	26	22
Past service cost	3	2
Gain on curtailment	(8)	–
Total operating charge	**21**	***24***

Analysis of the amount recognisable in income:

	2004 £m	2003 £m
Expected return on pension scheme assets	98	118
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	(81)	(80)
Net return	**17**	***38***

Analysis of the amount recognisable in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses:

	2004 £m	2003 £m
Actual return, less expected return on pension scheme assets	203	(401)
Experience gains arising on the scheme liabilities	3	12
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of the scheme liabilities	24	(124)
Actuarial gain/(loss) recognised in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses	**230**	***(513)***

Movement in (deficit)/surplus during year:

	2004 £m	2003 £m
(Deficit)/surplus in scheme at beginning of year	(293)	206
Movement in year:		
Contributions paid	8	–
Current service cost	(26)	(22)
Past service cost	(3)	(2)
Other finance income	17	38
Gain on curtailment	8	–
Actuarial gain/(loss)	230	(513)
Deficit in scheme at end of year	**(59)**	***(293)***

History of experience gains and losses:

	2004 £m	2003 £m
Difference between the expected and the actual return on scheme assets	203	(401)
Percentage of the scheme's assets	13%	32%
Experience gains on scheme liabilities	3	12
Percentage of the present value of the scheme's liabilities	–	1%
Total gain/(loss) recognised in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses	230	(513)
Percentage of the present value of the scheme's liabilities	15%	33%

If these amounts had been recognised in the financial statements, the assets, liabilities and profit and loss account at 29 February 2004 would have been as follows:

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
Assets per balance sheet	15,513	*16,824*
Less deferred tax asset (included in other assets)	(36)	*(29)*
Total assets under FRS 17	**15,477**	***16,795***
Total liabilities excluding shareholder's funds per balance sheet	13,953	*15,318*
Less provisions already made for unfunded post-retirement benefits and redundancy costs	(179)	*(170)*
Pension balance under SSAP 24	(3)	*(4)*
Deferred tax other than in respect of post-retirement assets and liabilities	19	*23*
	13,790	*15,167*
Unfunded post-retirement and redundancy liability under FRS 17 (net of deferred tax)	104	*90*
Pension liabilities (net of deferred tax)	41	*205*
Total liabilities including pension liabilities	13,935	*15,462*
Profit and loss account per balance sheet	1,387	*1,357*
Add pension balance under SSAP 24 (net of deferred tax)	2	*3*
Add provisions made for unfunded post-retirement benefits (net of deferred tax)	125	*119*
	1,514	*1,479*
Pension reserve	(145)	*(295)*
Profit and loss account	1,369	*1,184*
Share capital	15	*15*
Revaluation reserve	158	*134*
Total liabilities and shareholder's funds including pension reserve under FRS 17	**15,477**	***16,795***

5 PAYABLE TO HM TREASURY UNDER SECTION 1(4) OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND ACT 1946

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
Payable 5 April	14	*16*
Payable 5 October	16	*18*
	30	***34***

Notes to the Banking Department Financial Statements *continued*

6 TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
United Kingdom corporation tax at an average rate of 30% *(2003 30%)*	20	*28*
Prior year – corporation tax	(1)	*1*
Deferred taxation	(7)	*(8)*
	12	***21***

The charge for taxation is computed on the residual profit on ordinary activities after deduction of the amount payable to HM Treasury. The current tax liability of £10 million *(2003 £15 million)* is included in other liabilities.

A reconciliation of the reported current tax charge for the year to the charge that would result from applying the standard UK corporation tax rate to profit before tax is given below:

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
Profit on ordinary activities before tax and after dividend	**42**	***55***
Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of UK corporation tax of 30%	13	*16*
Depreciation in excess of capital allowances	1	*2*
Post-retirement cost not allowable in year	1	*2*
Other disallowables	5	*8*
Current tax charge for period	**20**	***28***

The deferred tax asset of £36 million *(2003 £29 million)*, included in other assets, is made up as follows:

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
Accelerated capital allowances	1	*2*
Other timing differences	(37)	*(31)*
	(36)	***(29)***

The movement on the balance for deferred taxation is as follows:

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
At 1 March 2003	(29)	*(21)*
Profit and loss account	(7)	*(8)*
At 29 February 2004	**(36)**	***(29)***

No material tax liability would arise if the properties were sold at their current book values. Where fair values of certain financial instruments are disclosed but not recognised, tax estimated at £38 million *(2003 £86 million)* would be payable if the instruments were realised at these values.

7 ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

a Sterling/non-sterling analysis of assets and liabilities

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
Assets:		
Denominated in sterling	5,036	*5,467*
Denominated in currencies other than sterling	10,477	*11,357*
	15,513	***16,824***
Liabilities:		
Denominated in sterling	5,952	*6,139*
Denominated in currencies other than sterling	9,561	*10,685*
	15,513	***16,824***

An analysis by currency of the assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency is given in table (d) below. Major movements in the balance sheet are described on page 35 of the *Annual Report*.

b Derivatives and other financial instruments

The Bank may use foreign exchange swaps as a technique for its open market operations or as hedges for currency exposure in the deposit book. The Bank also uses currency, foreign exchange and interest rate swaps to hedge the foreign currency denominated investment securities (including those held in relation to TARGET), financed via the Euro Note issue. The effect of these instruments is included in the interest rate repricing and currency analysis tables. These tables include short-term debtors and creditors.

In addition, the Bank uses currency, foreign exchange and interest rate swaps to match the interest rate and exchange rate risks in its portfolio of other non-sterling securities carried at fair value. Instruments used in this portfolio are included in the Value-at-Risk (VaR) disclosures for market risk in (e) below.

Further information about the Bank's use of financial instruments and the management of the associated risks is given in the Report from Members of Court. In particular, market risk is covered on page 39.

c Interest rate repricing

The following table summarises the Bank's interest rate exposure in the form of an interest rate repricing table. This shows when the interest rate earned or charged on assets and liabilities can change. The table can therefore be used as the basis for an assessment of the sensitivity of the Bank's net income to interest rate movements.

Notes to the Banking Department Financial Statements continued

Year ended 29 February 2004

	Not more than 3 months	More than 3 months but not more than 6 months	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 5 years	More than 5 years	Non interest bearing	Actively managed portfolio	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assets:								
Due from the European Central Bank in respect of TARGET	86	–	–	–	–	–	–	86
Loans and advances to banks, the money market and customers	4,020	928	880	3	2	–	58	5,891
Debt securities (sterling)	–	–	79	830	2,046	–	–	2,955
Equity investments and participating interest	–	–	–	–	–	29	–	29
Debt securities (non-sterling)	–	–	192	3,010	–	–	2,186	5,388
Other assets:								
financial	30	13	13	–	–	641	205	902
non-financial	–	–	–	–	–	262	–	262
Total assets	**4,136**	**941**	**1,164**	**3,843**	**2,048**	**932**	**2,449**	**15,513**
Liabilities:								
Deposits by central banks	2,770	932	958	–	–	24	–	4,684
Deposits by banks and building societies	233	–	–	–	–	1,826	–	2,059
Customer accounts	662	5	–	–	–	360	–	1,027
Debt securities in issue	1,803	598	1,335	2,003	–	–	–	5,739
Other liabilities:								
financial	–	–	–	–	–	148	48	196
non-financial	–	–	–	–	–	248	–	248
Shareholder's funds	–	–	–	–	–	1,560	–	1,560
Less: funding of the actively managed portfolio	(1,803)	(598)	–	–	–	–	2,401	–
Total liabilities	**3,665**	**937**	**2,293**	**2,003**	**–**	**4,166**	**2,449**	**15,513**
Off balance sheet items	(29)	–	–	29	–	–	–	–
Interest rate repricing gap	442	4	(1,129)	1,869	2,048	(3,234)	–	
Cumulative gap	442	446	(683)	1,186	3,234	–		

A positive repricing gap means that more assets than liabilities reprice in this period. Subject to the broad time bands above and the mix of currencies involved, a positive repricing gap means that the Bank's net interest income would benefit in that time band as a result of an increase in interest rates. A negative repricing gap indicates the reverse.

Year ended 28 February 2003

	Not more than 3 months	More than 3 months but not more than 6 months	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 5 years	More than 5 years	Non interest bearing	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assets:							
Due from the European Central Bank in respect of TARGET	32	–	–	–	–	–	32
Loans and advances to banks, the money market and customers	3,223	1,725	1,782	2	2	13	6,747
Debt securities (sterling)	–	–	68	584	2,175	–	2,827
Equity investments and participating interest	–	–	–	–	–	27	27
Debt securities (non-sterling)	–	–	731	5,156	–	–	5,887
Other assets:							
financial	–	–	–	–	–	1,057	1,057
non-financial	–	–	–	–	–	247	247
Total assets	**3,255**	**1,725**	**2,581**	**5,742**	**2,177**	**1,344**	**16,824**
Liabilities:							
Deposits by central banks	1,583	1,724	1,782	–	–	15	5,104
Deposits by banks and building societies	885	–	–	–	–	1,693	2,578
Customer accounts	1,247	–	–	–	–	50	1,297
Debt securities in issue	1,840	610	1,370	2,039	–	–	5,859
Other liabilities:							
financial	–	–	–	–	–	232	232
non-financial	–	–	–	–	–	248	248
Shareholder's funds	–	–	–	–	–	1,506	1,506
Total liabilities	**5,555**	**2,334**	**3,152**	**2,039**	**–**	**3,744**	**16,824**
Off balance sheet items	1,548	1,014	(27)	(2,111)	–	(424)	–
Interest rate repricing gap	(752)	406	(598)	1,591	2,177	(2,824)	
Cumulative gap	(752)	(346)	(944)	647	2,824		

Notes to the Banking Department Financial Statements continued

d Currency exposure year ended 29 February 2004

	Foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities					
	US dollar £m	**Gold £m**	**Euro £m**	**Yen £m**	**Other £m**	**Total £m**
Assets:						
Due from the European Central Bank in respect of TARGET	–	–	86	–	–	86
Loans and advances to banks, the money market and customers	2,499	229	1,601	–	125	4,454
Debt securities	57	–	4,143	1,181	7	5,388
Equity investments and participating interest	–	–	27	–	2	29
Other assets	86	–	374	58	2	520
	2,642	**229**	**6,231**	**1,239**	**136**	**10,477**
Liabilities:						
Deposits by central banks	1,511	229	1,473	–	119	3,332
Deposits by banks and building societies	134	–	74	–	–	208
Customer accounts	106	–	18	–	1	125
Debt securities in issue	–	–	5,739	–	–	5,739
Other liabilities	6	–	124	24	3	157
	1,757	**229**	**7,428**	**24**	**123**	**9,561**
Net	**885**	**–**	**(1,197)**	**1,215**	**13**	**916**
Off balance sheet items	**(885)**	**–**	**1,225**	**(1,216)**	**(12)**	**(888)**

The functional currency of all operations is sterling.

Included in assets denominated in US dollars are advances equivalent to £749 million *(2003 £788 million)* which are matched by foreign exchange swaps that are off balance sheet so that no significant foreign currency exposure arises.

Included in assets denominated in euro are advances equivalent to £19 million *(2003 £nil)* which are matched by foreign exchange swaps that are off balance sheet so that no significant foreign currency exposure arises.

These advances, together with the swaps, match sterling deposits taken in from central banks.

Included in assets denominated in euro and Japanese yen are various securities and deposits. These assets were predominantly matched by Euro Bills and Euro Notes together with currency, foreign exchange and interest rate swaps. The swaps matching the non-sterling investment securities are held off-balance sheet. The forward leg amounts of euro-yen swaps matching these securities are also shown as an off balance sheet item in the table above.

The table above includes non-sterling securities carried at fair value and the related funding by Euro Bills. The market risk on these securities is also included in (e) below.

Currency exposure year ended 28 February 2003

	Foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities					
	US dollar	**Gold**	**Euro**	**Yen**	**Other**	**Total**
	£m	**£m**	**£m**	**£m**	**£m**	**£m**
Assets:						
Due from the European Central Bank in respect of TARGET	–	–	32	–	–	32
Loans and advances to banks, the money market and customers	2,730	478	1,506	–	309	5,023
Debt securities	155	–	4,481	1,245	6	5,887
Equity investments and participating interest	–	–	25	–	2	27
Other assets	7	–	329	52	–	388
	2,892	**478**	**6,373**	**1,297**	**317**	**11,357**
Liabilities:						
Deposits by central banks	1,709	478	1,185	–	308	3,680
Deposits by banks and building societies	138	–	716	–	–	854
Customer accounts	94	–	12	1	1	108
Debt securities in issue	–	–	5,859	–	–	5,859
Other liabilities	12	–	159	13	–	184
	1,953	**478**	**7,931**	**14**	**309**	**10,685**
Net	**939**	**–**	**(1,558)**	**1,283**	**8**	**672**
Off balance sheet items	**(939)**	**–**	**1,585**	**(1,283)**	**(7)**	**(644)**

e Market risk exposure

The Bank uses VaR as the primary mechanism for monitoring and controlling market risk on the balance sheet. VaR is an estimate, with a confidence level of 99%, of the potential loss which might arise if existing positions were held unchanged for 10 business days. A summary of the VaR figures for the actively managed portfolio during 2003/04 is given in the table below.

Actively managed portfolio VaR for year ended 29 February 2004

Average	High	Low	Year-end
£m	**£m**	**£m**	**£m**
1.24	2.12	0.62	0.62

Notes to the Banking Department Financial Statements *continued*

f Fair values of financial assets, financial liabilities and derivatives

The table below compares the book value and fair value of financial assets, financial liabilities and derivatives where there is a fair value which can be ascertained. No meaningful fair values can readily be obtained for the other assets and liabilities, in the absence of appropriate liquid markets.

	2004		*2003*	
	Book value £m	**Fair value £m**	*Book value £m*	*Fair value £m*
Assets:				
Non-sterling investment securities	3,202	3,355	*5,886*	*6,022*
Other non-sterling securities	2,186	2,186	*–*	*–*
Sterling debt securities	2,955	3,119	*2,827*	*3,129*
	8,343	**8,660**	***8,713***	***9,151***
Liabilities:				
Euro Notes	3,338	3,387	*3,409*	*3,504*
Euro Bills	2,401	2,401	*2,450*	*2,451*
	5,739	**5,788**	***5,859***	***5,955***

	2004			*2003*		
	Notional principal £m	**Book value £m**	**Fair value £m**	*Notional principal £m*	*Book value £m*	*Fair value £m*
Derivatives hedging non-sterling investment securities and Euro Note liabilities: *(2003 Euro Bill and Euro Note liabilities)*						
Cross-currency swaps						
Positive value	749	94	170	*680*	*268*	*261*
Negative value	48	(32)	(36)	*2,538*	*(48)*	*(34)*
Foreign exchange swaps	–	–	–	*11*	*–*	*–*
Interest rate swaps						
Positive value	367	5	8	*2,834*	*179*	*51*
Negative value	414	(9)	(3)	*2,146*	*(133)*	*(62)*
Other derivative instruments used as hedges:						
Foreign exchange swaps	825	(57)	3	*802*	*3*	*(4)*
	2,403	**1**	**142**	***9,011***	***269***	***212***

At 1 March 2003, foreign government and other securities previously held as investment securities were classified as 'other non-sterling securities' and from that date have formed a portfolio which is available for active management (note 10). The derivative instruments formerly used to hedge these securities were also reclassified to match the treatment of the securities. Accordingly these have been accounted for on a fair value basis since 1 March 2003. These are detailed in the table below.

		2004	
	Notional value principal £m	**Positive fair value £m**	**Negative fair value £m**
Derivatives matched to other non-sterling securities and Euro Bill liabilities			
Cross currency swaps			
Positive value	681	99	–
Negative value	33	–	(3)
Interest rate swaps			
Positive value	2,464	106	–
Negative value	1,396	–	(45)
	4,574	**205**	**(48)**

There were no derivatives carried at fair value for year ended 28 February 2003.

Notes to fair value tables:

i Market values have been used to determine the fair values for Treasury and other eligible bills, debt securities, Euro Bills and Euro Notes.

ii Non-sterling debt securities and foreign exchange swaps are translated into sterling at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Euro Bills and Euro Notes are translated into sterling at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date.

iii The forward legs of the transactions, which hedge the currency exposure, are translated at the same exchange rates as the underlying positions.

iv Fair values of swaps are based on discounted cash flows.

v Fair values of swaps included within the balance sheet are within other assets and other liabilities.

Notes to the Banking Department Financial Statements *continued*

g Maturity of notional principal amounts and replacement costs

At 29 February 2004, the notional principal amounts and replacement costs, by residual maturity, of the Bank's derivatives were as follows:

	2004		*2003*	
	1 year or less	**More than 1 year but not more than 5 years**	*1 year or less*	*More than 1 year but not more than 5 years*
	£m	**£m**	*£m*	*£m*
Derivatives matched to securities and Euro Note liabilities:				
(2003 Euro Bill and Euro Note liabilities)				
Cross-currency swaps				
Notional principal	36	761	*1,772*	*1,446*
Replacement cost	5	165	*187*	*74*
Foreign exchange swaps				
Notional principal	–	–	*11*	*–*
Interest rate swaps				
Notional principal	–	781	*1,053*	*3,927*
Replacement cost	–	8	*12*	*39*
Derivatives matched to other non-sterling securities and Euro Bill liabilities:				
Cross-currency swaps				
Notional principal	225	489	*–*	*–*
Replacement cost	40	59	*–*	*–*
Interest rate swaps				
Notional principal	756	3,104	*–*	*–*
Replacement cost	20	86	*–*	*–*
Other derivative instruments used as hedges:				
Foreign exchange swaps				
Notional principal	825	–	*802*	*–*
Replacement cost	3	–	*–*	*–*
Total notional principal	**1,842**	**5,135**	***3,638***	***5,373***
Total replacement cost	**68**	**318**	***199***	***113***

All derivative counterparties are financial institutions. The maximum credit exposure after taking account of netting agreements was £226 million *(2003 £224 million)*. The exposure, net of collateral held by the Bank, was £92 million *(2003 £86 million)*.

h Unrecognised gains and losses on hedging instruments

As explained above, the Bank uses currency, foreign exchange and interest rate swaps to hedge exposures in relation to foreign currency denominated securities and the funding via Euro Notes. These swaps are accounted for on an accruals basis in line with the underlying items being hedged. Any gains or losses that would occur if these items were carried at market value are therefore not recognised in the profit and loss account until they mature or are sold.

At 29 February 2004, the unrecognised gains on financial instruments used for hedging were £141 million *(2003 losses £57 million)*. Net gains arising before 1 March 2003 and recognised in the year to 29 February 2004 amounted to £15 million *(2003 £46 million)*. These net gains include losses of £33 million recognised on 1 March 2003 on those swaps held within the portfolio designated as available for active management. Net gains of £213 million arose in the year to 29 February 2004 *(2003 £1 million)* but were not recognised in the year. Of the unrecognised gains of £141 million at 29 February 2004 *(2003 losses £57 million)*, £71 million *(2003 net losses £58 million)* are expected to be recognised in the year to 28 February 2005 and gains of £70 million *(2003 £1 million)* in subsequent years.

8 ITEMS IN COURSE OF COLLECTION

These represent uncleared items due from banks.

9 TARGET BALANCES AND LOANS AND ADVANCES TO BANKS, THE MONEY MARKET AND CUSTOMERS

a Due from the European Central Bank in respect of TARGET

This balance, denominated in euro, arises from the operation of the TARGET settlement system. This system, which links the real-time settlement systems in all countries of the European Union (EU), enables payments to be made across borders within the EU. Such payments result in claims arising between the central banks in the member countries and with the European Central Bank. The individual positions that arise intra-day between the central banks are netted into a single position with the European Central Bank.

	2004		*2003*	
	£m	**€m**	*£m*	*€m*
Due from the European Central Bank in respect of TARGET	**86**	**129**	***32***	***47***

b Loans and advances to banks, the money market and customers

These balances include advances and reverse repos, arising as part of the Bank's open market operations, as well as advances matching the deposits taken from central banks (note 15). Amounts are stated after provisions, where appropriate. The level and composition of the Bank's open market operations, including the split between Banking and Issue Departments, depends upon market conditions.

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
Remaining maturity:		
Loans and advances		
over 5 years	2	*2*
5 years or less but over 1 year	3	*2*
1 year or less but over 3 months	1,807	*3,507*
3 months or less	3,976	*2,571*
Repayable on demand	103	*665*
	5,891	***6,747***

10 DEBT SECURITIES

	2004 Balance sheet £m	2004 Market value £m	*2003 Balance sheet £m*	*2003 Market value £m*
Investment securities:				
British Government securities, listed on a recognised UK exchange	1,760	1,900	*1,699*	*1,931*
Other sterling securities, listed on recognised exchanges	1,195	1,219	*1,128*	*1,198*
	2,955	**3,119**	***2,827***	***3,129***
Foreign government securities, listed on recognised exchanges	3,161	3,310	*4,827*	*4,937*
Other non-sterling securities, listed on recognised exchanges	41	45	*1,059*	*1,085*
	3,202	**3,355**	***5,886***	***6,022***
Other non-sterling securities				
Foreign government securities, listed on recognised exchanges	1,485	1,485	–	–
Other non-sterling securities, listed on recognised exchanges	701	701	–	–
	2,186	**2,186**	–	–
	8,343	**8,660**	***8,713***	***9,151***
Due within one year	816	825	*799*	*805*
Due one year and over	7,527	7,835	*7,914*	*8,346*
	8,343	**8,660**	***8,713***	***9,151***

	Cost £m	Discounts & (premiums) £m	Carrying value £m
British Government and other sterling securities:			
At 1 March 2003	2,784	43	2,827
Amortisation of discounts		7	7
Amortisation of premiums		(27)	(27)
Purchases	239	(1)	238
Redemptions	(68)	(22)	(90)
At 29 February 2004	**2,955**	**–**	**2,955**

	2004 £m	*2003 £m*
Unamortised discounts on British Government and other sterling securities	24	*28*
Unamortised premiums on British Government and other sterling securities	(237)	*(216)*
	(213)	***(188)***

British Government securities and other sterling securities are held as investments and are one of the principal sources of income for the Bank. The Bank holds these securities for the long term, generally to maturity.

Foreign government and other non-sterling securities held as investment securities:

	Cost £m	Discounts & (premiums) £m	Carrying value £m
At 1 March 2003	5,995	(109)	5,886
Reclassified as 'other non-sterling securities'	(2,298)	52	(2,246)
Amortisation of discounts		2	2
Amortisation of premiums		(63)	(63)
Purchases	1,354	(26)	1,328
Redemptions	(1,754)	33	(1,721)
Foreign currency revaluation effects	10	6	16
At 29 February 2004	**3,307**	**(105)**	**3,202**

	2004 **£m**	*2003* *£m*
Unamortised discounts on non-sterling securities	–	*86*
Unamortised premiums on non-sterling securities	(120)	*(303)*
	(120)	***(217)***

The figures for 2003 included unamortised discounts of £4 million and unamortised premiums of £122 million for securities now reclassified as 'other non-sterling securities'.

The portfolio of foreign government and other non-sterling securities held as investment securities is funded by the Bank's issue of Euro Notes and a combination of currency and interest rate swaps *(2003 Euro Bills and Euro Notes)*. Part of the portfolio, denominated in euro, is held to enable the Bank to provide liquidity in the TARGET settlement system (note 9(a)). These securities, amounting to £1,711 million at 29 February 2004 *(2003 £2,246 million)* are used to generate this liquidity via intra-day repo contracts. Securities amounting to £450 million held within the 'other non-sterling securities', as described below, were also used for this purpose at the year end. The remainder of the non-sterling investment portfolio was mainly denominated in euro but with a portion in United States dollars and Japanese yen, with currency swaps into euro. Of these securities, £8 million *(2003 £443 million)* were subject to other (or 'longer-term') repo contracts at the year end.

At 1 March 2003 certain foreign government and other non-sterling securities, previously held as investment securities, and funded by the Bank's issue of Euro Bills, were reclassified as 'other non-sterling securities' and from that date have formed a portfolio which is available for active management. Accordingly these securities have been accounted for on a fair value basis since 1 March 2003. The net effect of this reclassification was a reduction in the value of the securities and related swaps of £4 million on 1 March 2003. It is not practicable to determine the difference between the fair value of the 'other non-sterling securities' and cost, where fair value is higher than cost.

11 EQUITY INVESTMENTS AND PARTICIPATING INTEREST

	2004		*2003*	
	Balance sheet cost £m	**Members of Court valuation £m**	*Balance sheet cost £m*	*Members of Court valuation £m*
Investment securities – unlisted equity investments	2	107	2	99
Participating interest – unlisted	27	27	25	25
	29	**134**	***27***	***124***

Notes to the Banking Department Financial Statements *continued*

a Investment securities

The principal holding of equity investments included in investment securities is as follows:

	Percentage held	
	2004	*2003*
Bank for International Settlements (shares of 5,000 Special Drawing Rights (25% paid)) (incorporated in Switzerland)	**8.7**	***9.0***

On 1 April 2003, the Bank for International Settlements shares were re-denominated from 2,500 Swiss gold francs into Special Drawing Rights. The value of the Bank's investment was not affected by this change. The Bank's shareholding in the Bank for International Settlements has been diluted during the year as a result of the issue of shares to new members.

b Participating interest

The European Central Bank

This is the sterling cost of the Bank's contribution of €39.9 million *(2003 €36.7 million)* to the capital of the European Central Bank. This contribution, which is not refundable, represents 5% of the capital contribution of the UK's full share (of the European Central Bank's capital) that would have been payable had the UK participated in economic and monetary union. This contribution has been accounted for as an investment. The Bank of England's contribution increased by €3.2 million with effect from 1 January 2004 due to a change in the relative shares of central banks in the capital of the European Central Bank. Such changes are required every 5 years under the statute of the European Central Bank and this was the first such change since the European Central Bank's establishment. The Bank's share increased from 14.6811% to 15.9764%. On 1 May 2004, the Bank subscribed further capital of €16.1 million to the European Central Bank, as a contribution to the increase in the European Central Bank's costs caused by the accession of ten new countries. This accession has also led to a realignment of the shareholdings in the capital of the European Central Bank of existing member countries. The Bank's shareholding decreased from 15.9764% to 14.3822% as a result of this change.

12 SHARES IN GROUP UNDERTAKINGS

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
Cost of shares in group undertakings	**18**	***18***

The financial statements of the subsidiaries detailed below have not been consolidated with those of the Banking Department because, in the opinion of the Members of Court, the effect of including their assets, liabilities and results with those of the Banking Department would not be material.

a Minories Finance Ltd (in members' voluntary liquidation)

Minories Finance Ltd (MFL) a wholly-owned subsidiary which is incorporated in Great Britain has been in members' voluntary liquidation throughout the year ended 29 February 2004. The investment in this company is included in the Bank's balance sheet at 29 February 2004 at £12.5 million *(2003 £12.5 million)*. The Bank expects to recover in excess of its investment and accordingly no provision has been made in these financial statements.

As a condition of reductions in capital in June 1987 and November 1996, the Bank gave indemnities whereby any future deficit in MFL's shareholders' funds would be made good by the Bank up to a maximum of £62.5 million in total.

b Other group undertakings

Investments in other group undertakings, all of which are wholly owned and incorporated in Great Britain, are stated in the Bank's balance sheet at an aggregate cost of £5 million and include the following subsidiary:

B.E. Property Holdings Ltd (non-trading)   5,000,000 shares of £1

The aggregate net assets of these subsidiary companies are £5 million.

On 7 March 2003, the Bank's note printing operations were transferred to a wholly owned subsidiary, Debden Security Printing Ltd, together with around 240 employees, plant and equipment with a net book value of £10 million, other assets of £2 million and liabilities of £3 million, creating inter-company loans of £9 million. On 31 March 2003, the entire share capital of Debden Security Printing Ltd of £100,000 was sold at book value to De La Rue International Ltd, a subsidiary of De La Rue Plc, and inter-company loans of £9 million were repaid. The result of this company attributable to the Bank has been dealt with in the financial statements of the Banking Department.

13 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold land and buildings	Equipment	**£m** Total
Cost or valuation			
At 1 March 2003	196	104	300
Additions	5	5	10
Disposals	–	(46)	(46)
Revaluation	(4)	–	(4)
At 29 February 2004	**197**	**63**	**260**
Accumulated depreciation			
At 1 March 2003	19	84	103
Charge for the year	9	4	13
On disposals	–	(36)	(36)
Written back on revaluation	(28)	–	(28)
At 29 February 2004	**–**	**52**	**52**
Net book value at 29 February 2004	**197**	**11**	**208**
Net book value at 28 February 2003	***177***	***20***	***197***
Cost or valuation at 29 February 2004 comprised:			
At valuation	197	–	197
At cost	–	63	63
	197	**63**	**260**

The figures for property interests reflect a professional valuation, on an existing use value basis, of Bank properties at 29 February 2004, by Nelson Bakewell, members of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

The Bank principally occupies its properties for its own purposes.

Contracts for capital expenditure authorised by the Members of Court and outstanding at 29 February 2004 amounted to less than £1 million *(2003 £5 million)*.

Notes to the Banking Department Financial Statements continued

14 PREPAYMENTS, ACCRUED INCOME AND OTHER ASSETS

	2004 £m	2003 £m
Non-sterling debt securities interest and swaps accruals	234	579
Sterling debt securities interest accruals	58	57
Fair values of derivatives of actively managed portfolio:		
currency swaps	99	–
interest rate swaps	106	–
Deferred tax (note 6)	36	29
Short-term debtors and other assets	95	27
	628	***692***

15 DEPOSITS BY CENTRAL BANKS

	2004 £m	2003 £m
Remaining maturity:		
1 year or less but over 3 months	1,890	3,506
3 months or less but not repayable on demand	2,366	924
Repayable on demand	428	674
	4,684	***5,104***

The Bank takes deposits from central banks in sterling, other currencies and gold.

16 DEPOSITS BY BANKS AND BUILDING SOCIETIES

	2004 £m	2003 £m
Remaining maturity:		
3 months or less but not repayable on demand:		
Repurchase agreements	8	485
Other deposits	134	–
Repayable on demand:		
Euro deposits	66	231
Other deposits	34	182
Cash ratio deposits	1,817	1,680
	2,059	***2,578***

Cash ratio deposits are computed on the basis of banks' and building societies' eligible liabilities and are interest free. Any change in the amount due, as a result of either becoming or ceasing to be an eligible institution for the purpose of the Bank of England Act 1998, the twice-yearly recalculation of deposits or a change in the percentage used for calculation, is payable immediately. Under the Bank of England Act 1998, the percentage used in calculating the cash ratio deposits is set by HM Treasury, having regard to the financial needs of the Bank and subject to the approval of both Houses of Parliament. Other deposits in both euro and sterling are held by banks for operational reasons connected to settlement systems. Cash deposits in US dollars are taken from counterparties as collateral for certain currency swaps.

17 CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
1 year or less but over 3 months		
Public deposits	5	*–*
3 months or less but not repayable on demand:		
Public deposits	55	*14*
Other deposits	–	*23*
Repayable on demand:		
Public deposits	691	*982*
Deposit by Issue Department	53	*48*
Other deposits	223	*230*
	1,027	***1,297***

Public deposits are the balances on HM Government accounts, including Exchequer, National Loans Fund, Debt Management Office, National Debt Commissioners and dividend accounts.

18 DEBT SECURITIES IN ISSUE

a Summary

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
Euro Notes	3,338	*3,409*
Euro Bills	2,401	*2,450*
	5,739	***5,859***

b Euro Notes

On 29 January 2004, €2.2 billion of the 2004 Euro Notes matured at par. The Bank created a new series of €2.2 billion of Euro Notes maturing on 29 January 2007. This is the fourth issue in the series of three-year Bank of England Euro Notes. As with the previous issues of Notes, these securities were sold by auction; the first tranche of €1,000 million was sold in January 2004 and a further auction of €1,000 million was held on 23 March 2004. The Bank allots any roundings for the auction process to itself and also retains €100 million of each tranche, which may be made available for sale and repurchase transactions with market makers in the programme. Pending sale to third parties, the Notes are retained by the Bank. It is appropriate to show only the Notes sold to third parties as liabilities on the balance sheet. The position at 29 February 2004 was as follows:

	2004		*2003*	
	£m	**€m nominal**	*£m*	*€m nominal*
Total amount issued	4,410	6,600	*4,504*	*6,600*
Held by the Bank of England	(1,072)	(1,600)	*(1,095)*	*(1,600)*
Liabilities to third parties	**3,338**	**5,000**	***3,409***	***5,000***

Of the above liabilities to third parties £1,335 million *(2003 £1,370 million)* fall due within one year.

Notes to the Banking Department Financial Statements *continued*

c Euro bills

Original maturity of Bills in issue

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
3 months	1,202	*1,227*
6 months	1,199	*1,223*
	2,401	***2,450***

These Bills are issued by the Bank and denominated in euro. They form a regular rolling programme on the Bank's balance sheet. Of the above, £1,803 million *(2003 £1,840 million)* are due within three months or less.

19 OTHER LIABILITIES

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
Payable to HM Treasury	30	*34*
Due to subsidiaries	20	*20*
Provision for post-retirement benefits (note 4)	126	*121*
Current tax liability (note 6)	10	*15*
Non-sterling debt securities interest and swaps accruals	89	*201*
Fair values of derivatives of actively managed portfolio:		
currency swaps	3	*–*
interest rate swaps	45	*–*
Short-term creditors and other liabilities	121	*89*
	444	***480***

20 CAPITAL AND INCORPORATION

The entire capital comprising £14,553,000 of Bank Stock is held by the Treasury Solicitor on behalf of HM Treasury.

The Bank of England is incorporated under a Royal Charter of 1694. Legislation covering its operations includes the Bank Charter Act of 1844 and the Bank of England Acts 1946 and 1998.

21 RESERVES

	Profit and loss account	Revaluation reserves	£m Total
Balance at 1 March 2003	1,357	134	1,491
Retained profit for the year	30	–	30
Surplus on revaluation of freehold properties (note 13)	–	24	24
Balance at 29 February 2004	**1,387**	**158**	**1,545**

The revaluation reserve for the non-sterling investment securities and the matching funding is less than £1 million and accordingly is not shown separately in the above table.

22 STATEMENT OF RECONCILIATION OF SHAREHOLDER'S FUNDS

	2004 £m	*2003 £m*
Shareholder's funds at 1 March 2003	1,506	*1,526*
Retained profit for the year	30	*34*
Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation of properties	24	*(54)*
Shareholder's funds at 29 February 2004	**1,560**	***1,506***

Notes to the Banking Department Financial Statements *continued*

23 CASH FLOW STATEMENT

a Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities

	2004 £m	2003 £m
Profit after provisions and before tax	72	89
Decrease in interest receivable and prepaid expenses	8	43
(Decrease) in interest payable and accrued expenses	(7)	(1)
Depreciation	13	15
Effect of other deferrals and accruals on cash flow	241	57
Net inflow from Euro Notes	34	1,269
Net (outflow)/inflow from Euro Bills	(24)	62
Net (outflow)/inflow of euro deposits	(155)	160
Net (decrease)/increase in foreign currency deposits	(346)	974
Net (decrease)/increase in other deposits	(707)	682
(Increase)/decrease in TARGET balances with European Central Bank	(54)	44
Net decrease/(increase) in foreign currency advances to banks (including swaps)	190	(1,118)
Net decrease in advances to banks and customers (including reverse repurchase agreements)	37	109
Purchase of non-sterling investment securities	(1,466)	(3,885)
Redemption of non-sterling investment securities	1,671	2,354
Purchase of other non-sterling securities	(489)	–
Redemption of other non-sterling securities	541	–
Purchase of sterling debt securities	(243)	(685)
Redemption of sterling debt securities	92	306
Net decrease in other assets	3	2
Decrease in items in course of collection	89	27
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	**(500)**	**504**

b Capital expenditure and financial investment

	2004 £m	2003 £m
Increase in Bank's contribution to the European Central Bank	(2)	–
Purchases of premises and equipment	(11)	(13)
Proceeds from sale of premises and equipment	–	11
Proceeds from sale of printing operations	10	–
	(3)	**(2)**

c Analysis of cash balances

	At 1 March 2003 £m	Cash flows £m	At 29 February 2004 £m
Cash	4	1	5
Advances to banks repayable on demand	665	(562)	103
	669	**(561)**	**108**

d The cash flow statement has been prepared under FRS 1 (revised). The definition of cash in the Standard is not wholly appropriate to the Bank. The Bank requires a stock of liquidity for operational purposes and regards advances to the money market and banks, Treasury and other eligible bills, and reverse repurchase agreements as a pool of assets for these purposes. The allocation of this liquidity between the components depends upon prevailing market conditions. The Bank's total liquidity position at 29 February 2004 was as follows:

	At 1 March 2003 £m	Cash flows £m	**At 29 February 2004 £m**
Cash	*4*	1	5
Advances to money market and certain banks (including reverse repurchase agreements)	*1,523*	(117)	1,406
	1,527	**(116)**	**1,411**

24 RELATED PARTIES

a HM Government

The Bank provides several services to its shareholder, HM Treasury, and to other Government departments and bodies.

The main services during the year to 29 February 2004 were:

– provision of banking services, including holding the principal accounts of the Government

– provision of registration services in respect of gilt-edged stocks

– management of the Exchange Equalisation Account

– management of the Note Issue

– operation of sanctions against specific countries.

The aggregate balances on HM Treasury and other public sector accounts are disclosed in note 9 as advances or note 17 as public deposits. The total charges made to the Government are disclosed in note 2.

b Group undertakings

All material transactions and balances between the Bank and its subsidiaries are disclosed in note 12 and note 19.

c Governors, Non-Executive Directors and Officers

The following particulars relate to loans given or arranged by the Bank of England to Governors, Non-Executive Directors and Officers (including Executive Directors) of the Bank and persons connected with them:

Notes to the Banking Department Financial Statements continued

	2004 Total amount outstanding £000	**2004** Number	*2003* Total amount outstanding £000	*2003* Number
Officers	80	14	*71*	*8*

There were no loans outstanding to Governors and Non-Executive Directors as at 29 February 2004 *(2003 £nil)*.

There were no other transactions that would be required to be shown under the provisions of the Companies Act 1985. None of the Governors, Non-Executive Directors or Officers had a material interest, directly or indirectly, at any time during the year in any other significant transaction or arrangement with the Bank or any of its subsidiaries.

The above information concerning Officers is presented only in respect of those employees of the Bank who would be considered as managers, either within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 or as defined under FRS 8. All employees, including Officers as defined above, are entitled to season ticket loans and may choose to take personal loans as part of their remuneration package.

d The Bank's pension schemes

The Bank provides the Secretariat, the investment management and some banking and custodial services to the Bank's pension schemes. In the year to 29 February 2004 a charge of £1.7 million *(2003 £1.5 million)* was made for these services. These activities are undertaken on behalf of, and under the supervision of, the trustees of the schemes. The contribution paid to the Fund is set out in note 4. There were no other material transactions between the Bank and the pension schemes during the year to 29 February 2004. The balances on accounts held with the Bank were £4 million *(2003 £1 million)*.

e Other entities with links to the Bank

In the normal course of its activities as a central bank, the Bank has relationships, involving some representation at management level and participation in funding, with international and domestic institutions. The Bank does not consider these institutions to be related parties.

25 GENERAL

a Operating lease commitments

	2004 Land and buildings £m	**2004** Computer and other equipment £m	*2003* Land and buildings £m	*2003* Computer and other equipment £m
At the year end, annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases were:				
expiring within one year	–	1	*–*	*1*
between one and five years	1	–	*1*	*–*
expiring in five years or more	1	–	*1*	*–*
	2	**1**	***2***	***1***

b Average number of employees

The average number of persons employed by the Bank during the year was made up as follows:

	2004	*2003*
Governors and Executive Directors	7	*6*
Managers and analysts	459	*457*
Clerical staff	888	*952*
Technical/other	578	*772*
	1,932	***2,187***

The number of persons employed by the Bank at the end of the year is given in the Review of Performance on page 21 of the *Annual Report*.

26 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT

As mentioned in note 11(b), the Bank subscribed a further €16.1 million in the share capital of the European Central Bank on 1 May 2004.

27 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Contingent liabilities and commitments, some of which are offset by corresponding obligations of third parties, arise in the normal course of business, including contingent liabilities in respect of guarantees and indemnities in connection with liquidity support operations. There are also forward contracts for the purchase and sale of foreign currencies. Provision is made for any estimated irrecoverable liability that may arise from these transactions.

As part of its normal business, the Bank acts as custodian of its customers' assets and fulfils an agency role. No significant irrecoverable liability arises from these transactions.

The trial of the misfeasance claim brought against the Bank by the Liquidators of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA ('*BCCI*') in the names of depositors in BCCI started in January 2004 and continues. Judgment is not expected until late 2005 or possibly 2006. The allegations of misfeasance relate to the period leading to the licensing of BCCI in 1980 through to the closure of BCCI in 1991. The writs against the Bank were issued in 1993 and 1994. In the light of legal advice, the Bank's Court believes that the Bank has a strong defence and is determined that these allegations of misfeasance should be vigorously defended. The current trial is about liability, not the amount of any damages. In June 2001 the Liquidators provided figures as to the amount of their claim whilst reserving the right to amend those figures. The Liquidators said: "In summary the Liquidators' best estimate of the value of the depositor claimants' deposits as at 30 April 2001 is approximately £577 million applying simple interest of 8% or £748 million applying interest at 8% per annum compounded annually". Quite apart from its rejection of the claim itself, the Bank does not accept that the Liquidators have provided adequate particulars or set out a proper basis for calculation of the claim. No provision is made in these financial statements.

Since 1930 there has also been a contingent liability in respect of uncalled capital on the Bank's investment in the Bank for International Settlements. On 1 April 2003 these shares were redenominated from Swiss gold francs into Special Drawing Rights (SDR). The sterling equivalent of this liability based on the SDR price at the balance sheet date was £143 million *(2003 £184 million)*.

28 DATE OF APPROVAL

The Members of Court approved the financial statements on pages 46 to 79 on 13 May 2004.

Issue Department

Account for the period ended 29 February 2004

	Notes	2004 £m	*2003 £m*
Income and profits:			
Securities of, or guaranteed by, the British Government		525	*562*
Other securities and assets		756	*726*
		1,281	***1,288***
Expenses:	2		
Cost of production of Bank notes		31	*35*
Cost of issue, custody and payment of Bank notes		13	*10*
Other expenses		3	*4*
		47	***49***
Payable to HM Treasury		**1,234**	***1,239***

Statement of balances: 29 February 2004

	Notes	2004 £m	*2003 £m*
Assets			
Securities of, or guaranteed by, the British Government	3	14,839	*13,997*
Other securities and assets including those acquired under reverse repurchase agreements	4	21,181	*19,873*
Total assets		**36,020**	***33,870***
Liabilities			
Notes issued:			
In circulation	5	36,015	*33,866*
In Banking Department		5	*4*
Total liabilities		**36,020**	***33,870***

M A King Governor
A M B Large Deputy Governor
D J S Cooksey Chairman of NedCo
P A C Smout Finance Director

Notes to the Issue Department Statements of Account

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The statements of account are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Currency and Bank Notes Act 1928 and the National Loans Act 1968. All profits of the note issue are payable to the National Loans Fund.

a The statements of account are prepared on the basis of amounts received and paid as modified by the effects of the revaluation of securities.

b All securities are revalued quarterly and are stated in the balance sheet at this valuation. Longer-dated stocks are valued at mid-market prices. Bills are valued at an average price approximating to market price. The last valuation was made at 26 February 2004.

c If the revaluation of securities shows a net gain this is included in income. A deficit is not taken against income but is settled by a transfer from the National Loans Fund. Total such deficits in the year to 29 February 2004 amounted to £20 million *(2003 £4 million)*.

2 EXPENSES

The expenses shown represent charges from the Banking Department for costs incurred in relation to the Note Issue.

3 SECURITIES OF, OR GUARANTEED BY, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
British Government Stocks	116	*122*
Treasury Bills	1,353	*505*
Ways and Means advance to the National Loans Fund	13,370	*13,370*
	14,839	***13,997***

The Ways and Means advance earns interest at the Bank's repo rate.

4 OTHER SECURITIES AND ASSETS INCLUDING THOSE ACQUIRED UNDER REVERSE REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS

	2004	*2003*
	£m	*£m*
Commercial bills	19	*1,157*
Deposit with Banking Department	53	*48*
Reverse repurchase agreements	21,109	*18,668*
	21,181	***19,873***

Issue Department *continued*

5 NOTES IN CIRCULATION

	2004 £m	*2003 £m*
£5	1,025	*1,051*
£10	5,714	*5,932*
£20	20,070	*18,131*
£50	5,741	*5,447*
Other notes (a)	3,465	*3,305*
	36,015	***33,866***

(a) Includes higher-value notes used internally in the Bank, for example as cover for the note issues of banks in Scotland and Northern Ireland in excess of their permitted issues.

6 ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

a Interest rate exposure

As the liabilities of Issue Department are interest free, the income of Issue Department is directly exposed to movements in interest rates. With the exception of the British Government stocks, all the assets of Issue Department have a repricing period of three months or less.

b Currency exposure

All the assets and liabilities of Issue Department are denominated in sterling. The collateral provided under reverse repurchase operations may be in currencies other than sterling but this does not give rise to any direct currency exposure.

7 DATE OF APPROVAL

The Members of Court approved the statements of account on pages 80 to 82 on 13 May 2004.

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Enquiries relating to the Bank of England *Quarterly Bulletin* and *Inflation Report* may be made on 020 7601 4030; *Financial Stability Review* on 020 7601 3095; and *Bank of England: Monetary and Financial Statistics* on 020 7601 5353.

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