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Incorporated by Royal Charter  
with limited liability  
Company number Z73

Securities & Exchange Commission  
Division of Corporate Finance  
Room 3094 (3-6), 450 Fifth Street  
Washington  
D.C. 20549  
USA

SUPPL

82-2083



13 October 2003

Dear Sirs

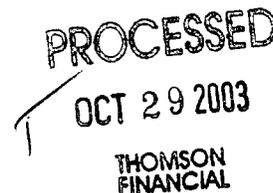
**P&O AND STENA LINE SIGN CONTRACT FOR IRISH SEA FERRY OPERATIONS**

I enclose a copy of a press release sent to the London Stock Exchange in accordance with our 12g3-2(h) exemption from the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in connection with our ADR program.

Yours faithfully

*Sylvia Freeman*

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Company Secretariat



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## *News Release*

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13 October 2003

### **P&O AND STENA LINE SIGN CONTRACT FOR IRISH SEA FERRY OPERATIONS**

Further to the announcement of 27 May 2003, P&O announces that contracts have now been exchanged for Stena's proposed acquisition of a significant part of P&O's ferry operations on the Irish Sea and also for the transfer of Stena's Stranraer port operations to P&O's port at Cairnryan, with Stena taking a 50% shareholding in the Cairnryan port.

As noted in the subsequent announcement of 22 August, the transaction concerning the ferry operations has been referred to the UK Competition Commission by the Office of Fair Trading ('OFT'). This transaction is also subject to clearance by the Irish regulatory authorities. The Cairnryan transaction received OFT approval to proceed. Both transactions remain subject to certain other conditions.

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