



**FRIENDS PROVIDENT**

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**Friends Provident plc**  
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Telephone 0870 6083678 Fax 01306 654991

82-34640

Securities and Exchange Commission  
Office of International Corporate Finance  
Mail Stop 3 -2  
450 Fifth Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20549

22 March 2004



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SUPPL

Dear Sir

**Friends Provident plc - File number 82 - 524**

Since our previous submission to you on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2004, I enclose a recent press release to the London Stock Exchange.

Increase of issued share capital - 19th March 2004

Should you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me by email to [hornj@friendsprovident.co.uk](mailto:hornj@friendsprovident.co.uk).

Yours sincerely

Ms. Jenni Horn  
Company Secretariat Assistant

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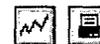


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<b>Company</b>	Friends ProvidentPLC
<b>TIDM</b>	FP.
<b>Headline</b>	Increase of Issued Share Capital
<b>Released</b>	15:04 19 Mar 2004
<b>Number</b>	PRNUK-1903

FRIENDS PROVIDENT PLC

#### Increase of Share Capital

The Board of Friends Provident plc (the 'Company') announces that on 19th March 2004 the issued share capital of the Company has increased to 1,723,088,874 ordinary shares of 10 pence each to satisfy the exercise of options under the Friends Provident Executive Share Option Scheme and the Friends Provident ShareSave Scheme.

Application has been made for admission of the 69,354 new ordinary shares to trading on the London Stock Exchange.

Enquiries: Brian Sweetland, Director and Secretary 01306 653087

END

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