



Alliance UniChem

7 February 2006

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Merger Update

The Boards of Alliance UniChem Plc and Boots Group PLC welcome the decision announced today by the Office of Fair Trading ("OFT") not to refer the proposed merger between the two companies for review by the Competition Commission under the provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 subject to undertakings to take such action as the OFT considers appropriate.

The two companies will now work closely with the OFT to reach agreement on appropriate undertakings to address the concerns of the OFT relating to the prospect of a substantial lessening of competition in around 100 local areas identified by the OFT.

A further announcement will be made in due course.

- Ends -

Enquiries:

Alliance UniChem Plc
Marco Pagni / Gerald Gradwell

01932 870550

Gavin Anderson & Company
Richard Constant / Deborah Walter

020 7554 1400