Johnston Press plc

19 January 2007

PRESS RELEASE

ACQUISITION OF
ARCHANT'S NEWSPAPER OPERATIONS IN SCOTLAND

Johnston Press plc, one of the leading regional media groups in the UK and Ireland, announces that it has conditionally acquired the assets and titles of the Scottish Newspaper operations of Archant for a cash consideration of £11.205 million funded from existing bank facilities. The business comprises eight weekly titles of which three are paid-for newspapers circulating in the North East of Scotland around Peterhead and Fraserburgh and five are on free distribution in central Scotland around Glasgow, Ayrshire, Lanarkshire and Paisley.

In the year ended 31 December 2006, the business generated revenues of £6.95 million.

The acquisition is conditional on clearance from the Regulatory Authorities and on completion would become part of the Johnston Newspapers (Scotland) Division. Consultation with affected employees regarding the proposed transfer under TUPE will commence shortly.

Commenting on the announcement, Tim Bowdler, Chief Executive of Johnston Press said: "We are delighted to have been able to reach agreement with Archant to acquire these titles. This is an attractive portfolio of weekly newspapers which fits well with our existing titles in their respective areas. We look forward to working with the Scottish Archant publishing team to build on an already successful business for the benefit of readers and advertisers in the local communities they serve."

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