



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 JANUARY 2008

THORNTONS PLC

SECOND QUARTER TRADING UPDATE

Thorntons PLC ('Thorntons' or 'the Company') today reported its second quarter trading update for the 14 weeks up to and including Saturday 12 January 2008.

The Company maintained its trend of steady improvement with total sales growth of 7.6% during a second quarter in which the retail environment was challenging.

Own store sales grew by 2.4% to £56.7 million. Like for like sales growth during the quarter was 1.2% and 8 new stores were added to the estate.

Franchise sales of £6.2 million showed an increase of 10.0% with the addition of 31 new franchisees in the quarter, making a total net increase of 34 in the first half of the year.

Commercial sales continued to grow strongly by 24.9% to £16.6m driven by improving distribution within existing customers, new product launches and new customers.

Sales in Thornton's Direct grew by 20.5% to £4.1 million continuing the steady growth path started over a year ago.

Mike Davies, Thornton's Chief Executive, commented:

"The improvements in our customer offer underpin the continued progress that we have achieved across all sales channels. We will continue to focus on product innovation, store improvements and customer service. While the outlook for the retail sector is challenging, the Company remains on course to meet market expectations."

<b>Sales growth %</b>	<b>Q1</b> 14 weeks to 06-10-07	<b>Q2</b> 14 weeks to 12-01-08	<b>H1</b> 28 weeks to 12-01-08	<b>H1</b> 28 weeks to 06-01-07
Own stores	+10.3%	+2.4%	+4.7%	-2.0%
Franchise stores	+39.0%	+10.0%	+18.7%	-3.5%
Commercial sales	+80.8%	+24.9%	+44.7%	-0.2%
Thorntons Direct	+46.5%	+20.5%	+25.3%	+19.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>+28.5%</b>	<b>+7.6%</b>	<b>+13.8%</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>

<b>Like for like sales growth %</b>	<b>Q1</b> 14 weeks to 06-10-07	<b>Q2</b> 14 weeks to 12-01-08	<b>H1</b> 28 weeks to 12-01-08	<b>H1</b> 28 weeks to 06-01-07
Own stores	+9.6%	+1.2%	+3.7%	-1.4%

<b>Sales £m</b>	<b>Q1</b> 14 weeks to 06-10-07	<b>Q2</b> 14 weeks to 12-01-08	<b>H1</b> 28 weeks to 12-01-08	<b>H1</b> 28 weeks to 06-01-07
Own stores	25.4	56.7	82.1	78.4
Franchise stores	3.4	6.2	9.6	8.1
Commercial sales	13.1	16.6	29.7	20.5
Thorntons Direct	1.1	4.1	5.2	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>126.6</b>	<b>111.2</b>

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Stores as at 06-10-07</b>	<b>New stores</b>	<b>Resites</b>	<b>Closures</b>	<b>Stores as at 12-01-08</b>
Own stores	370	9	1	2	378
Franchise stores	228	31	-	7	252
<b>Total</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>630</b>

**ENDS**

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