

THE TAKEOVER PANEL

BRITISH VITA PLC

(“BRITISH VITA”)

TEXAS PACIFIC GROUP

(“TPG”)

Following representations made by the advisers to British Vita and TPG, the Panel Executive has agreed to an extension to the deadline by which TPG must either announce a firm intention to make an offer for British Vita under Rule 2.5 of the Code or announce that it does not intend to make an offer for British Vita from 12 noon on Monday, 21 March, to 12 noon on Tuesday, 22 March. No extension to the revised deadline will be granted, except with the consent of the Panel Executive.

In the event that TPG announces that it will not proceed with an offer for British Vita, TPG and any person acting in concert with it will, except with the consent of the Panel Executive, be bound by the restrictions contained in Rule 2.8 of the Code for six months from the date of such announcement.

15 March 2005