



Close Brothers Group plc

5 December 2008

**CLOSE BROTHERS GROUP PLC (“CLOSE BROTHERS”) ACCESS TO THE  
GOVERNMENT’S CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME**

Close Brothers is pleased to confirm that further to the announcement made by the Chancellor on 8th October about the Government's recapitalisation scheme, the Financial Services Authority has reviewed our capital position and is satisfied that we have the capital and strategic plan in place which would be necessary, if we were to apply for access to the Government's Credit Guarantee scheme.

Close Brothers maintains a conservative approach to balance sheet management and, as stated in our Interim Management Statement of 13 November 2008, remains soundly funded from a wide range of sources. Access to the Credit Guarantee Scheme provides Close Brothers with a further potential source of medium term funding.

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