



Close Brothers Group plc

8 October 2007

**CLOSE BROTHERS ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW FINANCE
DIRECTOR**

Close Brothers, the specialist merchant banking group, is pleased to announce the appointment of Jonathan Howell as Finance Director. He will also join the main Board of Close Brothers. It is expected he will take up his post in early February 2008.

Jonathan Howell is a qualified chartered accountant and has worked at the London Stock Exchange since 1996. In 1998 he became Head of Regulation and in 1999 he was appointed to the main board as Finance Director.

**Commenting on Jonathan's appointment, Colin Keogh, Chief Executive of Close
Brothers Group, said:**

"We are delighted that Jonathan is joining us. He brings a wealth of experience and a fresh approach and we are looking forward to having him on our Board at what is an exciting stage of development for our Group."