> ANNEXURE A – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INSURANCE BUSINESSES

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Insurance and investment contracts

Classification of contracts

Long-term insurance operations

Insurance contracts are those contracts where the Regent Life Group (the insurer) has accepted significant insurance risk from another party (the policyholder) by agreeing to compensate the policyholder if a specified uncertain future event (the insured event) adversely affects the policyholder. As a general guideline, the Regent Life Group determines whether it has significant insurance risk, by comparing benefits paid with benefits payable if the insured event did not occur. Insurance contracts can also transfer financial risk.

Investment contracts are those contracts that transfer significant financial risk with no significant insurance risk. Financial risk is the risk of a possible future change in one or more of a specified interest rate, security price, commodity price, foreign exchange rate, a credit rating or credit index or other variable.

Once a contract has been classified as an insurance contract, it remains an insurance contract for the remainder of its lifetime, even if the insurance risk reduces significantly during this period, unless all rights and obligations are extinguished or expire. Investment contracts can however be reclassified as insurance contracts after inception, if insurance risk becomes significant.

Insurance contracts are classified into individual credit life contracts, individual life contracts, annuity contracts, group funeral, group life and group credit life contracts. This classification applies consistently across all long term insurers within Regent Life Group (being Regent South Africa, Lesotho National Life Assurance and Regent Life Botswana).

These contracts are valued in terms of the Financial Soundness Valuation (FSV) basis contained in SAP 104 issued by the Actuarial Society of South Africa.

The statutory actuary reviews the calculation of the liabilities under long-term insurance contracts and investment contracts annually at the statement of financial position date in accordance with prevailing legislation, Generally Accepted Actuarial Standards in South Africa and International Financial Reporting Standards as appropriate. The transfers to or from insurance liabilities are accounted for in the statement of comprehensive income and represents the increase or decrease in contract liabilities, including all necessary provisions and reserves.

The liabilities for investment contracts are set equal to the accumulated fair value of the underlying assets plus a non-unit reserve calculated in accordance with SAP 104. Any deficiency is immediately charged to profit and loss and a provision is raised for losses from the liability adequacy tests.

Investment contracts are initially and thereafter recognised at fair value, with changes in fair value being accounted for in the statement of comprehensive income. The premiums, benefit payments and investment earnings relating to these investment contracts have been excluded from the statement of comprehensive income and accounted for directly as movements in the liability.

Short-term insurance operations

Contracts under which the short-term insurance operations accept significant insurance risk from another party (the policyholder) by agreeing to compensate the policyholder or other beneficiary if a specified uncertain future event (the insured event) adversely affects the policyholder, or other beneficiary, are classified as insurance contracts. Insurance risk is risk other than financial risk, transferred from the holder of the contract to the issuer. Financial risk is the risk of a possible future change in one or more of a specified interest rate, security price, commodity price, foreign exchange rate, index of prices or rates, a credit rating or credit index or other variable. Insurance contracts may also transfer some financial risk.

Reinsurance of long-term and short-term insurance operations

Contracts entered into with reinsurers by the long-term and short-term operations, under which the group is compensated for losses on one or more contracts, and which meet the classification requirements for insurance contracts, are classified as reinsurance contracts held.

The benefits to which the long-term and short-term operations are entitled under their reinsurance contracts held are recognised as reinsurance assets, consisting of short-term and long-term balances due from reinsurers that are dependent on the expected claims and benefits. Reinsurance liabilities are primarily premiums payable and are recognised as an expense when due. Reinsurance assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis, reducing the carrying amount of the reinsurance asset to its recoverable amount through the statement of comprehensive income.

Revenue recognition

Long-term insurance operations:

Premiums and annuity considerations on insurance contracts are recognised when due in terms of the contract, other than group schemes. Premium receivable in respect of group schemes that is due after the year end date is ignored. However, where the operating ratios exceed 100%, a deficiency reserve would be established to offset any expected losses up until the next renewal date. Premium income on insurance contracts is shown gross of reinsurance. Premiums are shown before deduction of commission. Premium income received in advance is included in trade and other payables. Amounts received under investment contracts, such as premiums, are recorded as deposits to investment contract liabilities.

Short-term insurance operations:

Gross written premiums comprise the premiums on insurance contracts entered into during the year, irrespective of whether they relate in whole or in part to a later accounting period. Premiums are disclosed gross of commission to intermediaries and exclude Value Added Tax. Premiums written include adjustments to premiums written in the prior accounting periods. The earned portion of the premium received is recognised as revenue. Premiums are earned from the date of attachment of risk, over the indemnity period, based on the pattern of risks underwritten less provisions raised for cash-backs.

Insurance results

Long-term insurance operations:

Profits or losses are determined in accordance with the guidance note on Financial Soundness Valuations (SAP 104) and International Financial Reporting Standards. The underlying philosophy of the Financial Soundness Valuation is to recognise profits over the term of each insurance contract. In the valuation of liabilities, provision is made for:

- The best estimate of future experience;
- Compulsory margins prescribed in SAP 104; and
- Discretionary margins determined to release profits to shareholders consistent with policy design and company policy.

Short-term insurance operations:

The underwriting results are determined after making provisions for unearned premiums, outstanding claims, incurred but not reported claims; unexpired risk provision, cash-back provisions and such additional provisions as are considered necessary. The methods used to determine these provisions are as follows:

Unearned premiums

Premiums are earned from the date the risk attaches, over the indemnity period, based on the pattern of the risk underwritten. Unearned premiums, which represent the proportion of premiums written in the current year which relate to risks that have not expired by the end of the financial year, are calculated on the 365th basis for even risk business and other bases that best represent the unearned risk profile for uneven risk business.

Claims

Claims incurred consist of claims and claims handling expenses paid during the financial year together with the movement in the provision for outstanding claims. Claims outstanding comprise provisions for the estimate of the ultimate cost of settling all claims incurred but unpaid at the statement of financial position date whether reported or not, and an appropriate risk margin. Related anticipated reinsurance recoveries are disclosed separately as assets. These estimated reinsurance and other recoveries are assessed in a manner similar to the assessment of claims outstanding.

While the directors consider that the gross provisions for claims and the related reinsurance recoveries are fairly stated on the basis of the information currently available to them, the ultimate liability will vary as a result of subsequent information and events and may result in significant adjustments to the amounts provided. Adjustments to the amounts of claims provisions established in prior years are reflected in the financial statements for the period in which the adjustments are made, and disclosed separately if material. The methods used to value these provisions, and the estimates made, are reviewed regularly.

Incurred but not reported – IBNR

Provision is made in the policyholders' liabilities under insurance contracts for the estimated cost at the end of the year for claims IBNR at that date. IBNR provisions are calculated using run-off triangle techniques. These liabilities are not discounted due to the short-term nature of outstanding claims. Outstanding claims and benefit payments are stated gross of reinsurance.

Unexpired risk provision

Provision is made for unexpired risks arising to the extent that the expected value of claims and claims handling expenses attributable to the unexpired periods of contracts in force at the statement of financial position date exceeds the unearned premiums provision in relation to such contracts and attributable investment income after the deduction of any deferred acquisition costs.

Cash-back provisions

A provision is made for the accrued expected obligations to policyholders to the extent that the premiums for these benefits are already received and other terms and conditions are met within the period leading up to the expected cash back.

Deferred acquisition costs

The costs of acquiring new and renewal insurance business that is commission and other acquisition costs, primarily related to the term products of that business, are deferred. Deferred acquisition costs are amortised on a pro-rata basis over the contract term. Similarly, any reinsurance commissions received are deferred and recognised as income over the term of the reinsurance contract.

Cell Captives

The group operates cell captives on behalf of entities that wish to participate in the insurance result of a particular category of insured risk. Preference shares are issued to those participants giving them the right to share profits on an agreed basis. To reflect the substance of the transaction it is consolidated and the participant's share of profits is treated as a non-controlling interest.