



**Allied Irish Banks p.l.c. purchase of own shares
17th October 2003**

Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. ("AIB") [NYSE:AIB] announces that on 16th October 2003, it purchased 2,000,000 of its ordinary shares, at an average price of €12.55 to be held as treasury shares.

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For further information please contact:

Catherine Burke
Head of Corporate Relations
AIB Group
Bankcentre
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
Tel: +353-1-641 3894

or

Alan Kelly
Head of Group Investor Relations
AIB Group
Bankcentre
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
Tel: +353-1-6600311 Ext 12162