



AIB (GB) Solihull appoints Mary Sharples as new Business Manager

11th June 2003

Allied Irish Bank (GB) Solihull, recently voted Britain's best business bank for the fifth consecutive time*, is delighted to announce the appointment of Mary Sharples as its new Business Manager. Originally joining Allied Irish Bank (GB) on a three year contract in the late 1970s, Mary has stayed with the organisation for over three decades. In this time, she has worked in a variety of management roles across the West Midlands. Her specialised knowledge of Business Development in the professional market in particular, will be vital in developing the profile of the Solihull branch. Commenting on her appointment, Sharples said: "I look forward to starting this new position. Being no stranger to the Solihull branch will help me find my feet very quickly. Within the banking industry, and indeed beyond, Allied Irish Bank (GB) has a formidable reputation for business banking and outstanding customer service. Building on this already strong reputation so we can work with even more local businesses in the area is one of my key objectives".

John Wall, Midlands Area Director, said: "We are delighted to be promoting Mary to the position of Business Manager. She has an exceptional track record within the banking world and a depth of industry knowledge that will be vital both in building our already extensive client portfolio among small and medium sized businesses in the Solihull area and in enhancing the services we offer existing customers. Mary's appointment will add to an already-strong team and I look forward to working closely with her over the coming months".

Those interested in a career with Allied Irish Bank (GB), and who can demonstrate a successful track-record in helping small and medium-sized companies achieve their potential, should contact our Human Resources department or go to the careers section of our website, www.aibgb.co.uk/careers for further details.

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Notes to editors

About Allied Irish Bank (GB)

Allied Irish Bank (GB) is a trade mark used under licence by AIB Group (UK) plc, a wholly owned subsidiary of Allied Irish Banks plc.

*It has five times been voted "Best Business Bank" - 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002 by the Forum of Private Business. This biennial survey looks at the relationship between businesses and their banks, in particular the quality of their people and their operational efficiency. The survey clearly demonstrates that successful businesses need a good bank and a good manager. Allied Irish Bank (GB) has proved best in a wide number of categories.

For further information or to set up an interview please contact: Vicky Jones or Sara Knudsen on 0207 255 1100 or email Victoria.jones@grayling.co.uk