



**Allied Irish Banks p.l.c. purchase of own shares
23rd May 2003**

Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. ("AIB") [NYSE:AIB] announces that on 22 May 2003, it purchased 350,000 of its ordinary shares, at an average price of €13.1929, to be held as treasury shares.

-ENDS-

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