

news release

October 29, 2003

DEALING BY DIRECTORS COMPANIES ACT 1985 SECTIONS 324/329

WE HEREBY INFORM YOU THAT ON 29 OCTOBER 2003 SIR TOM MCKILLOP, A DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY, EXERCISED OPTIONS OVER ASTRAZENECA PLC USD0.25 ORDINARY SHARES UNDER THE COMPANY'S 1993 SENIOR STAFF SHARE OPTION SCHEME AND 1994 EXECUTIVE SHARE OPTION SCHEME. THE DETAILS OF THE EXERCISES ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

NAME OF DIRECTOR	NUMBER OF SHARES OVER WHICH OPTION EXERCISED	EXERCISE PRICE PER SHARE	PERIOD WHEN EXERCISABLE
SIR TOM MCKILLOP	1,900	748p	05.4.97-04.4.04
SIR TOM MCKILLOP	12,424	826p	17.4.97-16.8.04

AS A RESULT OF THESE EXERCISES SIR TOM MCKILLOP HOLDS OPTIONS OVER 453,242 ORDINARY SHARES OF ASTRAZENECA PLC.

WE ALSO INFORM YOU THAT ON 29 OCTOBER 2003, SIR TOM MCKILLOP SOLD 5,482 ASTRAZENECA PLC USD0.25 ORDINARY SHARES AT AN AVERAGE PRICE OF 2857p PER SHARE TO COVER THE COST OF THE EXERCISES AND TO MEET CERTAIN TAX OBLIGATIONS ARISING FROM THE TRANSACTIONS.

FOLLOWING THESE TRANSACTIONS SIR TOM MCKILLOP HAS INCREASED HIS HOLDING IN THE COMPANY BY 8,842 SHARES TO 78,402 SHARES WHICH REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 0.005 PER CENT OF THE ISSUED ORDINARY CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY.

G H R MUSKER COMPANY SECRETARY 29 OCTOBER 2003

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