

9 April 2020

DEBENHAMS RETAIL (IRELAND) LTD. TO ENTER LIQUIDATION

In these unprecedented times the Debenhams Group is having to take some really tough decisions. The Republic of Ireland retail operations had trading challenges which were exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19. In the UK, Debenhams has entered into administration in order to protect the business. Regrettably, due to the challenges facing Debenhams Retail (Ireland) Ltd. ("DRIL"), the directors of DRIL anticipate that the UK administrators will appoint a liquidator to the Irish operations. Debenhams has already suspended trading in the Republic of Ireland stores, the majority of which are not now expected to reopen. Our customers in the Republic will continue to be able to shop with Debenhams online through www.debenhams.ie.

Stefaan Vansteenkiste, CEO of Debenhams, said: "We are desperately sorry not to be able to keep the Irish business operating but are faced with no alternative option in the current environment. This decision has not been taken lightly and is no way a reflection on our Irish colleagues, whose professionalism and commitment to serving our customers has never been in question. The colleagues have been placed on temporary lay-off under the Irish Government's payment support schemes for employers and we will be working with them to support them through this process."

Media Enquiries:

Tim Danaher/Craig Breheny/Fiona Micallef-Eyraud, Brunswick Group 020 7404 5959

debenhams@brunswickgroup.com