ORICA

Company Secretary's Department

Orica Limited
ACN 004 145 868

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Australia
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26 April 2004

Ms Kate Kidson,
Senior Companies Advisor
Australian Stock Exchange Limited
Level 3
Stock Exchange Centre
530 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Kate,

I refer to your letter dated 23 April and provide the following information in response to your questions

1. Orica is not aware of any information that has not been announced to the ASX which could be an explanation for recent trading in securities of the Company.

   Orica has responded to factual questions from a Macquarie analyst. The responses have been limited to information available in the public domain. Orica has not provided any information to Macquarie on the recent performance of Orica's businesses or the anticipated earnings for 2004.

   Orica has not released any information in briefings to analysts or institutions that is not already in the public domain. Any recent meetings conducted with institutions have been strictly conducted on the basis that the Company is in a black-out period and will not comment on results or recent business performance.

   Recent interest in the Company's shares may be a result of Orica's Managing Director, Malcolm Broomhead's presentation to international investors at the Citigroup conference in London in March. A copy of that presentation was lodged with the ASX Company Announcements platform in advance of the presentation to the conference on 12 March 2004.

2. Not applicable.

3. I have made enquiries into the recent trading in Orica shares and have been informed that there has been increased interest in the stock from offshore buyers. As there have been limited volumes of Orica shares for sale on market in the last week the prospective purchaser of the stock has increased the market price for Orica shares in their effort to acquire the number of shares they were seeking.

4. I confirm that the Company has policies and procedures in place in respect of analysts' and institutional briefings both generally and in particular their timing relative to release of periodic financial reports. I confirm that these policies have been adhered to in the lead up to release of our financial results for the half-year ended 31 March 2004 on 3 May 2004.

5. I confirm that the Company is in compliance with the listing rules and in particular listing rule 3.1.

I can be contacted on 9665 7046 or 0402 313 488 if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely

Michaela Healey
Company Secretary
Orica Limited.

ASX
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23 April 2004

Ms Michaela Healy
Company Secretary
Orica Limited
1 Nicholson Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

By: Facsimile: 9665 7573

Dear Michaela

Orica Limited (the "Company")

RE: PRICE QUERY

We have noted a change in the price of the Company's securities from $14.07 on 15 April 2004 to a high of $15.61 today. The stock is currently trading at $15.48.

In light of the price change, please respond to each of the following questions.

1. Is the Company aware of any information concerning it that has not been announced which, if known, could be an explanation for recent trading in the securities of the Company?

   In answering this question please address the item that appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on 23 April 2004, at page 20, as follows:

   "...Orica shot 40 cents higher to an all time high of $15 after the company held one-on-ones with institutions earlier this week. Macquarie upgraded fiscal 2004 earnings by 3 per cent and by 2 per cent for 2005. Orica's results are due May 3."

   In this respect ASX notes that the Macquarie report, dated Tuesday 20 April, specifically states "The earnings momentum in ORI's four key divisions continues to be positive". Further, it states "With all of ORI's businesses (except North America) achieving in excess of ORI's targeted 18% return on total assets (RoNA), growing the top line is a focus for ORI going forward."

   In light of the above, please advise if the Company has released any information, either generally or selectively, that may have caused Macquarie to make such statements.

2. If the answer to question 1 is yes, can an announcement be made immediately? If not, why not and when is it expected that an announcement will be made?

Please note, if the answer to question 1 is yes and an announcement cannot be made immediately, you need to contact us to discuss this and you need to consider a trading halt (see below).

3. Is there any other explanation that the Company may have for the price change in the securities of the Company?

4. Does the Company have policies and procedures in place in respect of analysts' and institutional briefings both generally and, in particular, their timing relative to release of periodic financial reports?

5. Can the Company confirm it is in compliance with the listing rules and, in particular, listing rule 3.1?

Your response should be sent to me on **facsimile number 9614 0303**. It should not be sent to the Company Announcements Office.

Unless the information is required immediately under listing rule 3.1, a response is requested as soon as possible and, in any event, not later than half an hour before the start of trading (ie **before 9.30 a.m. E.S.T** on Monday, 26 April 2004.

The response must be in a form suitable for release to the market. If you have any concern about release of a response, please contact me immediately.

Listing rule 3.1

Listing rule 3.1 requires an entity to give ASX immediately any information concerning it that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of the entity's securities. The exceptions to this requirement are set out in the rule.

In responding to this letter you should consult listing rule 3.1 and the guidance note titled "Continuous disclosure: listing rule 3.1".

If the information requested by this letter is information required to be given to ASX under listing rule 3.1 your obligation is to disclose the information immediately.

Your responsibility under listing rule 3.1 is not confined to, or necessarily satisfied by, answering the questions set out in this letter.

Trading halt

If you are unable to respond by the time requested, or if the answer to question 1 is yes and an announcement cannot be made immediately, you should consider a request for a trading halt in the Company's securities. As set out in listing rule 17.1 and the guidance note titled "Trading halts" we may grant a trading halt at your request. We may require the request to be in writing. We are not required to act on your request. You must tell us each of the following.

- The reasons for the trading halt.
- How long you want the trading halt to last.
- The event you expect to happen that will end the trading halt.

- That you are not aware of any reason why the trading halt should not be granted.
- Any other information necessary to inform the market about the trading halt, or that we ask for.

The trading halt cannot extend past the commencement of normal trading on the second day after the day on which it is granted. If a trading halt is requested and granted and you are still unable to reply to this letter before the commencement of trading, suspension from quotation would normally be imposed by us from the commencement of trading if not previously requested by you. The same applies if you have requested a trading halt because you are unable to release information to the market, and are still unable to do so before the commencement of trading.

If you have any queries regarding any of the above, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Kidson
Senior Companies Adviser

Direct Line: (03) 9617 7831