

Press Release

Farmer Business Developments plc resumes dividends with announcement of 10 cent per share payout

The Chairman of Farmer Business Developments plc, Pdraig Walshe, has announced that the company is to resume paying dividends for the first time since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic with the payment of a 10 cent per share interim dividend to its shareholders at the end of November.

The decision will mean a payment of €1,036 each before dividend withholding tax (DWT) to over half of the company's 4,400 mainly farmer shareholders who have the standard holding of 10,369 shares.

The company is also resuming the payment of dividends on its preference shares, which will benefit the holders of the 14% and 11% non-cumulative preference shares. The record date for dividend payment is 5th November 2021.

Farmer Business Developments plc had suspended dividend payments last year on a cautionary and uncertainty basis due to the unprecedented challenges caused by Covid-19. Pdraig Walshe said "while uncertainty remains, the success of the vaccination programme and the reopening of hospitality have transformed the business environment in recent months."

"In reviewing our company's financial situation, the Board had regard to our strong balance sheet and the turnaround in our FBD Hotels & Resorts business since the reopening in June after five months of closure this year and severe business disruption last year due to the pandemic."

"While our Irish hotels have stabilised and are recovering well, the performance of our Spanish resorts, Sunset Beach and La Cala, is lagging behind the Irish hotels, but we are seeing a steady recovery of business in Spain as international travel resumes and visitor numbers rise."

"Property sales at La Cala have enjoyed an exceptional year to date with 55 built units sold in partnership with Taylor Wimpey, as well as 10 villa plots and a townhouse site sold by ourselves."

"The Board also noted the positive performance of the company's other investments, including in FBD Holdings plc which reported a €22m profit before tax in its half year results, and the continuing strong interest in the remaining development land adjacent to the new Berlin Airport held by our 61% subsidiary".

Pdraig Walshe said "the Board is very conscious of this company's loyal shareholders and their attachment to annual dividends. While there are no guarantees in this pandemic, we have taken the present opportunity to reward our shareholders and resume paying dividends on the basis that we are returning to a more sustainable business environment and that our financial position allows us to do so."

ENDS

Contact: Company Secretary, Bryan Barry, on 086 2546175 or bryanbarry@fbdevelopments.ie.

Notes

Farmer Business Developments plc holds a 24.3% stake in the stock market quoted company, FBD Holdings plc, whose main business is FBD Insurance.

Farmer Business Developments plc welcomes new farmer shareholders who are both members of IFA and farming customers of FBD Insurance for a minimum of three years at the time of application. Further information is available on the company website www.farmerbusinessdevelopments.ie.