



## **MEDIA STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF MERLIN ATTRACTIONS OPERATIONS LIMITED**

On 27 September 2016 at Stafford Crown Court, Nick Varney, Chief Executive Officer of Merlin Entertainments plc said:

“From the beginning the company has accepted full responsibility for the terrible accident at Alton Towers and has made sincere and heartfelt apologies to those who were injured. I repeat those sentiments here today as we did in court yesterday.

In accepting responsibility and liability very early on we have tried to make the healing and compensation process as trouble free as possible for all of those involved. We have strived to fulfil our promise to support them in every way and I promise that this support will continue as long as they need it.

We were always aware that we would end up here today facing a substantial penalty, as has been delivered by the court today. However, Alton Towers - and indeed the wider Merlin Group - are not emotionless corporate entities. They are made up of human beings who care passionately about what they do. In this context, the far greater punishment for all of us is knowing that on this occasion we let people down with devastating consequences. It is something we will never forget and it is something we are utterly determined will never be repeated.”

**- ENDS -**