French Connection Group plc ("French Connection" or the “Company”)  

Response to press speculation  

The Board of French Connection Group plc ("French Connection" or the “Company”) notes the press speculation over the weekend regarding the potential sale of the Company. The Board confirms it is currently reviewing all strategic options in order to deliver maximum value for its shareholders, which includes the potential sale of the Company.

There can be no certainty that an offer will be made for the Company, nor as to the terms on which any offer will be made.

Following this announcement, the Company is now considered to be in an “offer period” as defined in the Code, and the dealing disclosure requirements listed below will apply. The Board has appointed Numis Securities Limited ("Numis") as financial adviser.

In accordance with Rule 2.9 of the Code, French Connection confirms that, as at the date of this announcement, it has 96,373,934 ordinary shares of 1p each in issue and admitted to trading on the London Stock Exchange. French Connection currently holds no ordinary shares in treasury. French Connection’s International Securities Identification Number (“ISIN”) is GB0033764746.

In accordance with Rule 26.1 of the Code, a copy of this announcement will be available on French Connection’s website at https://www.frenchconnection.com/content/investor-relations/index.htm. The content of the website referred to in this announcement is not incorporated into and does not form part of this announcement.

Enquiries:

French Connection Group plc  
Neil Williams, Chief Operating Officer +44 (0) 20 7036 7063

Numis Securities Limited (Financial Adviser and Corporate Broker to the Company)  
Oliver Cardigan +44 (0) 20 7260 1000
Stuart Ord
Luke Bordewich

Paternoster Communications (Media Enquiries)  
Tom Buchanan +44 (0) 7974 982366
Further information

Numis Securities Limited (“Numis”), which is authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Conduct Authority, is acting as financial adviser and broker exclusively for French Connection and no one else in connection with the matters set out in this announcement and will not regard any other person as its client in relation to the matters in this announcement and will not be responsible to anyone other than French Connection for providing the protections afforded to clients of Numis, nor for providing advice in relation to any matter referred to herein.

This announcement is not intended to, and does not, constitute or form part of any offer, invitation or the solicitation of any offer to buy, sell, subscribe for any securities or the solicitation of any vote in any jurisdiction.

The distribution of this announcement in jurisdictions outside the United Kingdom may be restricted by law and therefore persons into whose possession this announcement comes should inform themselves about, and observe, such restrictions. Any failure to comply with the restrictions may constitute a violation of the securities law of any such jurisdiction.

Disclosure requirements of the Code

Under Rule 8.3(a) of the Code, any person who is interested in 1% or more of any class of relevant securities of an offeree company or of any securities exchange offeror (being any offeror other than an offeror in respect of which it has been announced that its offer is, or is likely to be, solely in cash) must make an Opening Position Disclosure following the commencement of the offer period and, if later, following the announcement in which any securities exchange offeror is first identified. An Opening Position Disclosure must contain details of the person’s interests and short positions in, and rights to subscribe for, any relevant securities of each of (i) the offeree company and (ii) any securities exchange offeror(s). An Opening Position Disclosure by a person to whom Rule 8.3(a) applies must be made by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the 10th business day following the commencement of the offer period and, if appropriate, by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the 10th business day following the announcement in which any securities exchange offeror is first identified. Relevant persons who deal in the relevant securities of the offeree company or of a securities exchange offeror prior to the deadline for making an Opening Position Disclosure must instead make a Dealing Disclosure.

Under Rule 8.3(b) of the Code, any person who is, or becomes, interested in 1% or more of any class of relevant securities of the offeree company or of any securities exchange offeror must make a Dealing Disclosure if the person deals in any relevant securities of the offeree company or of any securities exchange offeror. A Dealing Disclosure must contain details of the dealing concerned and of the person’s interests and short positions in, and rights to subscribe for, any relevant securities of each of (i) the offeree company and (ii) any securities exchange offeror(s), save to the extent that these details have previously been disclosed under Rule 8. A Dealing Disclosure by a person to whom Rule 8.3(b) applies must be made by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the business day following the date of the relevant dealing.

If two or more persons act together pursuant to an agreement or understanding, whether formal or informal, to acquire or control an interest in relevant securities of an offeree company or a securities exchange offeror, they will be deemed to be a single person for the purpose of Rule 8.3.

Opening Position Disclosures must also be made by the offeree company and by any offeror and Dealing Disclosures must also be made by the offeree company, by any offeror and by any persons acting in concert with any of them (see Rules 8.1, 8.2 and 8.4).

Details of the offeree and offeror companies in respect of whose relevant securities Opening Position Disclosures and Dealing Disclosures must be made can be found in the Disclosure Table on the Panel’s website at www.thetakeoverpanel.org.uk, including details of the number of relevant securities in issue, when the offer period commenced and when any offeror was first identified. You should contact the Panel’s Market Surveillance Unit on +44 (0)20 7638 0129 if you are in any doubt as to whether you are required to make an Opening Position Disclosure or a Dealing Disclosure.
Ends