

Edgar Filing: ALLIED IRISH BANKS PLC - Form 6-K

ALLIED IRISH BANKS PLC
Form 6-K
December 18, 2002

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16
under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the date of 18 December, 2002

ALLIED IRISH BANKS, public limited company

Bankcentre, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Republic of Ireland

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports
under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F..X... Form 40-F.....

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information
contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the
Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No ..X...

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant
in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82- _____

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, 18th December, 2002

AIB SHAREHOLDERS APPROVE ALLFIRST MERGER WITH M&T BANK

Shareholders of Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. ("AIB") today approved the Bank's
plan to merge its U.S. subsidiary, Allfirst Financial Inc., with M&T Bank
Corporation ("M&T"), and to acquire a 22.5% strategic stake in the enlarged
entity.

The transaction was approved by M&T's shareholders on Monday and, subject to the
approval of the Central Bank of Ireland and of U.S. regulatory authorities, is
expected to be completed by end-March 2003.

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-ENDS-

For further information please contact:

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END

Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

ALLIED IRISH BANKS, p.l.c.
(Registrant)

Date 18 December 2002

By: _____
Gary Kennedy
Group Director, Finance,
Risk and Enterprise
Technology
Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c.