

## NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR INTERESTS IN SHARES

Section 198 – Companies Act 1985

The Company was notified on 18 November that Credit Suisse First Boston, through its subsidiaries listed below, had a notifiable interest as at 16 November 2005 in 504,316,781 ordinary shares of US\$0.50 each in HSBC Holdings plc, representing approximately 4.45% of the ordinary shares in issue.

A copy of the letter of notification is quoted below.

N S Black

Assistant Secretary

HSBC Holdings plc

Letter to HSBC Holdings plc dated 18 November from Rob Daborn, Vice President, Equities Compliance, Credit Suisse First Boston (Europe) Limited

"Dear Sirs

### **HSBC Holdings plc (the "Company")**

This notification relates to the ordinary shares of the Company (the "shares") and is given in fulfilment of the obligations imposed under Section 198 of the Companies Act 1985 (the "Act").

We hereby notify you that on 16 November 2005, following disposals, CSFB (as defined below) holds the following interests in the issued share capital of the Company:

1. Credit Suisse First Boston (Europe) Limited ("CSFBEL"): 33,706,966 shares. CSFBEL has an interest of 30,271,911 of these shares under section 208(5) of the act by virtue of the right to redelivery of equivalent securities under stock lending arrangements.
2. Credit Suisse First Boston International ("CSFBi"): 202,910,470 shares. CSFBi has an interest of 697,118 of these shares under section 208(5) of the act by virtue of the right to redelivery of equivalent securities under stock lending arrangements
3. Credit Suisse First Boston (Hong Kong) Limited ("CSFBHK"): 267,657,250 shares.
4. Credit Suisse First Boston LLC ("CSFBLL"): 40,795 shares.
5. Credit Suisse First Boston Capital LLC ("CSFBC"): 1,300 shares.

CSFB now holds a total interest of 504,316,781 shares being equivalent to approximately 4.45 % of the issued share capital of the Company.

CSFBEL, CSFBi, CSFBC, CSFBLLC and CSFBHK are members of the investment banking business of Credit Suisse and reference to CSFB in this letter includes all of the subsidiaries and affiliates of Credit Suisse operating under the Credit Suisse First Boston name. Those CSFB companies, which are direct or indirect holding companies of CSFBEL, CSFBi, CSFBC, CSFBLLC and CSFBHK are under the terms of section 203 of the Act, each interested by attribution in any shares in which CSFBEL, CSFBi, CSFBC, CSFBLLC and CSFBHK are interested.

Yours faithfully

Rob Daborn

**Vice President - Equities Compliance"**