

23 December 2005

HSBC BANK (UK) PENSION SCHEME

HSBC Holdings plc on 22 December 2005 has subscribed for an additional £700 million of ordinary share capital in HSBC Bank plc in support of the injection by HSBC Bank plc on the same day of £1 billion into its defined benefit pension scheme, which closed to new members in July 1996.

HSBC is committed to ensuring that its pension schemes are properly supported and has taken this action to demonstrate that commitment.

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Note to editor:

HSBC Holdings plc

HSBC Holdings plc is headquartered in the UK. The HSBC Group serves over 110 million customers worldwide from more than 9,700 offices in 77 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. With assets of US\$1,467 billion at 30 June 2005, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. HSBC is marketed worldwide as 'the world's local bank'.

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