

*The following is the text of an announcement made today by HSBC Bank Malta plc, a 70.03 per cent indirectly held subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.*

16 May 2013

## **HSBC BANK MALTA P.L.C. INTERIM DIRECTORS' STATEMENT**

*HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. (HSBC Malta) is required to publish the following Interim Directors' Statement covering the period from 1 January 2013 to 16 May 2013 (the date of the Statement) under Listing Rules 5.86 and 5.88 of the Malta Financial Services Authority.*

During the period 1 January 2013 to 16 May 2013 HSBC Malta delivered a performance in line with the same period last year. Balance sheet management remained strong and cost control was effective.

In the difficult economic environment, the bank has seen a softening in loan demand during the period under review. Customer deposit levels were broadly unchanged despite continued competitive pressures.

The bank continues to focus on building a high quality asset base and, despite challenging economic conditions in the eurozone, local loan impairments have remained subdued in the first few months of the year. The bank's available-for-sale portfolio remains well diversified and conservatively positioned. The bank maintained its strong liquidity and capital position.

Mark Watkinson, Director and Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Malta, said: "We have continued to deliver positive results for our shareholders against a very challenging European backdrop. Global conditions look to remain difficult for the medium term. However as part of one of the world's largest banking groups, operating in over 80 countries and territories, HSBC Malta is well positioned to assist its customers explore opportunities in some of the world's faster growing markets."

*more*

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**Notes to editors:**

**1. Basis of preparation**

This statement is based on the unaudited management accounts of HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. up to 31 March 2013 and other financial information.

**2. The HSBC Group**

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from around 6,600 offices in over 80 countries and territories in Europe, Hong Kong, Rest of Asia-Pacific, North and Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa.

With assets of US\$2,681bn at 31 March 2013, the HSBC Group is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations

*ends/all*