



BARCLAYS BANK PLC

*(Incorporated with limited liability in England and Wales)*

REGISTRATION DOCUMENT

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This registration document dated 2 June 2015 ("**Registration Document**") constitutes a registration document for the purposes of Article 5(3) of Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, including by Directive 2010/73/EU the "**Prospectus Directive**") and has been prepared for the purpose of giving information with respect to Barclays Bank PLC ("**Issuer**") which, according to the particular nature of the relevant transaction is necessary to enable investors to make an informed assessment of the assets and liabilities, financial position, profit and losses and prospects of the Issuer.

The Issuer accepts responsibility for the information contained in this Registration Document and declares that, having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this Registration Document is, to the best of its knowledge, in accordance with the facts and contains no omission likely to affect its import.

This Registration Document has been approved by the United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority ("**FCA**"), which is the United Kingdom's competent authority for the purposes of the Prospectus Directive and the relevant implementing measures in the United Kingdom, as a registration document issued in compliance with the Prospectus Directive and the relevant implementing measures in the United Kingdom for the purpose of giving information with regard to the Issuer.

The credit ratings included or referred to in this Registration Document will be treated for the purposes of Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009 on credit rating agencies (as amended, "**CRA Regulation**") as having been issued by Fitch Ratings Limited, Moody's Investors Service Ltd. and Standard & Poor's Credit Market Services Europe Limited, each of which is established in the European Union and has been registered under the CRA Regulation.

**The date of this Registration Document is 2 June 2015.**

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## INTRODUCTION

### What is this document?

This Registration Document contains information describing the Issuer's business activities as well as certain financial information and material risks faced by the Group and the Bank Group, which, according to the particular nature of the Issuer and the securities which it may offer to the public or apply to have admitted to trading on a regulated market, is necessary to enable you to make an informed assessment of the assets and liabilities, financial position, profit and losses and prospects of the Issuer. Some of this information is incorporated by reference into the Registration Document.

### How do I use this Registration Document?

You should read and understand fully the contents of this Registration Document, including any documents incorporated by reference. This Registration Document contains important information about the Issuer, as well as describing certain risks relating to the Issuer and its business. An overview of the various sections comprising this Registration Document is set out below.

- The Risk Factors section describes the principal risks and uncertainties which could have a material adverse effect on the business, operations, financial condition or prospects of the Group and/or the Bank Group, and could have a material adverse effect on the return on the Securities..
- The Information Incorporated by Reference section sets out the information that is deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Registration Document. This Registration Document should be read together with all information which is deemed to be incorporated into this Registration Document by reference.
- The Issuer and the Group section provides certain information about the Group and the Bank Group, as well as details of litigation, investigations and reviews that the Group and the Issuer are party to and the subject of.
- The Directors section provides details of the directors of the Issuer.
- The General Information section sets out further information on the Issuer which the Issuer is required to include under applicable rules.
- The Documents Available section provides details of where you can inspect documents which are relevant to you in conjunction with this Registration Document.

## DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

The term "**Group**" means Barclays PLC together with its subsidiaries and the term "**Bank Group**" means Barclays Bank PLC together with its subsidiaries. The term "**Issuer**" refers to Barclays Bank PLC.

In this Registration Document, the abbreviations "**£m**" and "**£bn**" represent millions and thousands of millions of pounds sterling respectively; the abbreviations "**\$m**" and "**\$bn**" represent millions and thousands of millions of US Dollars respectively; "**€m**" and "**€bn**" represent millions and thousands of millions of euros respectively and "**C\$m**" and "**C\$bn**" represent millions and thousands of millions of Canadian dollars respectively.

"**Securities**" means any securities issued by the Issuer described in any securities note and, if applicable, summary note, which when read together with this Registration Document comprise a prospectus for the purposes of Article 5(3) of the Prospectus Directive or in any base prospectus for the purposes of Article 5(4) of the Prospectus Directive or other offering document into which this Registration Document may be incorporated by reference.

All capitalised terms used will be defined in this Registration Document and are referenced in the Index to this Registration Document.

## RISK FACTORS

*Each of the risks described below could have a material adverse effect on the Issuer's business, operations, financial condition or prospects, which, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on the return on the Securities. Prospective purchasers should only invest in the Securities after assessing these risks. More than one risk factor may have a simultaneous or a compounding effect which may not be predictable. No assurance can be given as to the effect that any combination of risk factors may have on the return on the Securities. The risks below are not exhaustive and there may be additional risks and uncertainties that are not presently known to the Issuer or that the Issuer currently believes to be immaterial but that could have a material impact on the business, operations, financial condition or prospects of the Issuer.*

### Principal Risks relating to the Issuer

Material risks relating to the Issuer and their impact are described below in two sections: i) risks which management believes may affect more than one "principal risk" (within the meaning of the Issuer's Enterprise Risk Management Framework, each a "Principal Risk"; and ii) risks management believes are more likely to impact a single Principal Risk. The five Principal Risks are currently categorised as: 1) Credit Risk; (ii) Market Risk; (iii) Funding Risk; iv) Operational Risk; and v) Conduct Risk.

### Risks potentially impacting more than one Principal Risk

#### i) Business conditions, general economy and geopolitical issues

The Group's performance could be adversely affected in more than one Principal Risk by a weak or deteriorating global economy or political instability. These factors may also be focused in one or more of the Group's main countries of operation.

The Group offers a broad range of services to retail and institutional customers, including governments, across a large number of countries with the result that it could be materially adversely impacted by weak or deteriorating economic conditions, including deflation, or political instability in one or a number of countries in which the Group operates or any other globally significant economy.

The global economy faces an environment characterised by low growth, and this is expected to continue during 2015 with slow growth or recession in some regions, such as Europe which may be offset in part by expected growth in others, such as North America. Any further slowing of economic growth in China would also be expected to have an adverse impact on the global economy through lower demand, which is likely to have the most significant impact on countries in developing regions that are producers of commodities used in China's infrastructure development.

While the pace of decreasing monetary support by central banks, in some regions, is expected to be calibrated to potential recovery in demand in such regions, any such decrease of monetary support could have a further adverse impact on volatility in the financial markets and on the performance of significant parts of the Group's business, which could, in each case, have an adverse effect on the Group's future results.

Falling or continued low oil prices could potentially have an adverse impact on the global economy with significant wide ranging effects on producer and importer nations as well as putting strain on client companies in certain sectors which may lead to higher impairment requirements.

Furthermore, the outcome of the political and armed conflicts in the Ukraine and parts of the Middle East are unpredictable and may have a negative impact on the global economy.

A weak or deteriorating global economy and political instability could impact Group performance in a number of ways including, for example: (i) deteriorating business, consumer or investor confidence leading to reduced levels of client activity and consequently a decline in revenues; (ii)

mark to market losses in trading portfolios resulting from changes in credit ratings, share prices and solvency of counterparties; and (iii) higher levels of default rates and impairment.

## **ii) UK political and policy environment**

The public policy environment in the UK (including but not limited to regulatory reform in the UK, a potential referendum on UK membership of the European Union, and taxation of UK financial institutions and clients) is likely to remain challenging in the short to medium term, with the potential for policy proposals emerging that could impact clients, markets and the Group either directly or indirectly.

A referendum on the UK membership of the European Union may affect the Group's risk profile through introducing potentially significant new uncertainties and instability in financial markets, both ahead of the dates for this referendum and, depending on the outcomes, after the event. As a member of the European Union, the UK and UK-based organisations have access to the EU Single Market. Given the lack of precedent, it is unclear how a potential exit of the UK from the EU would affect the UK's access to the EU Single Market and how it would affect the Group.

## **iii) Model risk**

The Group may suffer adverse consequences from risk based business and strategic decisions based on incorrect or misused model assumptions, outputs and reports.

The Group uses models in particular to assess and control the Group's credit and market exposures. Model risk can arise from a number of sources, including: fundamental model flaws leading to inaccurate outputs; incomplete, inaccurate or inappropriate data used for either development or operation of the model; incorrect or inappropriate implementation or use of a model; or assumptions in the models becoming outdated or invalid due to the evolving external economic and legislative environment and changes in customer behaviour.

If the Group were to place reliance on incorrect or misused model outputs or reports, this could result in a material adverse impact on the Group's reputation, operations, financial condition and prospects, for example, due to inaccurate reporting of financial statements; estimation of capital requirement (either on a regulatory or economic basis); or measurement of the financial risks taken by the Group as part of its normal course of business.

As a consequence, management of model risk has become an increasingly important area of focus for the Group, regulators and the industry.

## **Risks by Principal Risk**

### **Credit risk**

The financial condition of the Group's customers, clients and counterparties, including governments and other financial institutions, could adversely affect the Group.

The Group may suffer financial loss if any of its customers, clients or market counterparties fails to fulfil their contractual obligations to the Group. Furthermore, the Group may also suffer loss when the value of the Group's investment in the financial instruments of an entity falls as a result of that entity's credit rating being downgraded. In addition, the Group may incur significant unrealised gains or losses due solely to changes in the Group's credit spreads or those of third parties, as these changes affect the fair value of the Group's derivative instruments, debt securities that the Group holds or issues, or any loans held at fair value.

### **i) Deterioration in political and economic environment**

The Group's performance is at risk from any deterioration in the economic and political environment which may result from a number of uncertainties, including most significantly the following factors:

- a) Political instability or economic uncertainty in markets in which the Group operates

Political instability, economic uncertainty or deflation in regions in which the Group operates could weaken growth prospects that could lead to an adverse impact on customers' ability to service debt and so to higher impairment requirements for the Group. These include, but are not limited to:

#### *Eurozone*

The economies across the Eurozone are showing little evidence of sustained growth with debt-burdened government finances, deflation, weak demand and persistent high unemployment preventing a sustained recovery. Slow recovery could put economic pressure on key trading partners of Eurozone countries, notably the UK and China. Furthermore, concerns persist on the pace of structural banking reform in the Eurozone and the strength of the Eurozone banking sector in general. A slowdown in the Eurozone economy could have a material adverse effect on the Group's results of operations, financial condition and prospects through, for example, a requirement to raise impairment levels.

The Group is at risk from a sovereign default of an existing Eurozone country in which the Group has operations and the adverse impact on the economy of that exiting country and the credit standing of the Group's clients and counterparties. This may result in increased credit losses and higher impairment requirements. While the risk of one or more countries exiting the Eurozone had been receding, as a result of the recent formation of an anti-austerity coalition government in Greece, this risk and the risk of redenomination is now re-emerging alongside the possibility of a significant renegotiation of the terms of Greece's bailout programme.

#### *South Africa*

The economy in South Africa remains under pressure with weak underlying economic growth reinforced by industrial strike action and electricity shortages. While the rapid growth in the consumer lending industry over the past three years has begun to slow, concerns remain over the level of consumer indebtedness, particularly given the prospect of further interest rate rises and high inflation. Higher unemployment and a fall in property prices, together with increased customer or client unwillingness or inability to meet their debt obligations to the Group, may have an adverse impact on the Group's performance through higher impairment charges.

#### *Countries in developing regions*

A number of countries, which have high fiscal deficits and reliance on short term external financing and/or material reliance on commodity exports, have become increasingly vulnerable as a result of, for example, the volatility of the oil price, a strong US dollar relative to local currencies, and the winding down of quantitative easing policies by some central banks. The impact on the Group may vary according to such country's respective structural vulnerabilities but the impact may result in increased impairment requirements of the Group through sovereign defaults or the inability or unwillingness of clients and counterparties of the Group in that country to meet their debt obligations.

#### *Russia*

The risks to Russia have escalated, and may continue to do so, as pressure on the Russian economy increases. Slowing GDP growth and high inflation due to the imposition of economic sanctions by the US and EU, falls in the price of oil, a rapid fall in the value of the rouble against other foreign currencies and significant and rapid interest rate rises could have a significant adverse impact on the Russian economy. In addition, foreign investment into Russia reduced during 2014 and may continue in 2015.

While the Group has no material operations in Russia, the Group participates in certain financing and trading activity with selected counterparties conducting business in Russia with the result that further sanctions or deterioration in the Russian economy may result in the counterparties being unable, through lack of a widely accepted currency, or unwilling to repay, refinance or roll-over outstanding liabilities. Any such defaults could have a material adverse effect on the Group's results as a result of, for example, incurring higher impairment.

- b) Interest rate rises, including as a result of slowing of monetary stimulus, could impact on consumer debt affordability and corporate profitability

To the extent that interest rates increase in certain developed markets, such increases are widely expected to be gradual and modest in scale over the period to mid-2016, albeit at differing timetables, across the major currencies. While an increase may support Group income, any sharper than expected changes could cause stress in loan portfolio and underwriting activity of the Group, leading to the possibility of the Group incurring higher impairment. The possibility of higher impairment would most notably occur in the Group's retail unsecured and secured portfolios, which, coupled with a decline in collateral values, could lead to a reduction in recoverability and value of the Group's assets resulting in a requirement to increase the Group's level of impairment allowance.

## ii) Specific sectors

The Group is subject to risks arising from changes in credit quality and recovery of loans and advances due from borrowers and counterparties in a specific portfolio or from a large individual name. Any deterioration in credit quality could lead to lower recoverability and higher impairment in a specific sector or in respect of specific large counterparties. The following provides examples of areas of uncertainties to the Group's portfolio which could have a material impact on performance. However, there may also be additional risks not yet known or currently immaterial which may have an adverse impact on the Group's performance.

- a) Decline in property prices in the UK and Italy

The Group is at risk from a fall in property prices in both the residential and commercial sectors in the UK. With UK home loans representing the most significant portion of the Group's total loans and advances to the retail sector, the Group has a large exposure to adverse developments in the UK retail property sector. UK house prices (primarily in London) increased throughout 2014 at a rate faster than that of income and to a level far higher than the long term average. As a result, a fall in house prices, particularly in London and South East of the UK, would lead to higher impairment and negative capital impact as loss given default ("LGD") rates increase. In addition, reduced affordability of residential and commercial property in the UK, for example, as a result of higher interest rates or increased unemployment, could also lead to higher impairment.

In addition a significant portion of the Group's total loans and advances in Italy are to residential home loans. As a consequence, a number of factors including, for example, a fall in property prices, higher unemployment, and higher default rates have the potential to have a significant impact on the Group's performance through higher impairment charges.

- b) Non-Core assets

The Group holds a large portfolio of Non-Core assets, including commercial real estate and leveraged finance loans, which (i) remain illiquid; (ii) are valued based upon assumptions, judgements and estimates which may change over time; and (iii) are subject to further deterioration and write-downs. As a result, the Group is at risk of loss on these portfolios due to, for example, higher impairment should their performance deteriorate or write-downs upon eventual sale of the assets.



c) Large single name losses

The Group has large individual exposures to single name counterparties. The default of obligations by such counterparties could have a significant impact on the carrying value of these assets. In addition, where such counterparty risk has been mitigated by taking collateral, credit risk may remain high if the collateral held cannot be realised or has to be liquidated at prices which are insufficient to recover the full amount of the loan or derivative exposure. Any such defaults could have a material adverse effect on the Group's results due to, for example, incurring higher impairment charges.

**Market risk**

The Group's financial position may be adversely affected by changes in both the level and volatility of prices leading to lower revenues and may include:

**i) Major changes in quantitative easing programmes**

The trading business model is focused on client facilitation in the wholesale markets, involving market making activities, risk management solutions and execution. A prolonged continuation of current quantitative easing programmes, in certain regions, could lead to a change and a decrease of client activity which could result in lower fees and commission income.

The Group is also exposed to a rapid unwinding of quantitative easing programmes. A sharp movement in asset prices could affect market liquidity and cause excess volatility impacting the Group's ability to execute client trades and may also result in portfolio losses.

**ii) Adverse movements in interest and foreign currency exchange rates**

A sudden and adverse movement in interest or foreign currency exchange rates has the potential to detrimentally impact the Group's income arising from non-trading activity.

The Group has exposure to non-traded interest rate risk, arising from the provision of retail and wholesale (non-traded) banking products and services. This includes current accounts and equity balances which do not have a defined maturity date and an interest rate that does not change in line with base rate changes. The level and volatility of interest rates can impact the Group's net interest margin, which is the interest rate spread earned between lending and borrowing costs. The potential for future volatility and margin changes remains in key areas such as in the UK benchmark interest rate, to the extent such volatility and margin changes are not entirely neutralised by hedging programmes.

The Group is also at risk from movements in foreign currency exchange rates as these will impact the sterling equivalent value of foreign currency denominated assets in the banking book, and therefore exposing the Group to currency translation risk.

While the impact is difficult to predict with any accuracy, failure to appropriately manage the Group's balance sheet to take account of these risks could have an adverse effect on the Group's financial prospects due to reduced income and volatility of the regulatory capital measures.

**iii) Adverse movements in the pension fund**

Adverse movements between pension assets and liabilities for defined benefits pension schemes could contribute to a pension deficit. The liabilities discount rate is a Key Risk and, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IAS 19"), is derived from the yields of high quality corporate bonds (deemed to be those with AA ratings) and consequently includes exposure to both risk-free yields and credit spreads. Therefore, the Group's defined benefits scheme valuation would be adversely affected by a prolonged fall in the discount rate or a persistent low rate environment. Inflation is another key risk driver to the pension fund, as the net position could be negatively impacted by an increase in long term inflation expectation.

**iv) Non-Core assets**

As part of the assets in the Non-Core business, the Group holds a UK portfolio of generally longer term loans to counterparties in Education, Social Housing and Local Authorities (“ESHLA”) sectors which are measured on a fair value basis. The valuation of this portfolio is subject to substantial uncertainty due to the long-dated nature of the portfolios, the lack of a secondary market in the relevant loans and unobservable loan spreads. As a result of these factors, the Group may be required to revise the fair values of these portfolios to reflect, among other things, changes in valuation methodologies due to changes in industry valuation practices and as further market evidence is obtained in connection with the Non-Core asset run-off and exit process. In 2014, the Group recognised a significant reduction in the fair value of the ESHLA portfolio. Any further negative adjustments to the fair value of the ESHLA portfolio may give rise to significant losses to the Group.

### **Funding risk**

The ability of the Group to achieve its business plans may be adversely impacted if it does not effectively manage its capital (including leverage) and liquidity ratios.

The Group may not be able to achieve its business plans due to: i) being unable to maintain appropriate capital ratios; ii) being unable to meet its obligations as they fall due; iii) rating agency methodology changes; and iv) adverse changes in foreign exchange rates on capital ratios.

#### **i) Being unable to maintain appropriate capital ratios**

Should the Group be unable to maintain or achieve appropriate capital ratios this could lead to: an inability to support business activity; a failure to meet regulatory requirements including the requirements of regulator set stress tests; increased cost of funding due to deterioration in credit ratings; restrictions on distributions including the ability to meet dividend targets; and/or the need to take additional measures to strengthen the Group’s capital or leverage position. Basel III and CRD IV have increased the amount and quality of capital that the Group is required to hold. While CRD IV requirements are now in force in the United Kingdom, changes to capital requirements can still occur, whether as a result of further changes by EU legislators, binding regulatory technical standards being developed by the European Banking Authority (“EBA”) or changes to the PRA interpretation and application of these requirements to UK banks. Such changes, either individually and/or in aggregate, may lead to further unexpected enhanced requirements in relation to the Group’s CRD IV capital.

Additional capital requirements will also arise from other regulatory reforms, including both UK, EU and US proposals on bank structural reform, current EBA ‘Minimum Requirement for own funds and Eligible Liabilities’ (“MREL”), proposals under the EU Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive (“BRRD”) and Financial Stability Board (“FSB”) Total Loss-Absorbing Capacity (“TLAC”) proposals for Globally Systemically Important Banks (“G-SIBs”). Given many of the proposals are still in draft form and subject to change, the impact is still being assessed. However, it is likely that these changes in law and regulation will have an impact on the Group as they would require changes to the legal entity structure of the Group and how businesses are capitalised and funded. Any such increased capital requirements may also constrain the Group’s planned activities, lead to forced asset sales and balance sheet reductions and could increase the Group’s costs, impact on the Group’s earnings and restrict the Group’s ability to pay dividends. Moreover, during periods of market dislocation, or when there is significant competition for the type of funding that the Group needs, increasing the Group’s capital resources in order to meet targets may prove more difficult and/or costly.

#### **ii) Being unable to meet its obligations as they fall due**

Should the Group fail to manage its liquidity and funding risk sufficiently, this may result in the Group, either not having sufficient financial resources available to meet its payment obligations as they fall due or, although solvent, only being able to meet these obligations at excessive cost. This could cause

the Group to fail to meet regulatory liquidity standards, be unable to support day to day banking activities or no longer be a going concern.

### iii) Rating agency methodology changes

Please see “A downgrade of the credit rating assigned by any credit rating agency to the Issuer or the Securities could adversely affect the liquidity or market value of the Securities. Credit ratings downgrades could occur as a result of, among other causes, changes in the ratings methodologies used by credit rating agencies. Changes in credit rating agencies' views of the level of implicit sovereign support for European banks and their groups are likely to lead to ratings downgrades” below for a description of the proposed changes in bank ratings methodologies. While the overall outcome of the proposed changes in bank ratings methodologies, and the related review of ratings for removal of sovereign support, remains uncertain, there is a risk that any potential rating downgrades could impact the Group's performance should borrowing cost and liquidity change significantly versus expectations or the credit spreads of the Group be negatively affected.

### iv) Adverse changes in foreign exchange rates on capital ratios

The Group has capital resources and risk weighted assets denominated in foreign currencies and changes in foreign currency exchange rates may adversely impact the sterling equivalent value of foreign currency denominated capital resources and risk weighted assets. As a result, the Group's regulatory capital ratios are sensitive to foreign currency movements. Failure to appropriately manage the Group's balance sheet to take account of this risk could result in an adverse impact on regulatory capital ratios. While the impact is difficult to predict with any accuracy it may have a material adverse effect on the Group's operations as a result of a failure in maintaining appropriate capital and leverage ratios.

## Operational risk

The operational risk profile of the Group may change as a result of human factors, inadequate or failed internal processes and systems, and external events.

The Group is exposed to many types of operational risk, including fraudulent and other criminal activities (both internal and external), the risk of breakdowns in processes, controls or procedures (or their inadequacy relative to the size and scope of the Group's business), systems failure or an attempt, by an external party, to make a service or supporting infrastructure unavailable to its intended users, known as a denial of service attack, and the risk of geopolitical cyber threat activity destabilising or destroying the Group's IT (or critical infrastructure the Group depends upon but does not control) in support of critical economic business functions. The Group is also subject to the risk of disruption of its business arising from events that are wholly or partially beyond its control (for example natural disasters, acts of terrorism, epidemics and transport or utility failures) which may give rise to losses or reductions in service to customers and/or economic loss to the Group. The operational risks that the Group is exposed to could change rapidly and there is no guarantee that the Group's processes, controls, procedures and systems are sufficient to address, or could adapt promptly to, such changing risks. All of these risks are also applicable where the Group relies on outside suppliers or vendors to provide services to it and its customers.

### i) Cyber attacks

The threat posed by cyber attacks continues to grow and the banking industry has suffered major cyber attacks during the year. Activists, nation states, criminal gangs, insiders and opportunists are among those targeting computer systems. Given the increasing sophistication and scope of potential cyber attack, it is possible that future attacks may lead to significant breaches of security. The occurrence of one or more of such events may jeopardise the Group or the Group's clients' or counterparties' confidential and other information processed and stored in, and transmitted through, the Group's computer systems and networks, or otherwise cause interruptions or malfunctions in the Group's, clients', counterparties' or third parties' operations, which could impact their ability to transact with the Group or otherwise result in significant losses or reputational damage.

Failure to adequately manage cyber security risk and continually review and update current processes in response to new threats could adversely affect the Group's reputation, operations, financial condition and prospects. The range of impacts includes increased fraud losses, customer detriment, regulatory censure and penalty, legal liability and potential reputational damage.

#### **ii) Infrastructure and technology resilience**

The Group's technological infrastructure is critical to the operation of the Group's businesses and delivery of products and services to customers and clients. Sustained disruption in a customer's access to their key account information or delays in making payments could have a significant impact on the Group's reputation and may also lead to potentially large costs to both rectify the issue and reimburse losses incurred by customers.

#### **iii) Ability to hire and retain appropriately qualified employees**

The Group is largely dependent on highly skilled and qualified individuals. Therefore, the Group's continued ability to manage and grow its business, to compete effectively and to respond to an increasingly complex regulatory environment is dependent on attracting new talented and diverse employees and retaining appropriately qualified employees.

In particular, as the Group continues to implement changes to its compensation structures in response to new legislation, there is a risk that some employees may decide to leave the Group. This may be particularly evident among those employees who are impacted by changes to deferral structures and new claw back arrangements. Additionally, colleagues who have specialist sets of skills within control functions or within specific geographies that are currently in high demand may also decide to leave the Group as competitors seek to attract top industry talent to their own organisations. Finally, the impact of regulatory changes such as the introduction of the Individual Accountabilities Regime, under which greater individual responsibility and accountability will be imposed on senior managers and non-executives of UK banks and the structural reform of banking, may also reduce the attractiveness of the financial services industry to high calibre candidates in specific geographies.

Failure by the Group to prevent the departure of appropriately qualified employees, to retain qualified staff who are dedicated to oversee and manage current and future regulatory standards and expectations, or to quickly and effectively replace such employees, could negatively impact the Group's results of operations, financial condition, prospects and level of employee engagement.

#### **iv) Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with IFRS requires the use of estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying relevant accounting policies. The key areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions are significant to the consolidated and individual financial statements, include credit impairment charges for amortised cost assets, impairment and valuation of available for sale investments, calculation of current and deferred tax, fair value of financial instruments, valuation of provisions and accounting for pensions and post-retirement benefits. There is a risk that if the judgement exercised or the estimates or assumptions used subsequently turn out to be incorrect then this could result in significant loss to the Group, beyond that anticipated or provided for.

The further development of standards and interpretations under IFRS could also significantly impact the financial results, condition and prospects of the Group. For example, the introduction of IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* is likely to have a material impact on the measurement and impairment of financial instruments held.

#### **v) Legal, competition and regulatory matters**

Legal disputes, regulatory investigations, fines and other sanctions relating to conduct of business and financial crime may negatively affect the Group's results, reputation and ability to conduct its business.

The Group conducts diverse activities in a highly regulated global market and therefore is exposed to the risk of fines and other sanctions relating to the conduct of its business. In recent years there has been an increased willingness on the part of authorities to investigate past practices, vigorously pursue alleged breaches and impose heavy penalties on financial services firms; this trend is expected to continue. In relation to financial crime, a breach of applicable legislation and/or regulations could result in the Group or its staff being subject to criminal prosecution, regulatory censure and other sanctions in the jurisdictions in which it operates, particularly in the UK and US. Where clients, customers or other third parties are harmed by the Group's conduct this may also give rise to legal proceedings, including class actions, particularly in the US. Other legal disputes may also arise between the Group and third parties relating to matters such as breaches, enforcement of legal rights or obligations arising under contracts, statutes or common law. Adverse findings in any such matters may result in the Group being liable to third parties seeking damages, or may result in the Group's rights not being enforced as intended.

Details of material legal, competition, and regulatory matters to which the Group is currently exposed are set out in Note 29 (Legal, competition and regulatory matters) to the financial statements of BPLC contained in the Joint Annual Report. In addition to those material ongoing matters, the Group is engaged in numerous other legal proceedings in various jurisdictions which arise in the ordinary course of business, as well as being subject to requests for information, investigations and other reviews by regulators and other authorities in connection with business activities in which the Group is or has been engaged. In light of the uncertainties involved in legal, competition and regulatory matters, there can be no assurance that the outcome of a particular matter or matters will not be material to the Group's results of operations or cash flow for a particular period, depending on, among other things, the amount of the loss resulting from the matter(s) and the amount of income otherwise reported for the period.

The outcome of material legal, competition and regulatory matters, both those to which the Group is currently exposed and any others which may arise in the future, is difficult to predict. However, it is likely that in connection with any such matters the Group will incur significant expense, regardless of the ultimate outcome, and one or more of such matters could expose the Group to any of the following: substantial monetary damages and/or fines; remediation of affected customers and clients; other penalties and injunctive relief; additional litigation; criminal prosecution in certain circumstances; the loss of any existing agreed protection from prosecution; regulatory restrictions on the Group's business including the withdrawal of authorisations; increased regulatory compliance requirements; suspension of operations; public reprimands; loss of significant assets or business; a negative effect on the Group's reputation; loss of investor confidence; and/or dismissal/resignation of key individuals.

There is also a risk that the outcome of any legal, competition or regulatory matters in which the Group is involved may give rise to changes in law or regulation as part of a wider response by relevant law makers and regulators. An adverse decision in any one matter, either against the Group or another financial institution facing similar claims, could lead to further claims against the Group.

#### **vi) Risks arising from regulatory change and scrutiny**

The financial services industry continues to be the focus of significant regulatory change and scrutiny which may adversely affect the Group's business, financial performance, capital and risk management strategies.

##### **a) Regulatory change**

The Group, in common with much of the financial services industry, continues to be subject to significant levels of regulatory change and increasing scrutiny in many of the countries in which it operates (including, in particular, the UK and the US and in light of its significant investment banking operations). This has led to a more intensive approach to supervision and oversight, increased expectations and enhanced requirements, including with regard to: (i) capital, liquidity

and leverage requirements (for example arising from Basel III and CRD IV); (ii) structural reform and recovery and resolution planning; and (iii) market infrastructure reforms such as the clearing of over-the-counter derivatives. As a result, regulatory risk will continue to be a focus of senior management attention and consume significant levels of business resources. Furthermore, this more intensive approach and the enhanced requirements, uncertainty and extent of international regulatory coordination as enhanced supervisory standards are developed and implemented may adversely affect the Group's business, capital and risk management strategies and/or may result in the Group deciding to modify its legal entity structure, capital and funding structures and business mix or to exit certain business activities altogether or to determine not to expand in areas despite their otherwise attractive potential.

b) Additional PRA supervisory expectations, including changes to CRD IV

The Group's results and ability to conduct its business may be negatively affected by changes to CRD IV or additional supervisory expectations.

To protect financial stability the Financial Policy Committee of the Bank of England ("FPC") has legal powers to make recommendations about the application of prudential requirements. In addition, it may, for example, be given powers to direct the PRA and FCA to adjust capital requirements through Sectoral Capital Requirements ("SCR"). Directions would apply to all UK banks and building societies, rather than to the Group specifically. The FPC issued its review of the leverage ratio in October 2014 containing a requirement of a minimum leverage ratio of 3% to supersede the previous PRA expectation of a 3% leverage ratio. That review also introduced a supplementary leverage ratio for G-SIBs to be implemented from 2016 and countercyclical leverage ratio buffers would be implemented at the same time as countercyclical buffers are implemented for RWA purposes.

Changes to CRD IV requirements, UK regulators' interpretations of them, or additional supervisory expectations, either individually or in aggregate, may lead to unexpected enhanced requirements in relation to the Group's capital, leverage, liquidity and funding ratios or alter the way such ratios are calculated. This may result in a need for further management actions to meet the changed requirements, such as: increasing capital or liquidity resources, reducing leverage and risk weighted assets; modifying legal entity structure (including with regard to issuance and deployment of capital and funding for the Group); changing the Group's business mix or exiting other businesses; and/or undertaking other actions to strengthen the Group's position.

c) Market infrastructure reforms

The European Market Infrastructure Regulation ("EMIR") introduces requirements to improve transparency and reduce the risks associated with the derivatives market. Certain of these requirements came into force in 2013 and 2014 and still more will become effective in 2015. EMIR requires EU-established entities that enter into any form of derivative contract to: report every derivative contract entered into to a trade repository; implement new risk management standards for all bilateral over-the-counter derivative trades that are not cleared by a central counterparty; and clear, through a central counterparty, over-the-counter derivatives that are subject to a mandatory clearing obligation (although this clearing obligation will only apply to certain counterparties).

CRD IV aims to complement EMIR by applying higher capital requirements for bilateral, over-the-counter derivative trades. Lower capital requirements for cleared trades are only available if the central counterparty is recognised as a 'qualifying central counterparty', which has been authorised or recognised under EMIR (in accordance with related binding technical standards). Further significant market infrastructure reforms will be introduced by amendments to the EU Markets in Financial Instruments Directive that are expected to be implemented in 2016.

In the US, the Dodd-Frank Act also mandates that many types of derivatives that were previously traded in the over-the-counter markets must be traded on an exchange or swap execution facility and must be centrally cleared through a regulated clearing house. In addition, participants in these markets are now made subject to Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”) and Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) regulation and oversight.

It is possible that other additional regulations, and the related expenses and requirements, will increase the cost of and restrict participation in the derivative markets, thereby increasing the costs of engaging in hedging or other transactions and reducing liquidity and the use of the derivative markets.

Changes in regulation of the derivative markets could adversely affect the business of the Group and its affiliates in these markets and could make it more difficult and expensive to conduct hedging and trading activities, which could in turn reduce the demand for swap dealer and similar services of the Group and its subsidiaries. In addition, as a result of these increased costs, the new regulation of the derivative markets may also result in the Group deciding to reduce its activity in these markets.

#### d) Structural reform and bank recovery and resolution

A number of jurisdictions have enacted or are considering legislation and rulemaking that could have a significant impact on the structure, business risk and management of the Group and of the financial services industry more generally.

Key developments that are relevant to the Group include:

- The UK Financial Services (Banking Reform) Act 2013 (the “**Banking Reform Act**”), gives UK authorities the power to implement key recommendations of the Independent Commission on Banking, including the separation of the UK and EEA retail banking activities of the largest UK banks into a legally, operationally and economically separate and independent entity (so-called ‘ring fencing’). It is expected that banks will have to comply with these ring-fencing requirements from January 2019;
- The European Commission structural reform proposals of January 2014 (which are still in discussion) for a directive to implement recommendations of the EU High Level Expert Group Review (the “**Liikanen Review**”). The directive would apply to EU globally significant financial institutions;
- Implementation of the requirement to create a US intermediate holding company (“**IHC**”) structure to hold its US banking and non-banking subsidiaries, including Barclays Capital Inc., the Group’s US broker-dealer subsidiary. The IHC will generally be subject to supervision and regulation, including as to regulatory capital and stress testing, by the Federal Reserve Bank (“**FRB**”) as if it were a US bank holding company of comparable size. The Group will be required to form its IHC by 1 July 2016. The IHC will be subject to the US generally applicable minimum leverage capital requirement (which is different than to Basel III international leverage ratio, including to the extent that the generally applicable US leverage ratio does not include off-balance sheet exposures) starting 1 January 2018. The Group continues to evaluate the implications of the FRB’s IHC final rules (issued in February 2014) for the Group. Nevertheless, the Group currently believes that, in the aggregate, the final rules (and, in particular, the leverage requirements in the final rules that will be applicable to the IHC in 2018) are likely to increase the operational costs and capital requirements and/or require changes to the business mix of the Group’s US operations, which ultimately may have an adverse effect on the Group’s overall result of operations; and
- Implementation of the so-called ‘Volcker Rule’ under the Dodd-Frank Act. The Volcker Rule, once fully effective, will prohibit banking entities, including Barclays PLC, Barclays Bank PLC and their various subsidiaries and affiliates from undertaking certain ‘proprietary trading’ activities and will limit the sponsorship of, and investment in, private equity funds and

hedge funds, in each case broadly defined, by such entities. The rules will also require the Group to develop an extensive compliance and monitoring programme (both inside and outside of the US), subject to various executive officer attestation requirements, addressing proprietary trading and covered fund activities, and the Group therefore expects compliance costs to increase. The final rule is highly complex and its full impact will not be known with certainty until market practices and structures develop under it. Subject entities are generally required to be in compliance with the prohibition on proprietary trading and the requirement to develop an extensive compliance programme by July 2015 (with certain provisions subject to possible extensions).

These laws and regulations and the way in which they are interpreted and implemented by regulators may have a number of significant consequences, including changes to the legal entity structure of the Group, changes to how and where capital and funding is raised and deployed within the Group, increased requirements for loss-absorbing capacity within the Group and/or at the level of certain legal entities or sub-groups within the Group and potential modifications to the business mix and model (including potential exit of certain business activities). These and other regulatory changes and the resulting actions taken to address such regulatory changes, may have an adverse impact on the Group's profitability, operating flexibility, flexibility of deployment of capital and funding, return on equity, ability to pay dividends and/or financial condition. It is not yet possible to predict the detail of such legislation or regulatory rulemaking or the ultimate consequences to the Group which could be material.

e) Recovery and resolution planning

There continues to be a strong regulatory focus on resolvability from international and UK regulators. The Group made its first formal Recovery and Resolution Plan ("RRP") submissions to the UK and US regulators in mid-2012 and has continued to work with the relevant authorities to identify and address impediments to resolvability.

In the UK, RRP work is now considered part of continuing supervision. Removal of barriers to resolution will be considered as part of the PRA's supervisory strategy for each firm, and the PRA can require firms to make significant changes in order to enhance resolvability.

In the US, Barclays is one of several systemically important banks (as one of the so-called "first wave filers") required to file resolution plans with the Federal Reserve and the FDIC under provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act. The regulators provided feedback in August 2014 with respect to the 2013 resolution plans submitted by first wave filers. This feedback required such filers to make substantive improvements to their plans for filing in 2015 or face potential punitive actions which, in extremis, could lead to forced divestitures or reductions in operational footprints in the US. Barclays is working with its regulators to address these issues and will file its revised plan in June 2015. It is uncertain when or in what form US regulators will review and assess Barclays' US resolution plan filing.

In South Africa, the South African Treasury and the South Africa Reserve Bank are considering material new legislation and regulation to adopt a resolution and depositor guarantee scheme in alignment with FSB principles. BAGL and Absa Bank will be subject to these schemes as they are adopted. It is not clear what shape these schemes will take or when they will be adopted, but current proposals for a funded deposit insurance scheme and for operational continuity could result in material new expense impacts for the BAGL group.

Whilst the Group believes that it is making good progress in reducing impediments to resolution, should the relevant authorities ultimately decide that the Group or any significant subsidiary is not resolvable, the impact of such structural changes (whether in connection with RRP or other structural reform initiatives) could impact capital, liquidity and leverage ratios, as well as the overall profitability of the Group, for example via duplicated infrastructure costs, lost cross-rate revenues and additional funding costs.



## Conduct risk

Any inappropriate judgements or actions taken by the Group, in the execution of business activities or otherwise, may adversely impact the Group or its employees. In addition, any such actions may have a detrimental impact on the Group's customers, clients or counterparties.

Such judgements or actions may negatively impact the Group in a number of ways including, for example, negative publicity and consequent erosion of reputation, loss of revenue, imposition of fines, litigation, higher scrutiny and/or intervention from regulators, regulatory or legislative action, loss of existing or potential client business, criminal and civil penalties and other damages, reduced workforce morale, and difficulties in recruiting and retaining talent. The Group may self-identify incidents of inappropriate judgement which might include non-compliance with regulatory requirements where consumers have suffered detriment leading to remediation of affected customers.

There are a number of areas where the Group has sustained financial and reputational damage from previous periods and where the consequences continued in 2014 and are likely to have further adverse effects in 2015 and possibly beyond.

As a global financial services firm, the Group is subject to the risks associated with money laundering, terrorist financing, bribery and corruption and economic sanctions and may be adversely impacted if it does not adequately mitigate the risk that its employees or third parties facilitate or that its products and services may be used to facilitate financial crime activities.

Furthermore, the Group's brand may be adversely impacted from any association, action or inaction which is perceived by stakeholders to be inappropriate or unethical and not in keeping with the Group's stated purpose and values.

Failure to appropriately manage these risks and the potential negative impact to the Group's reputation may reduce, directly or indirectly, the attractiveness of the Group to stakeholders, including customers and clients. Furthermore, such a failure may undermine market integrity and result in detriment to the Group's clients, customers, counterparties or employees leading to remediation of affected customers by the Group.

**A downgrade of the credit rating assigned by any credit rating agency to the Issuer or the Securities could adversely affect the liquidity or market value of the Securities. Credit Ratings downgrades could occur as a result of, among other causes, changes in the ratings methodologies used by credit rating agencies. Changes in credit rating agencies' views of the level of implicit sovereign support for European banks and their groups are likely to lead to ratings downgrades**

The Securities may be rated by credit rating agencies and may in the future be rated by additional credit rating agencies, although the Issuer is under no obligation to ensure that the Securities are rated by any credit rating agency. Credit ratings may not reflect the potential impact of all risks related to structure, market, additional factors discussed in these Risk Factors and other factors that may affect the liquidity or market value of the Securities. A credit rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be revised, suspended or withdrawn by the credit rating agency at any time.

Any rating assigned to the Issuer and/or the Securities may be withdrawn entirely by a credit rating agency, may be suspended or may be lowered, if, in that credit rating agency's judgment, circumstances relating to the basis of the rating so warrant. Ratings may be impacted by a number of factors which can change over time, including the credit rating agency's assessment of: the issuer's strategy and management's capability; the issuer's financial condition including in respect of capital, funding and liquidity; competitive and economic conditions in the issuer's key markets; the level of political support for the industries in which the issuer operates; and legal and regulatory frameworks affecting the issuer's legal structure, business activities and the rights of its creditors. The credit rating agencies may also revise the ratings methodologies applicable to issuers within a particular industry, or political or economic region. If credit rating agencies perceive there to be adverse changes in the

factors affecting an issuer's credit rating, including by virtue of changes to applicable ratings methodologies, the credit rating agencies may downgrade, suspend or withdraw the ratings assigned to an issuer and/or its securities.

During the first half of 2015, Moody's and Standard & Poor's are implementing revised methodologies applicable to bank ratings, intended to address the on-going implementation of resolution frameworks applicable to banks, such as those provided for in the Banking Act and related rules and guidance. Among other things, the revised methodologies are expected to impact the credit rating agencies' assessment, for the different creditor classes, of both the probability of default, and/or the expected loss to creditors in the event of a bank failure. Moody's published its revised bank methodology on 16 March 2015 and Standard & Poor's published its additional loss-absorbing capacity criteria on 27 April 2015. In addition, each of Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch (together, the "CRAs") has stated its view that extraordinary government support for European banks is likely to diminish as enhanced bank resolution frameworks are implemented. Among other factors, this has led in part to the "negative" ratings outlook assigned in 2014 to the ratings of various systemically important European banking groups, including Barclays. Consistent with this view, on 3 February 2015, Standard & Poor's placed the Issuer's long- and short-term ratings on "credit watch with negative implications". Standard & Poor's stated that the "credit watch" status reflects the possibility that they may remove all systemic sovereign support notches currently supporting the Issuer's ratings, and that they expect to resolve the "credit watch" placement during the first half of 2015. The Issuer expects that when Standard & Poor's finalises its review it is likely to result in the Issuer's long- and short-term ratings being downgraded. On 17 March 2015, Moody's announced multiple ratings actions on global bank ratings (including Barclays PLC and the Issuer). The Issuer's ratings were either placed on "Ratings under Review" for a potential upgrade or affirmed. On 28 May 2015, Moody's downgraded Barclays PLC's long-term rating and upgraded or affirmed the Issuer's ratings.

If the Issuer determines to no longer maintain one or more ratings, or if any credit rating agency withdraws, suspends or downgrades the credit ratings of the Issuer or the Securities, or if such a withdrawal, suspension or downgrade is anticipated (or any credit rating agency places the credit ratings of the Issuer or the Securities on "credit watch" status in contemplation of a downgrade, suspension or withdrawal), whether as a result of the factors described above or otherwise, such event could adversely affect the liquidity or market value of the Securities.

## INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The following information has been filed with the FCA and shall be deemed to be incorporated in, and to form part of, this Registration Document:

- the sections set out below from the joint Annual Report of the Issuer and Barclays PLC, as jointly filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) on Form 20 F on 3 March 2015 in respect of the years ended 31 December 2013 and 31 December 2014 (the “**Joint Annual Report**”);
- the Annual Reports of the Issuer containing the audited consolidated financial statements and the independent auditors' report of the Issuer in respect of the years ended 31 December 2013 (“2013 Issuer Annual Report”) and 31 December 2014 (“2014 Issuer Annual Report”), respectively;
- the unaudited Q1 2015 Results Announcement as filed with the SEC on Form 6-K on 29 April 2015 in respect of the three months ended 31 March 2015 in respect of the Issuer and Barclays PLC (the “**Q1 2015 Results Announcement**”);
- the announcement of the Issuer and Barclays PLC as filed with the SEC on Form 6-K on 20 May 2015 in respect of the foreign exchange and ISDAFix settlements (the “**May 2015 Announcement**”).

The above documents may be inspected as described in "Documents Available" free of charge at the registered office of the Issuer and at <http://www.barclays.com/barclays-investor-relations/results-and-reports/results.html>. Any information contained in any of the documents specified above which is not incorporated by reference in this Registration Document is either not relevant for prospective investors for the purposes of Article 5(1) of the Prospectus Directive or is covered elsewhere in this Registration Document.

To the extent that any document or information incorporated by reference into this Registration Document itself incorporates any information by reference, either expressly or impliedly, such information will not form part of this Registration Document for the purposes of the Prospectus Directive, except where such information or documents are stated within this Registration Document as specifically being incorporated by reference.

The table below sets out the relevant page references for the information contained within the Joint Annual Report and the Interim Management Statement:

### Sections from the Joint Annual Report which have been incorporated by reference in this Registration Document Cross Reference List

Corporate Governance Report	Page 2
Directors' report	Pages 3 to 42
Board of Directors	Pages 3 to 5
People	Pages 43 to 45
Remuneration Report	Pages 46 to 81
Risk Report	Pages 82 to 189
Financial Review	Pages 191 to 213

Notes to the Financial Statements	Pages 224 to 304
Shareholder Information	Pages 305 to 324
Additional Information	Pages 325 to 402
Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm's report for Barclays Bank PLC	Page 403
Barclays Bank PLC Data	Pages 404 to 421

#### **2014 Issuer Annual Report Cross Reference List**

About Barclays – Strategic Report	Pages 1 to 25
Governance	Pages 26 to 27
Directors' Report	Pages 28 to 31
Statement of Directors' and Officers' responsibility	Page 32
Risk Review	Pages 33 to 134
Financial review	Pages 136 to 155
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Income statement commentary	Page 139
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Analysis of results by business	Pages 141 to 142
Barclays Core	Page 143
Personal and Corporate Banking	Pages 144 to 145
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Investment Bank	Pages 150 to 151
Head Office	Page 152
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Presentation of Information	Pages 157 to 158
Independent Auditors' report	Pages 159 to 160
Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm's report	Page 161
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Consolidated income statement	Page 162
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#### **2013 Issuer Annual Report Cross Reference List**

About Barclays – Strategic Report	Pages 1 to 44
Governance	Pages 45 to 49
Directors' Report	Pages 45 to 47
Statement of Directors' and Officers' responsibility	Pages 48 to 49
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#### Q1 2015 Results Announcement Cross Reference List

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Each of the Issuer and Barclays PLC has applied IFRS as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and as adopted by the European Union ("EU") in the financial statements incorporated by reference above. A summary of the significant accounting policies for each of the Issuer and Barclays PLC is included in each of the Joint Annual Report, the 2013 Issuer Annual Report and the 2014 Issuer Annual Report.

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Registration Document contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 27A of the US Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with respect to certain of the Group's plans and its current goals and expectations relating to its future financial condition and performance. The Issuer cautions readers that no forward-looking statement is a guarantee of future performance and that actual results could differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate only to historical or current facts. Forward-looking statements sometimes use words such as 'may', 'will', 'seek', 'continue', 'aim', 'anticipate', 'target', 'projected', 'expect', 'estimate', 'intend', 'plan', 'goal', 'believe', 'achieve' or other words of similar meaning. Examples of forward-looking statements include, among others, statements regarding the Group's future financial position, income growth, assets, impairment charges and provisions, business strategy, capital, leverage and other regulatory ratios, payment of dividends (including dividend pay-out ratios), projected levels of growth in the banking and financial markets, projected costs or savings, original and revised commitments and targets in connection with the Transform Programme and Group Strategy Update, run-down of assets and businesses within Barclays Non-Core, estimates of capital expenditures and plans and objectives for future operations, projected employee numbers and other statements that are not historical fact.

By their nature, forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty because they relate to future events and circumstances. These may be affected by changes in legislation, the development of standards and interpretations under International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), evolving practices with regard to the interpretation and application of accounting and regulatory standards, the outcome of current and future legal proceedings and regulatory investigations, future levels of conduct provisions, the policies and actions of governmental and regulatory authorities, geopolitical risks and the impact of competition. In addition, factors including (but not limited to) the following may have an effect: capital, leverage and other regulatory rules (including with regard to the future structure of the Group) applicable to past, current and future periods; UK, United States, Africa, Eurozone and global macroeconomic and business conditions; the effects of continued volatility in credit markets; market related risks such as changes in interest rates and foreign exchange rates; effects of changes in valuation of credit market exposures; changes in valuation of issued securities; volatility in capital markets; changes in credit ratings of the Group; the potential for one or more countries exiting the Eurozone; the impact of EU and US sanctions on Russia; the implementation of the Transform Programme; and the success of future acquisitions, disposals and other strategic transactions. A number of these influences and factors are beyond the Group's control. As a result, the Group's actual future results, dividend payments, and capital and leverage ratios may differ materially from the plans, goals, and expectations set forth in the Group's forward-looking statements. Additional risks and factors are identified in the Group's filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") including in the Joint Annual Report (as defined in the Information Incorporated by Reference section above) which are available on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> and in the Annual Report of the Issuer and of Barclays PLC for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2014, each of which is available on the Barclays PLC Investor Relations website at [www.barclays.com/investorrelations](http://www.barclays.com/investorrelations).

Any forward-looking statements made herein speak only as of the date they are made and it should not be assumed that they have been revised or updated in the light of new information or future events. Except as required by the Prudential Regulation Authority, the Financial Conduct Authority, the London Stock Exchange plc ("LSE") or applicable law, the Issuer expressly disclaims any obligation or

undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements contained in this Registration Document to reflect any change in the Issuer's expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based. The reader should, however, consult any additional disclosures that the Issuer has made or may make in documents it has published or may publish via the Regulatory News Service of the LSE and/or has filed or may file with the SEC, including the Joint Annual Report.

## THE ISSUER AND THE GROUP

The Issuer (together with its subsidiary undertakings, the "**Bank Group**") is a public limited company registered in England and Wales under number 1026167. The liability of the members of the Issuer is limited. It has its registered and head office at 1 Churchill Place, London, E14 5HP, United Kingdom (telephone number +44 (0)20 7116 1000). The Issuer was incorporated on 7 August 1925 under the Colonial Bank Act 1925 and on 4 October 1971 was registered as a company limited by shares under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1967. Pursuant to The Barclays Bank Act 1984, on 1 January 1985, the Issuer was re-registered as a public limited company and its name was changed from 'Barclays Bank International Limited' to 'Barclays Bank PLC'. The whole of the issued ordinary share capital of the Issuer is beneficially owned by Barclays PLC. Barclays PLC (together with its subsidiary undertakings the "**Group**") is the ultimate holding company of the Group and is one of the largest financial services companies in the world by market capitalisation.

The Group is engaged in personal banking, credit cards, corporate and investment banking, wealth and investment management services with an extensive international presence in Europe, United States, Africa and Asia. The Bank Group is structured around four core businesses: Personal and Corporate Banking, Barclaycard, Africa Banking and the Investment Bank. Businesses and assets which no longer fit the Bank Group's strategic objectives, are not expected to meet certain returns criteria and/or offer limited growth opportunities to the Group, have been reorganised into Barclays Non-Core. Together with its predecessor companies, the Bank Group has over 300 years of history and expertise in banking. Today the Bank Group operates in over 50 countries. The Bank Group moves, lends, invests and protects money for customers and clients internationally.

The short term unsecured obligations of the Issuer are rated A-1 by Standard & Poor's Credit Market Services Europe Limited, P-1 by Moody's Investors Service Ltd. and F1 by Fitch Ratings Limited and the unsecured unsubordinated long-term obligations of the Issuer are rated A by Standard & Poor's Credit Market Services Europe Limited, A2 by Moody's Investors Service Ltd. and A by Fitch Ratings Limited.

Based on the Bank Group's audited financial information for the year ended 31 December 2014<sup>1</sup>, the Bank Group had total assets of £1,358,693m (2013: £1,344,201m), total net loans and advances<sup>2</sup> of £470,424m (2013: £474,059m), total deposits<sup>3</sup> of £486,258m (2013: £ 487,647m), and total shareholders' equity of £66,045m (2013: £63,220m) (including non-controlling interests of £2,251m (2013: £2,211m)). The profit before tax from continuing operations of the Bank Group for the year ended 31 December 2014 was £2,309m (2013: £2,885m) after credit impairment charges and other provisions of £2,168m (2013: £3,071m). The financial information in this paragraph is extracted from the audited consolidated financial statements of the Issuer for the year ended 31 December 2014.

### Acquisitions, Disposals and Recent Developments

#### Sale of Spanish Businesses to CaixaBank

On 2 January 2015, the Issuer completed the sale of its Retail Banking, Wealth and Investment Management and Corporate Banking businesses in Spain to CaixaBank S.A.

The sale represented total assets of £13,446mn and liabilities of £12,840mn as at 31 December 2014. The Issuer reported a £446mn loss as at 31 December 2014 in connection with the sale.

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<sup>1</sup> As noted in the financial statements of the Issuer for the year ended 31 December 2014, the prior year (2013) has been restated to reflect the IAS 32 (revised) standard.

<sup>2</sup> Total net loans and advances include balances relating to both bank and customer accounts.

<sup>3</sup> Total deposits include deposits from bank and customer accounts.



## Legal, Competition and Regulatory Matters

Barclays PLC (“BPLC”), the Issuer and the Group face legal, competition and regulatory challenges, many of which are beyond our control. The extent of the impact on BPLC, the Issuer and the Group of these matters cannot always be predicted but may materially impact our operations, financial results, condition and prospects. Matters arising from a set of similar circumstances can give rise to either a contingent liability or a provision, or both, depending on the relevant facts and circumstances. The Group has not disclosed an estimate of the potential financial effect on the Group of contingent liabilities where it is not currently practicable to do so.

### Investigations into certain agreements

The Financial Conduct Authority (“FCA”) has alleged that BPLC and the Issuer breached their disclosure obligations in connection with two advisory services agreements entered into by the Issuer. The FCA has imposed a £50m fine. BPLC and the Issuer are contesting the findings. The United Kingdom (“UK”) Serious Fraud Office (“SFO”) is also investigating these agreements. The US Department of Justice (“DOJ”) and US Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) are investigating whether the Group’s relationships with third parties who help it to win or retain business are compliant with the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. The Issuer has been providing information to other regulators concerning certain of these relationships.

### *Background Information*

The FCA has investigated certain agreements, including two advisory services agreements entered into by the Issuer with Qatar Holding LLC (“Qatar Holding”) in June and October 2008 respectively, and whether these may have related to BPLC’s capital raisings in June and November 2008.

The FCA issued warning notices (“Warning Notices”) against BPLC and the Issuer in September 2013.

The existence of the advisory services agreement entered into in June 2008 was disclosed but the entry into the advisory services agreement in October 2008 and the fees payable under both agreements, which amount to a total of £322m payable over a period of five years, were not disclosed in the announcements or public documents relating to the capital raisings in June and November 2008. While the Warning Notices consider that BPLC and the Issuer believed at the time that there should be at least some unspecified and undetermined value to be derived from the agreements, they state that the primary purpose of the agreements was not to obtain advisory services but to make additional payments, which would not be disclosed, for the Qatari participation in the capital raisings.

The Warning Notices conclude that BPLC and the Issuer were in breach of certain disclosure-related listing rules and BPLC was also in breach of Listing Principle 3 (the requirement to act with integrity towards holders and potential holders of the Company’s shares). In this regard, the FCA considers that BPLC and the Issuer acted recklessly. The financial penalty in the Warning Notices against the Group is £50m. BPLC and the Issuer continue to contest the findings.

### *Other Investigations*

The FCA has agreed that the FCA enforcement process be temporarily stayed pending progress in the SFO’s investigation into the agreements referred to above, including the advisory services agreements, in respect of which the Group has received and has continued to respond to requests for further information. The DOJ and SEC are investigating these same agreements and are also undertaking an investigation into whether the Group’s relationships with third parties who assist BPLC to win or retain business are compliant with the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. The US Federal Reserve has requested to be kept informed. One third-party relationship is also being investigated by another regulator. Regulators in other jurisdictions have also been briefed on the investigations into the Group’s relationships with third parties.

### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

It is not currently practicable to provide an estimate of the financial impact of the actions described on the Group or what effect, if any, that they might have upon the Group's operating results, cash flows or financial position in any particular period.

### **Alternative Trading Systems and High-Frequency Trading**

The SEC, the New York State Attorney General ("NYAG") and regulators in certain other jurisdictions have been investigating a range of issues associated with alternative trading systems ("ATSs"), including dark pools, and the activities of high-frequency traders. The Group has been providing information to the relevant regulatory authorities in response to their enquiries. Various parties, including the NYAG, have filed complaints against the Group and certain of its current and former officers in connection with ATS related activities. The Group continues to defend itself against these actions.

#### *Recent Developments*

Civil complaints have been filed in the New York Federal Court on behalf of a putative class of plaintiffs against BPLC and others generally alleging that the defendants violated the federal securities laws by participating in a scheme in which high-frequency trading firms were given informational and other advantages so that they could manipulate the US securities market to the plaintiffs' detriment.

In June 2014, the NYAG filed a complaint ("**Complaint**") against BPLC and Barclays Capital Inc. ("**BCI**") in the Supreme Court of the State of New York ("**NY Supreme Court**") alleging, amongst other things, that BPLC and BCI engaged in fraud and deceptive practices in connection with LX Liquidity Cross, the Group's SEC-registered ATS. BPLC and BCI filed a motion to dismiss the Complaint in July 2014. The NYAG filed an amended complaint ("**Amended Complaint**") on 3 February 2015 in response to the BPLC and BCI motion to dismiss. On 13 February 2015, the NY Supreme Court granted in part and denied in part the BPLC and BCI motion to dismiss. BPLC and BCI will file a motion to dismiss any remaining claims asserted by the NYAG in the Amended Complaint. Proceedings in this matter are continuing.

BPLC and BCI have also been named in a class action by an institutional investor client under California law based on allegations similar to those in the Complaint. This California class action has been consolidated with the class action filed in the New York Federal Court described above.

Also, following the filing of the Complaint, BPLC and BCI were named in a shareholder securities class action along with its current and certain of its former CEOs and CFOs on the basis that investors suffered damages when their investments in Barclays American Depositary Receipts declined in value as a result of the allegations in the Complaint. BPLC and BCI have filed a motion to dismiss the complaint.

It is possible that additional complaints relating to these or similar matters may be brought in the future against BPLC and/or its affiliates.

#### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

The complaints seek unspecified monetary damages and injunctive relief. It is not currently practicable to provide an estimate of the financial impact of the matters in this section or what effect, if any, that these matters might have upon operating results, cash flows or the Group's financial position in any particular period.

### **FERC**

The US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("**FERC**") has filed a civil action against the Issuer and certain of its former traders in the US District Court in California seeking to collect on an order assessing a \$435m civil penalty and the disgorgement of \$34.9m of profits, plus interest, in connection with allegations that the Issuer manipulated the electricity markets in and around California. The Issuer and the former traders have filed a motion to dismiss the action for improper venue or, in the alternative, to transfer it to the Southern District of New York ("**SDNY**"), and a motion to dismiss the

complaint for failure to state a claim. The US Attorney's Office in the SDNY has informed the Issuer that it is looking into the same conduct at issue in the FERC matter.

#### *Background Information*

In October 2012, FERC issued an Order to Show Cause and Notice of Proposed Penalties ("**Order and Notice**") against the Issuer and four of its former traders in relation to the Group's power trading in the western US. In the Order and Notice, FERC asserted that the Issuer and its former traders violated FERC's Anti-Manipulation Rule by manipulating the electricity markets in and around California from November 2006 to December 2008, and proposed civil penalties and profit disgorgement to be paid by the Issuer.

In July 2013, FERC issued an Order Assessing Civil Penalties in which it assessed a \$435m civil penalty against the Issuer and ordered the Issuer to disgorge an additional \$34.9m of profits plus interest (both of which are consistent with the amounts proposed in the Order and Notice).

In October 2013, FERC filed a civil action against the Issuer and its former traders in the US District Court in California seeking to collect the penalty and disgorgement amount. FERC's complaint in the civil action reiterates the allegations previously made by FERC in its October 2012 Order and Notice and its July 2013 Order Assessing Civil Penalties.

In September 2013, the Issuer was contacted by the criminal division of the US Attorney's Office in SDNY and advised that such office is looking at the same conduct at issue in the FERC matter.

In December 2013, the Issuer and its former traders filed a motion to dismiss the action for improper venue or, in the alternative, to transfer it to the SDNY, and a motion to dismiss the complaint for failure to state a claim. Proceedings on the motion to dismiss are continuing.

#### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

FERC has made claims against the Group totalling \$469.9m, plus interest, for civil penalties and profit disgorgement. This amount does not necessarily reflect the Group's potential financial exposure if a ruling were to be made against it.

#### **Investigations into LIBOR, other Benchmarks, ISDAfix, Foreign Exchange Rates and Precious Metals**

Regulators and law enforcement agencies from a number of governments have been conducting investigations relating to the Issuer's involvement in manipulating financial benchmarks and Foreign Exchange rates. The Issuer, BPLC and BCI have reached settlements with the relevant law enforcement agency or regulator in certain of the investigations, but others, including those set out in more detail below, remain pending.

#### *Background Information*

The FCA, the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("**CFTC**"), the SEC, the DOJ Fraud Section ("**DOJ-FS**") and Antitrust Division ("**DOJ-AD**"), the European Commission ("**Commission**"), the SFO, the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the Japan Financial Services Agency, the prosecutors' office in Trani, Italy and various US state attorneys general are amongst various authorities that opened investigations into submissions made by the Issuer and other financial institutions to the bodies that set or compile various financial benchmarks, such as LIBOR and EURIBOR and in connection with efforts to manipulate certain benchmark currency exchange rates.

On 27 June 2012, the Issuer announced that it had reached settlements with the Financial Services Authority ("**FSA**") (as predecessor to the FCA), the CFTC and the DOJ-FS in relation to their investigations concerning certain benchmark interest rate submissions, and the Issuer agreed to pay total penalties of £290m, which were reflected in operating expenses for 2012. The settlements were made by entry into a Settlement Agreement with the FSA, a Settlement Order with the CFTC ("**CFTC LIBOR Order**") and a Non-Prosecution Agreement ("**NPA**") with the DOJ-FS. In addition, the Issuer was granted conditional leniency from the DOJ-AD in connection with potential US antitrust law violations

with respect to financial instruments that reference EURIBOR. Summaries of the NPA and the CFTC LIBOR Order are set out below. The full text of the CFTC LIBOR Order and the NPA are publicly available on the websites of the CFTC and the DOJ, respectively. The terms of the Settlement Agreement with the FSA in relation to LIBOR are confidential, but the Final Notice of the FSA is available on the FCA's website.

On 20 May 2015, the Group announced that it had reached settlements with the CFTC, the New York State Department of Financial Services ("NYDFS"), the DOJ, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ("Federal Reserve") and the FCA (together, the "Resolving Authorities") in relation to investigations into certain sales and trading practices in the foreign exchange market, that it had agreed to pay total penalties of approximately \$2.38 billion and that BPLC had agreed to plead guilty to a violation of US anti-trust law. In addition, the Group announced that BPLC, the Issuer and BCI had also reached a settlement with the CFTC as part of an industry-wide investigation into the setting of the US Dollar ISDAfix benchmark and that it had agreed to pay a penalty of \$115 million. The full text of the CFTC orders relating to foreign exchange and ISDAfix are publicly available on the CFTC website, the full text of the plea agreement with the DOJ is publicly available on the DOJ website and the full text of the orders of the NYDFS and the Federal Reserve are publicly available on their respective websites. The final notice of the FCA in relation to foreign exchange is also publicly available on the FCA's website.

#### *CFTC LIBOR Order*

In addition to a \$200m civil monetary penalty, the CFTC LIBOR Order requires the Issuer to cease and desist from further violations of specified provisions of the US Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA") and take specified steps to ensure the integrity and reliability of its benchmark interest rate submissions, including LIBOR and EURIBOR, and improve related internal controls.

#### *DOJ Non-Prosecution Agreement*

As part of the NPA, the Issuer agreed to pay a \$160m penalty. In addition, the DOJ agreed not to prosecute the Issuer for any crimes (except for criminal tax violations, as to which the DOJ cannot and does not make any agreement) related to the Issuer's submissions of benchmark interest rates, including LIBOR and EURIBOR, contingent upon the Issuer's satisfaction of specified obligations under the NPA. In particular, under the NPA, the Issuer agreed for a period of two years from 26 June 2012, amongst other things, to:

- Commit no US crimes whatsoever;
- Truthfully and completely disclose non-privileged information with respect to the activities of the Issuer, its officers and employees, and others concerning all matters about which the DOJ enquires of it, which information can be used for any purpose, except as otherwise limited in the NPA;
- Bring to the DOJ's attention all potentially criminal conduct by the Issuer or any of its employees that relates to fraud or violations of the laws governing securities and commodities markets; and
- Bring to the DOJ's attention all criminal or regulatory investigations, administrative proceedings or civil actions brought by any governmental authority in the US by or against the Issuer or its employees that alleges fraud or violations of the laws governing securities and commodities markets.

The Issuer also agreed to cooperate with the DOJ and other government authorities in the US in connection with any investigation or prosecution arising out of the conduct described in the NPA, which commitment shall remain in force until all such investigations and prosecutions are concluded. The Issuer also continues to cooperate with the other ongoing investigations.

The settlements announced by the Group on 20 May 2015 include a \$60 million penalty imposed by the DOJ as a consequence of certain practices continuing after entry into the NPA; however, the DOJ exercised its discretion not to declare a breach of the NPA.

#### *Investigations by the US State Attorneys General*

Following the settlements announced in June 2012, 31 US State Attorneys General commenced their own investigations into LIBOR, EURIBOR and the Tokyo Interbank Offered Rate. The NYAG, on behalf of this coalition of Attorneys General, issued a subpoena in July 2012 to the Issuer (and subpoenas to a number of other banks) to produce wide-ranging information and has since issued additional information requests to the Issuer for both documents and transactional data. The Issuer is responding to these requests on a rolling basis.

#### *Investigation by the SFO*

In addition, following the settlements announced in June 2012, the SFO announced in July 2012 that it had decided to investigate the LIBOR matter, in respect of which the Issuer has received and continues to respond to requests for information.

#### *Investigations by the European Commission*

The Commission has also been conducting investigations into the manipulation of, amongst other things, EURIBOR. On 4 December 2013, the Commission announced that it had reached a settlement with the Group and a number of other banks in relation to anti-competitive conduct concerning EURIBOR. The Group had voluntarily reported the EURIBOR conduct to the Commission and cooperated fully with the Commission's investigation. In recognition of this cooperation, the Group was granted full immunity from the financial penalties that would otherwise have applied.

#### *ISDAfix Investigation*

On 20 May 2015, the CFTC entered into a settlement with BPLC, the Issuer and BCI in which the Group agreed to pay a fine of \$115 million in connection with the CFTC's industry-wide investigation into the setting of the US Dollar ISDAfix benchmark. Certain other regulatory and enforcement authorities have requested information regarding the setting of, and trading intended to influence, the US Dollar ISDAfix benchmark, and those inquiries have not been resolved by the settlement with the CFTC.

#### *Precious Metals Investigation*

The Issuer has been providing information to the DOJ in connection with the DOJ's investigation into precious metals and precious metals-based financial instruments.

#### *Foreign Exchange Trading Investigation*

In December 2014, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority ("HKMA") announced the outcome of its investigation into the Foreign Exchange operations of 10 banks in Hong Kong, including the Issuer. In respect of the Issuer, the HKMA said that its investigation revealed certain control deficiencies in respect of which it required the Issuer's Hong Kong branch to take certain remedial steps, but also noted that, in recent years, the Issuer has made enhancements in line with international trends.

On 20 May 2015, the Resolving Authorities reached settlements with several financial institutions, including BPLC and the Issuer, regarding investigations into certain sales and trading practices in the foreign exchange market. In connection with the settlements, the Group agreed to pay penalties totalling \$2.38 billion and BPLC pleaded guilty to a violation of US anti-trust law.

The settlements reached on 20 May 2015, did not encompass ongoing investigations of electronic trading in the foreign exchange market. In addition, certain other authorities continue to investigate sales and trading practices in the foreign exchange market among multiple market participants, including the Issuer, in various countries. The Group is continuing to cooperate with the relevant authorities in their investigations.

For a discussion of litigation arising in connection with these investigations see 'LIBOR and other Benchmarks Civil Actions', 'Civil Actions in Respect of ISDAfix', 'Civil Actions in Respect of Foreign Exchange Trading' and 'Civil Actions in Respect of the Gold Fix' below.

The amount paid by BPLC pursuant to the plea agreement with the DOJ includes a \$60 million penalty imposed by the DOJ as a consequence of certain practices continuing after entry into the NPA; however, the DOJ exercised its discretion not to declare a breach of the NPA.

#### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

It is not currently practicable to provide an estimate of the financial impact of certain of the matters in this section, or what effect, if any, that these matters might have upon the Group's operating results, cash flows or financial position in any particular period. The fines in connection with the May 2015 settlements with the CFTC and the Resolving Authorities are covered by the Group's existing provisions of £2.05 billion.

#### **LIBOR and other Benchmark Civil Actions**

A number of individuals and corporates in a range of jurisdictions have threatened or brought civil actions against the Group and other banks in relation to manipulation of LIBOR and/or other benchmark rates. While several of such cases have been dismissed and one has settled subject to final approval from the court, others remain pending and their ultimate impact is unclear.

#### *Background Information*

Following the settlements of the investigations referred to above in 'Investigations into LIBOR, other Benchmarks, ISDAfix, Foreign Exchange Rates and Precious Metals', a number of individuals and corporates in a range of jurisdictions have threatened or brought civil actions against the Group in relation to LIBOR and/or other benchmarks.

#### *USD LIBOR Cases in MDL Court*

The majority of the USD LIBOR cases, which have been filed in various US jurisdictions, have been consolidated for pre-trial purposes before a single judge in the SDNY ("**MDL Court**").

The complaints are substantially similar and allege, amongst other things, that the Issuer and the other banks individually and collectively violated provisions of the US Sherman Antitrust Act, the CEA, the US Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ("**RICO**") and various state laws by manipulating USD LIBOR rates.

The lawsuits seek unspecified damages with the exception of five lawsuits, in which the plaintiffs are seeking a combined total in excess of \$1.25bn in actual damages against all defendants, including the Issuer, plus punitive damages. Some of the lawsuits also seek trebling of damages under the US Sherman Antitrust Act and RICO.

The proposed class actions purport to be brought on behalf of (amongst others) plaintiffs that (i) engaged in USD LIBOR-linked over-the-counter transactions ("**OTC Class**"); (ii) purchased USD LIBOR-linked financial instruments on an exchange ("**Exchange-Based Class**"); (iii) purchased USD LIBOR-linked debt securities ("**Debt Securities Class**"); (iv) purchased adjustable-rate mortgages linked to USD LIBOR ("**Homeowner Class**"); or (v) issued loans linked to USD LIBOR ("**Lender Class**").

In August 2012, the MDL Court stayed all newly filed proposed class actions and individual actions ("**Stayed Actions**"), so that the MDL Court could address the motions pending in three lead proposed class actions ("**Lead Class Actions**") and three lead individual actions ("**Lead Individual Actions**").

In March 2013, the MDL Court issued a decision dismissing the majority of claims against the Issuer and other panel bank defendants in the Lead Class Actions and Lead Individual Actions.

Following the decision, the plaintiffs in the Lead Class Actions sought permission to either file an amended complaint or appeal an aspect of the March 2013 decision. In August 2013 and June 2014, the MDL Court denied the majority of the motions presented in the Lead Class Actions. As a result, the:

- Debt Securities Class has been dismissed entirely;
- The claims of the Exchange-Based Class have been limited to claims under the CEA; and
- The claims of the OTC Class have been limited to claims for unjust enrichment and breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

Subsequent to the MDL Court's March 2013 decision, the plaintiffs in the Lead Individual Actions filed a new action in California state court (since moved to the MDL Court) based on the same allegations as those initially alleged in the proposed class action cases discussed above. The Debt Securities Class attempted to appeal the dismissal of their action to the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ("Second Circuit"), but the Second Circuit dismissed the appeal as untimely on the grounds that the MDL Court had not reached a decision resolving all of the claims in the consolidated actions. In January 2015, the US Supreme Court reversed the Second Circuit's decision, ruling that the Second Circuit must hear the Debt Securities Class' appeal. The OTC Class and the Exchange-Based Class have received permission to join this appeal. Certain other proposed class actions that had previously been stayed by the MDL Court have also received permission to join the appeal as to the dismissal of their antitrust claims.

In December 2014, the MDL Court granted preliminary approval for the settlement of the remaining Exchange-Based Class claims for \$19.98m and requested that the plaintiffs present a plan for allocation of the settlement proceeds.

Additionally, the MDL Court has begun to address the claims in the Stayed Actions, many of which, including state law fraud and tortious interference claims, were not asserted in the Lead Class Actions. As a result, in October 2014, the direct action plaintiffs (those who have opted out of the class actions) filed their amended complaints and in November 2014, the defendants filed their motions to dismiss. In November 2014, the plaintiffs in the Lender Class and Homeowner Class actions filed their amended complaints. In January 2015, the defendants filed their motions to dismiss.

Until there are further decisions, the ultimate impact of the MDL Court's decisions will be unclear, although it is possible that the decisions will be interpreted by courts to affect other litigation, including the actions described below, some of which concern different benchmark interest rates.

#### *Additional USD LIBOR Case in the SDNY*

An additional individual action was commenced in February 2013 in the SDNY against the Issuer and other panel bank defendants. The plaintiff alleged that the panel bank defendants conspired to increase USD LIBOR, which caused the value of bonds pledged as collateral for a loan to decrease, ultimately resulting in the sale of the bonds at a low point in the market. This action is not assigned to the MDL Court; it is proceeding on a different schedule before a different judge in the SDNY. The panel bank defendants have moved to dismiss the action.

#### *Securities Fraud Case in the SDNY*

BPLC, the Issuer and BCI have also been named as defendants along with four former officers and directors of the Issuer in a proposed securities class action pending in the SDNY in connection with the Issuer's role as a contributor panel bank to LIBOR. The complaint asserted claims under the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934, principally alleging that the Issuer's Annual Reports for the years 2006 to 2011 contained misstatements and omissions concerning (amongst other things) the Issuer's compliance with its operational risk management processes and certain laws and regulations. The complaint also alleged that the Issuer's daily USD LIBOR submissions constituted false statements in violation of US securities law. The complaint was brought on behalf of a proposed class consisting of all persons or entities that purchased BPLC-sponsored American Depositary Receipts on a US securities exchange between 10 July 2007 and 27 June 2012. In May 2013, the district court granted the Issuer's motion to dismiss the complaint in its entirety. The plaintiffs appealed, and, in April 2014, the Second Circuit issued an order upholding the dismissal of certain of the plaintiffs' claims, but reversing the dismissal of the plaintiffs' claims that the Issuer's daily USD LIBOR submissions constituted false

statements in violation of US securities law. The action has been remanded back to the district court for further proceedings, and discovery is expected to be substantially complete by the end of 2015.

#### *Complaint in the US District Court for the Central District of California*

In July 2012, a purported class action complaint in the US District Court for the Central District of California was amended to include allegations related to USD LIBOR and name the Issuer as a defendant. The amended complaint was filed on behalf of a purported class that includes holders of adjustable rate mortgages linked to USD LIBOR. In January 2015, the court granted the Issuer's motion for summary judgement and dismissed all of the remaining claims against the Issuer. The plaintiff has appealed the court's decision to the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the appeal is expected to be fully briefed by the end of summer 2015.

#### *Japanese Yen LIBOR Case in SDNY*

An additional class action was commenced in April 2012 in the SDNY against the Issuer and other Japanese Yen LIBOR panel banks by a plaintiff involved in exchange-traded derivatives. The complaint also names members of the Japanese Bankers Association's Euroyen Tokyo Interbank Offered Rate ("Euroyen TIBOR") panel, of which the Issuer is not a member. The complaint alleges, amongst other things, manipulation of the Euroyen TIBOR and Yen LIBOR rates and breaches of the CEA and US Sherman Antitrust Act between 2006 and 2010. The defendants filed a motion to dismiss and, in March 2014, the Court issued a decision granting in part and denying in part that motion. Specifically, the court dismissed the plaintiff's antitrust claims in full, but sustained the plaintiff's CEA claims. The defendants' motion for reconsideration of the decision concerning the CEA claims was denied by the Court in October 2014. The plaintiff has moved for leave to file a third amended complaint adding additional claims, including a RICO claim.

#### *EURIBOR Cases*

In February 2013, a Euribor-related class action was filed against BPLC, the Issuer, BCI and other Euribor panel banks. The plaintiffs assert antitrust, CEA, RICO, and unjust enrichment claims. In particular, the Issuer is alleged to have conspired with other Euribor panel banks to manipulate EURIBOR. The lawsuit is brought on behalf of purchasers and sellers of NYSE LIFFE EURIBOR futures contracts, purchasers of Euro currency-related futures contracts and purchasers of other derivative contracts (such as interest rate swaps and forward rate agreements that are linked to EURIBOR) during the period 1 June 2005 through 31 March 2011.

In addition, the Issuer has been granted conditional leniency from the DOJ-AD in connection with potential US antitrust law violations with respect to financial instruments that reference EURIBOR. As a result of that grant of conditional leniency, the Issuer is eligible for (i) a limit on liability to actual rather than treble damages if damages were to be awarded in any civil antitrust action under US antitrust law based on conduct covered by the conditional leniency and (ii) relief from potential joint-and-several liability in connection with such civil antitrust action, subject to the Issuer satisfying the DOJ-AD and the court presiding over the civil litigation of fulfilment of its cooperation obligations.

#### *Non-US Benchmarks Cases*

In addition to US actions, legal proceedings have been brought or threatened against the Group in connection with alleged manipulation of LIBOR and EURIBOR in a number of jurisdictions. The number of such proceedings in non-US jurisdictions, the benchmarks to which they relate, and the jurisdictions in which they may be brought have increased over time.

#### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

It is not currently practicable to provide an estimate of the financial impact of the actions described on the Group or what effect, if any, that they might have upon the Group's operating results, cash flows or financial position in any particular period.



### **Civil Actions in respect of ISDAfix**

Since September 2014, a number of ISDAfix related civil actions have been filed in the SDNY on behalf of a proposed class of plaintiffs, alleging that the Issuer, a number of other banks and one broker, violated the US Sherman Antitrust Act and several state laws by engaging in a conspiracy to manipulate the USD ISDAfix. A consolidated amended complaint was filed in mid-February 2015. Pursuant to a schedule issued by the court, the defendants, including the Issuer, will move to dismiss the consolidated amended complaint.

#### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

It is not currently practicable to provide an estimate of the financial impact of the actions described on the Group or what effect, if any, that they might have upon the Group's operating results, cash flows or financial position in any particular period.

### **Civil Actions in respect of Foreign Exchange Trading**

Since November 2013, a number of civil actions have been filed in the SDNY on behalf of proposed classes of plaintiffs alleging manipulation of Foreign Exchange markets under the US Sherman Antitrust Act and New York state law and naming several international banks as defendants, including the Issuer. The SDNY before whom all the cases are pending, has combined all actions alleging a class of US persons in a single consolidated action. The two actions alleging classes of non-US persons were dismissed on 28 January 2015.

#### *Recent Developments*

Defendants' motion to dismiss the consolidated action was denied on 28 January 2015.

#### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

The financial impact of the actions described on the Group or what effect, if any, that they might have upon the Group's operating results, cash flows or financial position in any particular period is currently uncertain.

### **Civil Actions in respect of the Gold Fix**

Since March 2014, a number of civil complaints have been filed in US federal courts, each on behalf of a proposed class of plaintiffs, alleging that the Group entities and other members of The London Gold Market Fixing Ltd. manipulated the prices of gold and gold derivative contracts in violation of the CEA, the US Sherman Antitrust Act, and state antitrust and consumer protection laws. All of the complaints have been transferred to the SDNY and consolidated for pretrial purposes.

#### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

It is not currently practicable to provide an estimate of the financial impact of the potential exposure of the actions described or what effect, if any, that they might have upon operating results, cash flows or the Group's financial position in any particular period.

### **US Residential and Commercial Mortgage-related Activity and Litigation**

The Group's activities within the US residential mortgage sector during the period from 2005 through 2008 included:

- Sponsoring and underwriting of approximately \$39bn of private-label securitisations;
- Economic underwriting exposure of approximately \$34bn for other private-label securitisations;
- Sales of approximately \$0.2bn of loans to government sponsored enterprises ("GSEs");
- Sales of approximately \$3bn of loans to others; and
- Sales of approximately \$19.4bn of loans (net of approximately \$500m of loans sold during this period and subsequently repurchased) that were originated and sold to third parties by mortgage originator affiliates of an entity that the Group acquired in 2007 ("Acquired Subsidiary").

Throughout this time period affiliates of the Group engaged in secondary market trading of US residential mortgaged-backed securities (“RMBS”) and US commercial mortgage backed securities (“CMBS”), and such trading activity continues today.

In connection with its loan sales and certain private-label securitisations the Group provided certain loan level representations and warranties (“R&Ws”), which if breached may require the Group to repurchase the related loans. On 31 December 2014, the Group had unresolved repurchase requests relating to loans with a principal balance of approximately \$2.6bn at the time they were sold, and civil actions have been commenced by various parties alleging that the Group must repurchase a substantial number of such loans. In addition, the Group is party to a number of lawsuits filed by purchasers of RMBS asserting statutory and/or common law claims. The current outstanding face amount of RMBS related to these pending claims against the Group as of 31 December 2014 was approximately \$0.9bn.

Regulatory and governmental authorities have initiated wide-ranging investigations into market practices involving mortgage-backed securities, and the Group is co-operating with several of those investigations.

### **RMBS Repurchase Requests**

#### *Background*

The Group was the sole provider of various loan-level R&Ws with respect to:

- Approximately \$5bn of Group sponsored securitisations;
- Approximately \$0.2bn of sales of loans to GSEs; and
- Approximately \$3bn of loans sold to others.

In addition, the Acquired Subsidiary provided R&Ws on all of the \$19.4bn of loans it sold to third parties.

R&Ws on the remaining Group sponsored securitisations were primarily provided by third-party originators directly to the securitisation trusts with a Group subsidiary, such as the depositor for the securitisation, providing more limited R&Ws. There are no stated expiration provisions applicable to most R&Ws made by the Group, the Acquired Subsidiary or these third parties.

Under certain circumstances, the Group and/or the Acquired Subsidiary may be required to repurchase the related loans or make other payments related to such loans if the R&Ws are breached.

The unresolved repurchase requests received on or before 31 December 2014 associated with all R&Ws made by the Group or the Acquired Subsidiary on loans sold to GSEs and others and private-label activities had an original unpaid principal balance of approximately \$2.6bn at the time of such sale.

A substantial number (approximately \$2.2 billion) of the unresolved repurchase requests discussed above relate to civil actions that have been commenced by the trustees for certain RMBS securitisations in which the trustees allege that the Group and/or the Acquired Subsidiary must repurchase loans that violated the operative R&Ws. Such trustees and other parties making repurchase requests have also alleged that the operative R&Ws may have been violated with respect to a greater (but unspecified) amount of loans than the amount of loans previously stated in specific repurchase requests made by such trustees. All of the litigation involving repurchase requests remain at early stages.

#### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

It is not currently practicable to provide an estimate of the financial impact of the actions described on the Group or what effect, if any, that they might have upon the Group’s operating results, cash flows or financial position in any particular period.

## **RMBS Securities Claims**

### *Background*

As a result of some of the RMBS activities described above, the Group is party to a number of lawsuits filed by purchasers of RMBS sponsored and/or underwritten by the Group between 2005 and 2008. As a general matter, these lawsuits allege, among other things, that the RMBS offering materials allegedly relied on by such purchasers contained materially false and misleading statements and/or omissions and generally demand rescission and recovery of the consideration paid for the RMBS and recovery of monetary losses arising out of their ownership.

The original face amount of RMBS related to the pending civil actions against the Group total approximately \$2.4bn, of which approximately \$0.9bn was outstanding as at 31 December 2014.

Cumulative realised losses reported on these RMBS as at 31 December 2014 were approximately \$0.3bn.

### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

If the Group were to lose the pending actions the Group believes it could incur a loss of up to the outstanding amount of the RMBS at the time of judgement (taking into account further principal payments after 31 December 2014), plus any cumulative losses on the RMBS at such time and any interest, fees and costs, less the market value of the RMBS at such time and less any provisions taken to date.

Although the purchasers in these securities actions have generally not identified a specific amount of alleged damages, the Group has estimated the total market value of these RMBS as at 31 December 2014 to be approximately \$0.6bn. The Group may be entitled to indemnification for a portion of such losses.

## **Other Mortgage-related Investigations**

In addition to the RMBS Repurchase Requests and RMBS Securities Claims, numerous regulatory and governmental authorities, amongst them the DOJ, SEC, Special Inspector General for the US Troubled Asset Relief Program and US Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut have been investigating various aspects of the mortgage-related business, including issuance and underwriting practices in primary offerings of RMBS and trading practices in the secondary market for both RMBS and CMBS. The Group is co-operating with these investigations.

### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

It is not currently practicable to provide an estimate of the financial impact of the actions described on the Group or what effect, if any, that they might have upon the Group's operating results, cash flows or financial position in any particular period.

## **Lehman Brothers**

Since September 2009, the Group has been engaged in litigation with various entities that have sought to challenge certain aspects of the transaction pursuant to which BCI and other companies in the Group acquired most of the assets of Lehman Brothers Inc. ("LBI") in September 2008, as well as the court order ("Order") approving the sale ("Sale"). The Order was upheld by the courts and is no longer being challenged. On 5 August 2014, the Second Circuit affirmed the SDNY's rulings in favour of the Group on certain claims with respect to its rights over assets it claims from the Sale.

### *Background Information*

In September 2009, motions were filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the SDNY ("Bankruptcy Court") by Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. ("LBHI"), the SIPA Trustee for Lehman Brothers Inc. ("Trustee") and the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. ("Committee"). All three motions challenged certain aspects of the Sale, as well as the Order. The claimants sought an order voiding the transfer of certain assets to BCI, requiring BCI to

return to the LBI estate any excess value BCI allegedly received, and declaring that BCI is not entitled to certain assets that it claims pursuant to the Sale documents and the Order (“**Rule 60 Claims**”).

In January 2010, BCI filed its response to the motions and also filed a motion seeking delivery of certain assets that LBHI and LBI had failed to deliver as required by the Sale documents and the Order (together with the Trustee’s competing claims to those assets, Contract Claims).

In 2011, the Bankruptcy Court rejected the Rule 60 Claims and decided some of the Contract Claims in the Trustee’s favour and some in favour of the Group. The Group and the Trustee each appealed the Bankruptcy Court’s adverse rulings on the Contract Claims to the SDNY. LBHI and the Committee did not appeal the Bankruptcy Court’s ruling on the Rule 60 Claims.

The SDNY issued an opinion in June 2012, reversing one of the Bankruptcy Court’s rulings on the Contract Claims that had been adverse to the Group and affirming the Bankruptcy Court’s other rulings on the Contract Claims. In July 2012, the SDNY issued an agreed judgement implementing the rulings in the opinion (“**Judgement**”). Under the Judgement, the Group is entitled to receive:

- \$1.1bn (£0.7bn) from the Trustee in respect of ‘clearance box’ assets (“**Clearance Box Assets**”); and
- Property held at various institutions in respect of the exchange traded derivatives accounts transferred to BCI in the Sale (“**ETD Margin**”).

#### *Recent Developments*

The Trustee appealed the SDNY’s adverse rulings to the Second Circuit. On 5 August 2014, the Second Circuit issued an opinion affirming the rulings of the SDNY that the Group is entitled to receive the Clearance Box Assets and the ETD Margin.

On 1 October 2014, the Trustee filed a motion with the SDNY to confirm the scope of the SDNY’s judgement regarding the ETD Margin the Group is entitled to receive. With that motion, the Trustee is challenging the Issuer’s entitlement to approximately \$1.1bn of assets that the Trustee asserts do not constitute ETD Margin.

On 15 December 2014, the Trustee requested that the US Supreme Court review the rulings of the SDNY and the Second Circuit regarding the ETD margin.

#### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

Approximately \$1.7bn (£1.1bn) of the assets to which the Group is entitled as part of the Sale had not been received by 31 December 2014, approximately \$0.8bn (£0.5bn) of which has been recognised as a financial asset on the balance sheet as at 31 December 2014. The unrecognised amount, approximately \$0.9bn (£0.6bn) as of 31 December 2014, effectively represents a provision against the uncertainty inherent in the litigation and potential post-appeal proceedings and issues relating to the recovery of certain assets held by an institution outside the US. The financial asset reflects an increase of \$0.7bn (£0.5bn) recognised in profit or loss as at 30 September 2014 as a result of greater certainty regarding the recoverability of the Clearance Box Assets and the ETD Margin from the Trustee, as well as decreases resulting from a payment of \$1.1bn (£0.7bn) made by the Trustee to the Group on 8 October 2014, fully discharging the Trustee’s obligations in respect of the Clearance Box Assets and from a payment of approximately \$1.5bn (£1bn) made by the Trustee to the Group on 10 December 2014 in respect of a portion of the ETD Margin.

In this context, the Group is satisfied with the valuation of the asset recognised on its balance sheet and the resulting level of effective provision.

#### **American Depositary Shares**

BPLC, the Issuer and various current and former members of BPLC’s Board of Directors have been named as defendants in five proposed securities class actions consolidated in the SDNY, alleging

misstatements and omissions in registration statements for certain American Depositary Shares offered by the Issuer.

#### *Background Information*

The consolidated amended complaint, filed in February 2010, asserted claims under the Securities Act of 1933, alleging that registration statements relating to American Depositary Shares representing preferred stock, series 2, 3, 4 and 5 (“**Preferred Stock ADS**”) offered by the Issuer at various times between 2006 and 2008 contained misstatements and omissions concerning (amongst other things) the Issuer’s portfolio of mortgage-related (including US subprime-related) securities, the Issuer’s exposure to mortgage and credit market risk, and the Issuer’s financial condition. These complaints did not specifically identify what alleged damages these plaintiffs sought to recover in connection with their claims.

#### *Recent Developments*

The claims concerning the series 2, 3 and 4 offerings have been dismissed on the basis that they were time barred. Although the SDNY also dismissed the claims concerning the series 5 offering, the Second Circuit reversed the dismissal and ruled that the plaintiffs should have been permitted to file a second amended complaint in relation to the series 5 offering claims. This series 5 offering had an original face amount of approximately \$2.5 billion.

In June 2014, the SDNY denied defendants’ motion to dismiss with respect to the claims in the amended complaint concerning the series 5 offering.

#### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

It is not currently practicable to provide an estimate of the financial impact of the actions described on the Group or what effect, if any, that they might have upon the Group’s operating results, cash flows or financial position in any particular period.

#### **BDC Finance L.L.C.**

BDC Finance L.L.C. (“**BDC**”) filed a complaint against the Issuer in the NY Supreme Court alleging breach of a portfolio of total return swaps governed by an ISDA Master Agreement (collectively, the “**Agreement**”). A ruling was made against the Issuer, but the New York State Court of Appeals effectively reversed that ruling. Parties related to BDC have also sued the Issuer and BCI in Connecticut State Court in connection with the Issuer’s conduct relating to the Agreement.

#### *Background Information*

In October 2008, BDC filed a complaint in the NY Supreme Court alleging that the Issuer breached the Agreement when it failed to transfer approximately \$40m of alleged excess collateral in response to BDC’s October 2008 demand (“**Demand**”).

BDC asserts that under the Agreement the Issuer was not entitled to dispute the Demand before transferring the alleged excess collateral and that even if the Agreement entitled the Issuer to dispute the Demand before making the transfer, the Issuer failed to dispute the Demand.

BDC demands damages totalling \$298m plus attorneys’ fees, expenses, and prejudgement interest.

In August 2012, the NY Supreme Court granted partial summary judgement for the Issuer, ruling that the Issuer was entitled to dispute the Demand before transferring the alleged excess collateral, but determining that a trial was required to determine whether the Issuer actually did so. The parties cross-appealed to the Appellate Division of the NY Supreme Court (“**NY Appellate Division**”).

In September 2011, BDC’s investment advisor, BDCM Fund Adviser, L.L.C. and its parent company, Black Diamond Capital Holdings, L.L.C. also sued the Issuer and BCI in Connecticut State Court for unspecified damages allegedly resulting from the Issuer’s conduct relating to the Agreement, asserting

claims for violation of the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act and tortious interference with business and prospective business relations. The parties have agreed to a stay of that case.

In October 2013, the NY Appellate Division reversed the NY Supreme Court's grant of partial summary judgement in favour of the Issuer, and instead granted BDC's motion for partial summary judgement, holding that the Issuer breached the Agreement. The NY Appellate Division did not rule on the amount of BDC's damages, which has not yet been determined by the NY Supreme Court.

#### *Recent Developments*

In January 2014 the NY Appellate Division granted the Issuer leave to appeal its October 2013 decision to the NY Court of Appeals. The New York Court of Appeals heard oral argument on 6 January 2015 and on 19 February 2015 modified the NY Appellate Division's grant of partial summary judgement to BDC, holding that summary judgement in either party's favour cannot be granted because a material issue of fact remains as to whether the Issuer breached the Agreement. The New York Court of Appeals ordered that the matter be referred back to the NY Supreme Court for further proceedings.

#### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

BDC has made claims against the Group totalling \$298m plus attorneys' fees, expenses, and pre-judgement interest. This amount does not necessarily reflect the Group's potential financial exposure if a ruling were to be made against it.

#### **Civil Actions in respect of the US Anti-Terrorism Act**

In November 2014, a civil complaint was filed in the US Federal Court in the Eastern District of New York by a group of approximately 200 plaintiffs, alleging that the Group and a number of other banks engaged in a conspiracy and violated the US Anti-Terrorism Act ("ATA") by facilitating US dollar denominated transactions for the Government of Iran and various Iranian banks, which in turn funded Hezbollah attacks that injured the plaintiffs' family members. Plaintiffs seek to recover for pain, suffering and mental anguish pursuant to the provisions of the ATA, which allows for the tripling of any proven damages.

#### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

It is not currently practicable to provide an estimate of the financial impact of the matters in this section or what effect, if any, that these matters might have upon operating results, cash flows or the Group's financial position in any particular period.

#### **Credit Default Swap (CDS) Antitrust Investigations**

The Commission and the DOJ-AD commenced investigations in the CDS market, in 2011 and 2009, respectively. In July 2013 the Commission addressed a Statement of Objections to the Issuer, 12 other banks, Markit Ltd. and ISDA. The case relates to concerns that certain banks took collective action to delay and prevent the emergence of exchange traded credit derivative products.

If the Commission does reach a decision in this matter it has indicated that it intends to impose sanctions. The Commission's sanctions can include fines. The DOJ-AD's investigation is a civil investigation and relates to similar issues. The Issuer is also contesting a proposed, consolidated class action alleging similar issues that has been filed in the US. Disclosure in the case is ongoing.

#### *Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

It is not currently practicable to provide an estimate of the financial impact of the actions described on the Group or what effect, if any, that they might have upon the Group's operating results, cash flows or financial position in any particular period.

#### **Interchange Investigations**

Investigations of Visa and MasterCard credit and debit interchange rates by competition authorities in Europe remain open.

The Issuer receives interchange fees, as a card issuer, from providers of card acquiring services to merchants. The key risks arising from the investigations comprise the potential for fines imposed by competition authorities, litigation and the implementation of new regulations that impact interchange fees.

*Claimed Amounts/Financial Impact*

It is not currently practicable to provide an estimate of the financial impact of the matters in this section or what effect, if any, that these matters might have upon operating results, cash flows or the Group's financial position in any particular period.

**Interest Rate Hedging Products Redress**

See Note 27 (Provisions) to the financial statements of BPLC as contained in the Joint Annual Report for a description of the FSA's review and redress exercise in respect of interest rate hedging products and the provisions recognised by the Group in connection with it.

**General**

The Group is engaged in various other legal, competition and regulatory matters both in the UK and a number of overseas jurisdictions. It is subject to legal proceedings by and against the Group which arise in the ordinary course of business from time to time, including (but not limited to) disputes in relation to contracts, securities, debt collection, consumer credit, fraud, trusts, client assets, competition, data protection, money laundering, employment, environmental and other statutory and common law issues.

The Group is also subject to enquiries and examinations, requests for information, audits, investigations and legal and other proceedings by regulators, governmental and other public bodies in connection with (but not limited to) consumer protection measures, compliance with legislation and regulation, wholesale trading activity and other areas of banking and business activities in which the Group is or has been engaged.

At the present time, the Group does not expect the ultimate resolution of any of these other matters to have a material adverse effect on its financial position. However, in light of the uncertainties involved in such matters and the matters specifically described in this section, there can be no assurance that the outcome of a particular matter or matters will not be material to the Group's results of operations or cash flow for a particular period, depending on, amongst other things, the amount of the loss resulting from the matter(s) and the amount of income otherwise reported for the reporting period

**Directors**

The Directors of the Issuer, each of whose business address is 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP, United Kingdom, their functions in relation to the Group and their principal outside activities (if any) of significance to the Group are as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Function(s) within the Group</i>	<i>Principal outside activities</i>
John McFarlane <sup>4</sup>	Chairman	Chairman, FirstGroup plc; Director, Westfield Group; Director, Old Oak Holdings Ltd

<sup>4</sup> John McFarlane was appointed as a non-executive Director of the Issuer and Barclays PLC with effect from 1 January 2015 and succeeded Sir David Walker as Chairman of the Issuer and Barclays PLC with effect from the conclusion of the Barclays PLC AGM on 23 April 2015. John McFarlane is currently Chairman of FirstGroup plc and he will be stepping down from this position at the conclusion of the FirstGroup plc AGM in July 2015. Mr McFarlane will remain a non-executive Director of Westfield Group and Old Oak Holdings Ltd.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Function(s) within the Group</i>	<i>Principal outside activities</i>
Antony Jenkins	Group Chief Executive	Director, The Institute of International Finance; Member, International Advisory Panel of the Monetary Authority of Singapore; Trustee Director of Business in the Community
Tushar Morzaria	Group Finance Director	
Tim Breedon CBE	Non-Executive Director	Non-Executive Director, Ministry of Justice; Adviser, Blackstone Group L.P
Crawford Gillies	Non-Executive Director	Non-Executive Director Standard Life plc; Non-Executive Director MITIE Group PLC; Chairman, Control Risks Group Limited; Chairman, Scottish Enterprise
Reuben Jeffery III	Non-Executive Director	Chief Executive Officer, President and Director, Rockefeller & Co., Inc.; Chief Executive Officer, Rockefeller Financial Services Inc.; Member International Advisory Council of the China Securities Regulatory Commission; Member, Advisory Board of Towerbrook Capital Partners LP; Director, Financial Services Volunteer Corps; Director of J. Rothschild Capital management International Advisory Committee
Dambisa Moyo	Non-Executive Director	Non-Executive Director, SABMiller PLC; Non-Executive Director, Barrick Gold Corporation
Sir Michael Rake	Deputy Chairman and Senior Independent Director	Chairman, BT Group PLC; Director, McGraw-Hill Financial Inc.; President, Confederation of British Industry
Diane de Saint Victor	Non-Executive Director	General Counsel, Company Secretary and a member of the Group Executive Committee of ABB Limited; Member, Advisory



<i>Name</i>	<i>Function(s) within the Group</i>	<i>Principal outside activities</i>
		Board of the World Economic Forum's Davos Open Forum
Frits van Paasschen	Non-Executive Director	
Mike Ashley	Non-Executive Director	Member, HM Treasury Audit Committee; Member, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales' Ethics Standards Committee; Vice-Chair, European Financial Reporting Advisory Group's Technical Expert Group; Chairman, Government Internal Audit Agency
Wendy Lucas-Bull	Non-Executive Director; Chairman of Barclays Africa Group Limited	Director, Afrika Tikkun NPC; Director, Peotona Group Holdings (Pty) Limited
Stephen Thieke	Non-Executive Director	

Barclays Africa Group Limited ("BAGL") is majority-owned by the Group and a minority of the voting capital is held by non-controlling third party interests. As such, procedures are in place to manage any potential conflicts of interest arising from Wendy Lucas-Bull's duties as a Non-Executive Director of the Issuer and her duties as Chairman of BAGL. Except as stated above in respect of Wendy Lucas-Bull, no potential conflicts of interest exist between any duties to the Issuer of the Directors listed above and their private interests or other duties.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Significant Change Statement

There has been no significant change in the financial or trading position of the Bank Group since 31 March 2015.

### Material Adverse Change Statement

There has been no material adverse change in the prospects of the Issuer since 31 December 2014.

### Legal Proceedings

Save as disclosed under 'The Issuer and the Group — Legal, Competition and Regulatory Matters' (other than under the heading 'General'), the references to the additional provisions primarily relating to Foreign Exchange and Payment Protection Insurance and claims management costs ("PPI") redress set out on pages 3-7, 9 and 10 of the Q1 2015 Results Announcement and the May 2015 Announcement, there are no governmental, legal or arbitration proceedings (including any such proceedings which are pending or threatened of which the Issuer is aware), which may have or have had during the 12 months preceding the date of this Registration Document, a significant effect on the financial position or profitability of the Issuer and/or the Bank Group.

### Auditors

The annual consolidated and unconsolidated financial statements of the Issuer for the two years ended 31 December 2013 and 31 December 2014 have been audited without qualification by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP ("**PricewaterhouseCoopers**") of 1 Embankment Place, London WC2N 6RH, United Kingdom, chartered accountants and statutory auditors (authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for designated investment business). The financial information contained in this Registration Document in relation to the Issuer does not constitute its statutory accounts for the two years ended 31 December 2014. The Issuer's annual report and accounts (containing its consolidated and unconsolidated audited financial statements), which constitute the Issuer's statutory accounts within the meaning of section 434 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to each complete financial year to which such information relates, have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies in England. PricewaterhouseCoopers has reported on the Issuer's statutory accounts, and such reports were unqualified and did not contain a statement under section 498(2) or section 498(3) of the Companies Act 2006. PricewaterhouseCoopers' report contained the following statement: "Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law as ISAs (UK & Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practice Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors. This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose to any person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing."

### Ratings

The credit ratings included or referred to in this Registration Document, or any document incorporated by reference are, for the purposes of Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009 on credit rating agencies (the "**CRA Regulation**"), issued by Fitch Ratings Limited ("**Fitch**"), Moody's Investors Service Ltd. ("**Moody's**") and Standard & Poor's Credit Market Services Europe Limited ("**Standard & Poor's**"), each of which is established in the European Union and has been registered under the CRA Regulation\*.

As of the date of this Registration Document, the short-term unsecured obligations of the Issuer are

rated A-1 by Standard & Poor's<sup>5</sup>, P-1 by Moody's<sup>6</sup>, and F1 by Fitch<sup>7</sup> and the long-term obligations of the Issuer are rated A by Standard & Poor's<sup>8</sup>, A2 by Moody's<sup>9</sup>, and A by Fitch<sup>10</sup>.

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**\*Notes on Issuer ratings:** The information in these footnotes has been extracted from information made available by each rating agency referred to below. The Issuer confirms that such information has been accurately reproduced and that, so far as it is aware, and is able to ascertain from information published by such rating agencies, no facts have been omitted which would render the reproduced information inaccurate or misleading.

<sup>5</sup> A short-term obligation rated 'A-1' is rated in the highest category by Standard & Poor's. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is strong. Within this category, certain obligations are designated with a plus sign (+). This indicates that the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on these obligations is extremely strong.

<sup>6</sup> 'P-1' Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-1 have a superior ability to repay short-term debt obligations.

<sup>7</sup> An 'F1' rating indicates the highest short-term credit quality and the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added '+' to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.

<sup>8</sup> An obligation rated 'A' is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher-rated categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is still strong. The ratings from 'AA' to 'CCC' may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the major rating categories.

<sup>9</sup> Obligations rated 'A' are considered upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk. Note: Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from 'Aa' through 'Caa'. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.

<sup>10</sup> An 'A' rating indicates high credit quality and denotes expectations of low default risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

## DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

For as long as this Registration Document remains in effect or any securities issued in conjunction with this Registration Document remain outstanding, copies of the following documents will, when available, be made available during usual business hours on a weekday (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted) for inspection and in the case of (b), (c), (d) and (e) below shall be available for collection free of charge, at the registered office of the Issuer and at <http://www.barclays.com/barclays-investor-relations/results-and-reports/results.html>:

- (a) the constitutional documents of the Issuer;
- (b) the documents set out in the "*INFORMATION INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE*" section of this Registration Document;
- (c) all future annual reports and semi-annual financial statements of the Issuer;
- (d) the current Registration Document; and
- (e) any other future documents and/or announcements issued by the Issuer.

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