

Annual Report and Accounts 2014

# Earning our customers' trust

RBS is a UK-based banking and financial services company, headquartered in Edinburgh.

RBS provides a wide range of products and services to personal, commercial and large corporate and institutional customers through its two main subsidiaries, The Royal Bank of Scotland and NatWest, as well as through a number of other well-known brands including Citizens, Charter One, Ulster Bank and Coutts.

## Why go online?

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[rbs.com/annualreport](http://rbs.com/annualreport)

Many shareholders are now benefitting from more accessible information and helping the environment too. If you haven't already tried it, visit our online Annual Report or just scan the QR code opposite with your smart phone and go direct. You may need to download a QR code reader for your phone.



## Strategic Report

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## Approval of Strategic Report

The Strategic Report for the year ended 31 December 2014 set out on pages 1 to 41 was approved by the Board of directors on 25 February 2015.

By order of the Board.

Aileen Taylor  
**Company Secretary**  
 25 February 2015

**Chairman**  
 Philip Hampton

**Executive directors**  
 Ross McEwan  
 Ewen Stevenson

**Non-executive directors**  
 Sandy Crombie  
 Alison Davis  
 Morten Friis  
 Robert Gillespie  
 Penny Hughes  
 Brendan Nelson  
 Baroness Noakes

# 2014 performance

(£3,470m)

Attributable loss

£3,503m

Operating profit <sup>(1)</sup>

£2,643m

Profit before tax

11.2%

Common Equity Tier 1 ratio <sup>(2)</sup>

£356bn

RWAs

95%

Loan:deposit ratio <sup>(3)</sup>

£28bn

Short-term wholesale funding <sup>(4)</sup>

£151bn

Liquidity portfolio

4.2%

Leverage ratio <sup>(5)</sup>

(8.0%)

Return on tangible equity <sup>(6)</sup>

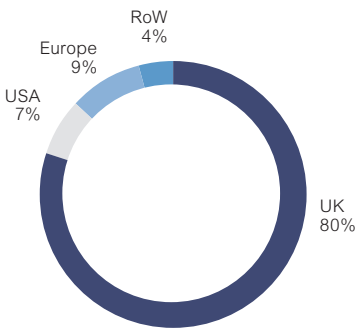
68%

Cost:income ratio - adjusted <sup>(7)</sup>

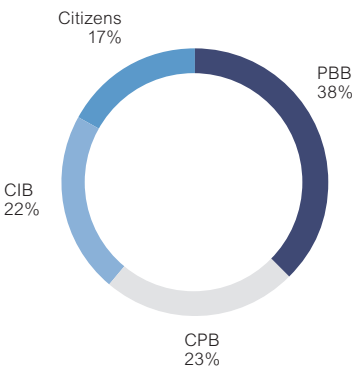
2.23%

Net interest margin

Total revenue by region 2014



Total income by franchise 2014



Notes:

- (1) Operating profit before tax, own credit adjustments, gain on redemption of own debt, write-down of goodwill, strategic disposals and RFS Holdings minority interest (RFS MI) and includes the results of Citizens on a non-statutory basis, which are included in discontinued operations in the statutory results.
- (2) End-point CRR basis.
- (3) Includes disposal groups.
- (4) Excludes derivative collateral.
- (5) Based on end-point CRR Tier 1 capital and revised 2014 Basel III leverage ratio framework.
- (6) Tangible equity is equity attributable to ordinary and B shareholders less intangible assets.
- (7) Cost:income ratio is based on total income excluding own credit adjustments, gain on redemption of own debt, strategic disposals, and RFS MI, and operating expenses excluding litigation and conduct costs, restructuring costs, write down of goodwill and RFS MI. Total income and operating expenses both include Citizens which is included in discontinued operations in the statutory results.

## Financial results

**RBS reported an attributable loss of £3.5 billion, following a £4.0 billion write-down on Citizens.**

**Operating profit<sup>(1)</sup> was £3.5 billion. Significant progress was made towards building a bank that is stronger, simpler and better for both customers and shareholders.**

RBS reported an attributable loss of £3,470 million in 2014, compared with a loss of £8,995 million in 2013. The result included a loss from discontinued operations of £3,445 million, which reflected a £3,994 million fair value write-down in relation to the reclassification of Citizens to disposal groups, and a tax charge of £1.9 billion which included a £1.5 billion write-off of deferred tax assets.

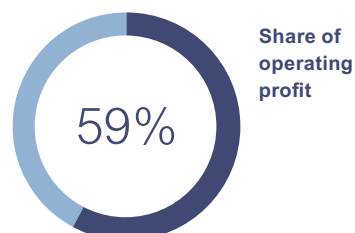
Operating profit totalled £3,503 million for 2014, compared with an operating loss of £7,500 million in 2013. This reflected improved operating results from the core

domestic businesses together with significant impairment releases in Ulster Bank and RBS Capital Resolution (RCR). These results include £1,257 million of restructuring costs compared with £656 million in 2013, and £2,194 million of litigation and conduct costs compared with £3,844 million in the prior year.

UK Personal & Business Banking (UK PBB) delivered a good performance built on strong growth from a reinvigorated mortgage business. Commercial Banking's efforts to stimulate demand resulted in a resumption of loan book growth; together with active management of cost and capital, this supported a significant improvement in profitability. Corporate & Institutional Banking (CIB) made good progress towards a lower risk model with a further £40 billion reduction in risk-weighted assets (RWAs) on an end-point CRR basis.

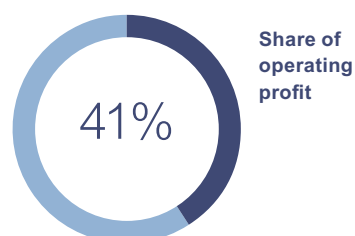


## Personal & Business Banking (PBB)



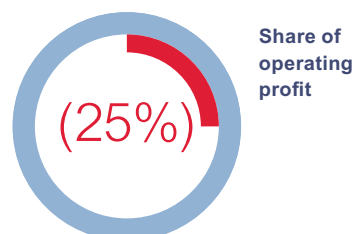
Performance highlights	2014	2013
Return on equity (%)	17.5	(5.7)
Net interest margin (%)	3.42	3.21
Cost:income ratio (%)	71	78
Loan:deposit ratio (%)	88	91
Risk-weighted assets (£bn)	66.6	81.9

## Commercial & Private Banking (CPB)



Performance highlights	2014	2013
Return on equity (%)	11.9	3.7
Net interest margin (%)	2.93	2.81
Cost:income ratio (%)	65	73
Loan:deposit ratio (%)	83	78
Risk-weighted assets (£bn)	75.5	77.8

## Corporate & Institutional Banking (CIB)



Performance highlights	2014	2013
Return on equity (%)	(4.2)	(12.9)
Cost:income ratio (%)	123	144
Risk-weighted assets (£bn)	107.1	120.4

Note: RWAs at 31 December 2013 are on Basel 2.5 basis and on an end-point CRR basis at 31 December 2014.

Statutory operating profit before tax, which excludes results from discontinued operations, was £2,643 million compared with an operating loss of £8,849 million in 2013.

2014 was a year of significant progress for the bank, in which we delivered against all our commitments. In line with the new strategy it set out in 2014, RBS has:

- Implemented a new organisational design for a more UK-centred bank with focused international capabilities, built around its strongest customer franchises.
- Exceeded its 2014 cost reduction targets with savings of £1.1 billion.
- Strengthened its Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio by 2.6 percentage points to 11.2% at the end of 2014, assisted by £4.8 billion of net capital release from RCR disposals and run-off.
- Successfully listed Citizens as a step towards full divestment by the end of 2016.
- Reached agreement with HM Treasury on the restructuring of the Dividend Access

Share (DAS) and paid an initial dividend of £320 million.

- Completed much of the orderly run-down and closure of the US asset-backed product business, removing £15 billion of RWAs from the balance sheet.
- Completed a strategic review of Ulster Bank and the wealth businesses, launching a sales process for the international private banking activities<sup>(1)</sup>.
- Continued to rationalise, simplify and strengthen operating systems and processes, with a more secure mobile banking platform, faster overnight batch processing and key services available to customers 99.96% of the time.
- Made our products simpler and fairer for customers, ending zero per cent balance transfers, halting teaser rates on savings accounts that penalise existing customers and explaining all charges for personal and business customers on one side of A4 paper.

Within the overall strategic shape outlined for CIB in 2014, RBS is making further changes to improve its medium-term returns, building a stronger, safer and more sustainable business, focused mainly on UK and Western European customers, both corporates and financial institutions, supported by trading and distribution platforms in the UK, US and Singapore.

These changes will create a more focused corporate and institutional bank built on existing product and service strengths. RBS will have a strong, client-focused product offering in sterling, US dollar and euro, including:

- Debt financing, with debt capital markets, structured finance and loans.
- Risk management in currency, rates and inflation.
- Transaction services, with UK-focused cash, payments and trade.

(1) Private banking and wealth management activities where the primary relationship management is conducted outside the British Isles.

CIB will reduce its geographical footprint to approximately 13 countries, compared with 38 at the end of 2014, though RBS will also retain its back office operations in Poland and India. In addition to its main distribution and trading hubs in the UK, US and Singapore, RBS will remain present in a number of Western European countries with coverage teams. A small sales team will be retained in Japan. US operations will shrink, while retaining the presence required to support the US dollar needs of RBS's UK and Western European customers. Priority client sectors will be targeted in infrastructure, transportation, financial institutions, energy and resources.

CIB will continue to reduce its balance sheet and risk profile. RWAs will be reduced by 60% from £107 billion at 31 December 2014 to £35-£40 billion in 2019, with a reduction of more than £25 billion targeted in 2015. Third party assets will be reduced from £241 billion at the end of 2014 to £75-£80 billion in 2019.

This CIB strategy leaves RBS well-placed to meet the ring-fencing requirements of the Banking Reform Act 2013. As previously indicated, RBS intends to place most banking services inside the ring fence. CIB's remaining "Markets" activities, the operations of RBS International and some corporate banking activity are expected to remain outside the ring-fenced bank in separate legal entities.

For 2015 RBS intends to:

- Move towards a capital target of 13% CET1<sup>(1)</sup>, with risk-weighted assets below £300 billion and £2 billion Additional Tier 1 capital raised.
- Deconsolidate Citizens and substantially complete RCR exit.
- Improve customer net promoter scores in all UK franchises, in line with the long-term goal of becoming the number 1 bank for trust, service and advocacy.
- Reduce costs by a further £800 million<sup>(2)</sup>, taking RBS towards a long term cost:income ratio of under 50%.
- Deliver lending growth in strategic segments equal to or higher than UK nominal GDP growth.
- Raise employee engagement index to within 8% of the global benchmark so that staff are fully motivated to contribute to RBS's long-term success.

#### 2014 performance

- Loss attributable to ordinary and B shareholders was £3,470 million, compared with a loss of £8,995 million in 2013. The result included a loss from discontinued operations of £3,445 million, which

reflected an accounting write-down of £3,994 million taken in relation to Citizens, which has been written down to fair value less costs to sell as a consequence of it being reclassified as 'held-for-sale' in the statutory results. This write-down does not affect RBS's capital position.

- The tax charge included a net write-off of deferred tax assets of £1.5 billion relating to the UK (£850 million) and the US (£775 million), reflecting the impact of the decision to scale back the CIB operations. This was partially offset by write-backs relating to Ulster Bank.
- Operating profit improved to £3,503 million for 2014 compared with an operating loss of £7,500 million in 2013, benefiting from improved operating results in core businesses together with significant impairment releases in Ulster Bank and RCR.
- Restructuring costs of £1,257 million were up 92% from 2013 but conduct and litigation costs were 43% lower at £2,194 million and included charges relating to foreign exchange trading, Payment Protection Insurance (PPI), customer redress associated with interest rate hedging products, IT incident in 2012 and other costs including packaged accounts and investment products. Excluding restructuring, conduct and litigation costs, operating profit was £6,954 million, compared with a loss of £3,000 million in 2013.
- Income totalled £18,197 million, down 6% from 2013, with improvements in net interest income in PBB and CPB offset by lower income from trading activities in CIB, in line with its smaller balance sheet and reduced risk profile. Net interest margin was 2.23%, up from 2.01% in 2013, with improved liability margins partially offset by pressure on mortgage and corporate lending margins and by the continuing shift in mix towards lower margin secured lending.
- Operating expenses, excluding restructuring, conduct and litigation costs, were down £1,612 million or 12%. Adjusting for currency movements and intangible assets write-offs, cost savings totalled £1.1 billion, in excess of the bank's £1 billion target for the year.
- Net impairment releases of £1,155 million were recorded in 2014 compared with impairment losses of £8,432 million in 2013, which included £4,490 million of charges recognised in connection with the creation of RCR. Provision releases

arose principally in Ulster Bank and in the Irish portfolios managed by RCR, which benefited from improving Irish economic and property market conditions and proactive debt management.

- Statutory operating profit before tax was £2,643 million compared with an operating loss of £8,849 million in 2013.
- Tangible net asset value per ordinary and B share was 387p at 31 December 2014 compared with 363p at end 2013. Positive movements in cash flow hedge reserves (+9p) and available-for-sale reserves (+5p) were offset by the attributable loss for the year (-30p). The attributable loss is adjusted for a loss provision attributed to Citizens' intangible assets (+35p) and goodwill and other intangible assets (+5p).

#### Balance sheet and capital

- Funded assets totalled £697 billion at 31 December 2014, down £35 billion in the last quarter and £43 billion over the course of the year, principally reflecting continued risk and balance sheet reduction in CIB and disposals and run-off in RCR.
- Including Citizens, which has been reclassified to disposal groups, net loans and advances to customers totalled £394 billion at the end of 2014, up £3.0 billion from the end of 2013, despite a significant reduction in RCR.
  - UK PBB lending rose by £2 billion, with net new mortgage lending of £3.9 billion partially offset by reduced unsecured balances.
  - Commercial Banking balances rose by £1 billion, with a planned reduction in real estate finance offset by good growth in lending to other sectors.
  - Gross new lending to SMEs totalled £10.3 billion, exceeding RBS's £9.3 billion target by 10%.
  - Total net lending flows reported within the scope of the Funding for Lending Scheme were minus £2.28 billion in Q4 2014, of which net lending to SMEs was minus £567 million.
- Including Citizens, which has been reclassified to disposal groups, customer deposits totalled £415 billion at the end of 2014, up £0.4 billion from the end of 2013.
- RWAs declined to £356 billion from £429 billion at the end of 2013, primarily driven by risk and balance sheet reduction in CIB coupled with disposals and run-off in RCR. This contributed to the strengthening of the bank's capital ratios, with the CET1 ratio strengthening by 260 basis points to 11.2% at the end of 2014 compared with 8.6% at the end of 2013.

Notes: (1) During the period of CIB restructuring.

(2) Excluding restructuring, conduct and litigation costs, write off of intangible assets and operating expenses of CFG and Williams & Glyn.

## Our progress in 2014

We have a clear ambition to become No.1 for customer service, trust and advocacy. In 2014, our focus has been on Cost, Capital, Restructuring and Resilience. We have also begun the process of making RBS a simpler place to work and an easier bank to do business with.

### Fairer banking

We've ended Credit Card teaser rates.



### SME funding

Gross new lending to SMEs totalled £10.3 billion, exceeding our 2014 target by 10%.



### Small Business Fund

RBS and NatWest launch £1 billion fund for both new and existing small business customers across the UK.



### Online loans

We launched a new online loan application process for small businesses.



### Account opening

We've reduced our current account opening times for RBS and NatWest customers from five days to one.



### Simplified product range

Personal & Business Banking reduced the number of on sale products by 50%.



### Launch of Citizens IPO

The biggest bank initial public offering in US history successfully delivered.



### Project reduction

So far, we have reduced the number of change projects we are running from 550 to 182.



### GPL system redesign

We simplified our Group Policy Learning system (GPL). As a result we've seen a 62% reduction in the total hours required to complete modules, letting us spend more time on customers.



### Transparency

RBS scored top in the UK for corporate transparency in a study conducted by Transparency International.



### Resilience

We've created a mirror bank so customers still have access to our services during a system outage. Already we can process 90% of debit and credit card transactions if there is a system outage.



### Mobile record

Our mobile app regularly supports around 4 million logins a day, with a record being set on 'Black Friday' 2014 of 4.86 million.



### Faster processing

Our overnight batch processing is now twice as fast, processing 20 million transactions every day.



### Living Our Values

We launched a recognition programme – Living Our Values, reducing over 200 local schemes into one and creating a bank-wide way of recognising a colleague.



## Our 2015 targets



### Capital target

Move towards a capital target of 13% CET1 ratio <sup>(1)</sup>.



### Improve NPS

Improve net promoter score in every UK franchise.



### Reduce costs

Reduce costs by a further £800 million <sup>(2)</sup>, taking RBS towards a long term cost:income ratio of under 50%.



### Lending growth

Deliver lending growth in strategic segments equal to or higher than UK nominal GDP growth.



### Our people

Raise employee engagement index to within 8% of GFS norm <sup>(3)</sup>.

Notes: (1) During the period of CIB restructuring.

(2) Excludes restructuring, conduct, litigation and intangible write-off charges as well as the operating costs of Citizens Financial Group and Williams & Glyn.

(3) Global Financial Services (GFS) norm currently stands at 83%.





## Chairman's statement

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2014 was a year of significant progress for RBS, with a much improved operating profit and major achievements in terms of business reorganisation, cost reduction, capital build and improved IT capability. As Ross McEwan has set out in his letter, the business continues to simplify and improve, focusing on putting its customers at the heart of its activities.

The bank has delivered a good operating profit of £3.5 billion for 2014, but the costs associated with completing the restructuring of RBS mean we are still reporting a bottom line attributable loss. Although the huge changes to the size, shape and risk profile of the business since the financial crisis are largely complete or in hand, the further substantial restructuring of our markets operations and international spread will require careful management in 2015.

Of course your Board is pleased to see the improved operating performance, which in our view reflects the underlying strength of the business. Looking back, however, we must acknowledge that we did not fully recognise the scale of the challenge that awaited us in 2009. At the time, we assumed that a Core Tier 1 capital ratio of more than 8% by 2013 would be sufficient to constitute undoubted financial strength in the minds of markets and regulators; today we have increased our capital target to 13%. We must also acknowledge that we did not anticipate the more than £9 billion of regulatory fines and customer redress we have borne so far as we paid, and will continue to pay, the price for our past conduct failings. These conduct issues have delayed the re-build of our capital and directly reduced shareholder value. They have also caused continuing reputational damage. I hope as we move beyond these issues we can fully rebuild the trust of our customers, and by doing so win more of their business.

The need to continue to rebuild capital strength means it has taken longer than we had expected to reach a point at which the Government could be in a position to start selling down its stake in RBS. The decision on timing rests with the Government, through UK Financial Investments, which manages its shareholding, but our task is to create the conditions in which it can do so. In working towards that end we are also furthering the interests of RBS's other shareholders, as we believe that the beginning of the sell-down will be welcomed by investors.

As announced previously I will be leaving RBS in 2015. The Board is pleased to announce that Howard Davies will succeed me as Chairman, and we welcome him to RBS. He will join the Board at the end of June and take over from me on 1 September. On the day I joined the Board in January 2009, the shares traded at 9p, equivalent to 90p today, and the implications of the bank's financial distress were unknowable. RBS has transformed itself over the last several years and continues to do so. The renewed focus on customer and customer service will make this a better organisation for all stakeholders, most especially customers, staff and shareholders.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the RBS Board for their support and dedication in dealing with the unusual challenges of being a majority government-owned listed company.

In particular, I would like to thank Nathan Bostock, Tony Di Iorio and Philip Scott, who all stepped down from the Board in 2014 after providing valuable service, and to welcome Morten Friis and Ewen Stevenson, who have joined the Board.

It has been a privilege to serve as Chairman of RBS and I am confident that the Board and the many outstanding people in the bank will continue to work with dedication to restore the bank's standing.

**Philip Hampton**  
Chairman





## Chief Executive's review

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This is my first letter to you since we launched a new strategy for RBS last year. It is a strategy that sets out to deliver one very simple aim. To make this a great bank for our customers; a bank that will earn back their trust, and in turn win more of their business.

It's a strategy that provides the fundamental building blocks to make RBS an attractive investment, a great place to work for our people, and a UK focused bank that the country can be proud of.

Last year we identified the areas we needed to improve in order to deliver our strategy - cost, complexity, capital, and trust from our customers. The energy and resolve of our people has resulted in significant progress on these, and we have delivered on the goals we set for 2014.

- We said we would reduce waste and inefficiency and reorganise ourselves around the needs of our customers, moving from seven operating divisions to three customer businesses. This reorganisation is complete and we have removed £1.1 billion of cost from the business.
- We outlined a programme to rationalise, simplify and bolster our operating systems and processes to make them less complex, more resilient and easier to use. Significant progress has been made in this area with our key services available to customers 99.96% of the time during 2014.
- We set out a plan to place the bank on a sure capital footing targeting a CET1 ratio of 11% by the end of 2015, and 12% or greater by the end of 2016, so as to remove any doubts about our fundamental strength and stability. This capital plan is on track and we have reached our 2015 target one year ahead of schedule. This improvement was driven by a 52% reduction in risk-weighted assets in RCR.
- We said we would undertake the biggest bank initial public offering in US history. Citizens Financial Group was successfully floated on the New York Stock Exchange. At the same time we substantially completed the orderly run-down and closure of our US asset-backed product business, removing £15 billion of risk-weighted assets from our balance sheet.
- We made a commitment to fairness with our customers. We said that RBS would no longer compete with other banks in a number of areas and we would use less technical language that our customers find easier to understand. We stopped offering zero per cent balance transfers on credit cards that trap customers in spirals of ever increasing debt, we ended teaser rates that penalise existing customers, and we now explain all of our fees and charges on one side of A4 paper for both our personal and business customers.

As well as being a stronger, simpler and fairer bank, I said that we would also be a very different bank. No longer chasing global market share, but instead focusing squarely on our core strength, namely our home market places in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (RoI).

Our 2014 performance shows a strategy that is working. It demonstrates the forensic approach we have taken to evaluate our businesses against the returns they provide to shareholders. The strong execution against the targets we set now gives us a platform to go further, faster.

As well as a review of our current performance I will set out exactly what this bank will become, what we will do and what we will not do as we seek to improve shareholder value and secure our market leading positions. It involves an acceleration of our strategy to build on our domestic strengths and a further reshaping of our CIB business as we seek to address its unacceptable returns.

We have five ambitious new goals for the second year of our plan and new financial targets so that you, our shareholders, can hold us to account for our performance.

#### 2014 financial performance

The earning power of our key customer businesses lies at the heart of the strong financial progress RBS made during 2014. What you can see from these results is that underneath all the noise of conduct, litigation and restructuring charges, we have strong performing customer businesses that are geared towards delivering sustainable returns for investors.

We made an operating profit of £3.5 billion in 2014, the highest since 2010 and a vast improvement on 2013. Great progress on cost reduction countered a fall in total income - which primarily reflected a smaller risk profile and lower income from trading activities in CIB - and led to an overall improvement in operating efficiency.

Our attributable loss of £3.5 billion, includes £1.3 billion of restructuring charges, £2.2 billion in litigation and conduct provisions, a £1.5 billion net deferred tax asset write-off, the initial £320 million dividend for the Dividend Access Share and a write-down of £4 billion anticipating the disposal of Citizens.

It is increasingly clear what is driving underlying performance at RBS - PBB and CPB. PBB and CPB are now more important to RBS's performance than at any time in the past decade. This year they generated 61% of our income, compared with c.37% for equivalent businesses in 2009. And they have been at the forefront of progress towards our goal of increased operating efficiency, reducing adjusted operating expense by 2.6% over the year whilst income was up

2.3%. ROEs of 17.5% and 11.9% respectively demonstrate their value to RBS today.

These franchises are also the custodians of our core strengths - serving the everyday banking needs of over 18 million personal and business customers in the UK and RoI, and helping these customers meet their ambitions. We're investing in these franchises with a view to exceeding customers' expectations and generating sustainable returns.

The performance of CIB reflects the big changes this business is going through, and the tough macro-economic conditions and increasingly high costs of regulation it faces. Income decreased alongside lower adjusted operating expenses as we reduced CIB's risk profile in accordance with our strategy, with restructuring, litigation and conduct costs pushing the business to an operating loss. But CIB has a strong customer franchise serving our leading UK and Western European clients; increasingly it is these clients we intend to focus on. I will set out later in this letter the steps we will take to do this.

An overarching part of delivering sustainable returns is controlling operating costs. When I announced our cost target last year it was described by some as the most ambitious cost target in Europe. Well, through our drive across the bank for greater simplicity we have over-delivered, and surpassed our target of £1 billion of operating cost savings for the bank. With a cost:income ratio for the year of 68% on an adjusted basis, we are still behind our peers on cost efficiency; and there is work to do to fulfil our desire to take it below 50%. But we have a strong track record on delivery, and there is resolve across this bank to get this done.

I am very pleased with the progress we have made in 2014 against our stated objectives. While that progress is evident in the operating profit line of the results announced, we are still posting an attributable loss to our shareholders. This is an accounting consequence of one of our 2014 achievements - the successful flotation of Citizens on the New York Stock Exchange.

Now the deconsolidation of Citizens is finally within sight, accounting rules require us to write it down to its estimated disposal value. This write-down substantially represents the goodwill previously attached to Citizens. While I realise that the headlines this generates are disappointing it is important to emphasise that this particular accounting loss does not change our regulatory capital or tangible net asset value.



### Safety remains a cornerstone of our strategy

A core question for any bank seeking the trust of its customers is whether it's safe and strong and focused and able to support customers and the economy. The progress we have made should mean that it is no longer in any doubt. The CET1 ratio has improved by 260 basis points to 11.2% over the course of the year, up from 8.6% as at 31 December 2013. We reached our full year 2015 CET1 target of 11% one year ahead of schedule, and we are on track to achieve a revised CET1 target of 13%, which we have set in place for the period of the CIB restructuring.

We now have considerably more high quality capital than we had when the financial crisis hit and this bank was bailed out by the taxpayer. But we need to meet and exceed the expectations of the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and of our shareholders and bondholders. Stress test results show it's not just how much capital you have, but how your balance sheet behaves under extreme economic scenarios.

This year our team in RBS Capital Resolution has managed to accelerate the removal of some of our most capital intensive assets, and we are on track to complete our 2014-2016 RCR run-down targets by the end of 2015, one year ahead of the original target we set for ourselves. Our capital strength will be bolstered further when Citizens Financial Group in the USA is deconsolidated from our balance sheet. This is also expected in 2015.

In 2015, we also plan to start a programme of issuing Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 capital instruments.

### Conduct

It has taken far longer than anyone realised to root out all the past problems, practices and related fines, and we still have challenges on the horizon. We are changing the culture of this bank; our aim is that shareholders are not exposed to this scale of conduct risk again.

What you will have seen from me over the last year is the way I will be open and honest with you and our customers when dealing with these issues; the way we continue to approach FX is a good example of this. I will not hide. I will talk openly about the hurt this wrongdoing causes me and the many thousands of people within this bank. I will detail the things we are doing to put things right for our customers, and the challenge and change we are driving through the culture and conduct of our staff.

We are determined to learn the lessons from the wrongdoings of the past and ensure that those responsible are held to account.

### Building on our strengths

I said this time last year that the days when global domination mattered more to RBS than great customer service are well and truly over. Well, we are not just talking about being a UK-centred bank; we are a UK-centred bank. 80% of our revenues are generated in the UK. At the time of the 2008 financial crisis this number was 48%. Seven years after the crisis we still have top 3 market positions in the following UK segments:

- large corporates and financial institutions (FIs);
- Sterling provider in wholesale banking;
- SME banking;
- Private banking;
- Financing for UK infrastructure projects; and
- Personal banking.

We are building on this strength to manage value for shareholders and deliver the most resilient future returns.

In last year's letter, I told you that where a business can't deliver value to our shareholders in a reasonable time period we will take decisive action. We have put international private banking activities<sup>(1)</sup> up for sale and we are now going further, faster in reshaping parts of our CIB business.

The investment bank was over-stretched both in range of product and geography. There was too much risk for too little return. Given the increasing regulatory requirements on this business, it was a strategy that now has little hope of delivering acceptable returns to shareholders.

To be a number 1 bank means providing a full service offering to UK and Western European corporate and financial institution clients. It means providing a first class platform to process payments in the UK and Europe. And it means having the expertise to help customers raise finance on the debt capital markets and manage the high level risks they face. Serving customers in these areas is an undisputed area of strength for us - they are our core capabilities, and are essential to us providing a first class service. In addition, trading and distribution hubs in Singapore and the US will ensure the corridors of commerce remain open to allow our customers access to investors in those regions.

We plan to fully exit our Markets businesses in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and substantially reduce our presence in Asia Pacific and the US. We will exit our cash management services outside the UK and RoI. These businesses are not essential to our go-forward client franchise, and their standalone returns are not sufficient to justify an exception.

In doing so we will be free to grow and improve the services our customers value most. And by serving customers better this franchise can reinforce its competitive position and deliver sustainable returns above the cost of equity for our shareholders.

This is a plan for a smaller, more focused, but ultimately more valuable bank with the vast majority of its assets in the UK, and for RBS marks the end of the standalone global investment bank model.

What I have just outlined will require an enormous amount of effort from our people. And I do not for one second take that for granted. We have a proven track record of delivering change in our business.

### A better bank for customers

Much has been written and discussed about the root causes of the financial crisis. For me it came down to one big problem - a failure to put the customers' interest at the heart of our business and its culture. For too long market share mattered more than customer care.

It is why over the last year our people have worked hard to embed this 'customer first' mentality into everything we do as a bank.

There are some concrete achievements we can call out for 2014 including: faster account opening times, a simplified product range and a clearer pricing structure. And we went against the rest of the industry and took a calculated risk by ending teaser rates, and we now offer our best rates to new and existing customers across our product range. We may have lost customers and income as a result, but we still believe that this was the right thing to do and will deliver long term value for shareholders.

I want to assure our customers that the positive changes we made in 2014 are not one-off. We strive to do better for our customers every day, and when we spot an opportunity to serve customers better, we will act. For example, customers shouldn't be penalised because they lose track of the date and are hit with an unexpected overdraft

Note: (1) Private banking and wealth management activities where the primary relationship management is conducted outside the British Isles.



charge for the first time. And if we can do more to help customers through both the ups and downs in their finances, it is absolutely our responsibility to do so.

But we recognise that these are chipping away at the edges, and more radical change is needed if we are to establish real upward momentum and achieve our targets. We have to be constantly asking ourselves what a really good bank for customers would look like, and to be constantly improving what we do to take us towards that goal. In our financial reporting we will include full details of the progress we have made as well as providing clear, independent measures of the bank's customer trust and advocacy scores.

We may have started from further back than some, but we are determined to reach our aspiration of being number 1 for customer service, trust and advocacy. It won't be easy, but I firmly believe it is doable.

#### A better bank for shareholders

Critical though it is that we build a bank that is safe, in capital strength, in structure and on behaviour, it must also be profitable.

There are good businesses within RBS that are capable of delivering real value to their customers. If we do that, our customers will be happy for us to make a fair and sustainable profit.

Without sustainable profitability we cannot ensure our future safety; profit is the best form of self-replenishing capital.

We remain acutely conscious of how much was invested to ensure our continued survival by our private shareholders and, critically, by the Government. As we reduce the tail risks our bank is exposed to, repair our overall profitability and reshape CIB we are creating the potential to build up excess capital, paving the way for distributions to the Government and other shareholders.

Our strategy envisages a capital benefit net of restructuring costs from 2016. We intend to return all capital to shareholders above a CET1 ratio of 13%. This capital return, which remains subject to regulatory approval at the time, will only be made once the significant legacy conduct hurdles are behind us. We see this as another important step towards repaying the support of our shareholders, including the UK tax payer.

#### 2015 Goals and revised targets

I have set out in the table below five new ambitious business goals for the second year of our strategic plan to simplify and restructure this bank, achieving them will stand us in good stead to reach our goals. We have also published a revised set of financial and business targets. These are consistent with the other changes set out in this letter, and will enable you, our shareholders, to continue to track our progress and hold us to account.

By 2019 RBS intends to be a low cost business focused on effective, efficient delivery for our customers. It will be a bank based in the UK and RoI, with a presence in Western Europe, the US and Singapore. It intends to be a bank with leading market positions in each of our chosen business areas, and a bank that can generate attractive returns for shareholders on a sustainable basis.

#### Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Chairman, Sir Philip Hampton, as he takes part in his final Annual Results with the bank. Philip joined in 2009 amid the global financial crisis and immediately brought a clear sense of purpose and direction for the bank at a time of incredible uncertainty, both for the UK and RBS. His dedication to making this a great bank for the country served him well through the tremendous, but positive, change that RBS has undergone during his tenure. I want to express my personal gratitude to Philip for guiding me during my first year as CEO, and

playing a key role in implementing the strategy that will take us forward. There is still work to do, but Philip will leave on a positive note, with RBS firmly focussed on serving its customers, and shareholders.

What you see today is a bank on track and delivering on its plan. A bank that is determined to earn the trust of its customers every day. A bank that helps the smallest enterprises through to the largest companies grow and prosper. A bank that is determined to reward its shareholders for their support. And a bank that is able to deliver on our ambition to be number one for customer service and advocacy in the UK and RoI.

**Ross McEwan**  
Chief Executive

	Our long-term targets	Our 2015 goals
<b>Strength and sustainability</b>	CET1 ratio = 13% during the period of CIB restructuring	Reduce RWAs to <£300bn
<b>Customer experience</b>	No.1 for service, trust and advocacy	Improve NPS in every UK franchise
<b>Simplifying the bank</b>	Cost:income ratio <50%	Reduce costs by £800m <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Supporting growth</b>	Leading market positions in every franchise	Lending growth in strategic segments ≥ nominal UK GDP growth
<b>Employee engagement</b>	Employee engagement index ≥ GFS norm <sup>(2)</sup>	Raise employee engagement index to within 8% of GFS norm <sup>(2)</sup>

Note: (1) Excludes restructuring, conduct and litigation costs, intangible write-off charges as well as the operating costs of Citizens Financial Group and Williams & Glyn.

(2) Global Financial Services (GFS) norm currently stands at 83%.

# Business model and strategy

Our major source of income in our retail and commercial banking businesses is net interest income. This is the difference between the income we earn from the loans and advances we have made to our personal, corporate and institutional customers and on our surplus funds and the interest we pay on deposits placed with us by our customers and our debt securities we have issued. We also earn fees from financial services and other products we provide to our customers as well as rental income from assets we lease to our customers.

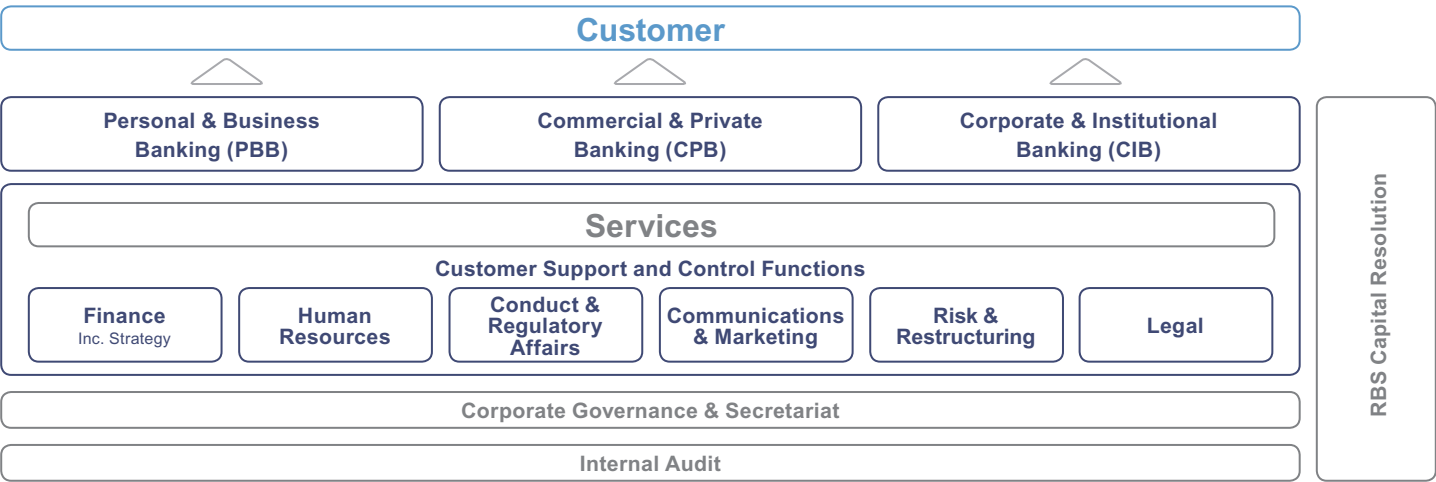
Our Corporate & Institutional Banking business earns income from client driven trading activities particularly Rates, Currencies and Credit.

We do business in competitive markets but we have strong franchises and good growth opportunities, and we aim to target our investment to maximise these opportunities.

Our Personal & Business Banking and Commercial & Private Banking franchises provide services to over 17 million personal and business customers in the UK and to over 1 million personal and business customers in the Republic of Ireland. Our Corporate & Institutional Banking business serves our corporate and institutional clients primarily in the UK and Western Europe, as well as those US and Asian multinationals with substantial trade and investment links in the region. This business's strategy has been further refined in 2015 (see page 14 for Reshaping our CIB business).

## Our Structure

We are organised to provide products and services to personal, commercial and large corporate and institutional customers. Our principal customer-facing businesses are supported by a central Services function and other Support and Control Functions.



### Customer Businesses

Our three customer-facing businesses are primarily responsible for defining the strategy and financial plan of their business and ensuring it is aligned with the wider RBS strategy. Teams define and deliver the customer proposition and are accountable for end-to-end customer processes and products. The teams partner with functions to specify functional requirements that deliver on customer needs.

### Services

Services, led by the Chief Administrative Officer, provides business aligned technology, operations and property services across the bank. It is also accountable for technology risk, payments, data, change and the bank's fraud and security functions.

### Functions

These teams define functional strategy and the financial plan to support the Customer Businesses and other functions. Most functions are a mix of control, expertise, advisory and transaction services. All common activities across the organisation are included and nothing else.

## Our Strategy

After five years spent restoring fundamental soundness to the bank, we have created a strategy and a structure that provides us with an exciting opportunity. Over the next few years, we are going to focus all of our energy on earning back the trust we lost in 2008. And in doing so, RBS is going to change the UK banking sector for the better.

## Our Priorities

Strength and sustainability

Customer experience

Simplifying the bank

Supporting growth

Employee engagement

We have a long way to go to be the bank that our customers deserve. But we are in a period of very significant, positive change. We have millions of great customers, tens of thousands of outstanding employees, and a home economy that is getting stronger. By building on this foundation, we can achieve our ambition to be number one for customer service, trust and advocacy in all our chosen markets.

## Our Plan

Our overarching ambition is to become the number one bank for customer service, trust and advocacy. We have set out how we track our progress towards this goal on page 15.

We also track a number of other performance measures and have set long-term targets for these to keep us on track.

## Performance measures<sup>(1)</sup>

	Measure	2013	2014	Long-term
<b>People</b>	Great place to work	78%	72%	Employee engagement index $\geq$ GFS norm <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>Efficiency</b>	Cost:income ratio	95%	87%	<50%
	Adjusted cost:income ratio <sup>(3)</sup>	72%	68%	
<b>Returns</b>	Return on tangible equity	Negative	Negative	12%+
<b>Capital strength</b> <sup>(4)</sup>	Common Equity Tier 1 ratio	8.6%	11.2%	13% <sup>(5)</sup>

Notes:

(1) This table contains forecasts with significant contingencies. Please refer to 'Forward-looking statements' and 'Risk factors'.

(2) Global Financial Services (GFS) norm currently stands at 83%.

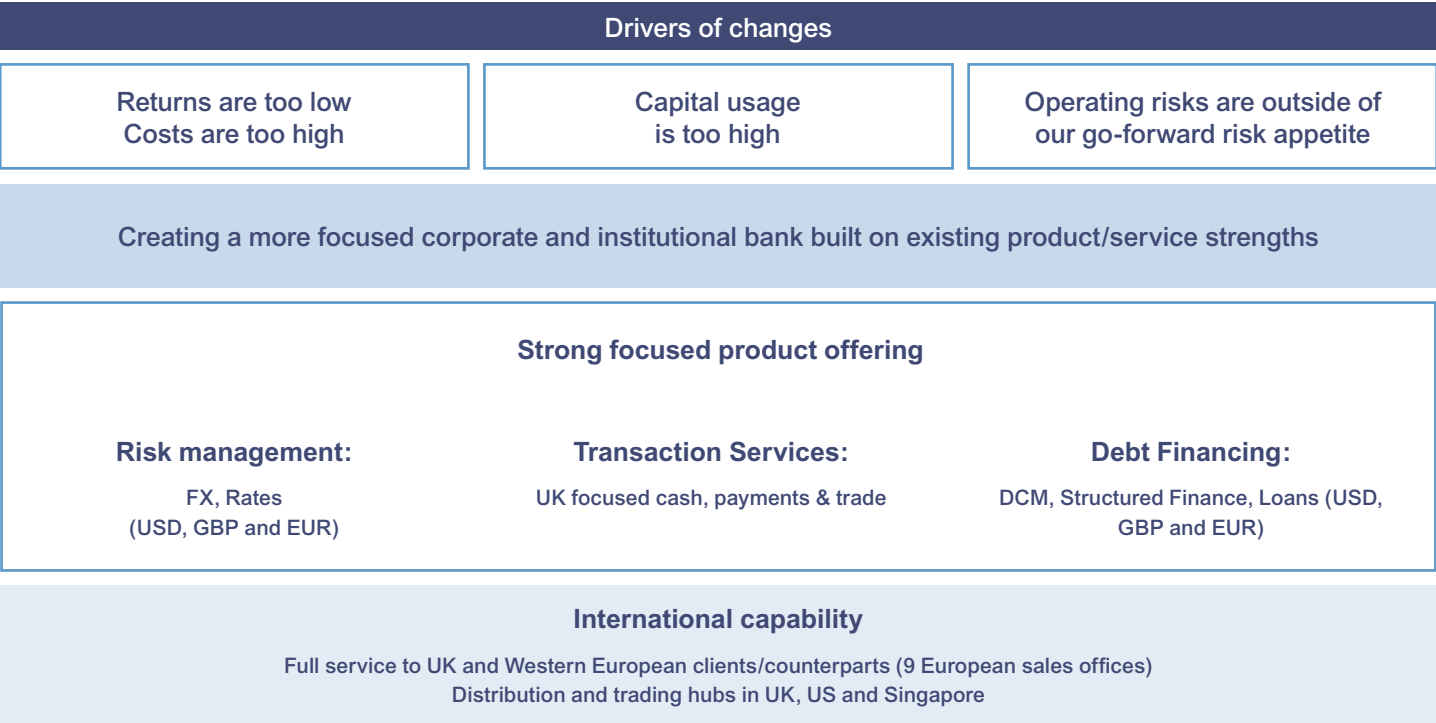
(3) Excluding restructuring costs and litigation and conduct costs.

(4) Based on end-point CRR basis Tier 1 capital and revised 2014 Basel leverage framework.

(5) During the period of CIB restructuring.

## Reshaping our CIB business

We have announced our plans to go further and faster in reshaping parts of our CIB business. The investment bank was overstretched both in range of product and geography. We are building a stronger, safer and more sustainable business, focused mainly on UK and Western European customers, both corporates and financial institutions, supported by trading and distribution platforms in the UK, US and Singapore.



Our go-forward business is focused predominantly on UK and EMEA. Based on 2014 numbers, around 74% of CIB's RWAs and 81% of income is generated in these regions.

Region	2014					
	Current CIB		Go-forward		Non-strategic	
	RWAs (£bn)	Income (£m)	RWAs (£bn)	Income (£m)	RWAs (£bn)	Income (£m)
UK/Europe <sup>(1)</sup>	71	2,488	34	1,630	37	858
US <sup>(2)</sup>	24	974	11	274	14	700
APAC	12	487	2	111	10	376
Total	107	3,949	46	2,015	61	1,934
Countries	38		13		25	

Our product offering will reduce by over a half as will the number of products and desks in our Markets business.

Notes:  
(1) EMEA.  
(2) North America.  
Based on 2014 financials.

## Building the number one bank for customer service, trust and advocacy in the UK

We use independent surveys to measure our customers' experience and track our progress against our goal in each of our markets.

### Net Promoter Score (NPS)

Customers are asked how likely they would be to recommend their bank to a friend or colleague, and respond based on a 0-10 scale with 10 indicating 'extremely likely' and 0 indicating 'not at all likely'. Customers scoring 0 to 6 are termed detractors and customers scoring 9 to 10 are termed promoters. The Net Promoter Score (NPS) is established by subtracting the proportion of detractors from the proportion of promoters.

In 2014, we have seen some positive NPS movements in some of our franchises and our plans for 2015 will help to gather momentum across the bank.

		Year end 2013	Year end 2014	Year end 2015 target
<b>Personal Banking</b>	NatWest (England & Wales) <sup>(1)</sup>	5	6	9
	RBS (Scotland) <sup>(1)</sup>	-16	-13	-10
	Ulster Bank (Northern Ireland) <sup>(2)</sup>	-31	-24	-21
	Ulster Bank (Republic of Ireland) <sup>(2)</sup>	-20	-18	-15
<b>Business Banking</b>	NatWest (England & Wales) <sup>(3)</sup>	-11	-11	-7
	RBS (Scotland) <sup>(3)</sup>	-38	-23	-21
	Ulster Bank (Northern Ireland) <sup>(4)</sup>	-47	-44	-34
	Ulster Bank (Republic of Ireland) <sup>(4)</sup>	-21	-17	-15
<b>Commercial Banking<sup>(5)</sup></b>		-1	12	15

Suitable measures for Private Banking and Corporate & Institutional Banking are in development.

Notes:

The only NPS improvements in 2014 that are statistically significant are for Business Banking (RBS Scotland) and Commercial Banking.

(1) Source: GfK FRS 6 month rolling data. Latest base sizes: NatWest England & Wales (3,511) RBS Scotland (547).

Based on the question: "How likely is it that you would recommend (brand) to a relative, friend or colleague in the next 12 months for current account banking?"

(2) Source: Coyne Research 12 month rolling data.

Question: "Please indicate to what extent you would be likely to recommend (brand) to your friends or family

using a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is not at all likely and 10 is extremely likely".

(3) Source: Charterhouse Research Business Banking Survey, based on interviews with businesses with an annual turnover up to £2 million. 12 month rolling data. Latest base sizes: NatWest England & Wales (529), RBS Scotland (399). Weighted by region and turnover to be representative of businesses in England & Wales/ Scotland.

(4) Source: PwC Business Banking Tracker. Question: "I would like you to continue thinking about your main

business bank and the service they provide. Can you tell me how likely or unlikely would you be to do the following? Again please use a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is very unlikely and 10 is very likely. How likely are you to recommend them to another business?"

(5) Source: Charterhouse Research Business Banking Survey, based on interviews with businesses with annual turnover between £2 million and £1 billion. Latest base size: RBSG Great Britain (972). Weighted by region and turnover to be representative of businesses in Great Britain.

### Customer Trust

We also use independent experts to measure our customers' trust in the bank. Each quarter we ask customers to what extent they trust or distrust their bank to do the right thing. The score is a net measure of those customers that trust their bank (a lot or somewhat) minus those that distrust their bank (a lot or somewhat).

		Year end 2013	Year end 2014	Year end 2015 target
<b>Customer Trust<sup>(6)</sup></b>	NatWest (England & Wales)	35%	41%	46%
	RBS (Scotland)	-16%	2%	11%

Notes:

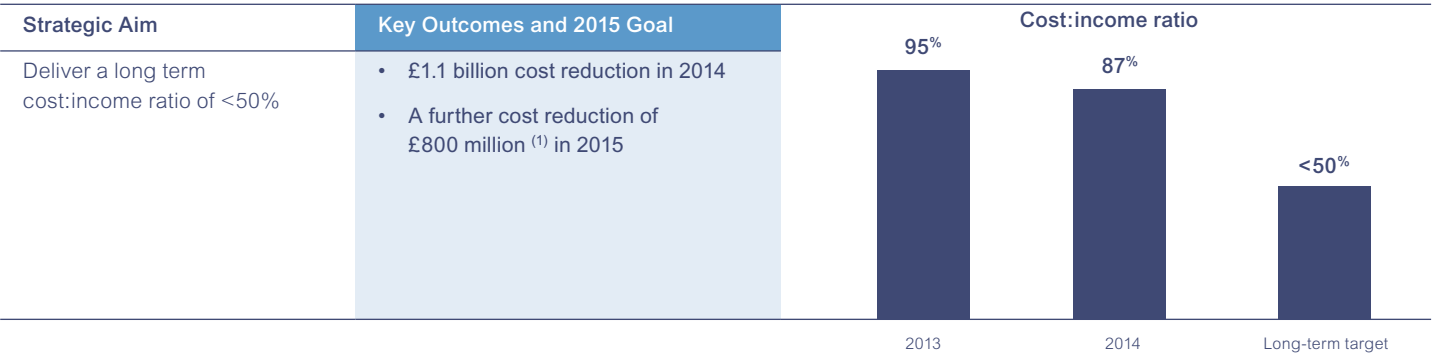
(6) Source: Populus (2014) and PSB (2013). Latest quarter's data. Measured as a net of those that trust RBS/NatWest to do the right thing, less those that do not. Latest base sizes: NatWest England & Wales (927), RBS Scotland (206).

The year-on-year improvement in RBS customer trust is largely a reversion to its longer-term trend: there were issues in late 2013 that impacted the bank's reputation and customer trust. There are early signs that customer trust in RBS is stabilising and starting to improve. NatWest has consistently performed competitively, and has shown early signs of improvement.

We will continue to aim for improvement through a secure, consistent and reliable service, and an unrelenting focus on our customers.

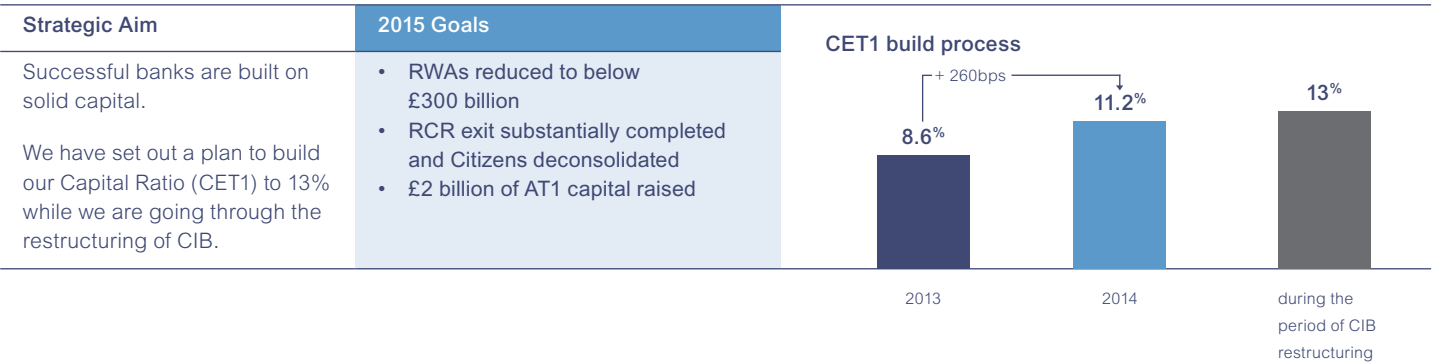
# Our transformation priorities

## Cost



Note: (1) Excludes restructuring, conduct and litigation costs, intangible write-off charges as well as the operating costs of Citizens Financial Group and Williams & Glyn.

## Capital



## Reshaping the bank

Strategic Aim	Key Outcomes and Goals
<p><b>Customer orientation;</b> be easy and effective for customers, with decision rights as close as possible to the customer.</p> <p><b>One bank;</b> be easy and effective for staff, with a unified culture and leadership.</p> <p><b>Efficiency;</b> short, simple chains of command with clear individual accountabilities and empowerment.</p>	<p><b>2014 outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Functionalisation achieved</li><li>Fewer duplicated activities</li><li>Reduced Division vs 'Centre' thinking</li></ul> <p><b>Longer Term:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minimum committees</li><li>Support end-to-end approach to delivering great customer experience</li><li>Operating model fully in place</li></ul>

## Our Operating Model

We have a clear set of Organisation Design principles that underpin our operating model, structures and accountabilities.

	The organisation will...	Meaning
Customer orientation	...be easy and effective for customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primarily organised around customer segments</li> <li>Delivers the whole bank, seamlessly, to our customers</li> <li>Decision rights as close as possible to the customer</li> <li>End-to-end approach to delivering great customer experience</li> </ul>
One bank	...be easy and effective for staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No customer units vs functions</li> <li>Unified culture and leadership</li> <li>Short simple chains of command</li> <li>Clear individual accountabilities</li> <li>Minimum committees to support individual accountabilities</li> </ul>
Efficiency	...share all things that can be shared.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No duplication</li> <li>Centres of excellence located in primary business or function</li> <li>Cross-bank sharing of platforms</li> </ul>
Disciplined and rigorous	...manage activities end-to-end in one best way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective process design, ownership and management</li> <li>Standardisation</li> <li>Consistent customer experience</li> <li>Sticking to a long term investment plan to address complex technology environment</li> </ul>
Safety and soundness	...help ourselves to do the right thing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong control functions</li> <li>Effective three lines of defence</li> <li>Straightforward policies</li> </ul>

## Our Values

Our Values are universal and guide our actions every day, in every part of our business. The values are the foundation of how we work at RBS.

### Serving customers

- We exist to serve customers.
- We earn their trust by focusing on their needs and delivering excellent service.

### Doing the right thing

- We do the right thing.
- We take risk seriously and manage it prudently.
- We prize fairness and diversity and exercise judgement with thought and integrity.

### Working together

- We care for each other and work best as one team.
- We bring the best of ourselves to work and support one another to realise our potential.

### Thinking long term

- We know we succeed only when our customers and communities succeed.
- We do business in an open, direct and sustainable way.

## Our Customers

Our purpose is to serve customers well and we have moved from seven divisions to three customer businesses, so we can better deliver on this. Each of our businesses share the RBS ambition: to be number one for customer service, trust and advocacy.

We have made a number of customer commitments marking our intent to deliver better service to our customers. RBS is making steady progress towards building a simpler, smaller and fairer bank, and remains focused on delivering the commitments for personal and business customers that we announced on 27 February 2014.

**We will stop offering deals to new customers that we are not prepared to offer to our existing customers.**

**Progress:**

We now offer our best rates to new and existing customers across our product range. There is now no Personal Banking or Business Banking deal that is not available to existing customers.

**We will also ban teaser rates, including zero per cent balance transfers in our credit card business.**

**Progress:**

We have banned teaser rates. We run a fair and transparent credit card business for our customers.

**We will stop offering different rates to customers who apply online, in branch or by phoning our call centres.**

**Progress:**

Across our RBS and NatWest brands, pricing is consistent.

**We will use simple language in our customer letters, on our websites and in our branches.**

**Progress:**

Customer letters and emails have been simplified for our personal and business customers so they are straightforward and transparent. We have reduced the number of pages on our personal banking website by over 60%. In branches we have fewer, shorter brochures making it easier for customers to find information.

**By the end of 2014 we will cut in half the number of personal and SME products on offer.**

**Progress:**

We have reduced the number of Personal and SME products on offer by 50%. We are becoming a smaller, simpler bank to do business with.

**We will improve the clarity of our language to customers. By the end of 2014 we will be able to explain all of our personal and SME charges on one side of A4.**

**Progress:**

Fees and charges are explained on one side of A4 for both our personal and business customers and will be communicated via our internet sites by the end of February 2015. We have a duty to our customers to provide a straightforward breakdown of all charges.

**We will speed up our account opening process for personal customers. We will cut how long it takes to open a personal current account from five days to next day.**

**Progress:**

All customers applying for a personal current account who have the required ID and pass our fraud and credit checks can now open their account the next working day.

**We will also improve the process to open a personal current account online so customers can upload their identification, such as their passport, and open their entire account from home.**

**Progress:**

All customers applying for a personal current account who have the required ID and pass our fraud and credit checks can complete their application online and where required, are able to upload key ID documents from home.

**By the end of 2014, customers will have access to Mobile Banking and Online Banking within one day.**

**Progress:**

All Personal and Business Banking customers now have access to online banking by the next working day. Existing customers with a debit card now have access to mobile banking the next working day.

**We will put Business Bankers back on the high street. We will have hundreds of Business Bankers help small business people open accounts, apply for loans and get the help they need.**

**Progress:**

82% of Business Banking frontline staff are immediately above/next to our branches. This equates to 1,335 Business Banking specialists in branch today. We are simplifying processes so that Business Bankers can spend more time with customers, providing help and advice in branch or via telephone.

**We will start making small business lending decisions in five days.**

**Progress:**

We are processing lending decisions quicker. In almost all cases, lending decisions are made and communicated to the customer in five days or less with two-thirds of business lending decisions made locally and/or by sector specialists.



## Independent Lending Review actions

In 2013, RBS and NatWest launched an Independent Lending Review, led by Sir Andrew Large and management consultants Oliver Wyman. The aim of the review was to identify steps we could take to enhance our support for SMEs. We committed to act and report on the recommendations.

**The bank will write to thousands more SMEs setting out clearly how much it is willing to lend to their business.**

**Progress:**

By the end of December 2014, more than 350,000 pro-active 'Statements of Appetite' had been issued to SME customers, offering in excess of £12.4 billion of new or additional funding.

**A dedicated website will be developed to show clearly what information RBS use to make a lending decision and set out simple, clear steps in its lending process.**

**Progress:**

The website has been developed and can be found at [www.businesslending.natwest.com](http://www.businesslending.natwest.com). Guidance is provided to support you in making a successful application and the types of information used to make a decision.

**The bank will begin work to enable bankers to make all but the most complex lending decisions in just five days of receipt of all necessary information.**

**Progress:**

In almost all cases, lending decisions are made and communicated to the customer in five days or less.

**RBS will ensure two thirds of its lending decisions are made locally and by sector specialists.**

**Progress:**

Over two thirds of lending decisions are now made locally and by sector specialists.

**RBS will continue to invest in building the capability of its people with at least 90% of Relationship Managers and Credit Managers professionally qualified.**

**Progress:**

RBS has a milestone plan to achieve this by the end of 2016. We met our 2014 target with 20% of Relationship Managers and Credit Managers now professionally qualified.

**RBS will start a programme to make all customers whose loan applications are declined aware of the appeals process, and will continue to work with the Independent Appeals Chair to improve the support it provides to customers going through this process.**

**Progress:**

A website has been developed and can be found at [www.businesslending.natwest.com](http://www.businesslending.natwest.com). The section titled 'Decision' explains how to appeal and alternative financing options.

**The bank will commit to pointing businesses to alternative sources of finance where it cannot support a loan application.**

**Progress:**

In January 2015 RBS announced it is set to give SMEs greater access to finance by formally referring customers to both Funding Circle and Assetz Capital, two alternative finance providers.

**RBS aims to become the number one bank for SME customer service in the UK.**

**Progress:**

Our ambition is to be #1 for service, trust and advocacy. We made commitments to our customers in 2014 to help us on this

road, resulting in faster lending decisions, declining complaints volumes and reshaping the objectives of our people.

**Customer experience targets will be set for all staff.**

**Progress:**

Staff objectives are focussed on providing a market leading customer experience. Objectives for 2015 have been shared with all staff and include measures to ensure we are providing good customer outcomes.

**SME complaints are to be reduced by 50%**

**Progress:**

We have a milestone plan to achieve these reductions by December 2016. We have achieved our reduction target in 2014 with final quarter complaint volumes 22% lower than average quarterly volumes in 2013 by starting to simplify our processes and empowering our staff to make more decisions at first point of contact with our customers.

**None of the bank's services will be conditional on customers buying another product or service with the bank.**

**Progress:**

As at February 2015, none of our SME products or services are conditional on customers buying another of the Bank's products or services.

**The bank will publicly report on progress against these commitments annually.**

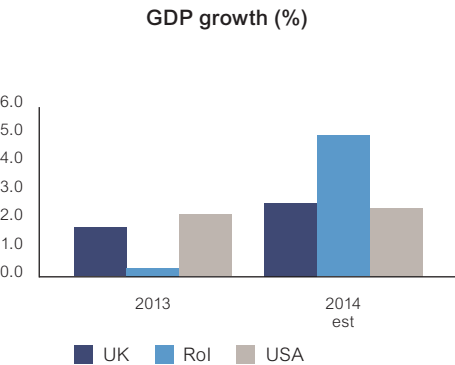
**Progress:**

We have reported our progress on [www.rbs.com](http://www.rbs.com). We will continue to report progress on actions, which are on-going through 2015.

## Key economic indicators

The key market in which RBS operates is the UK. Lending in the UK is closely linked to GDP and growth in the housing market is highly dependent on the level of interest rates. Falling unemployment may have a positive impact on lending as more people are able to afford loans. The profitability of the banking sector is adversely impacted by low interest rates as they squeeze the margin between borrowing and lending. The level of impairments is affected among other things by GDP growth, movements of unemployment rates and interest rates.

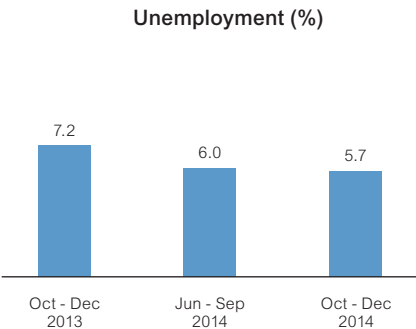
The other key economies in which RBS operates are the US and the Republic of Ireland (RoI).



Source: Office for National Statistics, Feb 2015  
Central Statistics Office, Mar 2015  
Bureau of Economic Analysis, Feb 2015

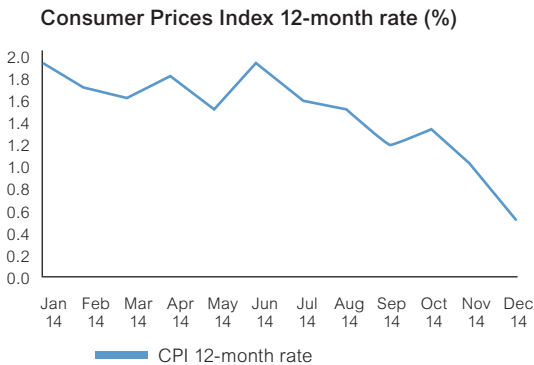
UK GDP was up 2.6% on 2013<sup>1</sup>. Ireland GDP growth is estimated to have improved to 4.8% from 0.2% in 2013. US GDP is estimated to have grown 2.4%.

(1) Second estimate



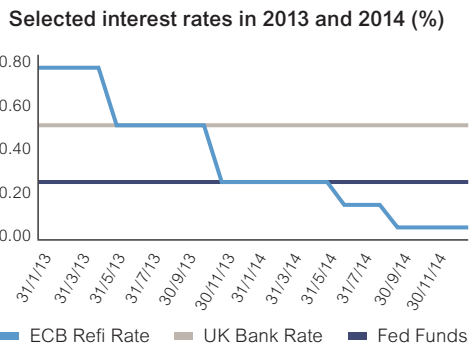
Source: Office for National Statistics, Feb 2015

The unemployment rate in October to December 2014 was 5.7%, lower than for July-September 2014 (6.0%) and lower than for a year earlier (7.2%).



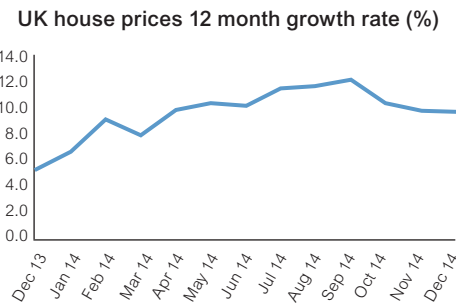
Source: Office for National Statistics, Jan 2015

Inflation, measured by the CPI 12-month rate between December 2013 and December 2014, stood at 0.5%. The food and motor fuels product groups in total reduced the CPI 12-month rate by approximately 0.6 percentage points in the year to December 2014.



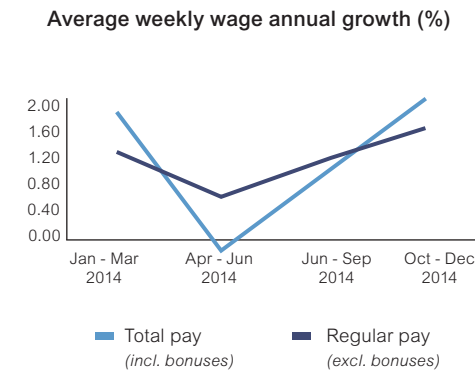
Source: BoE, ECB, Fed

While UK Bank Rate and Fed Funds remained unchanged throughout 2013 and 2014 at 0.5% and 0.25% respectively, the ECB cut the refinancing rate twice in 2014 to 0.05%.



Source: Office for National Statistics, Feb 2015

UK house price inflation increased from 5.5% in December 2013 to 9.8% in December 2014.



Source: Office for National Statistics, Feb 2015

For October to December 2014, regular pay for employees in Great Britain was 1.7% higher than a year earlier and total pay for employees in Great Britain was 2.1% higher than a year earlier.

### Summary

The UK economy performed relatively well in 2014 with GDP expanding by 2.6% compared with the previous year. By contrast the eurozone's modest recovery struggled to gain traction as growth of just 0.9% was realised. In Q4 2014 UK GDP was estimated to be 3.4% higher than the pre-crisis peak of Q1 2008. Inflation fell over the course of 2014 on the back of falling food and oil prices. The Consumer Price Index rose just 0.5% in December 2014 compared with December 2013.

The UK labour market performed strongly. In October to December 2014, the number of unemployed people was 486,000 lower than a

year earlier. The unemployment rate was 5.7% - the lowest level since the summer of 2008. Real wage growth turned positive in late 2014 after falling almost consistently for over six years. However, this was more a reflection of lower inflation rather than a significant uplift in wage settlements. Nominal earnings in the three months to December 2014 were 2.1% higher than in the three months to December 2013, approximately twice the pace of a year earlier but still very low on a historical basis.

UK house prices continued to increase through most of 2014 and in December 2014 they were 11.5% higher than at the pre-crisis peak in

January 2008. The strength of the UK recovery in 2014 prompted talk of when interest rates will begin to rise. Earlier in the year markets anticipated an increase as soon as in 2014, but at the end of 2014 market expectations were for the first increase to take place in early 2016, given below target UK inflation, exceptionally weak wage growth, a high household debt burden, daunting economic challenges in the eurozone and sluggish global growth. In addition to renewed concerns over the eurozone, other risks to the global economic and financial system continued to build over the course of 2014.





### Customer Case Study

## Perfect public sector payments

Public sector spending contributes a significant amount to the UK economy. So it's important that the Government and wider Public Sector have access to a simple, secure and straightforward way of paying for services.

This year we were awarded a place on the ePurchasing Card Solution Framework Agreement for the supply of Commercial card and Management Information solutions that can be used by organisations across the UK public sector including central government, local government, health, education, devolved administrations, emergency services, defence and not-for-profit organisations.

Being awarded a place on the ePurchasing Card Solution Framework Agreement was a true team effort and we're proud to play our part in helping the UK Government and wider Public Sector to deliver efficient, transparent payment services for making quick payments to a wide range of their suppliers, often including UK SMEs.





## Mobile banking on the move

### Ways to bank

In today's smartphone, tablet enabled, app driven world, customers are looking for even more choice and flexibility about how, when and where they do their banking.

But we know customers still want to speak to a person for those important life decisions, like buying a home or starting a new business.

We're responding to the changing needs of our customers by investing £1 billion over the next three years to improve our banking services. As part of this investment we're refurbishing our branch network to create open, bright spaces for customers to talk to us face to face about the things that matter most to them.

For customers who like to do their banking on the move we're continuing to develop our market-leading mobile banking app, which is used regularly by more than three million customers and supports around 3.5 million logons and half a million payments and transfers every day. We've also just become the first bank in the UK to introduce Touch ID fingerprint logons, offering even better security for our customers.

However, this is just one of the ways we're taking our service to where our customers want us to be. With the UK's second largest branch network, a 24/7 telephone banking service, the second largest free to use ATM network in the UK and an extended relationship with the Post Office which means customers can now access our basic services in 11,500 branches, customers have never had more choice about how they do their banking.

And for those customers in more remote communities we've invested in a further five mobile banking vans, taking our fleet of vans to 23. They join a long, proud tradition of mobile banking services – our first van was introduced in 1946.



## Business review

RBS is now structured to deliver its ambition by organising itself around the needs of its customers, so as to combine customer groups with similar needs into franchises able to deliver co-ordinated services.

The reorganised bank will be a UK-focused retail and corporate bank with an international footprint to drive its corporate business. The previously reported operating divisions are now realigned into three franchises:

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Personal & Business Banking

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Commercial & Private Banking

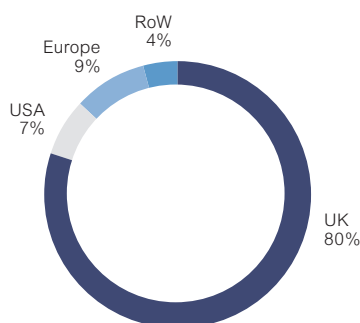
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Corporate & Institutional Banking

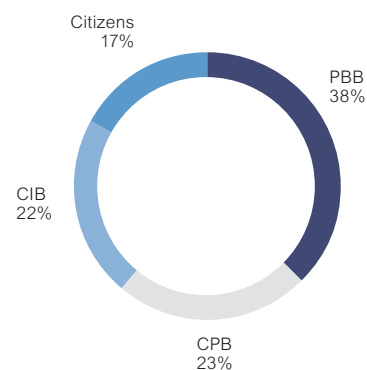
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In addition, RBS will continue to manage and report Citizens Financial Group and RBS Capital Resolution separately until disposal or wind down.

Total revenue  
by region 2014



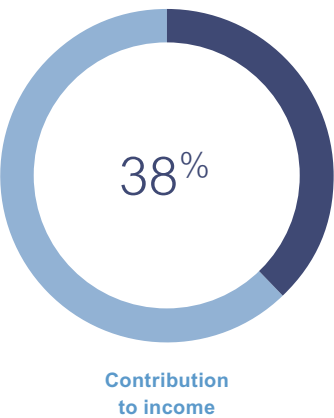
Total income  
by franchise 2014



# Personal & Business Banking

**Les Matheson**  
CEO,  
Personal & Business Banking

Personal & Business Banking (PBB) serves individual and mass affluent customers together with small businesses (generally up to £2 million turnover), with more business bankers moving back into branches. PBB comprises two segments, UK Personal & Business Banking, including Williams & Glyn, (UK PBB) and Ulster Bank.



At the end of December 2014 we had c.3 million active users of our Personal Mobile App in the UK.



Simple transactions can be done in 11,500 Post Offices across the UK.

**Performance overview**

- PBB recorded an operating profit of £2,056 million, up £2,846 million.
- Net interest income increased by £210 million or 4% with strong improvements in deposit margins and volume growth. This was partly offset by lower asset margins linked to the continued change in the mix of loan book towards secured lending and lower mortgage margins.
- Operating expenses decreased by £279 million or 5%, reflecting lower restructuring and litigation and conduct costs.
- Mortgage balances increased by £2.4 billion or 2%, to £121 billion driven by strong performance as advisor capacity increased.

Throughout 2014, the business has made steady progress in making banking fairer and simpler for its customers through a number of fair banking initiatives and technology investments.

These included:

- extending services to the Post Office network.
- removing 0% teaser deals from its offering and introducing the new Clear Rate and cash-back credit cards in 2014. RBS became the first of the main high street banks to ensure all of its savers get the same or better deals as new customers.
- further developing online and mobile banking services to support the upward trend in digital transaction volumes.

**Building a better bank that serves customers well**

The strategic goal of PBB is to become the number one personal and business bank for customer service, trust and advocacy in the UK. Following completion of a strategic review, Ulster Bank was confirmed as a core part of RBS, offering a good strategic fit with RBS's retail and commercial strategy.

Performance highlights	2014	2013
Return on equity (%)	17.5	(5.7)
Net interest margin (%)	3.42	3.21
Cost:income ratio (%)	71	78
Net loans and advances to customers (£bn)	149.2	150.8
Customer deposits (£bn)	169.3	166.6
Loan:deposit ratio (%)	88	91
Risk-weighted assets (£bn)	66.6	81.9

Note: RWAs at 31 December 2013 are on Basel 2.5 basis and on the end-point CRR basis at 31 December 2014.



## Customer Case Study

### Fairer Banking

We've made a conscious decision to be different from other banks. In 2014, we made a series of customer commitments which aimed to make banking simpler, fairer and clearer for our customers.

In an industry leading move we stopped offering teaser rates to attract new customers and offered our customers the same rates online, through a branch or over the phone. As part of this we became the first bank on the high street to commit to giving all our savers the same rates, including proactively moving our loyal existing customers onto our best rates.

We've also simplified our products, so it's easy for our customers to find the right one for their needs – and with all our charges explained on just one page.

In March we stopped offering 0% balance transfer credit cards. This type of card was designed to make it easier for customers to repay existing credit card debt, but our research showed that debt tended to increase, rather than reduce over the term. Stopping these cards meant around 100,000 customers transferred to a low, ongoing rate with no chance of being caught out by a big jump in their interest rate down the line.

We're making changes for business customers too – 95% of business lending decisions are now made within five days and gross business lending is up 30% from 2013. Plus, we've committed an extra £1 billion to support small businesses with fee-free, fixed rate loans.

**Can a bank really change?**

We mean really really change. Can it start demonstrating fairness rather than just talking about it? Is it prepared to give something up and put its customers first?

At NatWest we've made a start by bidding farewell to some of the old ways. We already waved Goodbye to 0% teaser rates on Credit Cards because they end up costing most people more. Whilst that might have been good for the banks, it wasn't always good for you.

Now we're saying Goodbye to all the best offers going to new customers. That's because it simply isn't right that our existing customers don't benefit from their loyalty.

To be honest, saying Hello to fairer banking has felt quite good. We're turning NatWest into the bank we both want it to be.

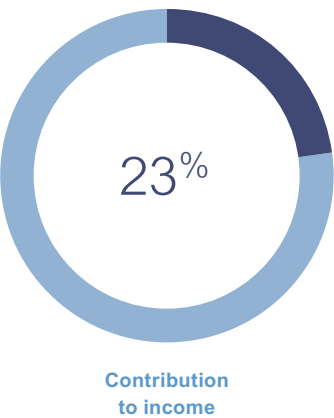
See how we're changing  
Search: Fairer NatWest

**NatWest**

# Commercial & Private Banking

**Alison Rose**  
CEO,  
Commercial & Private Banking

Commercial & Private Banking (CPB) serves commercial and mid-corporate customers and high net worth individuals, deepening relationships with commercial clients, operating overseas through its market-leading trade and foreign exchange services, while connecting our private banking brands more effectively to successful business owners and entrepreneurs. CPB comprises two reportable segments, Commercial Banking and Private Banking.



Within Commercial Banking over 120 products were removed from sale and over 400 process improvements implemented.



The first of eight accelerator hubs offering free space, support and advice to high growth business owners opened as part of our plan to support UK entrepreneurs.

For further information see pages



**Performance overview**

- CPB recorded an operating profit of £1,440 million compared with £469 million in the prior year.
- Net interest income increased by £112 million or 4%, largely reflecting re-pricing activity on deposits partly offset by the impact of reduced asset margins, a result of the net transfer in of lower margin legacy loans (after the cessation of Non-Core).
- Total expenses were down £304 million or 10% reflecting lower litigation and conduct costs, primarily relating to interest rate swap redress, and lower underlying direct costs.
- RWAs were £2.3 billion lower at £75.5 billion, primarily reflecting net transfers to RCR, effective 1 January 2014, and improving credit quality on the back of UK economic recovery, offset by loan growth.

**Building a better bank that serves customers well**

- Within Commercial Banking over 120 products were removed from sale and over 400 process improvements implemented.
- There has been an improvement in the Net Promoter Score and rating of overall service quality across the business, together with a continuing fall in complaints.
- The first out of eight accelerator hubs opened in February 2015, offering free space, support and advice to high growth business owners.
- Within Private Banking the business has progressed well against key priorities in 2014. Improvements are evidenced by several industry awards including: 'Best private bank in the UK' (PWM/The Banker) and 'Most innovative digital offering' (Private Banker International). Coutts continues to be recognised as a leader in philanthropy, with its '\$1 million donors' report receiving significant media coverage, and its expertise as an adviser for family businesses and existing entrepreneurs remains a strong point of differentiation.

Performance highlights	2014	2013
Return on equity (%)	11.9	3.7
Net interest margin (%)	2.93	2.81
Cost:income ratio (%)	65	73
Net loans and advances to customers (£bn)	101.6	100.2
Customer deposits (£bn)	122.9	127.9
Loan:deposit ratio (%)	83	78
Risk-weighted assets (£bn)	75.5	77.8

Note: RWAs at 31 December 2013 are on Basel 2.5 basis and on the end-point CRR basis at 31 December 2014.





## Customer Case Study

### Helping Hertz

The summer season sees a surge in tourists visiting the UK, many of whom want to hire a car.

For leading car rental company Hertz this poses a unique challenge - how to efficiently fund the required increase in its fleet size to meet the demand of the summer months? A Lombard customer for 30 years, Hertz turned to us to help them find an answer.

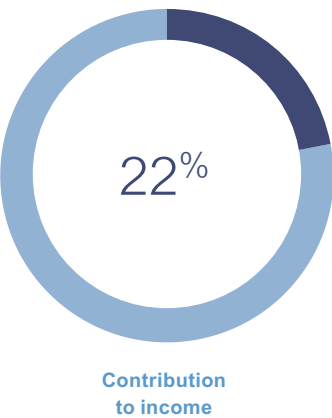
Working with teams across the bank, we were able to provide a short-term seasonal increase to Hertz UK's core fleet financing facility giving them the flexibility they needed to manage their peak requirements in line with demand.

Chris Cooper, Director of Lombard Strategic Fleet Finance said, "This is an excellent example of us working together and thinking long term for the benefit of both the client and the bank. This deal cements our position as a strategic partner to Hertz and provides a platform for further seasonal support."

# Corporate & Institutional Banking

**Rory Cullinan**  
Executive Chairman,  
Corporate & Institutional Banking  
and Capital Resolution

Corporate & Institutional Banking (CIB) serves our corporate and institutional clients primarily in the UK and Western Europe, as well as those US and Asian multinationals with substantial trade and investment links in the region, with debt financing, risk management and trade services, focusing on core product capabilities that are of most relevance to our clients. This business's strategy has been revised in 2015 (see page 14 for Reshaping our CIB business).



Commitment to customers was demonstrated by the award of The Banker's Most Innovative Bank in Risk Management in Q3 2014.



Winner of IFR magazine's Sterling Bond House of the year award in Q4 2014.

For further information see pages



**Performance overview**

- CIB recorded an operating loss of £892 million compared with a loss of £2,882 million in 2013.
- Total income declined by 21%, reflecting reduced deployment of resources and difficult trading conditions, characterised by subdued levels of client activity and limited market volatility.
- Operating expenses fell by £2,360 million driven primarily by lower litigation and conduct costs. Adjusted expenses<sup>(1)</sup> decreased by £1,006 million, or 22%, reflecting the continued focus on cost savings across both business and support areas.
- Net impairment releases totalled £9 million compared with a net impairment charge of £680 million in 2013, reflecting a reduction in latent loss provisions and a low level of new impairments.
- Funded assets fell by 10% reflecting the focus on core product areas including the wind-down of Credit Trading and the US ABP businesses.
- RWAs were managed down by £40.0 billion from £147.1 billion on 1 January 2014 to £107.1 billion on 31 December 2014.

**Building a better bank that serves customers well**

CIB focused on its strengths in core product areas during 2014, reducing the scale of the business and simplifying the operating model. This allowed CIB to better serve customers while deploying fewer resources.

The commitment to customers was demonstrated by the award of The Banker's Most Innovative Bank in Risk Management in Q3 2014 and by winning IFR magazine's Sterling Bond House of the year award in Q4 2014.

The drive to concentrate on core products is evidenced by the 27% fall in RWAs (compared with 1 January 2014 on an end-point CRR basis) and the 22% year on year fall in adjusted expenses.

Note:  
(1) Excluding restructuring and litigation and conduct costs.

Performance highlights	2014	2013
Return on equity (%)	(4.2)	(12.9)
Cost:income ratio (%)	123	144
Net loans and advances to customers excluding reverse repos (£bn)	72.8	68.2
Customer deposits excluding repos (£bn)	59.4	64.8
Risk-weighted assets (£bn)	107.1	120.4

Note: RWAs at 31 December 2013 are on Basel 2.5 basis and on the end-point CRR basis at 31 December 2014.





### Customer Case Study

## Manchester takes off

Manchester Airports Group (MAG) owns and operates four UK airports including Manchester, the UK's third largest airport, and London Stansted, the fastest growing airport in London. They serve over 45 million passengers and handle more than 600,000 tonnes of freight every year, contributing over £4 billion to the UK economy and directly supporting around 45,000 full-time jobs.

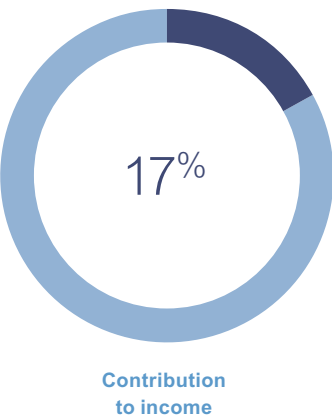
Our long-standing relationship with MAG has seen us support both their £1.5 billion acquisition of London Stansted in 2013, and two bond issuances which raised a total of £810 million. Those funds allowed MAG to refinance the acquisition debt used to buy London Stansted, and gave them a platform to invest in services and facilities at their airports.

A good example of their investment is the multi-million pound upgrade of the terminal at London Stansted. The expansion will double the size of the security space, expand the departure lounge and help create a new lounge area in the terminal building.



# Citizens Financial Group

**Bruce Van Saun**  
Chairman and Chief Executive  
Officer, Citizens Financial  
Group, Inc.



RBS disposed of 29.5% of its interest in Citizens Financial Group, Inc. during the second half of 2014.



RBS intends to fully divest the business by the end of 2016.

For further information see pages **147 - 149**

Citizens Financial Group, Inc. (CFG) provides financial services primarily through the Citizens and Charter One brands. CFG is engaged in retail and corporate banking activities through its branch network in 11 states in the United States and through non-branch offices in other states.

RBS disposed of 29.5% of its interest in Citizens Financial Group, Inc. during the second half of 2014 primarily through an initial public offering in the USA.

**Performance overview<sup>(1)</sup>**

- Operating profit increased by \$306 million, or 32%, to \$1,253 million, reflecting the Q2 2014 gain on the sale of the Illinois franchise. The former Non-Core portfolio is now included and indirect expenses are no longer allocated on a prospective basis from 1 January 2014. On a comparable basis, operating profit excluding the impact of the Illinois sale, \$283 million net gain, and restructuring costs, \$169 million (2013 - \$24 million), was up 16% driven by an increase in net interest income and a decrease in impairment losses partially offset by lower non-interest income.
- Net interest income was up \$357 million, or 12%, to \$3,317 million driven by a larger investment portfolio, loan growth including the transfer of assets from Non-Core, the benefit of interest rate swaps and deposit pricing discipline.
- Excluding restructuring costs of \$169 million (2013 - \$24 million), total expenses were down \$96 million, or 3%, to \$3,328 million driven by the removal of indirect costs in 2014 and the impact of the Illinois franchise sale partially offset by lower mortgage servicing rights impairment release and higher consumer regulatory compliance costs.

- Average loans and advances were up 10% driven by the \$3.4 billion transfer of assets from Non-Core, commercial loan growth, auto loan organic growth and purchases of residential mortgages and auto loans, which were partially offset by a reduction in home equity loans.
- Average customer deposits were down 2% with planned run-off of high priced deposits.

**Building a better bank that serves customers well**

The initial public offering of CFG was successfully completed in September 2014 and RBS's interest in CFG stood at 70.5% of shares outstanding at 31 December 2014.

Further share sales are planned in 2015 and RBS intends to fully divest the business by the end of 2016.

Note:  
(1) 2014 results are not directly comparable with prior periods; prior year results exclude Non-Core operations and include indirect expenses. In the context of the planned disposal of Citizens Financial Group, indirect expenses are no longer allocated to the segment.

Performance highlights	2014	2013
Return on equity (%)	6.6	5.7
Cost:income ratio (%)	69	74
Net loans and advances to customers (\$bn)	93.1	83.2
Customer deposits excluding repos (\$bn)	94.6	91.1
Loan:deposit ratio (%)	98	91
Risk-weighted assets (\$bn)	106.8	92.8

Note: RWAs at 31 December 2013 are on Basel 2.5 basis and on the end-point CRR basis at 31 December 2014.

## RBS Capital Resolution

### Rory Cullinan

Executive Chairman,  
Corporate & Institutional Banking  
and Capital Resolution

RBS Capital Resolution (RCR) became fully operational on 1 January 2014 with a pool of c.£29 billion of funded assets with particularly high long-term capital intensity, credit risk and/or potentially volatile outcomes in stressed environments. RCR brings assets under common management and increases focus on the run down so as to release capital.



2014 saw many of RCR's larger deals completed - around 360 of them.



In 2014, RCR reduced its funded assets from £29 billion to £15 billion.

### Performance overview

- RCR funded assets were reduced by £14 billion, or 48%, during 2014, driven by disposals and repayments.
- RWA equivalent decreased by £38 billion, or 58%, during 2014. This primarily reflects disposals and repayments, supplemented by methodology changes and lower market risk RWAs.
- Operating profit of £988 million reflects impairment provision releases and higher than anticipated sale prices for assets driven by a combination of strong execution and favourable market conditions particularly in Ireland.
- The net effect of the £988 million operating profit and RWA equivalent reduction of £38 billion <sup>(1)</sup> was CET1 accretion of £4.8 billion.

Note:

(1) Capital equivalent: £3.8 billion at an internal CET1 ratio of 10%.

### Building a better bank that serves customers well

RCR is managed and analysed in four asset management groups - Ulster Bank (RCR Ireland), Real Estate Finance, Corporate and Markets. Real Estate Finance excludes commercial real estate lending in Ulster Bank.

For further  
information  
see pages



Performance highlights	31 December 2014	1 January 2014
Risk-weighted asset equivalent (£bn)	27.3	65.0
Risk-weighted assets (£bn)	22.0	46.7
Funded assets (£bn)	14.9	28.9

## Services

### Simon McNamara

Chief Administrative Officer

Services plays a vital part in building loyalty with every customer interaction we have; from putting money in the ATMs, to keeping our customers safe from fraud, processing trillions of pounds in payments across the world, and making sure the bank's technology systems are there for our customers when they need them. We keep RBS running, driving efficiency and resilience in everything we do to support our customers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

### Here are just some of the ways we've worked to build customer trust in 2014:



Our mirror bank capability now lets our customers access critical services in the event of a system outage.



Through our Simplifying Customer Life programme, we implemented over 4,000 ideas, generating improvements covering more than 2.6 million customer interactions.



We refocused and prioritised our investment and transformation plans, reducing the number of projects we run from 550 to 182.



We transformed 127 branches through our Points of Presence programme and installed Wi-Fi in almost 2,000 sites for customers and colleagues.

#### We're more resilient

- The performance of our systems has improved with each one of our 130 services available to customers over 99.96% of the time. Through this work, in the second half of the year we have reduced system downtime by 79%.
- Our mirror bank capability now lets our customers access critical services in the event of a system outage. We can now process 90% of debit and credit card transactions for customers during an outage and they can view mini-statements and balances on mobile and online banking systems.
- We upgraded our service to improve stability and reduce the risk of outages associated with our core international payments infrastructure. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of outages we experience.
- We upgraded the infrastructure that supports our mobile banking service improving the stability, capacity and availability of this service for customers.
- On 'Black Friday' our systems supported high volumes and values across a number of our customer channels in the UK, including record-breaking figures for our mobile banking app.

#### We're simpler

- We implemented a new operating model for Services, fully aligned to the customer franchises in Personal & Business Banking, Commercial & Private Banking and Corporate & Institutional Banking, and RBS Capital Resolution.
- We reduced the number of properties we use by 200 to 2,500 today, including some major properties in London.
- Through our Simplifying Customer Life programme, we implemented over 4,000

ideas, generating improvements covering more than 2.6 million customer interactions.

- We used data and analytics to simplify pricing for our Instant Access Savings product (reducing from 70 to 2 different price points) - improving the savings rate for 4.5 million customers in the process.

#### We're more efficient

- We contributed around £500 million to the bank's cost reduction target.
- We refocused and prioritised our investment and transformation plans, reducing the number of projects we run from 550 to 182.
- We reduced the amount of cash spend on third parties by £800 million, a 17% reduction from 2013.
- We have invested in our data and customer technology, allowing us to personalise content presented to customers in over 1.2 billion interactions (across digital, telephony and face to face).

#### We're more innovative

- We initiated 23 proof of concepts, and generated a pipeline of over 450 ideas, through our innovation scouting network around the world.
- We teamed up with Silicon Valley-based start-up TokBox, to trial cutting edge video conferencing technology, which increases choice and convenience for customers and entrepreneurs.
- We increased the number of active mobile banking users by around 600,000 customers to 2.9 million, with over 1 billion logins.
- We transformed 127 branches through our Points of Presence programme and installed Wi-Fi in almost 2,000 sites for customers and colleagues.





### Customer Case Study

## Malted magic

Muntons supplies malt – an important ingredient in products like beer, whisky and confectionery – to a range of blue-chip customers.

UK owned and based in Suffolk, the firm uses only British barley to make their malt. To successfully build their business and compete on a bigger stage, they knew they would have to increase their global footprint. A recent joint venture in Thailand has added to their sales presence in the USA and Asia, supported by us.

Earlier this year Muntons invested £5.4 million in an anaerobic digestion plant at their Stowmarket headquarters, partly funded by RBS Invoice Finance with an asset-based lending package. This facility will help them manage the major capital spend they'll need to meet their ambitious growth targets both at home and abroad.

# Governance at a glance

Board and committee activity remained busy during 2014 with a number of key strategic issues taking centre stage including the delivery of the strategic plan agreed in February 2014. Board committees continued to play a crucial role in our governance framework, undertaking their complex work comprehensively and effectively supporting the work of the Board.

Conduct and regulatory investigations have been key areas of focus and our 2014 results reflect the impact that conduct related matters continue to have on financial and operating performance. The Board will continue to drive cultural change and it is essential that our governance framework continues to evolve to support this.

During 2015, the Board will continue to focus on our key priorities, including customers, conduct, capital and funding, risk and delivery of the strategic plan.

**Philip Hampton**  
Chairman of the Board of directors

## Our Board

The Board has ten directors comprising the Chairman, two executive directors and seven independent non-executive directors, one of whom is the Senior Independent Director. Biographies for each director and details of which Board Committees they are members of can be found on pages 46 to 49.

There were a number of changes to the Board's composition during 2014, details of which can be found in the Chairman's Statement on pages 6 and 7.

The Board is collectively responsible for the long-term success of RBS and delivery of sustainable shareholder value. Its role is to provide leadership of RBS within a framework of prudent and effective controls which enables risks to be assessed and managed.

We conducted an internal evaluation of the effectiveness of the Board and its committees in 2014, led by the Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel. The evaluation has concluded that the Board is operating effectively but has identified some areas for improvement which we will focus on during 2015.

## Our Board committees

In order to provide effective oversight and leadership, the Board has established a number of Board committees with particular responsibilities. The work of the Board committees is discussed in their individual reports.

The terms of reference for each of these committees is available on [rbs.com](http://rbs.com) and copies are also available on request from RBS Corporate Governance and Secretariat.

## Group Nominations Committee

Assists the Board in the selection and appointment of directors. It reviews the structure, size and composition of the Board, and membership and chairmanship of Board committees.

The Group Nominations Committee report is set out on pages 55 and 56.

## Group Audit Committee

Assists the Board in discharging its responsibilities for monitoring the quality of the financial statements of RBS. It reviews the accounting policies, financial reporting and regulatory compliance practices of RBS. It also exercises oversight over systems and standards of internal controls, and monitors RBS's processes for internal audit and external audit.

The Group Audit Committee report is set out on pages 57 to 61.

## Board Risk Committee

Provides oversight and advice to the Board on current and potential future risk exposures of RBS and future risk strategy. It reviews RBS's compliance with approved risk appetite and oversees the operation of the RBS Policy Framework and submissions to regulators.

The Board Risk Committee report is set out on pages 62 to 68.



Board of directors and Executive Committee

Board

Chairman

Philip Hampton

Executive directors

Ross McEwan

Ewen Stevenson

Non-executive directors

Sandy Crombie

(Senior Independent Director)

Alison Davis

Morten Friis

Robert Gillespie

Penny Hughes

Brendan Nelson

Baroness Noakes

Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel

Aileen Taylor

(Company Secretary)

Executive Committee

The Board is supported by the Executive Committee comprising the executive directors and other senior executives. Details of the composition of the Executive Committee and biographies of its members can be found at [www.rbs.com](http://www.rbs.com)>about us>corporate governance>ceo and board >executive committee

RBS Capital Resolution (RCR)  
Board Oversight Committee

Provides oversight of RCR's progress against, and compliance with, its primary objective and asset management principles.

The RCR Board Oversight Committee report is set out on pages 69 and 70.

Group Performance and  
Remuneration Committee

Responsible for approving remuneration policy and reviewing the effectiveness of its implementation. It also considers senior executive remuneration and makes recommendations to the Board on the remuneration of executive directors.

The Directors' Remuneration report is set out on pages 73 to 93.

UK Corporate Governance Code

Throughout the year ended 31 December 2014, RBS has complied with all of the provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code issued by the Financial Reporting Council dated September 2012 except in relation to provision (D.2.2) that the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee should have delegated responsibility for setting remuneration for the Chairman and executive directors. RBS considers that this is a matter which should rightly be reserved for the Board.

Sustainable Banking Committee

Responsible for overseeing and challenging how management is addressing sustainable banking and reputation issues, considering the long term interests of all stakeholder groups.

The Sustainable Banking Committee report is set out on pages 71 and 72.

Executive Committee

Supports the Chief Executive in managing RBS's businesses. It reviews and debates relevant items before consideration by the Board. It is responsible for determining and delivering RBS's strategy and it monitors and manages financial performance, capital allocations, risk strategy and policy, risk management, operational issues and customer issues.



## Risk overview

### Capital developments

RBS continued to make good progress in reducing risk and strengthening its capital position. The Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio improved by 260 basis points to 11.2% and the leverage ratio by 80 basis points to 4.2%.

The key factors were:

- RCR disposals and run-off in 2014 which led to a reduction in funded assets of £14 billion and in risk-weighted asset equivalent of £38 billion (58% of the RCR start point).
- RCR was established with effect from 1 January 2014 to remove risk from the balance sheet, reduce volatile outcomes in stressed environments and to accelerate the release of capital over a three year period.
- A £40 billion reduction in CIB's risk-weighted assets (RWAs), including an orderly run-down of US asset-backed product business.
- Disposal of €9 billion of legacy available-for-sale securities, thereby reducing stressed capital and RWAs.

Despite these and other risk reduction measures, RBS's capital position was close to thresholds under adverse stress scenarios, as evidenced by the European Banking Authority

(EBA) and Bank of England (BoE) stress test results published in the second half of 2014:

- EBA: 2016 CET1 ratio (based on 2013 accounts) under the modelled EBA adverse scenario was 5.7%, marginally above the minimum requirement of 5.5%.
- BoE: CET1 ratio under the hypothetical BoE adverse scenario was 4.6% at the end of 2016, slightly above the 4.5% post-stress minimum ratio threshold set by the BoE. After taking account of management actions, the adjusted ratio was 5.2%.

### Other risk developments

- Conduct, regulatory, litigation and reputational risk: RBS continued to be affected by conduct issues. Litigation and conduct costs, including those relating to Payment Protection Insurance, Interest Rate Hedging Products, London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), US mortgage securitisations and foreign exchange trading, have exceeded £9 billion since 2011 and continued to demand significant amount of management attention.
- Operational risk: RBS's ongoing transformation is complex and wide-ranging, affecting all business areas and functions. In 2014, a new functional

operating model was implemented to embed standardisation and consistency of approach to the management of operational risk. Significant investments were made to improve technology resilience for core banking services. In addition, enhancements were made to cyber security programmes.

- Liquidity: A strong liquidity position was maintained, with a liquidity portfolio of £151 billion at the end of 2014 covering short-term and total wholesale funding by factors of over five and 1.5 respectively. Liquidity coverage ratio was 112% and the net stable funding ratio was 121% at the end of 2014.
- Credit risk: 2014 saw a net release of £1.2 billion of impairment provisions, principally in RCR and Ulster Bank reflecting sustained improvements in economic and asset market conditions in the UK and Ireland. RBS continued to reduce its risk concentrations, notably in commercial real estate and eurozone periphery countries. RBS still has substantial credit risk exposures with credit risk RWAs of £295 billion compared with £357 billion at the end of 2013, a 17% reduction.

- **Market risk:** RBS's traded market risk profile decreased significantly, with market risk limits being reduced across all businesses. Average trading VaR decreasing to £27.8 million, 35% of the 2013 average. Market risk RWAs also decreased by £6.3 billion to £24 billion.
- **Country risk:** RBS maintained a cautious stance as many clients continued to reduce debt levels. Total eurozone periphery net balance sheet exposure decreased by £10 billion or 25% to £31 billion. Total exposure to Greece was £0.4 billion but only £120 million after taking into account collateral and guarantees.
- **Pension risk:** The triennial actuarial funding valuation of the main scheme, agreed in May 2014, showed the value of liabilities exceeded the value of assets by £5.6 billion at 31 March 2013, a ratio of assets to liabilities of 82%. To eliminate this deficit, RBS has agreed to pay additional contributions: £650 million from 2014 to 2016 and £450 million (indexed for inflation) from 2017 to 2023. These contributions are in addition to regular annual contributions of around £270 million.

### Top and emerging risk scenarios

A number of top and emerging risk scenarios attracted particular attention.

### Macro-economic and other external risks

- **Risks related to the macro-economy:** A number of scenarios could have a significant negative impact on RBS's revenues and impairments, including a recession in the UK or any of the other major markets in which RBS operates, large falls in UK or Irish property prices, oil prices, a resumption of the eurozone crisis, global deflation or major geopolitical instability. To mitigate these risks, capital, liquidity and leverage ratios have been strengthened, and some higher risk and capital intensive portfolios have been exited.
- **An increase in obligations to support pension schemes:** If economic growth stagnates, and interest rates remain low, the value of pension scheme assets may not be adequate to fund the pension schemes' liabilities. The deficit in RBS pension schemes as determined by the most recent triennial valuations has increased, requiring RBS to increase its current and future cash contributions to the schemes as noted above. Depending on the economic and monetary conditions and longevity of scheme members prevailing

at that time, the deficit may rise further at the next valuation in 2016. To limit pension risk, defined benefit pension schemes have been closed to new members since 2006 and terms for existing members have been altered in recent years.

- **The impact of the 2015 UK general election on performance and strategy:** Ahead of the upcoming UK election in May 2015, there is uncertainty around how the policies of a newly elected government may affect RBS. The implementation of new policies could significantly affect the operating employment environment and the fiscal, monetary, legal and regulatory landscape.

### Conduct, litigation and reputational risk

- **Risks to income, costs and business models arising from regulatory requirements:** RBS is exposed to the risk of further increases in regulatory capital requirements as well as risks related to new regulations that could affect its business models. Regulatory intervention may result from a competition review of the personal current account and small business banking markets; the ring-fencing proposals from the Independent Commission on Banking or failure to implement the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision's Risk Data Aggregation and Reporting principles. RBS considers the implications of proposed or potential regulatory requirements in its strategic and financial plans.
- **The impacts of past business conduct:** Future conduct and litigation charges could be substantial. RBS is involved in ongoing class action litigation, securitisation and mortgage-backed securities related litigation, investigations into foreign exchange trading and rate-setting activities, continuing LIBOR related litigation and investigations, anti-money laundering, sanctions, mis-selling and compliance related investigations as well as a number of other matters. Settlements in relation to foreign exchange may result in additional financial, non-monetary penalties and collateral consequences, which may be material. RBS is embarking on a programme to embed a strong and comprehensive risk and compliance culture.
- **Failure of information technology systems:** RBS's information technology systems may be subject to failure. As such systems are complex, recovering from failure is challenging. To mitigate these risks, a major investment programme has significantly improved the resilience of the systems and more benefits are expected. Back-up system sustainability has improved, and a 'shadow bank' system, to provide basic services, if needed, has been created.
- **Increased losses arising from a failure to execute major projects successfully:** The successful execution of major projects, including the transformation plan, the recently announced restructuring of CIB and the divestment of Williams & Glyn, is essential to meet RBS's strategic objectives. These projects cover organisational structure, business strategy, information technology systems, operational processes and product offerings. RBS is working to implement change in line with its project plans while assessing the risks to implementation and taking steps to mitigate those risks where possible.
- **Inability to recruit or retain suitable staff:** RBS is going through a period of strategic and organisational change, leading to the need to implement new business strategies to respond to a changing external environment. Strong competition for staff from peers, the impact of remuneration regulations, and the implications of the new Bank of England Senior Managers Regime may contribute to this risk.

planning. To mitigate the risks, a large-scale programme to improve user access controls is in place. Action has also been taken to reduce the number of external websites and tighten management of them, to strengthen anti-virus protections, and to continue the staff education programme on information protection.

A full description of the principal risks facing RBS is set out on pages 474 to 492.

### Risk related to RBS's operations

- **Impact of Cyber attacks:** Cyber attacks are increasing in frequency and severity across the industry. RBS has participated in industry-wide cyber attack simulations in order to help test and develop defence



“Our ambition is to shape the communities we serve in a positive way. We recognise that we still have a long way to go to achieve this position across our business.

Sustainability is therefore not just about the many responsibilities and obligations that RBS has, but about taking leadership on a broad range of issues that are important to our stakeholders.”

Ross McEwan, Chief Executive



## Sustainability

Sustainability at RBS means building trust through long term thinking that focuses on our customers and supporting the communities in which they live. We are committed to being open and transparent regarding the challenges faced by our business, so all our stakeholders can see what we are doing to become a more sustainable bank. You can read more about the issues raised here, as well as about our wider sustainability agenda, at [rbs.com/sustainable](http://rbs.com/sustainable).

### Governance

The sustainability programme at RBS is built on a robust governance framework that provides direction to our sustainability priorities. The Sustainable Banking Committee is a Group Board Committee and membership comprises three independent non-executive directors. The Committee is chaired by independent non-executive director Penny Hughes and attended by senior representatives from the customer-facing businesses as well as Human Resources, Sustainability, Risk, Conduct and Regulatory Affairs, Communications and Marketing, Corporate Services and Strategy. The Chairman of the Board also regularly attends

meetings. The work of the Committee is essential to ensuring that our approach to issues is managed effectively and debated at the appropriate level.

The Sustainable Banking Committee has overseen a number of important developments within RBS since it was established in 2010. In 2014 the strategic direction of the Committee was refocused under the themes of bank-wide reputation and trust, Serving Customers and Sustainability/Emerging Issues. For more information see the report of the Committee Chairman on pages 71 and 72.

### Stakeholder engagement

Operating in a sustainable manner is about managing our business in a way that takes account of the impact of our activities on our stakeholders. As such, we work with a number of stakeholder groups to understand their views of our organisation, and this helps shape the way we do business. As a large company we have many stakeholders and we engage with them in a variety of ways, from focus groups to meetings to online forums. These interactions inform decision making and ultimately improve RBS.

As part of our wider stakeholder engagement programme, the Sustainable Banking

Committee runs its own programme of structured stakeholder engagement sessions. In 2014, the Committee took part in six of these stakeholder sessions which act as open forums where advocacy groups and experts can discuss key areas of concern with the most senior decision-makers in RBS.

We will continue to host these sessions to ensure that we understand our stakeholders' priorities. For more information see the report of the Committee Chairman on pages 71 and 72.

### External commitments

RBS is a signatory to a number of voluntary sustainability commitments and standards. We understand that implementing commitments is an ongoing process, and we are continuously working to integrate these into how we run our business.

We are a member of the Equator Principle (EP) Association Steering Committee. The EPs are a voluntary set of standards adopted by banks for determining, assessing and managing social and environmental responsibilities in project financing and project related corporate loans. We will not provide project finance where the borrower will not, or cannot, comply with these principles of socially responsible investment.

## Environmental impact table

Assessment Parameters						
Baseline year	2011					
Consolidation approach	Operational control					
Boundary summary	All entities and facilities either owned or under operational control					
Emission factor data source	DEFRA (2014), US Environmental Protection Agency eGRID (9 <sup>th</sup> edition)					
Assessment methodology	The Greenhouse Gas Protocol revised edition (2004)					
Materiality threshold	Materiality was set at group level at 5%					
Intensity ratio	Emissions per full time employee (FTE)					
Independent assurance	Limited assurance provided by Deloitte LLP over 2014 Scope 1*, 2** and 3 GHG emissions.					
GHG Emissions	2011	2012	2013	2014	Change 2011 to 2014 (%)	Change 2013 vs 2014 (%)
Total Scope 1 CO <sub>2</sub> e emissions (tonnes)	61,114	63,809	61,758	52,277	-14%	-15%
Total Scope 2 CO <sub>2</sub> e emissions (tonnes)	576,422	509,572	451,476	437,152	-24%	-3%
Total Scope 1 & Scope 2 CO <sub>2</sub> e emissions (tonnes)	637,536	573,381	513,234	489,429	-23%	-5%
Total Scope 1 & Scope 2 CO <sub>2</sub> e emissions per FTE (tonnes)	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.5	-5%	8%
Scope 3 CO <sub>2</sub> e emissions from business travel (tonnes)	141,254	94,993	132,307	97,791	-31%	-26%
Emissions of ozone-depleting gases						
Emissions of ozone-depleting gases (tonnes)	2,447	9,611	4,758	4,710	93%	-1%
Incidents						
Total number of environment incidents, fines and legal non-compliance	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p><b>Note on data:</b> Reported figures for previous years have changed in some instances. These changes are due to calculation methodology changes in line with carbon management best practice and emission factor changes as recommended by the GHG protocol.</p> <p>* Scope 1: Emissions from fluorinated gas loss and fuel combustion in RBS premises/vehicles</p> <p>** Scope 2: Emissions from electricity, district heating and district cooling used in RBS premises</p>						

We are also on the Steering Committee of the UK United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) network. The UNGC is the leading platform for the development, implementation and disclosure of responsible policies and practices in the areas of: human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

Each year RBS receives ratings for its environmental and social performance by external indices. RBS has been included in the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index (DJSI) every year since its launch in 1999, maintaining our best ever score of 82 for a second year in 2014. The DJSI ranks companies' corporate sustainability performance, based on analysis of economic, environmental and social issues like corporate governance, risk management, branding and climate change.

CDP is an independent, investor-driven organisation which facilitates the measurement and disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions for 2,500 organisations in over 60 countries. In 2014, RBS received a disclosure score of 98% and a performance score B.

The FTSE4Good Index Series measures the performance of companies that meet globally recognised corporate responsibility

standards. RBS has been included in the FTSE4Good since it was launched 11 years ago.

### Transparency and disclosure

At RBS, we have a long way to go to rebuild trust after everything that the company has been through. We are taking a very deliberate approach to be as open as possible about our business, including on-going challenges as well as progress. We were therefore particularly pleased in 2014 to have been ranked as the leading UK company in Transparency International's report on transparency in corporate reporting. In this Strategic Report we present data on our GHG emissions, diversity and our approach to human rights. More sustainability data is contained in our latest Sustainability Report and online at [rbs.com/sustainable](http://rbs.com/sustainable).

### Managing our impact on the environment

We aim to be recognised as a leader among large global financial institutions in managing our own environmental impacts and developing financial services that support sustainable development.

The activities of RBS and those of our clients can present a number of Environmental, Social and Ethical (ESE) risks and it is our responsibility to manage these risks. We have

a robust ESE policy framework, with sector specific policies relating to high risk sectors including oil and gas, mining and metals and forestry. Data on client assessments against these policies is included in the main RBS Sustainability Report.

Progress also continues on reducing the environmental impacts of our operations. Data to the end of 2014 showed we had achieved our 2011-2014 targets for energy (15% reduction), water (12% reduction) and waste (10% reduction). However we had not yet met our objective of diverting 70% of our waste away from landfill. New 2020 targets are to be announced in the forthcoming 2014 RBS Sustainability Report.

## RBS in the Community

We run a number of targeted programmes focussed on providing support to the communities where we operate. In addition to this, we have a well established employee volunteering and giving programme in RBS. As well as supporting local causes in our areas of operation and topping up employee fundraising, we also support volunteering during work time.

### Diversity at RBS

The bank's ambition is to be number one for customer service, trust and advocacy in every one of our chosen business areas, supported by a people commitment to make RBS a great place to work. Valuing difference is therefore essential for our customers and colleagues. Our inclusion policy standard applies to all our people globally; and our strategy for diversity and inclusion sits with the RBS Board and Executive Committee.

Our approach during 2014/15 focuses on building inclusion into all stages of the employee lifecycle. In 2014 we started rolling out bank-wide unconscious bias learning for all employees, which will continue across 2015. We've introduced a gender target to increase the number of women in senior roles across the bank. And we continue to support our employee-led networks, with membership across the bank at over 15,000 people.

This year RBS has been recognised for its work on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion by retaining our Platinum ranking from Opportunity Now (gender) for the second year; increasing our ranking from Silver to Gold for Race for Opportunity (race); retaining a position in the Times Top 50 Employers for Women for the eighth consecutive year; and improving upon our ranking in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index (LGBT).

As at 31 December 2014, of our global population of 110,027 employees, 50,816 (46%) were male and 59,211 (54%) female. There were 762 'senior managers', which comprises our executive employee population and individuals who are directors of our subsidiaries, of whom 637 (84%) were male and 125 (16%) female. The RBS Board of directors has ten members, consisting of seven male and three female directors.

### Our approach to Human Rights

RBS recognises our corporate responsibility to respect and uphold human rights. We regularly review our policies and procedures to ensure that we avoid infringing on the human rights of others throughout our sphere of influence. We also participated in projects with our peers through the Thun Group and UNEP FI to better understand and implement the human rights responsibilities of banks as defined by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

We have adopted and contributed to a number of internationally accepted codes, notably the Equator Principles and the UN Global Compact, which specifically address the management of human rights issues.

The RBS Code of Conduct 'Our Code' sets out the standards we expect our people to work to, including a clear commitment to

respecting human rights. We conduct regular consultations with employees on key aspects of their working environment, and operate a confidential helpline facility that allows employees to discuss any matter of concern with regards to their wellbeing.

Our Sustainable Procurement Code sets out our expectations of the companies that we work with. It clearly states that our suppliers should not engage in breaches of human rights or labour rights, or in discrimination. We are also committed to equal opportunities for suppliers, and we recognise that diversity strengthens our supply chain.

Our ESE Risk policies include sector-specific human rights risk screenings and are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure best practice. We conduct due diligence on clients relating to human rights standards, and expect our clients to share our commitment to respecting human rights within their operations. In all sectors, we will not provide financial services to companies involved in harmful child labour or forced labour. In 2014, we continued to strengthen human rights due diligence in our ESE policies as well as public disclosure on the details of these policies. They can be seen at [rbs.com/sustainable](http://rbs.com/sustainable).



## Partnership Case Study

### Accelerate for growth

Over the next two years we'll be building on our successful partnership with Entrepreneurial Spark and increasing our support for entrepreneurs. We're backing eight new business accelerator hubs in locations like Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Leeds, Manchester and Belfast. Each hub will offer workspace, hands-on mentoring, start-up 'boot camps' and a free 18 month programme including advice, support and funding clinics.

The hubs will have physical work spaces for up to 80 entrepreneurs and host two intakes each year, with a graduation event bringing together entrepreneurs, investors and business advisors at the end of each programme. Entrepreneurs from any sector will be able to join the hub, creating valuable network building opportunities. Each business will also have the opportunity to pitch to potential investors and apply for growth awards of up to £50,000.

The aim is to help ambitious entrepreneurs take their businesses to the next level, supporting them to create jobs and growth, boosting the UK economy.



## Governance report

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## Letter from the Chairman

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Dear Shareholder,

I am pleased to introduce our Corporate Governance report for the 2014 financial year which outlines the role our Board and Committees have had in shaping and refining the strategic ambition for the business, and providing oversight and challenge.

Board and Committee activity during 2014 continued to be extremely busy, focused on the delivery of the strategic plan announced in February 2014.

In April 2014, we entered into an agreement with Her Majesty's Treasury to provide for the future retirement of the Dividend Access Share (DAS). Among other benefits, the retirement of the DAS will in future allow the Board to state more clearly a dividend policy to investors.

In September, we launched the initial public offering (IPO) of our US subsidiary Citizens Financial Group, Inc. (CFG) which represents a significant step towards improving our capital position and helping us create a strong and secure bank that can continue to support the needs of our customers.

Conduct and regulatory investigations have also been a key area of focus and our 2014 results reflect the huge cost of dealing with these issues. The announcements made in November 2014 in relation to settlements with certain regulators regarding misconduct in foreign exchange trading were a stark reminder of the importance of culture and integrity in banking. The Board will continue to drive cultural change and it is essential that our governance and risk frameworks continue to evolve to support this.

Systems, controls and resilience were also considered regularly by the Board, particularly in light of the regulatory investigations in relation to the 2012 IT incident which were settled in November 2014. By the end of 2015 we will have invested an additional £750 million in enhancing the security and resilience of our IT systems and many improvements have already been implemented.

### Board Committees

Board Committees continued to play a crucial role in our governance framework during 2014, undertaking their complex work comprehensively and effectively supporting the work of the Board.

The Group Audit Committee has monitored the quality of RBS's financial statements and has supported the Board in making its assessment that the Annual Report and Accounts, taken as a whole, are fair, balanced and understandable, in accordance with the UK Corporate Governance Code. The Committee has also exercised close oversight of the effectiveness of the RBS's control environment, placing particular focus on the remediation of culture and controls in the former Markets division. Together with the Board Risk Committee, the Group Audit Committee will examine management's plans to embed an effective three lines of defence model within the new organisational construct. During 2014, the Group Audit Committee also spent additional time overseeing the tender process for selection of the external auditor for the year commencing 1 January 2016.

The Board Risk Committee welcomed Baroness Noakes as its new Chairman in April 2014. During the year, it has played a key role in the oversight of execution risk arising from RBS's strategic agenda, most notably the Transformation Programme, and will continue to do so in 2015. The Committee has monitored developments in the internal and regulatory investigations of our activities in foreign exchange markets, including the resulting disciplinary and accountability process. It has also overseen the remediation activity following the IT incident in 2012. The Board Risk Committee has considered the capital and liquidity position of RBS and related regulatory submissions and dedicated significant additional time to the consideration of internal and external stress testing exercises.

As announced previously, Penny Hughes stood down as Chairman of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee and Sandy Crombie stood down as Chairman of the Sustainable Banking Committee. I would like to thank Penny and Sandy for their outstanding commitment and dedication whilst chairing these Committees.

The Group Performance and Remuneration Committee welcomed Sandy as its new Chairman. The Committee has played a vital role in ensuring that our remuneration policy is fair and transparent and supports the work to rebuild a successful and trusted RBS. During 2014 the Committee had oversight of the implementation of a limit of variable pay to no more than 100% of fixed pay and the use of deferral and malus, to deliver fair remuneration outcomes.

Penny became the new Chairman of the Sustainable Banking Committee and refocused its strategic direction on three core themes - Bank-wide Reputation and Trust, Serving Customers and Sustainability/Emerging issues. The Sustainable Banking Committee has overseen the values and conduct work in relation to behavioural and cultural issues and the development of Environmental, Social and Ethical policies, while continuing its commitment to stakeholder engagement.

The RBS Capital Resolution (RCR) Board Oversight Committee chaired by Baroness Noakes since 1 April 2014 was established to oversee the separation and wind-down of RBS's high capital intensive assets and has implemented a governance structure and delegated authorities for RCR. The RCR Board Oversight Committee has considered RCR's financial performance, risk reporting, delivery against targets and asset management principles and certain remuneration matters.

## Letter from the Chairman

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### Board changes

There were a number of changes to the Board's composition during 2014.

Ewen Stevenson took over as Chief Financial Officer in May 2014 when Nathan Bostock left RBS. Ewen has extensive experience of working with both governments and boards on the steps needed to restore confidence in financial institutions following the crisis; and his skills and experience have already been of great benefit to the Board.

Two of our non-executive directors also retired from the Board in 2014. Tony Di Iorio stood down in March 2014, having served on the Board since September 2011. Tony made an excellent contribution to the Board and, in particular, the Board Risk Committee and Group Audit Committee, and he left with our best wishes for the future. Tony remains a director of CFG in the US.

Philip Scott stood down in October 2014 having served on the Board since 2009. I would like to record my thanks to Philip for his outstanding commitment to the Board having served four years as Chairman of the Board Risk Committee during a period of enormous change.

In April 2014, we welcomed Morten Friis as a new non-executive director and a member of the Board Risk Committee and Group Audit Committee. Morten brings a wealth of experience of the financial services industry and has an especially strong background in risk. This is already evident in the contributions he is making to the Board and the committees he sits on.

On 25 February 2015 the Board approved the appointment of Howard Davies as a non-executive director with effect from the end of June 2015 and as Chairman from 1 September 2015.

### Board effectiveness

This year, we conducted an internal evaluation of the effectiveness of the Board and its committees, led by the Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel. The evaluation has concluded that the Board is operating effectively but has identified some areas of improvement that we will focus on during 2015.

The Board also received support from the Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel in a number of other areas related to board effectiveness such as the Prudential Regulation Authority's review of Board effectiveness, Board process, information flows and operating rhythm between the Board and committees, professional development and induction for new directors.

### Corporate governance

Our statement of compliance with the UK Corporate Governance Code (the "Code") is set out on page 94.

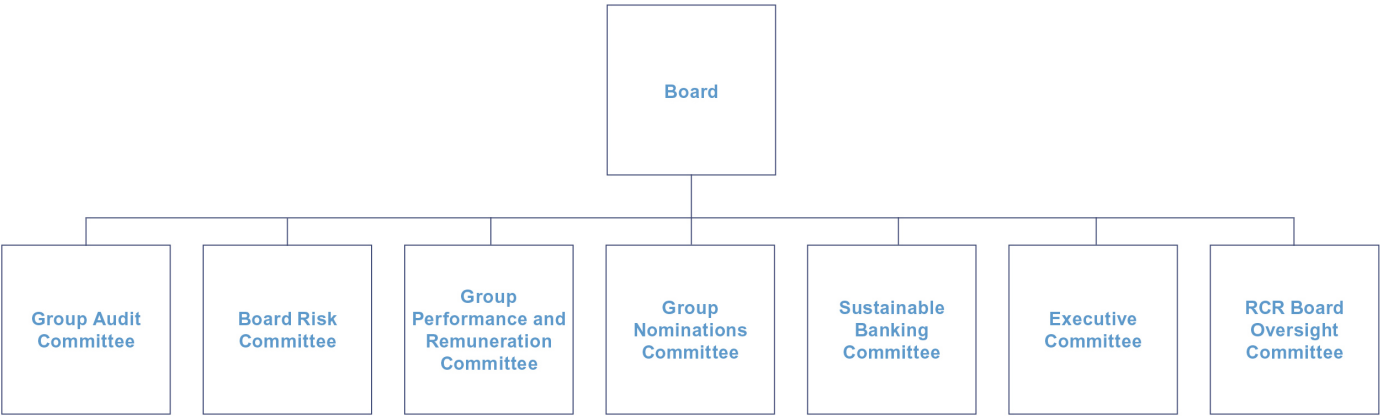
Finally, as we reflect on another challenging year, I would like to conclude this letter by recording my sincere thanks towards my fellow Board members. Being a director of RBS requires extensive time and commitment, and the readiness to deal with the unusual challenges of a government controlled listed company. I remain extremely grateful for their continued support and dedication in working towards the recovery of RBS.

As announced previously I will be leaving RBS on 31 August 2015. Howard Davies will join the Board at the end of June and will assume the role of Chairman with effect from 1 September 2015. It has been a privilege to serve as Chairman of RBS since 2009 and it is with sadness that I will leave the Board, but I am confident that the Board will continue to work with dedication to implement our strategy under the new Chairman.

Philip Hampton  
Chairman of the Board of directors  
25 February 2015

# Our governance structure

## Board and Board committee structure



### The Board

The Board is collectively responsible for the long-term success of RBS and delivery of sustainable shareholder value. Its role is to provide leadership of RBS within a framework of prudent and effective controls which enables risks to be assessed and managed.

### Group Audit Committee

Assists the Board in discharging its responsibilities for monitoring the quality of the financial statements of RBS. It reviews the accounting policies, financial reporting and regulatory compliance practices of RBS and RBS’s system and standards of internal controls, and monitors RBS’s processes for internal audit and external audit.

### Board Risk Committee

Provides oversight and advice to the Board on current and potential future risk exposures of RBS and future risk strategy. It reviews RBS’s compliance with approved risk appetite and oversees the operation of RBS Policy Framework and submissions to regulators.

### Group Performance and Remuneration Committee

Responsible for approving remuneration policy and reviewing the effectiveness of its implementation. It also considers senior executive remuneration and makes recommendations to the Board on the remuneration of executive directors.

### Group Nominations Committee

Assists the Board in the selection and appointment of directors. It reviews the structure, size and composition of the Board, and membership and chairmanship of Board committees.

### Sustainable Banking Committee

Responsible for overseeing and challenging how management is addressing sustainable banking and reputation issues, considering the long term interests of all stakeholder groups.

### Executive Committee

Supports the Chief Executive in managing RBS’s businesses. It reviews and debates relevant items before consideration by the Board. It is responsible for determining and delivering RBS’s strategy, and it monitors and manages financial performance, capital allocations, risk strategy and policy, risk management, operational issues and customer issues.

### RCR Board Oversight Committee

Provides oversight of RCR’s progress against, and compliance with, its primary objective and asset management principles.

## Our Board

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### Chairman



**Philip Hampton (age 61)**

*Date of appointment:* 19 January 2009 (Board)  
3 February 2009 (Chairman)

*Experience:* Previously chairman of J Sainsbury plc and group finance director at Lloyds TSB Group, BT Group plc, BG Group plc, British Gas and British Steel plc, an executive director of Lazards and a non-executive director of RMC Group plc and Belgacom SA. He is also a former chairman of UK Financial Investments Limited, which manages the UK Government's shareholdings in banks.

*External appointment(s):*

- Senior Independent director of Anglo American plc, chairman of its Remuneration Committee and member of the Audit Committee
- Non-executive director, chairman of the Nominations Committee and chairman designate of GlaxoSmithKline plc

*Committee membership(s)*

- Group Nominations Committee (Chairman)
- RCR Board Oversight Committee

### Executive directors

#### Chief Executive



**Ross McEwan (age 57)**

*Date of appointment:* 1 October 2013

*Experience:* He became Chief Executive of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group in October 2013. Between August 2012 and September 2013, he was Chief Executive Officer for UK Retail, joining from Commonwealth Bank of Australia where he was Group Executive for Retail Banking Services for five years. Prior to this he was Executive General Manager with responsibility for the branch network, contact centres and third party mortgage brokers.

Ross has more than 25 years experience in the finance, insurance and investment industries, and prior to Commonwealth Bank of Australia, was Managing Director of First NZ Capital Securities. He was also Chief Executive of National Mutual Life Association of Australasia Ltd / AXA New Zealand Ltd. He has an MBA from Harvard.

*External appointment(s):*

None

*Committee membership(s)*

- Executive Committee (Chairman)

#### Chief Financial Officer



**Ewen Stevenson (age 48)**

*Date of appointment:* 19 May 2014.

*Experience:* Previously at Credit Suisse for 25 years where he was latterly co-Head of the EMEA Investment Banking Division and co-Head of the Global Financial Institutions Group. Ewen has over 20 years of experience advising the banking sector while at Credit Suisse. He has a Bachelor of Commerce and Administration majoring in Accountancy and a Bachelor of Law from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

*External appointment(s):*

None

*Committee membership(s)*

- Executive Committee



## Our Board

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### Independent non-executive directors

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**Sandy Crombie (age 66)**

*Date of appointment:* 1 June 2009  
(Senior Independent Director)

*Experience:* Previously group chief executive of Standard Life plc and Chairman of Creative Scotland. He was also previously a director of the Association of British Insurers and Chairman of the Edinburgh World City of Literature Trust. In 2007 he was the Prince of Wales' Ambassador for Corporate Social Responsibility in Scotland.

*External appointment(s):*

- Member and vice-chairman of the Board of Governors of The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- President of the Cockburn Association

*Committee membership(s):*

- Group Performance and Remuneration Committee (Chairman)
- Group Audit Committee
- Group Nominations Committee
- RCR Board Oversight Committee



**Alison Davis (age 53)**

*Date of appointment:* 1 August 2011

*Experience:* Previously, she served as a director of City National Bank and First Data Corporation and as chair of the board of LECG Corporation. She has also worked at McKinsey & Company, AT Kearney, as Chief Financial Officer at Barclays Global Investors (now BlackRock) and as managing partner of Belvedere Capital, a private equity firm focused on buy-outs in the financial services sector.

*External appointment(s):*

- Non-executive director and member of the audit and compensation committees of Unisys Corporation
- Non-executive director, chair of the compensation committee and member of the audit committee of Diamond Foods Inc.
- Non-executive director, and member of the audit committee of Fiserv Inc
- Non-executive director, Ooma Inc

*Committee membership(s):*

- Group Nominations Committee
- Group Performance and Remuneration Committee
- Sustainable Banking Committee



**Morten Friis (age 62)**

*Date of appointment:* 10 April 2014

*Experience:* He has 34 years financial services experience and has previously held various roles at Royal Bank of Canada and its subsidiaries including Associate Director at Orion Royal Bank, Vice President, Business Banking and Vice President, Financial Institutions. In 1997, he was appointed as Senior Vice President, Group Risk Management and served as the Chief Credit Officer then Chief Risk Officer from 2004 to 2014. He was also previously a Director of RBC Bank (USA), Westbury Life Insurance Company, RBC Life Insurance Company and of RBC Dexia Investor Services Trust Company.

*External appointment(s):*

- Member of the Board of Directors of The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Harvard Business School Club of Toronto

*Committee membership(s):*

- Group Audit Committee
- Group Nominations Committee
- Board Risk Committee

## Independent non-executive directors



### Robert Gillespie (age 59)

*Date of appointment:* 2 December 2013

*Experience:* Began his career with Price Waterhouse (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) where he qualified as a chartered accountant. He then moved into banking joining SG Warburg, specialising in corporate finance, and was appointed as Co-Head and Managing Director of its US investment banking business in 1989. Following the acquisition in 1995 of Warburg by Swiss Bank Corporation (which subsequently merged with UBS), he then held the roles of Head of UK Corporate Finance, Head of European Corporate Finance and Co-Head of its global business and CEO of the EMEA region. He relinquished his management roles at the end of 2005, and was appointed Vice Chairman of UBS Investment Bank. Robert left UBS to join Evercore Partners, from where he was seconded to the UK Panel on Takeovers and Mergers, as Director General, from 2010 to 2013. He is a non-executive director of Citizens Financial Group, Inc.

### *External appointment(s):*

- Independent Board Director at Ashurst LLP
- Chairman of Council at the University of Durham
- Chairman of the Somerset House Trust
- Chairman of the Boat Race Company Limited
- Director of Social Finance Limited

### *Committee membership(s):*

- Group Nominations Committee
- Group Performance and Remuneration Committee
- Board Risk Committee
- Sustainable Banking Committee



### Penny Hughes, CBE (age 55)

*Date of appointment:* 1 January 2010

*Experience:* Previously a director and chairman of the Remuneration Committee of Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB and a non-executive director of Home Retail Group plc and chairman of its Remuneration Committee. She spent the majority of her executive career at Coca-Cola where she held a number of leadership positions, latterly as President, Coca-Cola Great Britain and Ireland. Former non-executive directorships include Vodafone Group plc, Reuters Group PLC, Cable & Wireless Worldwide plc and The Gap Inc.

### *External appointment(s):*

- Non-executive director, chair of the corporate compliance and responsibility committee and member of the audit, nomination and remuneration committees of Wm Morrison Supermarkets plc
- Trustee of the British Museum

### *Committee membership(s):*

- Sustainable Banking Committee (Chairman)
- Group Nominations Committee
- Board Risk Committee



### Brendan Nelson (age 65)

*Date of appointment:* 1 April 2010

*Experience:* Former global chairman, financial services for KPMG. Previously held senior leadership roles within KPMG including as a member of the KPMG UK board from 1999 to 2006 and as vice-chairman from 2006. Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland from 2005 to 2008. President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland 2013/14.

### *External appointment(s):*

- Non-executive director and chairman of the audit committee of BP plc
- Member of the Financial Reporting Review Panel

### *Committee membership(s):*

- Group Audit Committee (Chairman)
- Group Nominations Committee
- RCR Board Oversight Committee
- Board Risk Committee

## Our Board

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### Independent non-executive directors



**Baroness Noakes, DBE (age 65)**

*Date of appointment:* 1 August 2011

*Experience:* An experienced director on UK listed company boards with extensive and varied political and public sector experience. A qualified chartered accountant, she previously headed KPMG's European and International Government practices and has been President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. She was appointed to the House of Lords in 2000 and has served on the Conservative front bench in various roles including as shadow treasury minister between 2003 and May 2010. Previously held non-executive roles on the Court of the Bank of England, Hanson, ICI, Severn Trent, Carpetright, John Laing and SThree.

*External appointment(s):*

- Deputy chairman, Ofcom

*Committee membership(s):*

- Board Risk Committee (Chairman)
- RCR Board Oversight Committee (Chairman)
- Group Audit Committee
- Group Nominations Committee

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### Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel



**Aileen Taylor (age 42)**

*Date of appointment:* 1 May 2010  
(Company Secretary)

*Experience:* A qualified solicitor, joined RBS in 2000. She was appointed Deputy Group Secretary and Head of Group Secretariat in 2007, and prior to that held various legal, secretariat and risk roles including Head of External Risk, Retail, Head of Regulatory Risk, Retail Direct and Head of Legal and Compliance at Direct Line Financial Services.

She is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers in Scotland and a member of the European Corporate Governance Council.

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### Executive Committee

The Board is supported by the Executive Committee comprising the executive directors and other senior executives. Details of the composition of the Executive Committee and biographies of its members can be found at [www.rbs.com>about us>corporate governance>ceo and board>executive committee](http://www.rbs.com/about-us/corporate-governance/ceo-and-board/executive-committee)

## Corporate governance

### The Board

The Board has ten directors comprising the Chairman, two executive directors and seven independent non-executive directors, one of whom is the Senior Independent Director.

Name	Position	Nationality
Philip Hampton	Chairman	British
Ross McEwan	Chief Executive	New Zealand
Ewen Stevenson	Chief Financial Officer	British/ New Zealand
Sandy Crombie	Senior Independent Director	British
Alison Davis	Independent non-executive director	British/USA
Morten Friis	Independent non-executive director	Norwegian
Robert Gillespie	Independent non-executive director	British
Penny Hughes	Independent non-executive director	British
Brendan Nelson	Independent non-executive director	British
Baroness Noakes	Independent non-executive director	British

Biographies for each director and details of which Board committees they are members of can be found on pages 46 to 49. The Board considers that the Chairman was independent on appointment and that all non-executive directors are independent for the purposes of the Code.

### Board Changes

Non-executive directors Tony Di Iorio and Philip Scott stepped down from the Board on 26 March 2014 and 31 October 2014 respectively. Nathan Bostock stepped down from the Board on 28 May 2014. RBS has announced that Philip Hampton will step down from the Board during 2015.

Morten Friis was appointed as a non-executive director on 10 April 2014. Ewen Stevenson was appointed as an executive director and Chief Financial Officer on 19 May 2014.

On 25 February 2015 the Board approved the appointment of Howard Davies as non-executive director with effect from the end of June 2015 and as Chairman from 1 September 2015.

### Roles and responsibilities

#### The Board

The Board is collectively responsible for the long-term success of RBS and delivery of sustainable shareholder value. The Board's terms of reference include key aspects of RBS's affairs reserved for the Board's decision and are reviewed at least annually. The terms of reference are available on [rbs.com/about us](http://rbs.com/about-us).

#### Chairman

The role of Chairman is distinct and separate from that of the Chief Executive and there is a clear division of responsibilities with the Chairman leading the Board and the Chief Executive managing RBS's business day to day.

#### The Chairman's key responsibilities are to:

- provide strong and effective leadership to the Board;
- ensure the Board is structured effectively and observes the highest standards of integrity and corporate governance;
- manage the business of the Board and set the agenda, style and tone of Board discussions to promote effective decision-making and constructive debate;
- facilitate the effective contribution and encourage active engagement by all members of the Board;
- in conjunction with the Chief Executive and Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel, ensure that members of the Board receive accurate, timely and clear information, to enable the Board to lead RBS, take sound decisions and monitor effectively the performance of executive management;
- ensure that the performance of individual directors and of the Board as a whole and its committees is evaluated regularly; and
- ensure RBS maintains effective communication with shareholders and other stakeholders.

#### Chief Executive

The Chief Executive has responsibility for all of RBS's business and acts in accordance with the authority delegated by the Board.

#### The Chief Executive's key responsibilities are to:

- exercise executive responsibility for RBS's franchises and functions;
- define, drive and deliver the overall strategic direction approved by the Board;
- drive and deliver performance against the RBS's financial plans and budget acting in accordance with authority delegated by the Board;
- consult regularly with the Chairman and Board on matters which may have a material impact on RBS;
- act as a guardian and champion of the culture and values of RBS, creating an environment where employees are engaged and committed to good customer outcomes;
- lead the senior executive team and ensure there are clear accountabilities for managing RBS's business and managing risk; and
- in conjunction with the Chairman and Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel, ensure the Board receives accurate, timely and clear information.



## Corporate governance

### Senior Independent Director

Sandy Crombie, as Senior Independent Director, acts as a sounding board for the Chairman and as an intermediary for other directors when necessary. He is also available to shareholders to discuss any concerns they may have, as appropriate.

### Non-executive directors

Along with the Chairman and executive directors, the non-executive directors are responsible for ensuring the Board fulfils its responsibilities under its terms of reference. The non-executive directors combine broad business and commercial experience with independent and objective judgement and they provide independent challenge to the executive directors and the leadership team. The balance between non-executive and executive directors enables the Board to provide clear and effective leadership across RBS's business activities.

The standard terms and conditions of appointment of non-executive directors are available on [rbs.com](http://rbs.com) or from RBS Corporate Governance and Secretariat.

### Board Committees

In order to provide effective oversight and leadership, the Board has established a number of Board committees with particular responsibilities. Please see the corporate governance structure on page 45 for more details. The work of the Board committees are also discussed in their individual reports as follows:

Group Nominations Committee - pages 55 and 56.  
Group Audit Committee - pages 57 to 61.  
Board Risk Committee - pages 62 to 68.  
RCR Board Oversight Committee pages 69 and 70.  
Sustainable Banking Committee - pages 71 and 72.  
Group Performance and Remuneration Committee - pages 73 to 93.

The terms of reference for each of these committees is available on [rbs.com](http://rbs.com) and copies are also available on request from RBS Corporate Governance and Secretariat.

### Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel

Aileen Taylor is the Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel and is also the Company Secretary. Reporting directly to both the Chairman and the Chief Executive, she is responsible for delivering commercial corporate governance advice and support to the Board. She acts as a trusted advisor in the effective functioning of the Board, ensuring appropriate alignment and information flows between the Board and its committees, including the Executive Committee. As Board Counsel, she is responsible for the provision of legal advice to the Board. Her responsibilities include: -

- advising on Board skills and composition including induction, ongoing training and professional development;
- executive responsibility for Chairman/non-executive Director search and appointment process;
- leading on all aspects of corporate governance across RBS;

- facilitating good information flows between Board members and the Board and its committees; and
- leading on implementation of recommendations from the annual Board evaluation.

### Conflicts of interests

The company has procedures in place to ensure that the Board's powers for authorising actual or potential conflicts of interest are operating effectively. On appointment, each director is provided with RBS's guidelines for referring conflicts of interest to the Board. Each director is required to notify any actual or potential conflicts of interest to the Board for consideration and to update the Board on an ongoing basis when he or she becomes aware of any changes.

The Board considers each director's notification separately on the facts and can impose conditions or limitations as part of the authorisation process. Actual and potential conflicts of interest can be authorised by the Board in accordance with the company's Articles of Association. Details of all conflicts of interest are recorded in a register which is maintained by the Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel and reviewed annually by the Board.

### Board meetings

In 2014, nine Board meetings were scheduled and individual attendance by directors at these meetings is shown in the table below. One of the Board meetings took place overseas during the Board's visit to RBS's US businesses.

In addition to the nine scheduled meetings, 34 additional meetings of the Board and committees of the Board were held, including meetings to consider and approve financial statements. The Chairman and the non-executive directors meet at least once per year without executive directors present.

	Attended/ scheduled
Philip Hampton	9/9
Ross McEwan	9/9
Ewen Stevenson (1)	6/6
Sandy Crombie	9/9
Alison Davis	9/9
Morten Friis (2)	6/6
Robert Gillespie	9/9
Penny Hughes	9/9
Brendan Nelson	9/9
Baroness Noakes (3)	8/9
<b>Former directors</b>	
Nathan Bostock (4)	4/4
Tony Di Iorio (5)	3/3
Philip Scott (6)	6/7

#### Notes:

- (1) Appointed to the Board on 19 May 2014.
- (2) Appointed to the Board on 10 April 2014.
- (3) Missed one meeting due to family bereavement.
- (4) Stepped down from the Board on 28 May 2014.
- (5) Stepped down from the Board on 26 March 2014.
- (6) Stepped down from the Board 31 October 2014.

## Corporate governance

### Principal activities of the Board during 2014

In advance of each Board meeting, the directors are provided with comprehensive papers. During 2014 there has been an enhanced focus on implementation of the new organisational design, building of capital and developing resilient systems. These have been recurring themes underpinning Board discussions during the year. An overview of the principal activities of the Board during 2014 is shown below.

#### Each meeting

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairman's report</li> <li>Chief Executive's report</li> <li>Monthly results</li> <li>Capital, funding &amp; liquidity</li> <li>Franchise updates</li> <li>RCR update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk report (including updates on conduct matters)</li> <li>Reports from Committee Chairmen</li> <li>Secretary's report (routine matters for approval/noting)</li> <li>Transformation programme</li> </ul>
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#### 1st Quarter

- Budget
- Remuneration proposals
- Annual results and AGM notice
- Board & Committee evaluations
- Internal Audit evaluation
- External Auditor evaluation
- Dividend Access Share Retirement agreement
- Board session with Andrew Tyrie, Treasury Select Committee
- RBS contingency funding plan
- Global Restructuring Group deep dive
- Capital plan
- Scottish independence considerations

#### 2nd Quarter

- Q1 results
- Resolution planning
- Board strategy offsite
- AGM preparations
- Dividend Access Share Retirement Agreement
- Citizens IPO
- Stress testing
- Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process
- Scottish independence considerations

#### 3rd Quarter

- Interim results
- High net worth review
- Scottish independence contingency planning
- Individual Liquidity Adequacy Assessment
- 2014 recovery plan
- PRA Board effectiveness review
- Board session with PRA
- Board session with FCA
- Board session with UKFI
- ICB updates
- CIB strategy review
- RBS entrepreneurial programme
- Citizens IPO
- Board evaluation update

#### 4th Quarter

- Q3 results
- ICB update
- CIB strategy review
- High net worth review
- Succession planning session
- IT resilience exercise
- Ulster Bank strategic review
- Political risk 2015
- Technology update

Franchise Chief Executives attend each Board meeting to provide an update on the performance of their businesses. Other relevant senior executives including the Chief Risk Officer, the Chief Regulatory Affairs Officer and the Chief Administration Officer attend Board meetings to present reports to the Board as appropriate. This provides the Board with an opportunity to engage directly with management on key issues and supports the Board's succession planning activity.

### Board effectiveness

#### Skills and experience on the Board

The Board is structured to ensure that the directors provide RBS with the appropriate balance of skills, experience and knowledge as well as independence. Given the nature of the RBS's businesses, experience of banking and financial services is clearly of benefit, and we have a number of directors with substantial experience in that area, but the Board also benefits from directors with experience in other fields.

The table below illustrates the breadth of skills and experience on the Board.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retail Banking</li> <li>Other Financial Services</li> <li>Markets/Investment Banking</li> <li>Utilities</li> <li>Government &amp; Public Sector</li> <li>Mergers &amp; Acquisitions</li> <li>Corporate Restructuring</li> <li>Stakeholder Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Executive</li> <li>Finance &amp; Accountancy</li> <li>Risk</li> <li>Technology/Digital</li> <li>Operations</li> <li>Change Management</li> <li>Consumer Facing</li> </ul>
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Board committees also comprise directors with a variety of skills and experience so that no undue reliance is placed on any individual.

### Induction and professional development

Each new director receives a formal induction on joining the Board, which is co-ordinated by the Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel. This includes visits to RBS's major businesses and function and meetings with directors and senior management. Meetings with the external auditors and external counsel are also arranged. Each induction programme has a core element that the director is required to complete with the remainder of the programme tailored to the new director's specific requirements. An example of an induction programme for a new non-executive director is set out below:

Chairman	Franchise Chief Executives
Chief Executive	Business visits (UK and overseas)
Chief Financial Officer	Finance
Senior Independent Director	Risk
Board committee Chairs	Internal Audit
Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel	Tax
Chief Risk Officer	Human Resources
Chief Conduct & Regulatory Affairs Officer	Investor Relations
RBS Treasurer	Strategy & Corporate
RBS Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel	Development
External Auditor	Communications and
External Counsel	Marketing
	Institutional Investors

The Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel advises directors of appropriate external training and professional development opportunities and internal training is also provided which is relevant to the business of RBS. Business visits are also arranged as part of the Group Audit Committee and Board Risk Committee schedule (details of which can be found on pages 58 and 64) and all non-executive directors are invited to attend. Directors undertake the training they consider necessary to assist them in carrying out their duties and responsibilities as directors.

During 2014, the directors received updates on a range of subjects to enhance their knowledge, including:

- ICB/Ring-fencing
- The Senior Persons Regime
- The revised UK Corporate Governance Code
- CRD IV Directorship Limits and Subsidiary Compliance
- Shareholder Rights Directive
- Banking Standards Review Council
- PRA Consultation on proposed changes to the Remuneration Code
- EU Market Abuse Regulations and impact on RBS
- Listing Rule changes
- Department of Business, Innovation and Skills Proposals on Transparency and Trust

The Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel maintains continuing professional development logs. These are reviewed regularly with directors to assist in identifying future training and development opportunities that are specific to the individual director's requirements.

### Information

All directors receive accurate, timely and clear information on all relevant matters and have access to the advice and services of the Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel. In addition, all directors are able, if necessary, to obtain independent professional advice at the company's expense.

### Time commitment

There is an anticipated time commitment in line with the recommendations of the Walker Review in respect of general Board duties and additional time as necessary in respect of committee duties. However, as stated in the Chairman's introductory letter to his Corporate governance report, the time commitment currently required of our non-executive directors is significant. Each director is required to seek the agreement of the Chairman before accepting additional commitments that might affect the time the director is able to devote to his or her role as a non-executive director of RBS. Directors have also been briefed on the limits on the number of other directorships that they can hold under the requirements of fourth Capital Requirements Directive (CRD IV). The Board monitors the other commitments of the Chairman and directors and is satisfied that they are able to allocate sufficient time to enable them to discharge their duties and responsibilities effectively.

### Election and re-election of directors

In accordance with the provisions of the Code, all directors of the company are required to stand for election or re-election annually by shareholders at the company's Annual General Meeting and in accordance with the UK Listing Rules, the election or re-election of independent directors requires approval by all shareholders and also by independent shareholders.

### Performance evaluation

In accordance with the Code, an external evaluation of the Board takes place every three years. An internal evaluation takes place in the intervening years.

The 2012 evaluation was conducted externally by a specialist board evaluation consultancy. The 2013 evaluation was conducted internally by the Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel and a number of initiatives were implemented aimed at improving the overall performance and effectiveness of the Board. These included keeping Board and committee composition under review; ensuring sufficient time on Board agendas for Board oversight of key strategic areas; a review of risk reporting and a focus on regular contact with external stakeholders. These topics have been appropriately addressed and will be kept under regular review as a matter of good practice.

In 2014, the Board and committee evaluation process was conducted internally by the Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel. A comprehensive review of the Board's effectiveness was also carried out by the Prudential Regulation Authority during 2014.

### Performance evaluation process

The Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel undertook a formal evaluation by:

- preparing surveys that were completed by each director and holding interviews with each director;
- discussing the outcomes and recommendations with the Chairman; and
- recommending the outcomes and areas for improvement to the Board.

Amongst the areas reviewed were Board composition, Board meetings and processes, information quality and flows, external relationships and priorities for 2015.

## Corporate governance

### Outcomes of the 2014 performance evaluation

The 2014 performance evaluation concluded that the Board was strong and operated effectively and within its terms of reference throughout 2014. Key strengths identified included:

- the Board performed strongly during a challenging 2014, demonstrating alignment with RBS values;
- the dynamic between Board members was good and on the whole members worked well together, creating effective challenge, debate and oversight; and
- the Board's committees operated effectively within their terms of reference throughout the year providing strong support to the Board.

A summary of the key themes arising from the 2014 performance evaluation is set out below, together with an overview of the proposed actions:

Key themes included	Proposed action
Board and Board committee composition	Keep Board and Board committee composition under review during 2015, to ensure balance of skills, experience, independence, knowledge and diversity remains appropriate.
Succession planning	Ensure that an effective succession planning process is in place at Board and Executive level.
Board and Committee agendas	Ensure that Board and Committee agendas for 2015 minimise duplication and allow effective oversight of key areas of strategic focus, sufficient time for debate and focus on the RBS priorities, particularly the customer.
Information	Continue to improve and enhance the information presented to the Board and Committees.
Professional development	Enhance the professional development programme provided to Board members.

### Individual director and Chairman effectiveness reviews

The Chairman met with each director individually to discuss their own performance and ongoing professional development and also shared peer feedback that had been provided as part of the evaluation process. Separately, the Senior Independent Director sought feedback on the Chairman's performance and canvassed views on the Chairman's performance from the non-executive directors collectively. The results of the Chairman's effectiveness review were then discussed by the Chairman and the Senior Independent Director.

### Relations with investors

The Chairman is responsible for ensuring effective communication with shareholders. The company communicates with shareholders through the Annual Report and Accounts and by providing information in advance of the Annual General Meeting. Individual shareholders can raise matters relating to their shareholdings and the business of RBS at any time throughout the year by letter, telephone or email via [rbs.com/ir](mailto:rbs.com/ir).

Shareholders are given the opportunity to ask questions at the Annual General Meeting and any General Meetings held or can submit written questions in advance. The Senior Independent Director and the chairmen of the Board committees are available to answer questions at the Annual General Meeting.

Communication with the company's largest institutional shareholders is undertaken as part of the Investor Relations programme:

- the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer meet regularly with UKFI, the organisation set up to manage the Government's investments in financial institutions, to discuss the strategy and financial performance of the business. The Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer also undertake an extensive annual programme of meetings with the company's largest institutional shareholders.
- the Chairman independently meets with RBS's largest institutional shareholders annually to hear their feedback on management, strategy, business performance and corporate governance. Additionally, the Chairman, Senior Independent Director and chairmen of the Board committees met with the governance representatives of a number of institutional shareholders during the year.
- the Senior Independent Director is available if any shareholder has concerns that they feel are not being addressed through the normal channels.
- the Chairman of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee consults extensively with major shareholders in respect of the Group's remuneration policy.

In 2014, RBS continued its programme of UK-based events aimed at individual shareholders. These events provided an opportunity for shareholders to meet with directors and senior management to learn more about the business.

Throughout the year, the Chairman, Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer and Chairman of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee communicate shareholder feedback to the Board. The directors also receive independent analyst notes and reports reviewing share price movements and performance against the sector. Detailed market and shareholder feedback is provided to the Board after major public announcements such as a results release. The arrangements in place are to ensure that directors develop an understanding of the views of major shareholders and that these are considered as part of the annual Board evaluation.

The Investor Relations programme also includes communications aimed specifically at its fixed income (debt) investors. The Chief Financial Officer and/or the RBS Treasurer give regular presentations to fixed income investors to discuss strategy and financial performance. There is also a separate section on the RBS website for fixed income investors which includes information on credit ratings, securitisation programmes and securities documentation. Further information is available at [rbs.com/ir](http://rbs.com/ir).



# Report of the Group Nominations Committee



Dear Shareholder,

As Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Group Nominations Committee I am pleased to present our report on the committee's activity during 2014.

## Role and responsibilities

The Group Nominations Committee engages with external consultants, considers potential candidates and recommends appointments of new directors to the Board. The terms of reference of the Group Nominations Committee are reviewed annually and approved by the Board and are available at [rbs.com](http://rbs.com).

## Principal activity during 2014

The Committee continues to monitor succession planning on an ongoing basis taking into account business requirements and industry developments. In 2014, discussions principally focussed on the Chairman search and the search for new non-executive directors. The Board held a separate session on succession planning in September 2014, covering the Executive Committee and an update on RBS's People Strategy.

## Membership and meetings

All non-executive directors are members of the Group Nominations Committee which is chaired by the Chairman of the Board. The RBS Chief Executive and the Chief Financial Officer are invited to attend meetings.

The Group Nominations Committee holds at least two scheduled meetings per year, and also meets on an ad hoc basis as required. In 2014, there were four scheduled Group Nominations Committee meetings, which I chaired, and individual attendance by directors at these meetings is shown in the table below. In addition a number of ad hoc meetings were held to discuss Chairman succession.

	Attended/ scheduled
Philip Hampton (Chairman)	4/4
Sandy Crombie	4/4
Alison Davis	4/4
Morten Friis <sup>(1)</sup>	4/4
Robert Gillespie	4/4
Penny Hughes	4/4
Brendan Nelson	4/4
Baroness Noakes	4/4

## Former members

Tony Di Iorio <sup>(2)</sup>	—
Philip Scott <sup>(3)</sup>	3/4

## Notes:

- (1) Appointed to the Committee on 10 April 2014.
- (2) Stepped down from the Board on 26 March 2014.
- (3) Stepped down from the Board on 31 October 2014.

## Chairman search

In September 2014, it was announced that I would step down as Chairman in 2015. The search for my successor commenced immediately. In line with the Code, I did not chair the Nominations Committee meetings in relation to these discussions.

Egon Zehnder International (EZ) has been engaged to support the search process for the new Chairman. EZ does not provide services to any other part of the RBS. A job specification has been prepared, which includes an assessment of the time commitment expected. The Committee has held a number of discussions on potential candidates (internal and external) and engaged with RBS's key stakeholders to seek their views on candidates. On 25 February the Board approved the appointment of Howard Davies as a non-executive director with effect from the end of June and as Chairman from 1 September 2015.

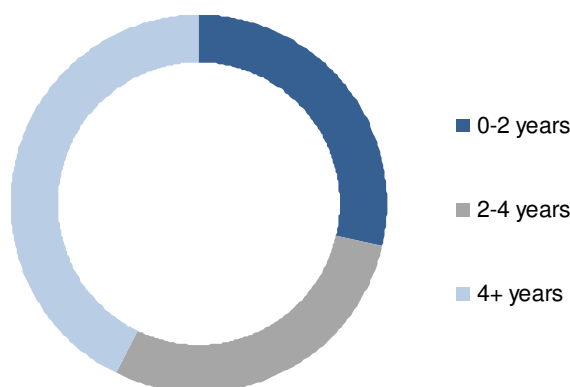
## Consideration of new non-executive directors

EZ has continued to support the search for new non-executive directors during 2014 following the departure of Art Ryan, Tony Di Iorio and Philip Scott and to support the future Board succession planning. The search for potential candidates is continuing.

# Report of the Group Nominations Committee

## Tenure of non-executive directors

The chart below sets out the tenure of non-executive directors.



## Board and Committee membership

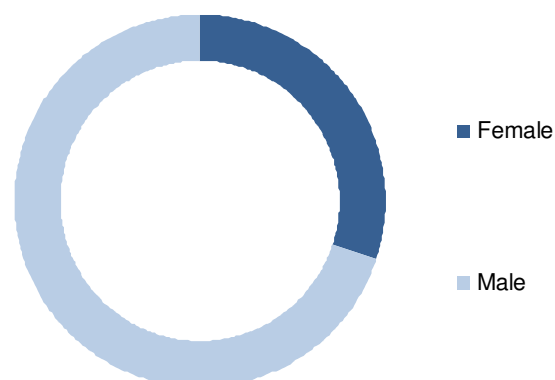
Board and Committee membership was reviewed in 2014 and the following Committee membership changes were made:

- Robert Gillespie was appointed a member of the Board Risk Committee, Group Performance and Remuneration Committee and Sustainable Banking Committee with effect from 1 April 2014;
- Baroness Noakes was appointed Chairman of the Board Risk Committee and RCR Board Oversight Committee with effect from 1 April 2014;
- Morten Friis was appointed a member of the Board Risk Committee and Group Audit Committee with effect from 10 April 2014;
- Sandy Crombie was appointed Chairman of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee with effect from 25 June 2014; and
- Penny Hughes was appointed Chairman of the Sustainable Banking Committee with effect from 25 June 2014.

## Boardroom diversity

The Board remains supportive of Lord Davies' recommendations and currently exceeds the target of 25 per cent female board representation as set out in Lord Davies' report.

The chart below details the gender diversity of the Board.



In accordance with the recommendations contained within Lord Davies' report, the Board operates a boardroom diversity policy and a copy of the Board's diversity statement is available on [rbs.com>about us](http://rbs.com/about-us).

RBS understands the importance of diversity and, with regard to gender diversity, recognises the importance of women having greater representation at key decision making points in organisations. The search for Board candidates will continue to be conducted, and nominations/appointments made, with due regard to the benefits of diversity on the Board, however, all appointments to the Board are ultimately based on merit, measured against objective criteria, and the skills and experience the individual can bring to the Board.

The balance of skills, experience, independence, knowledge and diversity on the Board, and how the Board operates together as a unit is reviewed annually as part of the Board evaluation. Where appropriate, findings from the evaluation will be considered in the search, nomination and appointment process. If appropriate, additional targets on diversity will be developed in due course.

Further details on RBS's approach to diversity can be found on page 98.

Philip Hampton  
Chairman of the Group Nominations Committee  
25 February 2015

## Report of the Group Audit Committee

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### Letter from Brendan Nelson, Chairman of the Group Audit Committee



Dear Shareholder,

There have been a number of changes to the membership of the Audit Committee during 2014. I would like to begin by welcoming Sandy Crombie and Morten Friis, who joined the Committee in April 2014. Both bring a wealth of experience across finance, risk and control matters and have already made valuable contributions to the work of the Committee. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Tony Di Iorio and Philip Scott who stood down as members of the Board and Committee in March and October 2014, respectively. The Committee also welcomed Ewen Stevenson to RBS, who succeeded Nathan Bostock as Chief Financial Officer.

The key priority of the Audit Committee during 2014 has been to monitor the integrity of RBS's financial statements, focusing in particular on the quality and transparency of disclosure, and to support the ongoing strengthening of the internal control environment.

Owing to favourable credit conditions and the delivery of the early cost saving benefits from RBS's Transformation Programme, RBS experienced better than anticipated operating performance during the year. The Audit Committee supported the Board in its decision to release trading statements ahead of the half year and Q3 reporting periods.

Throughout the reporting period, through discussion and deliberation with Management, the Committee satisfied itself that the key accounting decisions, risks and significant management judgements that underlie the financial statements were appropriate. The Committee reviewed the conclusions of the External Auditor and, where applicable, other experts and concluded that disclosures in the financial statements about these judgements and estimates were transparent and appropriate. A more detailed account of the most material issues considered by the Committee is set out in the report below.

The Audit Committee also focused on the effectiveness of internal controls. In 2014, RBS embarked on its journey of transformation to a simpler and more efficient organisation. While the Transformation Programme will ultimately bring long term benefits, the scale of change is not to be underestimated and the Audit Committee has monitored the short term impact on RBS's control environment.

The Committee continued to oversee the Markets Control Remediation Programme (MCRP) during the year. It is anticipated that all aspects of this programme will have been successfully delivered within 2015.

However, there remains further work to be done within the business to improve controls and to drive cultural change. A wider programme of cultural and control remediation across the former Markets division has commenced in 2015.

An effective three lines of defence model is critical to the success of cultural change and strengthening internal controls across the organisation. The model has been developed further during 2014; it is now more clearly articulated and principles based. However, while the process of embedding the three lines of defence within the new organisational construct has begun, more work is required and this needs to remain a priority for RBS in 2015. In conjunction with the Board Risk Committee, the Audit Committee will exercise oversight of progress.

One of the most significant pieces of work for the Audit Committee during 2014 was the tender process to select an external auditor from the year commencing 1 January 2016. Following a competitive tender process, the Committee recommended to the Board that Ernst & Young LLP (EY) be appointed. A transition period will commence during 2015 to ensure EY are familiar with RBS's internal processes. Deloitte will continue as RBS's external auditor throughout 2015, and I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the firm and its partners for its work as auditor of RBS and its subsidiaries over the last 14 years. While the tender process and the transitional period inevitably have involved and will continue to involve considerable work, I firmly believe that the appointment of EY will ensure that RBS continues to receive the highest quality advice and external audit services.

EY also carried out an external review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit. The review compared Internal Audit's current audit policies, procedures and practices to the applicable regulatory and industry standards. The Committee were pleased to note that notwithstanding the level of change within the organisation, Internal Audit has made progress in key areas identified within its strategic plan, including enhancing its role, people and audit processes. The review also highlighted future areas of focus for the function, including a continued focus on retention and recruitment of skilled personnel and identification of opportunities to increase further the efficiency and effectiveness of audit processes. Action plans are in place to address all detailed findings and will be tracked to closure.

The oversight role and specific business of the Committee in these and other related areas are explained in more detail in the Committee's full report.

As Chairman of the Audit Committee, I reported after each meeting to the Board on the principal matters discussed to ensure all directors were informed of the Committee's work. 2014 has been another challenging year for the Committee. However, I believe that the balance of skills and experience amongst the members has enabled the Committee to strike the correct balance between independent oversight and challenge and support to management. I would like to thank my fellow members for their contribution to the effective Committee performance in 2014.

Brendan Nelson  
Chairman of the Group Audit Committee  
25 February 2015

# Report of the Group Audit Committee

## Report of the Group Audit Committee

### Meetings and visits

A total of seven scheduled meetings of the Audit Committee were held in 2014, including meetings held immediately before the annual and interim financial statements and the quarterly interim management statements were considered by the Board. The Committee also held six ad hoc meetings. Meetings are attended by relevant executive directors, the Internal and External Auditors and Finance, Legal and Risk Management executives. Other executives, subject matter experts and external advisers are also invited to attend, as required, to present and advise on reports commissioned by the Committee. At least twice a year the Audit Committee meets privately with the External Auditors and separately with Internal Audit management.

During 2014 members of the Group Audit Committee, in conjunction with members of the Board Risk Committee, took part in an annual programme of visits to businesses and control functions in order to gain a closer understanding of the risks and control issues they face. This value adding programme included visits to Commercial and Private Banking; Corporate and Institutional Banking; Technology Services; Finance; Risk Management and Conduct & Regulatory Affairs (twice); Internal Audit (twice).

### Membership of the Group Audit Committee

The Group Audit Committee comprises four independent non-executive directors. The Chairman and members of the Committee, together with their attendance at scheduled meetings, are shown below.

	Attended/ scheduled
Brendan Nelson (Chairman)	7/7
Sandy Crombie (1)	4/4
Morten Friis (2)	4/4
Baroness Noakes	7/7

### Former members

Tony Di Iorio (3)	3/3
Philip Scott (4)	5/6

#### Notes:

- (1) Became a member of the Committee on 1 April 2014.
- (2) Became a member of the Committee on 10 April 2014.
- (3) Stepped down from the Board on 26 March 2014.
- (4) Stepped down from the Board on 31 October 2014.

Brendan Nelson, Morten Friis and Baroness Noakes are also members of the Board Risk Committee. Philip Scott was also a member of the Board Risk Committee until he stood down from the Board. Sandy Crombie is Chairman of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee. This common membership helps facilitate effective governance across all finance and risk issues; ensures that compensation decisions reflect relevant finance and risk considerations; and that agendas are aligned and overlap of responsibilities is avoided where possible.

The members of the Audit Committee are selected with a view to the expertise and experience of the Committee as a whole and with proper regard for the key issues and challenges facing RBS.

The Board is satisfied that all Audit Committee members have recent and relevant financial experience and that each member of the Group Audit Committee is independent as defined in the SEC rules under the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") and related guidance. The Board has further determined that Brendan Nelson, Committee Chairman, and Baroness Noakes are both 'financial experts' for the purposes of compliance with the Exchange Act Rules and the requirements of the New York Stock Exchange. Philip Scott was also deemed to be a 'financial expert' for the same purposes, throughout his tenure as a Committee member. Full biographical details of the Committee members are set out on pages 46 to 49.

### Performance evaluation

An evaluation of the Group Audit Committee's operation was conducted internally in 2014. Overall the review concluded that the Audit Committee continued to operate effectively. The Committee has considered and discussed the outcomes of the evaluation and is satisfied with the way in which they have been conducted, the conclusions and the recommendations to be taken forward. The evaluation praised the well-run manner of the Committee and the positive dynamic between members. The allocation of business to the Committee was considered to be appropriate, although it was acknowledged it was a heavy agenda. Recommendations for improvements focused on quality and volume of papers provided to the Committee. This will be addressed via a bank-wide programme to refresh the paper format and guidelines for submission to senior Committees and Boards.

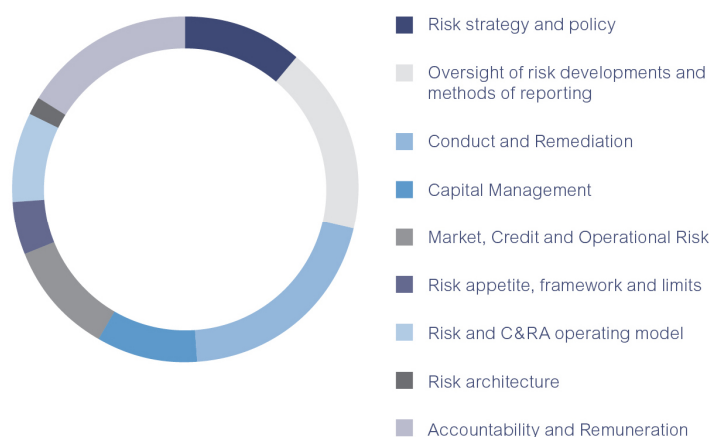
The outcomes of the evaluation have been reported to the Board and the Committee will track progress during 2015.

In addition, the PRA undertook a review of the effectiveness of the Board and its senior committees throughout 2014, including the Group Audit Committee. The outcomes of this evaluation will be reported to the Board in due course and recommendations will be progressed as appropriate.

### The role and responsibilities of the Group Audit Committee

The Group Audit Committee's primary responsibilities are set out in its terms of reference which are reviewed annually by the Committee and approved by the Board. These terms of reference are available on the RBS website [www.rbs.com](http://www.rbs.com).

Allocation of Group Audit Committee agenda time





## Report of the Group Audit Committee

### Financial reporting and policy

The Audit Committee focused on a number of salient judgements and reporting issues in the preparation of the 2014 accounts. In particular, the Committee considered:

- The evidence (including in relation to RBS's capital, liquidity and funding position) to support the directors' going concern conclusion. Further information is set out on page 99;
- The adequacy of loan impairment provisions, focusing particularly on the judgements and methodology applied to provisions in RCR, given the exit strategy for the business and sensitivity to market conditions. The Committee was satisfied that the overall loan impairment provisions and underlying assumptions and methodologies were reasonable and applied consistently;
- Valuation methodologies and assumptions for financial instruments carried at fair value including RBS's credit market exposures and own liabilities assessed at fair value;
- The appropriateness of the carrying value of goodwill and other intangible assets. Particular consideration was given to the classification of Citizens Financial Group (CFG) in light of the Initial Public Offering (IPO) and planned disposal. Following discussion it was agreed that CFG should be re-classified as a disposal group and as a discontinued operation;
- The judgements that had been made by management in assessing the recoverability of deferred tax assets, bearing in mind RBS's simplification agenda and the potential impact of ICB and ring-fencing;
- Valuation of the Group's main defined benefit pension scheme. The Committee considered the assumptions that had been set in valuing the fund and the sensitivities of those assumptions.
- The methodology and assumptions underlying the level of provision held and/or the appropriateness of required disclosure in relation to:
  - redress, specifically in relation to Payment Protection Insurance and Interest Rate Hedging Products;
  - ongoing regulatory and litigation actions: including foreign exchange trading; retail mortgage backed securities litigation in the US; and UK shareholder actions.

Following review, the Committee was satisfied that overall the level of provision held is appropriate and that disclosure is balanced and transparent;

- the assessment by management of the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting which had identified deficiencies in the bank's privileged user access controls within Technology Services. The Committee monitored remediation progress and received regular reports on actions undertaken by the business to address the weaknesses. The Committee has received assurances that the majority of significant items have been closed and that the issue did not lead to the identification of any errors in the financial statements;

- the quality and transparency of disclosures contained within the external financial statements.

As part of its overall assessment of the Annual Report and Accounts, the Committee assisted the Board in determining that the Annual Report and Accounts taken as a whole was fair, balanced and understandable, providing the information necessary for shareholders to assess the company's performance, business model and strategy. A comprehensive review process supports both the Audit Committee and ultimately the Board in reaching their conclusion:

- The production of the Annual Report and Accounts is co-ordinated centrally by the Financial Controller with guidance on requirements being provided to individual contributors;
- The Annual Report and Accounts is reviewed by the Executive Disclosure Committee prior to consideration by the Audit Committee; and
- A management certification process requires members of the Executive Committee and other senior executives to provide confirmation following their review of the Annual Report and Accounts that they consider them to be fair, balanced and understandable.

This process is also undertaken in respect of the half year and quarterly results announcements. In addition, the External Auditor considers the Board's statement as part of its audit requirements.

### Systems of internal control

Remediation of known control issues has remained a focus of the Committee during 2014. As noted in the letter from the Committee Chairman, on behalf of the Board the Committee has continued to oversee the Control Remediation Programmes within the Markets division (MCRP) and has challenged management on the prioritisation of issues, delivery of remediation, quality assurance and contingency plans. The Committee received reports from Risk Management and Internal Audit and commissioned independent assurance that: the remediation programmes were progressing in accordance with plan; issues were being remediated to industry standard; and internal reporting accurately reflected progress. It is anticipated that MCRP will conclude, with delivery of all necessary actions completed, during the first part of 2015.

Notwithstanding the progress achieved in MCRP, the Committee remained concerned about the lack of improvement to the Markets control environment rating, regarding regulatory concerns around the lack of cultural shift and in light of the foreign exchange trading issues. The Committee invited management to report on improvements to the business and to provide assurances that the business was addressing the risks in an appropriate and sound manner. A larger project will begin in 2015 which will encompass specific remediation issues and wider cultural change. This will be closely monitored by the Board Risk Committee and Group Audit Committee in 2015.

## Report of the Group Audit Committee

Key to the success of the remediation programme will be an effective three lines of defence model. In conjunction with the Board Risk Committee, this has been a primary area of focus for the Audit Committee during 2014. The Committee supported management's proposals to transition the policy to be more principles-based. The governance of the model has been simplified and streamlined. However, further work is required to ensure the revised model is fully embedded and operating effectively in practice. As such, the Committee has requested a clear articulation of end-state and a plan to reach that goal which will be closely monitored during 2015. In addition, the Committee has agreed that each business will report on progress at Committee visits in 2015.

Regular updates on RBS's credit quality assurance testing were received by the Committee. These reports highlighted certain weaknesses within the wealth credit business and the Committee requested that management report on action being taken to address these issues. Root causes of the weaknesses have been identified and remediation programmes have been established to address the underlying issues. The Committee will review closely plans and progress during 2015.

Bi-annual reports were also noted in relation to RBS notifiable event process and alerts on each major event are received by the Chairman of the Committee and the Chairman of the Board Risk Committee.

The Finance and Risk System Transformation (FiRST) was kept under the review of the Committee in 2014. A strategic review of the programme's aims, progress and deliverables was undertaken by management in light of the new RBS model. A proposal was presented to the Committee under which the programme scope will now be more streamlined with a narrower set of priorities, which should enable delivery. External independent assurances on the suitability of the revised plan were provided. Progress will be monitored closely by the Committee in 2015.

During 2014 the Committee has received reports on the ongoing work of the Sensitive Investigations Unit. It was also updated on the whistleblowing arrangements RBS has in place for employees to raise concerns and received reports on incidents reported and investigated. This is an important tool for employees to raise issues and to identify improper behaviours. The Committee considered the enhancements made to the process during the year and also discussed the output of an Internal Audit review.

In line with the Committee's terms of reference, consideration was given to management's processes for identifying and responding to the risk of fraud.

As discussed in the report of the Board Risk Committee (set out on page 62 to 68), the effectiveness of the Divisional Risk and Audit Committees was considered in 2013. In response to management feedback, consideration was given to alternative mechanisms that could more effectively provide a line of sight into business risk and audit issues. A revised construct of standardised Business Risk Committees, chaired by business Chief Executives, was created and implemented in 2014, with responsibility for the consideration of all risk issues. These Committees also consider finance and audit issues on a quarterly basis and provide reports to the Board Risk Committee and Audit Committee. A review of effectiveness of the Committees will be undertaken in 2015.

The Committee has considered RBS's compliance with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and is satisfied in this respect.

### Internal audit

The Committee received regular reports and opinions from Internal Audit throughout 2014. The audit universe was refreshed during the year to remain aligned with the evolving shape of the bank as the Transformation Programme progressed. This will continue in 2015. Audit officers are working closely with the businesses to ensure the work undertaken is appropriate in both the short and longer term.

The Committee received regular updates on the progress of implementation of Internal Audit's strategic plan. It also considered and approved Internal Audit's annual plan for 2014 and monitored progress against it during the year. Consideration was also given to resourcing levels and the impact of the Transformation Programme and other changes taking place across RBS. During two visits to Internal Audit in 2014, the Committee reviewed external co-sourcing arrangements and recruitment strategies aimed at ensuring any capability gaps were appropriately addressed. Significant progress has been made and the benefits are being observed across the function. Overall the Committee is satisfied that the function is appropriately resourced.

The reporting arrangements for the Chief Audit Executive have remained unchanged in 2014: the role continues to report to the Chairman of the Audit Committee, with a secondary reporting line to the Chief Executive for administrative purposes. The Chief Audit Executive exercises his right of attendance at Executive Committee meetings, and Internal Audit officers regularly attend relevant business-level meetings as appropriate.

The annual review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit was undertaken externally in 2014. Following a competitive tender process, EY was appointed to perform this. Their report concluded that Internal Audit had operated effectively during the year. Certain recommendations were made to enhance particular practices within the function. These will be implemented during 2015, with progress tracked by the Committee.

# Report of the Group Audit Committee

## Oversight of the Bank's relationship with its regulators

As set out in the terms of reference, the Committee has a responsibility to monitor the relationship with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and other relevant regulatory bodies.

Regular reports were received by the Committee on the status of ongoing regulatory investigations. Any significant developments in the relationship with the regulators were noted by the Committee. The Committee members met, individually and together with other Board members, with the PRA and the FCA during the year as part of their regular interaction with the regulator.

The Committee also tracked progress in relation to mandatory and remedial projects and challenged the management of individual business areas and functions on the ability to meet regulatory expectations, responsibilities and the level of resource required to do so.

## External audit

During 2014, the External Auditor provided the Group Audit Committee with reports summarising its main observations and conclusions arising from the year end audit, half year review and work in connection with the first and third quarter financial results and any recommendations for enhancements to RBS's reporting and controls. The External Auditor also presented for approval to the Committee its audit plan and audit fee proposal and engagement letter, as well as confirmation of its independence and a comprehensive report of all non-audit fees.

The Audit Committee undertakes an annual evaluation to assess the independence and objectivity of the External Auditor and the effectiveness of the audit process, taking into consideration relevant professional and regulatory requirements. The evaluation sought the views of Committee members and attendees and other key members of management. In assessing the effectiveness of the External Auditor, the Audit Committee had regard to the experience of the audit engagement team; the scope of the audit work planned and executed; standards of communication and reporting; quality of insights on the internal control environment; and independence.

The Audit Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Board in relation to the appointment, re-appointment and removal of the External Auditors. In order to make a recommendation to the Board, the Audit Committee considers and discusses the performance of the External Auditor, taking account of the outcomes of the annual evaluation carried out. The Board submits the Audit Committee's recommendations to shareholders for their approval at the Annual General Meeting.

The Audit Committee approves the terms of engagement of the External Auditor and also fixes their remuneration as authorised by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.

A competitive tender was undertaken in 2014 to select an auditor for the audit of RBS and its subsidiaries in 2016 (and future periods). Following this, and due consideration by the Audit Committee and the Board, EY was chosen. A transition period will take place in 2015, during which EY will reach a point of independence from RBS and will begin to shadow the audit process to ensure it is well informed to commence as the External Auditor in 2016.

## Audit and non-audit services

The Audit Committee has adopted a policy on the engagement of the External Auditor to supply audit and non-audit services, which takes into account relevant legislation regarding the provision of such services by an external audit firm. The Committee reviews the policy annually and prospectively approves the provision of audit services and certain non-audit services by the External Auditor.

For all other permitted non-audit services, Group Audit Committee approval must be sought in advance, on a case-by-case basis. A competitive tender process is required for all proposed non-audit services engagements where the fees are expected to exceed £100,000. Engagements below £100,000 may be approved by the Chairman of the Group Audit Committee; as an additional governance control all engagements have to be approved by the Financial Controller and Supply Chain Services. Where the engagement is tax related, approval must also be obtained from the Director of RBS Tax. Ad hoc approvals of non-audit services are ratified by the Group Audit Committee each quarter. During 2014, the External Auditor was approved to undertake certain significant engagements which are explained more fully below:

- Assurance testing in relation to RBS's 2013 Sustainability Report. The External Auditor was selected given its significant experience in specialist sustainability reporting. An improved fee was also negotiated.
- Provision of a compliance report required to comply with an amendment by the SEC to certain broker-dealer annual reporting requirements. Standard industry practice is for the External Auditor to be appointed to perform this work.
- Provision of advice and assistance to RBS Capital Resolution in formulating deleveraging strategies and transaction preparation. Data gathering, due diligence and information assessment was also undertaken. Following a review of all advisors in this area, Deloitte was selected in recognition of the team's position as one of the leaders in the European loan portfolio sale market, particularly in the relevant geographies.

Further details of the non-audit services that are prohibited and permitted under the policy can be found on the website [www.rbs.com](http://www.rbs.com). Information on fees paid in respect of audit and non-audit services carried out by the External Auditor can be found in Note 5 to the consolidated accounts on page 372.

Brendan Nelson  
Chairman of the Group Audit Committee  
25 February 2015

## Report of the Board Risk Committee

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### Letter from Baroness Noakes, Chairman of the Board Risk Committee



Dear Shareholder,

This is my first letter to you as Chairman of the Board Risk Committee, having succeeded Philip Scott on 1 April 2014. I have been a member of the Committee since 1 March 2012. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank Philip for his leadership as Chairman over the previous four years. I would also like to thank Sandy Crombie and Tony Di Iorio for their work as members of the Committee: both stood down at the end of March. In April we welcomed three new members to the Committee: Morten Friis, Robert Gillespie and Penny Hughes who have already made significant contributions.

The purpose of this report is to describe how the Committee discharged its responsibilities during 2014 and to provide details of the material and significant issues which it considered and debated during the course of the year. It should provide a sense of the breadth of the Committee's work, which included focus on conduct risk, credit risk, market risk, operational risk, people risk, regulatory risk and reputational risk. As a reflection of the increased demands on the Committee, the number of scheduled meetings during 2014 was increased from seven to nine. This will be maintained in 2015.

The backdrop throughout 2014 for RBS has been one of significant change. In February, the bank announced its new strategy to be a smaller, simpler UK focused bank. It mobilised a transformation programme with the objective of implementing the future bank-wide operating model and required process and technology changes. The Board Risk Committee assumed responsibility for monitoring execution risk. It received regular reports on progress, including independent opinions from Risk Management, Internal Audit and HR. Monitoring the risks associated with the transformation programme will continue throughout 2015 and beyond.

The objective underpinning RBS's revised strategy is gaining customers' trust and putting customers' needs at its core. Unfortunately, in 2014 RBS continued to deal with certain significant conduct issues that have hindered the speed of RBS's recovery and damaged its reputation. Of particular concern were the issues associated with manipulation of foreign exchange markets. The Committee oversaw the internal and regulatory investigations which ultimately led to the imposition of a substantial fine in November 2014, by the FCA and US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC).

The outcome was a stark reminder of the importance of culture and integrity in banking. On behalf of the Board, the Committee monitored the resulting disciplinary and accountability processes and made recommendations to the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee on action to be taken. The Committee will continue to oversee interactions on this matter with RBS's other regulators in 2015. Details of other conduct and litigation matters under review of the Committee are set out in the Committee report.

It is always disappointing to have to consider behaviour which falls below expected standards. While the Committee plays a key role in ensuring appropriate action is taken when things go wrong, it is important to instil values that will eliminate this conduct at the outset. Driving a strong and healthy risk culture is fundamental to this. During 2014, RBS has commenced a programme of work to benchmark its risk culture both against peers and heightened regulatory expectations. The Committee has supported this programme wholeheartedly and will review a plan in early 2015 which will articulate how the bank can define and embed a stronger risk culture and evidence that this is effective.

Equally important is ensuring that the accountabilities of our staff are clear and transparent. In conjunction with the Group Audit Committee, the members have reviewed progress in embedding the three lines of defence model across RBS. While progress has been made to develop definition and design principles, significant work is still required to articulate and embed the operating model within businesses. This will be a priority in 2015.

RBS was fined in November 2014 for failing to put in place resilient IT systems. During the year, the Board Risk Committee has continued to oversee the remediation activity following the IT incident, which occurred in 2012. It has also considered accountability. Independent assurance has been provided by PwC that the work undertaken by the business has been appropriate and addresses the key areas requiring remediation. However, more remains to be done and the Committee will continue to ensure in 2015 that changes are sustained and risks are appropriately identified and escalated.

The Committee has dedicated considerable effort in 2014 to reviewing external and internal stress testing exercises. The Committee reviewed and recommended to the Board the submissions to the European Banking Authority (EBA) and the Bank of England (BoE) and approved the reverse stress test trigger framework. Unfortunately, in November 2014 an error was identified in the calculation of the modelled Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio in the EBA stress test results which led to RBS's published CET1 stress test ratios being overstated. Independent assurance was sought and the error was corrected. The Committee will continue to closely monitor the actions being taken to avoid a repeat of this error until it is clear that we can deliver against our own and regulatory expectations for stress testing.



## Report of the Board Risk Committee

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Other material areas of Committee focus during the year have included:

- consideration of the risk appetite framework of RBS to ensure it remains fit for purpose in light of internal restructuring, market positioning and regulatory changes;
- planned improvements to the Operational Risk Management Framework;
- the capital and liquidity position of RBS and related regulatory submissions;
- improvements to risk reporting; and
- assessment of the risk performance of both businesses and individuals and consideration of the accountability and behaviour of individuals in relation to specific matters.

More detailed information on each of these areas is set out in the Board Risk Committee report that follows.

### Key Priorities for 2015

The report demonstrates the substantial efforts being taken to reduce the level of risk at RBS, under the oversight of the Committee. However, it is important to note that risk reduction remains a work in progress.

Management is continually striving to enhance the safety and soundness of the bank, and will continue to pursue actions to bring RBS within risk appetite. The Board Risk Committee will monitor progress closely and will oversee the quality and quantity of available resources to ensure they are sufficient to achieve real improvement. Other priorities will include risk culture, risk appetite, operational risk management, cyber risk and information security; and the execution risks associated with strategic initiatives.

2014 was another challenging year for the Board Risk Committee and I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow members and to RBS's senior leadership team for the additional time they have dedicated to the business of the Committee.

Baroness Noakes  
Chairman of the Board Risk Committee  
25 February 2015

# Report of the Board Risk Committee

## Meetings and visits

The Board Risk Committee held nine scheduled meetings and four ad hoc meetings in 2014. The ad hoc meetings were required to consider: the Clifford Chance report into the allegations set out in the Tomlinson Report; the EBA stress test results; risk performance of businesses and individuals; and accountability matters relating to the manipulation of the foreign exchange market.

In addition to the members, Board Risk Committee meetings are also attended by relevant executive directors, including representatives from Risk Management, Conduct and Regulatory Affairs (C&RA), Finance and Internal Audit. External advice is also sought by the Board Risk Committee, where appropriate. A standing invite has been issued to the lead partner of the External Auditor to attend all meetings from January 2015 onwards.

During 2014, in conjunction with members of the Group Audit Committee, members of the Board Risk Committee took part in an annual programme of visits to businesses and control functions in order to gain a deeper understanding of the risks and issues they face. This value adding programme included visits to Commercial and Private Banking; Corporate and Institutional Banking; Technology Services; and Finance. In addition, the Committee made two visits to Risk and C&RA; and Internal Audit. In addition, an in-depth session on risk reporting was undertaken by the Committee in 2014.

## Membership

The Board Risk Committee comprises at least three independent non-executive directors. The Chairman and members of the Committee, together with their attendance at scheduled meetings, are shown below.

	Attended/ scheduled
Baroness Noakes (Chairman) (1)	9/9
Morten Friis (2)	6/6
Robert Gillespie (3)	5/6
Penny Hughes (3)	6/6
Brendan Nelson	9/9
<b>Former members</b>	
Sandy Crombie (4)	3/3
Tony Di Iorio (5)	3/3
Philip Scott (6)	8/8

### Notes:

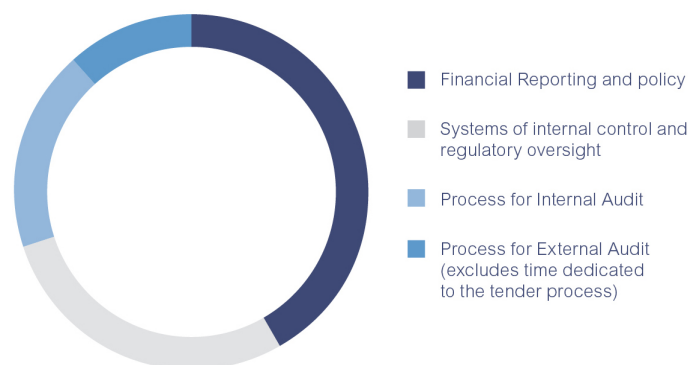
- (1) Became Chairman of the Committee with effect from 1 April 2014.
- (2) Became a member of the Committee with effect from 10 April 2014.
- (3) Became a member of the Committee with effect from 1 April 2014.
- (4) Stepped down from the Committee on 31 March 2014.
- (5) Stepped down from the Board on 26 March 2014.
- (6) Stepped down from the Board on 31 October 2014.

Baroness Noakes, Morten Friis and Brendan Nelson are also members of the Group Audit Committee. Philip Scott was a member of the Group Audit Committee until he stood down from the Group Board on 31 October 2014. Robert Gillespie is also a member of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee and the Sustainable Banking Committee, and Penny Hughes chairs the Sustainable Banking Committee. This common membership across Committees ensures effective governance across all risk, finance, reputational and remuneration issues and that agendas are aligned and overlap of responsibilities is avoided where possible.

## Role of the Board Risk Committee

The Board Risk Committee's primary responsibilities are set out in its terms of reference which are reviewed annually by the Committee and approved by the Board. These are available on the bank's website: [www.rbs.com](http://www.rbs.com).

## Allocation of Board Risk Committee agenda time



## Performance Evaluation

The annual review of the effectiveness of the Board and its senior Committees, including the Board Risk Committee, was conducted internally in 2014. The Committee has considered and discussed the outcomes of this evaluation and accepts the findings. Overall the review concluded that the Board Risk Committee continued to operate effectively. The composition of the Committee was considered to be well-balanced, with the skills and perspectives required to respond to the challenges faced. The quality of debate at Committee meetings was also noted to be of a high standard. Some areas where further enhancements to Committee performance could be made were identified, these included: the development of a specific technical training programme to complement the members' knowledge; review of the thresholds for reporting and escalation of issues to ensure Committee focuses on the key issues; and continued improvements to reporting to the Committee so that there are more focussed and higher quality papers which clearly articulate the key issues for debate.

The outcomes of the evaluation have been reported to the Board. The conclusions and the recommendations to help improve the Committee's effectiveness will be taken forward and progress will be tracked during 2015.

# Report of the Board Risk Committee

## Risk strategy and policy

In February 2014, RBS announced its refreshed strategic direction to become a smaller UK centric bank with a focus on placing customers at the fore. A transformation programme was established to implement the required changes, with both short term and longer term objectives. During 2014, the Board Risk Committee, on behalf of the Board, dedicated significant time to regularly reviewing the execution risks and issues arising from the implementation of such fundamental change across the organisation. The Committee has received regular progress updates from the project team. Risk Management has been fully involved in the transformation programme and has provided an independent opinion to the Committee at each meeting on the risks in the programme. In addition, the Committee receives independent opinions from HR and Internal Audit. On a rolling basis, the Committee has held focus sessions on the key workstreams under the programme which are aligned to the priority areas of Reshaping the Bank, Cost, Customer, Control & IT execution. In 2014, the Committee received reports on the customer workstream, the control transformation programme and technology. The Committee also commissioned a detailed review of the people risks facing the organisation. Detailed 2015-17 plans were presented to the Board in December 2014 and the Committee will continue to rigorously monitor the risks and issues arising as plans progress.

The Committee also considered the risks in specific strategic objectives of the bank, in particular it:

- reviewed the progress on the strategic initiative to dispose of the Williams & Glyn business. It considered the technical complexities inherent in the programme; risks associated with the disposal; regulatory requirements; scope; viability; and threats to delivery. Risk is engaged in the programme and has provided the Committee with opinion on key risks and execution. The Committee will continue to oversee delivery throughout 2015, being particularly mindful of the challenging timescales;
- considered the potential impacts on RBS's mortgage book in the event of a sharp fall in property prices in the short to medium term, should concerns over rising London house prices crystallise;
- received regular reports on the threats to RBS and its customers' businesses posed by economic or political events across a number of countries including Thailand, Russia and Ukraine; and
- reviewed the RBS Resolution Plan and recommended it to the Board for approval prior to submission to the PRA.

The Committee considered operation of RBS's Policy Framework and considered management's plans to improve the accessibility, clarity and ease of implementation of RBS's policies.

## Risk profile

### Reporting

A key priority for the Committee in 2014 was the need to improve and streamline the quality of risk reporting. Following a focus session on Risk Reporting, good progress has been made in this respect and a revised format risk report, including a 'top risks' section, was launched in October. Risk reporting is now more strategic and forward looking and current and future risk positions are reported relative to risk appetite and limits.

Throughout 2014 the Committee received reports on key risk issues and risk metrics at each meeting and the Chief Risk Officer provided a verbal update on the key risks to RBS. The Chief Conduct and Regulatory Affairs Officer also provided a verbal update on current matters pertinent to the Committee at each meeting. This has been a useful means of ensuring the Committee receives the latest information on current and emerging risk and conduct matters. Reports are made to the Committee at each meeting on the most recent discussions at the Executive Risk Forum – the management-level risk committee which reports to the Board Risk Committee.

### Conduct and Remediation

The Committee carefully considered various conduct issues and remediation programmes in 2014. A primary concern was the investigation of misconduct within the foreign exchange trading business. The Committee received regular reports as the investigation evolved and was kept abreast of interactions with regulators. In November 2014, RBS reached a settlement with the FCA and the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) in relation to failings in the foreign exchange business. RBS fully cooperated with the regulatory investigations and accepted the findings. The Committee has exercised close oversight of the internal investigation into the conduct of current and former employees who had involvement in the foreign exchange area. RBS has announced action taken to date and will provide a further update when the accountability review is complete, which is expected to be in the first quarter. RBS remains in discussion with other governmental and regulatory authorities on these issues, including the US Department of Justice, and the Committee will continue to give this appropriate focus in 2015.

The allegations of misconduct within RBS's Restructuring business, which were set out in the Tomlinson Report, were also given detailed consideration at the Committee. In response to the report, RBS commissioned Clifford Chance to undertake an independent review into the most serious allegations. The Committee played a key role in monitoring developments and overseeing the publication of the report, in April 2014. It welcomed the finding that there was no evidence of the serious and damaging allegation that RBS had set out to deliberately defraud its business customers. The Committee will continue to monitor the separate, external investigation into Restructuring, which was commissioned by the FCA under section 166 of the Financial Services and Markets Act. The results of this are anticipated during the first part of 2015, and will be reviewed in detail by the Committee.

Following the IT incident in June 2012, a significant amount of work has been undertaken to strengthen the resilience of RBS's technology systems and this continued to be an area of focus for the Committee in 2014. It received quarterly reports on the work being undertaken to enhance resilience and to address the findings of the section 166 regulatory review. Reports have included independent assurance from PwC that the work undertaken by the business has been appropriate, sustainable and addresses the key areas requiring remediation. In order to further inform the Committee's considerations around technology resilience a 'deep dive' session was held for all Board members in May 2014. As well as considering the immediate concerns around improving resilience, this session also offered an opportunity to review longer term priorities for the function. The Committee is satisfied with the progress of the IT resilience remediation programme and it is anticipated that the work will be complete in early 2015. At this point the Committee will determine appropriate methods of future oversight of the risks associated with IT resilience.

A key part of ensuring the correct behaviours are instilled across RBS is articulating and embedding an appropriate risk culture within RBS that is set and cascaded from the top. This needs to be clearly aligned to the RBS's existing culture programme. The Risk and Conduct & Regulatory Affairs functions have started the process of researching and developing an appropriate risk culture programme for RBS, and have kept the Committee apprised of progress. Lessons have been gained from liaison with peers and benchmarking. The Committee will review management's plan to embed risk culture across RBS and the proposed measures to assess and validate its effectiveness during 2015. This topic is of keen regulatory interest will remain a priority for the Committee in 2015 and beyond.

In 2014, the Committee also received reports on other conduct and regulatory issues, including:

- quarterly updates from the oversight committee established to monitor the status of current open investigations in the former Markets Division. This work has been complemented by that of the Markets Controls Remediation Programme (MCRP) which has been monitored by the Group Audit Committee. In 2015, MCRP will be succeeded by the Markets Standards Programme. The Markets Standards Programme will be similar in scale to MCRP, with a greater focus on conduct and culture in addition to controls. It will incorporate remediation of the foreign exchange trading issues;
- RBS's progress in improving its end to end customer complaints management process, in particular its strategic aims to reduce complaint volumes and to resolve issues at the first point of contact or within forty eight hours of receipt. The Committee will receive further updates on progress next year;
- reports on Anti-Money Laundering remediation at each of its meetings in the first half of 2014, ahead of the regulatory attestation in June 2014. Reporting has now returned to exception based reporting pending further regulatory review;

- initial reports on trade and transaction reporting compliance and collateral management issues within the Corporate and Institutional Banking business. The Committee will receive more detailed reports on required action and remediation in early 2015;
- the status of key litigation cases, in particular the US residential mortgage-backed securities litigation claims; and
- the remediation of known regulatory issues in the RBS Americas region.

### Capital Management

The Committee reviewed the capital and liquidity position of the bank regularly. It reviewed and recommended that the Board approve the Individual Liquidity Adequacy Assessment (ILAA) and the Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP). An assurance opinion was provided by Internal Audit on the adequacy of the processes supporting the preparation of the submissions.

In response to increased regulatory expectations, the Committee has dedicated considerable effort in 2014 to the oversight of stress testing. It has been actively engaged in discussions on underlying assumptions and scenario selection for the European Banking Authority and Bank of England 'UK Variant' stress-test exercises and recommended the stress test results submissions to the Board. The Committee reviewed the output of stress testing exercises and has been involved in consideration of their announcement to the market. The Committee also made appropriate recommendations to the Board on reverse stress testing thresholds.

Focus on stress testing and reliance upon the outputs is set to increase in 2015 and beyond. It is therefore essential that the business is resourced to meet expectations and that individuals possess the correct skills and are supported by the correct processes and tools. The Committee will carefully review stress testing capability enhancement plans to ensure that these are fit for purpose and meet regulatory expectations for 2015.

### Market, Credit and Operational Risk

The Committee conducted its regular review of the market risks managed by RBS. The appetite for market risk and related limits were also reviewed in the context of the reduction in the size of the Corporate and Institutional Banking business, in line with the bank's strategy. The Committee reviewed key market risk issues and hot topics including remediation and compliance with CRD IV requirements. Plans to enhance the management of exposures across Credit and Market Risk were considered.

A detailed overview of the Credit Risk portfolio was also provided to the Committee, including a report on activities to address current and emerging risks, and an update on the credit risk appetite frameworks. Steps taken to de-risk certain portfolios, including commercial real estate, and to improve overall asset quality were considered.



## Report of the Board Risk Committee

Working closely with the Group Audit Committee, the Committee reviewed the updated three lines of defence design principles (across front line management, risk and internal audit). In the second half of 2014, implementation has been focussed on publication and dissemination of the principles, and application in both organisational structures and individual role profiles. During 2015, the focus will be on driving these principles deeper into the organisation, supported by the planned activity on risk culture outlined above. Effective operation of the three lines of defence model is critical to the success of the bank's transformation and the Committee will carefully consider plans in early next year and monitor delivery against agreed objectives.

An effective first line of defence with a clear understanding and ownership, is fundamental to the success of the Operational Risk Management Framework (ORMF). The way in which RBS currently manages Operational Risk is inconsistent across the bank and a programme of work has been established to address identified weaknesses in capabilities. During 2014, RBS Risk has defined an enterprise wide approach to risk management covering all risk disciplines and has aligned its end state vision of what a good ORMF should look like to this approach. The Board Risk Committee has received reports on progress and will consider detailed plans in the first quarter of 2015.

Thereafter, the Committee will monitor progress as the programme is delivered over the following two years.

The Committee also received reports on:

- RBS's long dated derivatives business and noted the risk and control framework (including limits and collateral requirements) which supported it;
- the New Product Risk Assessment process including enhancements made to the end to end product life cycle;
- the status of RBS's compliance with the Single European Payments Area (SEPA) Directive;
- regular reports on improvements in information security, corporate security, records management and cyber risk;
- enhancements to data quality across the organisation. The opinion of Internal Audit was considered in this respect also. Further status updates will be provided during 2015.

In December 2014, the Committee supervised the responses provided by RBS to the PRA and FCA as part of their Dear Chairman II Exercise on IT resilience. In particular, it reviewed the detailed responses to the FCA questionnaires, and for the more technical PRA questionnaires, the Committee reviewed the processes used to prepare the responses. In each case the Committee received assurance reports from Risk and from Internal Audit and on this basis recommended to the Board that it approve the submissions to the regulators.

The Committee received bi-annual reports on cyber threats and responses, covering the threat landscape together with key issues and progress on the bank's improvements plans in this area. The bank is re-baselining its appetite and approach to cyber risk and is moving to a model of strong detection and response in addition to mitigation. The banking sector will continue to be a prime target for attackers and the Committee will keep cyber risk under close review during 2015.

The Committee reviewed RBS's 2014 Annual Risk and Control Report and was satisfied that RBS had operated its risk management framework in accordance with the requirements of the UK Corporate Governance Code.

### Risk appetite, framework and limits

The Board Risk Committee reviewed the risk appetite framework of RBS during 2014, particularly in light of internal restructuring, market positioning and changes to regulations. This included a review of capital adequacy, earnings volatility and stakeholder confidence. This review is being finalised and a formal risk appetite which reflects the new organisational structure will be approved in the first quarter of 2015. This review will also focus on how the detailed risk appetite processes within the individual businesses fit within the enterprise wide appetite set by the Board.

### Risk and C&RA operating model

During the course of two separate visits, the Board Risk Committee reviewed the Risk Management and C&RA operating model to ensure that both functions had the appropriate structures and resources in place to deliver their strategic plans. The bench-strength of the functions was reviewed and consideration was given to succession planning, resource and budget.

The Committee considered in detail the impact of RBS's transformation programme on the holistic risk management operating model. This included: resourcing levels and quality; changes to risk management's technology support infrastructure; the impact on RBS's overall control environment; and alignment with other major change and investment programmes.

Last year, the Committee reviewed the operation of the Divisional Risk and Audit Committees. In response to management feedback, consideration was given to alternative mechanisms that could more effectively provide a line of sight into business risk and audit issues. In early 2014, the Committee agreed that standardised Business Risk Committees, chaired by business Chief Executives, should be responsible for the consideration of all risk issues and escalation to the business ExCo and ERF. These Committees also consider finance and audit issues on a quarterly basis and provide reports to the Board Risk Committee and Group Audit Committee. While the Committees are in their infancy, it is anticipated that these changes will improve the risk governance at a business level and facilitate the escalation of issues as appropriate. A review of effectiveness will be undertaken in 2015.

## Report of the Board Risk Committee

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### Risk architecture

The Board Risk Committee considered model risk management across the organisation and this will remain a key area of focus of the Committee into 2015 and beyond.

The Committee reviewed the preparations underway to ensure compliance with the new Basel Principles on Effective Risk Data Aggregation and Reporting, which were due to come into effect from January 2016. Detailed plans will be reviewed and the Committee will receive reports on delivery through 2015.

### Accountability and Remuneration

The Board Risk Committee recognises clear link between conduct, culture and performance management. As part of its work the Committee has continued to work closely with the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee to consider the risk aspects of Executive Committee members' objectives, performance and remuneration arrangements. The committee makes recommendations as appropriate to the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee.

The Committee also considered the risk performance of businesses in light of known risk and control issues and under advice from Risk, C&RA and internal audit functions. It has also reviewed specific accountability cases and made recommendations regarding appropriate adjustments to performance related reward to the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee. The Group Performance and Remuneration Committee's report on pages 73 to 93 includes more detail on how risk is taken into account in remuneration decisions.

Baroness Noakes  
Chairman of the Board Risk Committee  
25 February 2015

# Report of the RBS Capital Resolution (RCR) Board Oversight Committee

## Letter from Baroness Noakes, Chairman of the RCR Board Oversight Committee



Dear Shareholder,

The RBS Capital Resolution Board Oversight Committee was established following the creation of RBS Capital Resolution (RCR) on 1 January 2014.

RCR was established to separate and wind down RBS's high capital intensive assets. Targets were set to remove 55-75% of these assets from the balance sheet by the end of 2015 and 85% by the end of 2016.

Key principles are:

- removing risk from the balance sheet in an efficient, expedient and economic manner;
- reducing the volatile outcomes in stressed environments; and
- accelerating the release of capital through management and exit of the portfolio.

Given the importance of delivery of the RCR objectives for RBS's future plans, the Committee's role is an important one. I was appointed Chairman of the Committee on 1 April 2014 and am pleased to present the report on the Committee's activity during 2014.

### The role and responsibilities of the RCR Board Oversight Committee

The Committee's responsibilities are set out in its terms of reference which are reviewed annually by the Committee and approved by the Board. These are available on [rbs.com](http://rbs.com).

The Committee's role is to:

- oversee the actions of RCR's management, including implementation of RCR's strategy;
- review and report to the Board on RCR's progress against and compliance with the primary objective (to eliminate the bank's exposure to RCR assets) and the asset management principles (criteria for taking decisions on the reduction of capital and assets);
- agree in consultation with the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee specific incentives for RCR management, aligned to the objectives of RCR;
- consider financial disclosures in respect of RCR; and
- report to the Board on the Committee's activities and recommend changes to RCR strategy.

### Membership and meetings

The Chairman of the Committee is the Chairman of the Board Risk Committee. The Senior Independent Director, the Chairman of RBS and the Chairman of the Group Audit Committee are members. Attendance at meetings is shown below.

	Attended/ scheduled
Baroness Noakes (Chairman) (1)	3/3
Sandy Crombie	3/4
Philip Hampton	4/4
Brendan Nelson	3/4

### Former member

Philip Scott (2)	1/1
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Notes:

- (1) Baroness Noakes took over from Philip Scott as Chairman of the Committee on 1 April 2014. The Committee held four scheduled meetings and two ad hoc meetings in 2014. Meetings are attended by relevant executives, and representatives from the risk, finance and human resources functions.
- (2) Stepped down from the Committee on 1 April 2014.

### Principal activities during 2014

As a newly established Board Committee, the focus at the first meeting was reviewing the Committee's terms of reference and schedule of business for the year. The Committee also reviewed the governance structure and delegated authorities for RCR. The format of reporting on progress against the primary objective and asset management principles, and the pro-forma for financial reporting were also considered.

At each scheduled meeting during the remainder of the year, the Committee has considered financial performance and delivery against targets and asset management principles, and received updates on emerging issues and material transactions. The outlook in relation to capital release and the residual asset pool is also reviewed.

Risk reporting developed and evolved through the year and the Committee now receives information on a quarterly basis on operational, conduct and people risk.

The Committee recognised that the objective of accelerating disposal of assets carried additional customer and conduct risks. It paid particular attention to the leadership and culture within RCR and reviewed the RCR framework and operating principles to satisfy itself that management were managing these risks appropriately.

The Committee also reviewed and considered certain remuneration matters for RCR and, in conjunction with the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee, has approved RCR remuneration principles, and RCR related annual objectives for the CEO of Capital Resolution Group.

Committee meetings are attended by senior RCR managers and also representatives from the control functions, in particular from the risk function.

As explained on page 154, RCR now expects substantially to complete its work by the end of 2015. The Committee will continue to oversee the activities of RCR throughout this period.

## Report of the RBS Capital Resolution (RCR) Board Oversight Committee

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### Performance evaluation

An internal review of the effectiveness of the Board and senior committees was conducted during 2014. The Committee has considered and discussed the report on the outcomes of the evaluation and is satisfied with the way in which the evaluation has been conducted.

Overall, the review concluded that the Committee operated effectively and exercised appropriate oversight and challenge of management.

Baroness Noakes,  
Chairman of the RCR Board Oversight Committee  
25 February 2015



# Report of the Sustainable Banking Committee

## Letter from Penny Hughes

### Chairman of the Sustainable Banking Committee



Dear Shareholder,

RBS has a clear ambition to be number one for customer service, trust and advocacy in each of our chosen business areas by 2020. Delivery of this ambition depends in large part on our ability to demonstrate beyond question that we are a responsible company doing business in a sustainable way.

Our strategy is clear – our success as a company is dependent on the success and fortune of our customers and the communities we live and work in. When they succeed, so do we.

We know that RBS exists in a sector that faces huge challenges and needs to change, and we're committed to play a leadership role. I'm encouraged that we've changed our business practices this year on a range of issues to make banking fairer for our customers and our communities.

Inside the bank we are on a long journey to create a culture that stands apart from the misconduct of the past. We have strong, clear values that guide our decision making, but these are yet to be truly ingrained in our approach to running the bank.

The Sustainable Banking Committee is primarily concerned with overseeing how well management is running the bank sustainably for its stakeholders and dealing with matters of reputation and trust, including cultural change. In fulfilling this responsibility, we try to consider the long term interests of all stakeholder groups which include customers, employees, shareholders, government, regulators, society and advocacy groups.

Although we still have a long way to go, some good progress was made in 2014 and the key areas of work during the year included:

- Oversight of the values and conduct work intended to address behavioural and cultural issues.
- Assessing performance on delivery of customer commitments on trust, advocacy and service including simple, transparent and fair banking.
- Ongoing commitment to stakeholder engagement through face to face sessions with advocacy groups on key issues of concern (more details on the next page).
- Oversight of progress on sustainability activities across RBS including serving society, serving customers and supporting communities.

- Oversight of the development of Environmental, Social and Ethical (ESE) policies designed to ensure responsible and sustainable management of risks in sensitive and controversial lending sectors. ESE policies have now been developed for Defence, Forestry, Fisheries & Agribusiness, Mining & Metals, Oil & Gas, Gambling, Power Generation and Animal Testing. As a result of these policy decisions, the Committee has played an instrumental role in not providing finance to a number of controversial areas of industry.
- Oversight of progress on people issues including safety and health, wellbeing, diversity and inclusion and employee engagement.
- Considering sustainability positioning on environmental targets, climate change, human rights and sustainable energy opportunities.
- Transparent reporting through the annual Sustainability Review which describes our performance and approach to making RBS a more sustainable business, one which will support the long-term future of the economy and society.

Also during 2014, the opportunity was taken to refocus the strategic direction of the Committee to ensure greater alignment with the customer ambition of the bank. Our work will concentrate on three core themes: Bank-wide Reputation and Trust, Serving Customers and Sustainability/Emerging issues. More detail on these themes is provided on pages 38 to 41. Previously known as the Group Sustainability Committee, we felt the new name of Sustainable Banking Committee better reflected our purpose and underlined the importance of sustainable banking being a core part of our strategy.

Although there is still much to be done to rebuild trust, it is pleasing that the efforts to build a responsible and sustainable business are being recognised through independent and external measures. These include having recently been ranked as the top scoring UK company in Transparency International's latest report on transparency in corporate reporting. We have also successfully retained our place in the Dow Jones World Sustainability Index and scored well in the Carbon Disclosure Project disclosure results which assess management of climate risks and opportunities. RBS has also been reselected for inclusion in the FTSE4Good index which measures the performance of companies against globally recognised responsibility criteria. Turning to people commitments, progress on diversity and inclusion has also been recognised with various gender, race and equality awards. More information on these and our sustainability performance and external commitments can be found on pages 38 to 41.

With an increasing focus on ethics and sustainability, the priority of the Committee will be to assess and encourage the work of the executive team in building a bank that puts customers' interests first and embeds sustainable banking into everything that we do. I took over as Chairman of the Committee after the 2014 AGM having served as a member since 2013. My thanks go to the Committee members and attendees for their support and, in particular my predecessor Sandy Crombie for his commitment in steering the work of the Committee. There are significant challenges ahead, but I am confident that we will continue to build on the work that has already been done to embed sustainability into the strategic priorities of RBS.

Penny Hughes  
Chairman of the Sustainable Banking Committee  
25 February 2015

# Report of the Sustainable Banking Committee

## Report of the Sustainable Banking Committee

### Meetings

The Sustainable Banking Committee held six scheduled Committee meetings in 2014 in addition to six stakeholder engagements sessions. Both were attended by senior representatives from the customer-facing divisions as well as Human Resources, Sustainability, Risk, Conduct and Regulatory Affairs, Communications and Marketing, Strategy and Corporate Services. The Chairman of the Board regularly attends the meetings as well as internal and external specialists who are invited to join for specific items.

### Stakeholder engagement sessions

In addition to ongoing engagement which takes place across our business each day, the Sustainable Banking Committee runs a proactive engagement programme to which we invite external stakeholders to meet with, and challenge, the most senior decision makers in RBS. These discussions help shape future policies, influence strategic priorities and inform decision making across RBS and will continue to play a key role. To date we have met with over 40 different groups of NGOs, civil society groups, government bodies, consumer groups and investors in this way. In particular, in 2014 we held six such stakeholder engagement sessions covering the following topics:

- Fair Banking with particular emphasis on how well RBS serves low income customers
- Privacy and the need to balance security against the employee right to privacy
- Climate Change including the latest science on the predicted physical and humanitarian impacts
- Supporting Enterprise and in particular how well RBS supports international trade
- Sustainability priorities of the investment community
- Employee Engagement with focus on people strategy, employee sentiment and balanced leadership

In addition, the programme of UK-based events aimed at individual shareholders continued in 2014 and provided an opportunity for shareholders to meet directors and senior management to learn more about the business.

### Membership

The Sustainable Banking Committee comprises three independent non-executive directors. During the year, new member Robert Gillespie joined existing member Alison Davis, and Penny Hughes took over from Sandy Crombie as Chairman after the AGM. The Chairman and members of the Committee, together with their attendance at meetings, are shown below.

	Attended/ scheduled
Penny Hughes (Chairman) (1)	5/6
Alison Davis	6/6
Robert Gillespie (2)	5/5
Former member Sandy Crombie (3)	3/3

#### Notes:

- (1) Appointed Chairman of the Committee on 25 June 2014.  
(2) Appointed to the Committee with effect from 1 April 2014.  
(3) Stepped down from the Committee on 25 June 2014.

## Performance evaluation

An internal review of the effectiveness of the Sustainable Banking Committee took place in 2014 and overall the review concluded that the Committee continued to operate effectively. In particular, the stakeholder engagement sessions were regarded as a valuable opportunity to learn how well RBS is aligned to external sustainability priorities and these will continue in 2015. Another key focus will be to embed the changes made in 2014 to the strategic direction of the Committee.

## Role and responsibilities of the Sustainable Banking Committee

The Sustainable Banking Committee is responsible for overseeing and challenging how management is addressing sustainable banking and reputation issues, considering the long term interests of all stakeholder groups.

Authority is delegated to the Sustainable Banking Committee by the Board and the Committee reports and makes recommendations to the Board as required. The terms of reference of the Committee are available on the RBS website [rbs.com](http://rbs.com) and these are reviewed annually and approved by the Board. A report on the activities of the Committee in fulfilling its responsibilities is provided to the Board following each meeting. The principal responsibilities of the Committee are shown below grouped under its three core themes of work: Bank-wide Reputation and Trust; Serving Customers; and Sustainability/Emerging Issues.

### Bank-wide Reputation and Trust led by the Chief Executive

Oversight of:

- Management of reputation and delivery of commitments on trust, advocacy and customer service
- Reputational challenges relating to people agenda including embedding of values and cultural change activity
- Development of brand strategy in line with, RBS's purpose, vision and values
- Sustainable growth of business and measures taken to support economic development and how banks can better serve society
- Community programmes and employee engagement in charitable partnerships

### Serving Customers led by business leaders

- Provide challenge on how well RBS is integrating sustainable banking into its business strategy and what is being done to foster a sustainable business for customers
- Receive reports on key reputational risks relating to customer priorities and performance against customer commitments
- Consider product sustainability, transparency and fairness
- Receive reports on how RBS is supporting SMEs and oversee the approach to responsible lending and financial inclusion

### Sustainability/Emerging Issues led by the Chief Sustainability Officer

- Oversight of Environmental, Social and Ethical risk policies
- Engage with key internal and external stakeholder groups on emerging sustainability issues
- Approve the annual Sustainability Report and receive the external auditors assurance report
- Oversee priorities, targets and reputational challenges on key emerging sustainable banking issues and consider best practice benchmarking

# Directors' Remuneration Report

## Annual Statement from Sandy Crombie Chairman of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee



Dear Shareholder,

I became Chairman of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee with effect from the 2014 AGM having served as a member since 2009. I would like to thank my predecessor, Penny Hughes, for her leadership of the Committee over the past four years.

The Committee must balance the views of our stakeholders with our duty to reward our people fairly, and our responsibility to ensure that we are running a commercial business with the best available talent. We will do our utmost to make balanced decisions and to explain our approach to our many stakeholders.

I believe we are making genuine progress. RBS has been at the leading edge of reform in bringing down how much we pay and changing the structure of how pay is delivered. Over the last five years bonus pools have fallen by around two thirds across RBS and by nearly 90% within the investment bank. Last year we introduced a simplified pay structure for our executive directors with annual bonuses being discontinued. This means that their variable pay will be delivered entirely in long-term incentive awards, aligning executive directors' pay more than ever to shareholder value over the long term.

Our current Directors' Remuneration Policy was approved at the 2014 AGM with over 99% of shareholders voting in favour. No changes are being made to the policy at this time. This letter and the accompanying report aim to demonstrate the context in which decisions have been made, the decisions reached for the 2014 performance year and how the Committee intends to approach the year ahead.

### Context for our decisions

Last year we set out a new strategy that stated our ambition to become the best bank in the UK for customer service, trust and advocacy by 2020. A remuneration policy that supports our business strategy is an essential part of rebuilding a successful and trusted RBS. We made good progress in 2014. Total pay costs and pay per employee have been reduced, while we have been establishing a platform to deliver good customer outcomes and sustainable returns to shareholders. There is a clear need for management to keep the franchise intact while moving the business towards a more normal and stable position. The Committee's decisions aim to support this process.

One of the main changes during 2014 is that RBS is now operating in a framework that limits variable pay to no more than the level of fixed pay. This change is in line with the views of our majority shareholder, UK Financial Investments (UKFI). Often referred to as the 'bonus cap', this limit applies to all employees who are considered to be Material Risk Takers (MRTs) under regulatory requirements, a population that has increased significantly in line with enhanced criteria from the European Banking Authority (EBA). For the majority of these employees, no changes have been required to their remuneration arrangements.

Role-based allowances have been introduced as an additional element of fixed pay for some MRTs in line with market practice. Allowances for members of the Executive Committee are delivered entirely in shares and are subject to a retention period. Increases in fixed pay have been balanced by longer vesting periods for long term incentives and an overall reduction in the maximum compensation available.

In accordance with Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) requirements, we have updated our clawback policy. Any variable pay awarded to MRTs from 1 January 2015 will be subject to clawback for seven years from the date of award. Clawback is the recovery of awards that have vested and been paid to employees. Malus allows the Committee to reduce awards (if appropriate to zero) prior to payment taking place. RBS has operated malus for a number of years. The new clawback requirements, together with malus, provide greater scope for the Committee to recover remuneration where new information indicates we should change the pay decisions made in previous years and it is no longer appropriate to make payments at the level originally awarded.

Malus has been applied as part of our accountability review process in light of the fines imposed on RBS by regulators relating to misconduct in foreign exchange trading (FX) and the IT incident that occurred in 2012. The Committee fully appreciates the impact such events have on shareholders and customers. It is only right that this should be reflected in remuneration outcomes for those whose conduct fell short of our standards.

In addition to direct action against specific employees under the accountability review process, significant deductions to bonus pools have been made for material conduct events. This includes deductions for LIBOR, the IT incident and for the FX events. The Committee believes this process strikes an appropriate balance with a significant adjustment being made to bonus pools as a targeted measure to change behaviour, while not disproportionately penalising employees who are not responsible for these events.

It has taken much longer than anyone anticipated to turn the corner on past problems, practices and related fines but a significant amount of remedial action has already been undertaken. A clear message has been sent to employees that there is no place for any misconduct at RBS and wrongdoers will be dealt with. There is a determination to develop and maintain a culture that reflects our commitment to the customer and ethical market practices.

# Directors' Remuneration Report

## Performance considerations for 2014

2014 has been a year of achievement against a difficult agenda. We are delivering on our plan to make RBS a smaller, safer bank. Citizens Financial Group, Inc. (CFG) was successfully launched on the New York stock exchange in the biggest bank flotation in US history. Once the remaining stake in the CFG business is sold this will further strengthen our capital position. RBS Capital Resolution (RCR) has managed to accelerate the planned removal of assets from our balance sheet contributing c. 110 basis points to the improvement in the CET1 ratio.

Our financial results show that, underneath the conduct issues, litigation and restructuring charges, there are strong customer franchises that are geared towards delivering sustainable returns for investors. The signs of improvement are there in customer feedback, our capital strength and reduced costs. All of these factors have been considered by the Committee in seeking to make objective decisions. Some key messages for 2014 are as follows:

- Operating profit is up significantly to £3.5 billion from a £7.5 billion loss in 2013
- Attributable loss to ordinary and B shareholders of £3.5 billion which includes the loss provision of £4 billion associated with the decision to divest CFG
- Cost reduction of £1.1 billion, excluding the effect of currency movements, which has exceeded the target
- Staff compensation has reduced year on year at both the total and per employee levels
- CET1 ratio has improved over the year from 8.6% to 11.2%
- RCR run off - assets have been reduced by £14 billion and RWA equivalents have reduced by £38 billion
- RBS Total Shareholder Return (TSR) performance in 2014 has been ahead of other UK banks and the FTSE100 index
- In 2014, we have seen some positive Net Promoter Score movements in some of our franchises and there are early signs that customer trust in RBS is stabilising and starting to improve

## Pay decisions for our wider workforce

The pressures on people working at RBS are considerable. We need to recognise good results by those employees who serve our customers well and deliver excellent individual performance. Having engaged employees and improving RBS as a place to work is critical if we are to achieve our long-term ambitions.

The Committee has an important role in helping to create a compelling employee proposition. During 2014, RBS became a fully accredited Living Wage employer. RBS has been an accredited Living Wage employer in London since 2010 and we are pleased to be extending that commitment to our operations and suppliers in the rest of the UK. Some other key decisions are set out below:

- The average annual salary increase amongst our core population of employees in 2015 will be 2%, up from 2014, whereas it will be less than 1% across the most senior RBS employees.
- The bonus pool has fallen from a total of £576 million last year (£536 million excluding CFG) to £421 million excluding CFG in 2014, a reduction of 21% excluding CFG or a 27% overall reduction. Over 90% of this pool will be directed to those below the most senior RBS employees. The Corporate & Institutional Banking (CIB) bonus pool is 53% lower than 2013.

- The bonus pool represents 6% of operating profit (excluding CFG and before variable compensation expense, conduct, litigation and restructuring charges and other one-off items).
- Where employees do receive a bonus, the average amounts remain relatively modest with 51% of employees receiving £2,000 or less and a further 22% receiving less than £5,000.
- Bonus awards above £2,000 are subject to deferral requirements and the Committee approved a 2014 deferral structure for higher earners and MRTs that exceeds current regulatory requirements.

These decisions aim to strike a difficult balance where pay is restrained in a market context but remains at sufficient levels to reward those employees who are building the future franchise. The intention is to demonstrate that good performance and a continuous focus on the right behaviours will be rewarded, while reflecting the impact on all stakeholders of conduct events in the reduction of specific bonus pools.

## Pay decisions for executive directors

- No changes to remuneration policy.
- Salary, pension and benefit funding unchanged in 2015.
- Performance measures for long-term incentive awards to be granted in 2015 follow the criteria that applied to awards made in 2014 but incorporating Trust in the Customers & People measure.
- Reflecting a desire from shareholders for longer timescales, the overall vesting period for future long-term incentive awards has been extended from three to five years.

## Considerations for the year ahead

The report sets out how pay arrangements will be implemented in the year ahead including the performance targets that will apply to the long-term incentive awards granted in 2015. An overview of our remuneration policy below Board level can be found in the 'Other Remuneration Disclosures' section that follows this report.

The regulatory environment continues to evolve. Further guidance is expected during 2015 from the EBA on the use of allowances as well as the outcome of the PRA's consultation on extending deferral periods. The Committee also intends to undertake a review of the broader aspects of employee remuneration at RBS during the course of the year.

I would like to conclude by thanking my fellow Committee members and those who support the Committee for their guidance and commitment over the year. I have no doubt we will be responding in 2015 to further developments in remuneration principles and practices. Shareholders continue to have a vital role in developing responsible pay practices and I look forward to working closely with all our stakeholders in the year ahead.

Sandy Crombie  
Chairman of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee  
25 February 2015



# Directors' Remuneration Report

## Executive director outcomes for 2014 and implementation in 2015

### Remuneration in 2014 (£000s)

	Ross McEwan	Ewen Stevenson (1)
Salary	1,000	497
Benefits (2)	143	16
Pension allowance	350	174
Fixed share allowance	—	497
Bonus	—	—
Long-term Incentive Plan vesting (3)	358	—
Other award (4)	—	1,911
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,851</b>	<b>3,095</b>

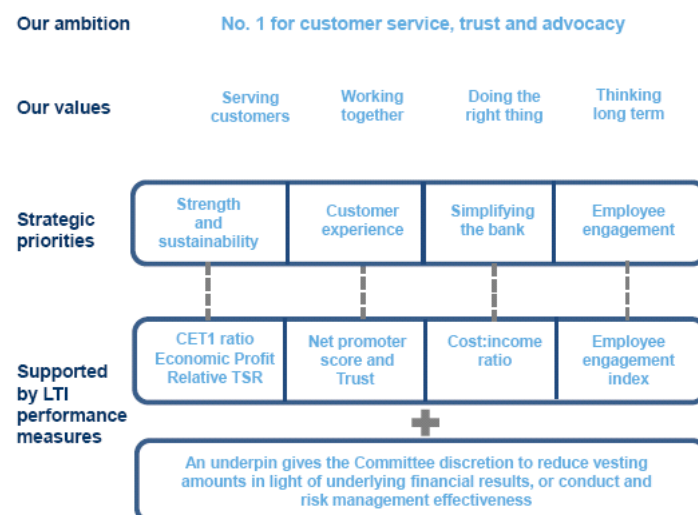
#### Notes:

- (1) Joined on 19 May 2014.  
 (2) Amount for Ross McEwan includes standard benefit funding and relocation benefits.  
 (3) Amount relates to a share award made to replace awards forfeited on leaving Commonwealth Bank of Australia, which was granted subject to RBS performance conditions.  
 (4) Amount relates to a share award made to replace awards forfeited on leaving Credit Suisse.

### Implementation of policy for 2015

- Details of remuneration arrangements for 2015 are set out in the implementation of policy section on page 82.
- Variable pay will consist of a long-term incentive award (LTI) with performance conditions that are designed to be stretching and support delivery of the business strategy.
- LTI performance conditions will be assessed over three years with any vesting taking place in equal tranches in years four and five.
- Malus and clawback provisions will apply for an overall period of seven years from the date of grant.

## Linking remuneration to the business strategy



Full details of the LTI performance conditions are set out on page 83.

## Directors' Remuneration Policy

### Directors' Remuneration Policy

The full Directors' Remuneration Policy, as approved by shareholders at the AGM on 25 June 2014, is available at [rbs.tn/complianceandrem](http://rbs.tn/complianceandrem) and no changes are proposed that would require shareholder approval. An extract of the policy with certain updates to ensure it is relevant for the current year is set out below for ease of reference. In the event of any conflict, the approved policy on [rbs.com](http://rbs.com) takes precedence over the information set out in this section.

#### Fixed pay elements for executive directors (EDs)

Fixed pay elements are intended to provide a level of competitive remuneration for performing the role with less reliance on variable pay in order to discourage excessive risk-taking and with partial delivery in shares to align with long-term shareholder value.

Element of pay	Purpose and link to strategy	Operation	Maximum potential value	Performance metrics and period
Base salary	To aid recruitment and retention of high performing individuals whilst paying no more than is necessary. To provide a competitive level of fixed cash remuneration, reflecting the skills and experience required, and to discourage excessive risk-taking.	<p>Paid monthly and reviewed annually.</p> <p>The rates for 2015 are as follows: Chief Executive - £1,000,000 Chief Financial Officer - £800,000</p> <p>Further details on remuneration arrangements for the year ahead are set out in the annual report on remuneration.</p>	<p>Determined annually.</p> <p>Any future salary increases will be considered against peer companies and will not normally be greater than the average salary increase for RBS employees over the period of the policy.</p>	n/a
Fixed share allowance	To provide fixed pay that reflects the skills and experience required for the role. This will be delivered in shares which must be retained for the long term.	<p>A fixed allowance, paid entirely in shares. Individuals will receive shares that vest immediately subject to any deductions required for tax purposes and a retention period will apply. Shares will be released from the retention period in equal tranches over a five year period. The fixed share allowance will broadly be paid in arrears, currently in two instalments per year. For 2015, the instalments will be paid in August and December.<sup>(1)</sup></p>	<p>An award of shares with an annual value of up to 100% of salary at the time of award.</p> <p>The fixed share allowance is not pensionable.</p>	n/a
Benefits	To provide a range of flexible and market competitive benefits to further aid recruitment and retention of key individuals.	<p>A set level of funding is provided and EDs can select from a range of benefits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Company car</li> <li>• Private medical insurance</li> <li>• Life assurance</li> <li>• Ill health income protection</li> </ul> <p>Also entitled to use of a car and driver on company business and standard benefits such as holiday and sick pay.</p> <p>Further benefits including allowances when relocating from overseas may be provided to secure the most suitable candidate for the role.</p>	<p>Set level of funding for benefits (currently £26,250) which is subject to review.</p> <p>Further benefits such as relocation allowances and other benefits (e.g. tax advice, housing and flight allowances and payment of legal fees) may be offered in line with market practice.</p> <p>The value of benefits paid will be disclosed each year in the annual report on remuneration.</p>	n/a
Pension	To encourage planning for retirement and long-term savings.	Provision of a monthly cash pension allowance based on a percentage of salary. Opportunity to participate in a defined contribution pension scheme.	Pension allowance of 35% of salary.	n/a

Note:

(1) The company believes that delivery in shares is the most appropriate construct for a fixed allowance to executive directors, qualifying as fixed remuneration for the requirements imposed under CRD IV. If regulatory requirements emerge that prohibit allowances being delivered in shares, or deem that such allowances will not qualify as fixed remuneration, then the company reserves the right to provide the value of the allowance in cash instead in order to comply with the requirements.

## Directors' Remuneration Policy

### Variable pay

Variable pay is intended to incentivise superior long-term performance and promote the success of RBS, with rewards aligned with shareholders and adjusted for risk, based on the achievement of stretching performance measures.

Element of pay	Purpose and link to strategy	Operation	Maximum potential value	Performance metrics and period
Variable pay award (long-term incentive)	<p>To support a culture where good performance against a full range of measures will be rewarded. To incentivise the delivery of stretching targets in line with the Strategic Plan. The selection of performance metrics will be closely aligned with Key Performance Indicators.</p> <p>Performance is assessed against a range of financial and non-financial measures to encourage superior long-term value creation for shareholders.</p> <p>Delivery in shares with the ability to apply malus adjustments and clawback further supports longer-term alignment with shareholders.</p>	<p>Any variable pay award made will be delivered in the form of a long-term incentive, paid in shares (or in other instruments if required by regulators) and subject to a combination of time and performance-based vesting requirements.</p> <p>A minimum three year performance period will apply. The award will have an overall five year vest period, vesting in equal tranches in years four and five.</p> <p>As a minimum, shares will be subject to retention periods as required under the PRA and Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) Remuneration Code.</p> <p>Provisions for malus adjustment of unvested awards and clawback of vested awards.</p> <p>The long-term incentive award will be delivered under the RBS 2014 Employee Share Plan, as approved by shareholders at the 2014 AGM.</p>	<p>The maximum level of award is subject to any limit on the ratio of variable to fixed pay as required by regulators. This currently limits variable pay to the level of fixed pay (i.e. base salary, fixed share allowance, benefits and pension). A higher ratio, up to 200% of fixed pay, is possible with shareholder approval. RBS is not seeking any such approval at the 2015 AGM.</p> <p>For these purposes awards will be valued in line with the EBA rules, including any available discount for long-term deferral.</p> <p>In addition to the regulatory ratio which currently limits variable pay to the level of fixed pay, awards for executive directors are subject to a maximum of 300% of base salary<sup>(1)</sup>.</p> <p>The vesting level of the award could vary between 0% and 100% dependent on the achievement of performance conditions. Between 20% - 25% will vest at threshold for each performance measure.</p>	<p>Any award made will be subject to performance conditions measured over a minimum three year period.</p> <p>Typical measures may fall under the following categories (weighted 25% each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Profit</li> <li>• Relative TSR</li> <li>• Safe and Secure Bank</li> <li>• Customers and People</li> </ul> <p>An underpin gives the Committee discretion to reduce vesting amounts in light of underlying financial results, or conduct and risk management effectiveness.</p> <p>These or similar measures and weightings will be applied to reflect the strategy going forward.</p> <p>Details of the performance measures for awards to be granted in 2015 are set out as part of the implementation of remuneration policy on page 83.</p>

Note:

(1) Adjustments will be made to award levels where necessary to ensure that executive directors remain within the variable to fixed limit.

### Other pay elements

Element of pay	Purpose and link to strategy	Operation	Maximum potential value	Performance metrics and period
Shareholding requirements	To ensure EDs build and continue to hold a significant shareholding to align interests with shareholders.	<p>A period of five years is allowed in which to build up shareholdings to meet the required levels.</p> <p>Any unvested share awards are excluded in the calculation.</p>	<p>Chief Executive – 250% of salary.</p> <p>Chief Financial Officer - 125% of salary.</p> <p>Requirements may be reviewed and increased in future.</p>	n/a

# Directors' Remuneration Policy

## Notes to policy table

- The Committee sets stretching performance targets taking into account the company's business strategy, financial forecasts and wider non-financial metrics. The performance conditions for variable pay awards made to EDs have been chosen to promote the building of a safer, stronger and more sustainable business. The Committee agrees the performance conditions each year after consultation with major shareholders.
- The Committee recognises the importance of alignment with shareholders through the use of shareholding requirements, a longer vesting period for long-term incentive awards and retention periods post vesting. Upon leaving, any outstanding share awards held by 'good leavers' will vest, normally on the original vesting dates, and shares from the fixed share allowance will continue to be released over the applicable five year retention period in order to ensure former EDs maintain an appropriate interest in RBS shares.
- Remuneration for EDs broadly follows the policy for all employees but with a significant element delivered in shares and an appropriate proportion delivered through variable performance-related pay. This is to ensure that total remuneration to EDs is more aligned with the long-term interests of shareholders and dependent on specific performance measures being met.

## Malus and Clawback

An accountability review process is operated that allows the Committee to respond in instances where new information would change the variable pay decisions made in previous years and/or the decisions to be made in the current year. As a result, malus can be applied to reduce (if appropriate to zero) the amount of any variable pay awards prior to payment taking place. Clawback provisions can also be applied to require repayment of any amounts already paid. Malus and clawback can be applied to current and former employees.

RBS has applied malus provisions to variable pay awards since 2009 and added clawback provisions to awards made in 2014 for a period of six months from the date of any vesting. Any variable pay awards granted to EDs and other MRTs after 1 January 2015 will be subject to clawback provisions for a period of seven years from the date of grant, in line with new requirements under the PRA/FCA Remuneration Code.

There are a number of trigger events under which malus and clawback will be considered including:

- the individual participating in or being responsible for conduct which results in significant losses for RBS;
- the individual failing to meet appropriate standards of fitness and propriety;
- reasonable evidence of an individual's misbehaviour or material error; and
- RBS or the individual's relevant business unit suffering a material failure of risk management.

Further details can be found on page 92.

## Consideration of employment conditions elsewhere in the company

The Committee retains oversight of remuneration policy for all employees to ensure there is a fair and consistent approach throughout the organisation. The broader policy uses deferral, malus and clawback to promote effective risk management and alignment with shareholders. Further details of our remuneration policy for all employees are set out on page 91.

Any salary increases for EDs will not normally be greater than the average increase for RBS employees. While employees are not directly consulted on setting directors' remuneration, consultation on remuneration generally takes place with our social partners, including representatives from UNITE. In November 2014, RBS became a fully accredited Living Wage employer. RBS has been an accredited Living Wage employer in London since 2010 and this commitment has been extended to our operations and suppliers in the rest of the UK.

An annual employee opinion survey takes place which includes a number of questions on pay and culture. This includes questions on how pay is determined and evaluated, including the need to consider both 'what' and 'how' outcomes have been achieved, and whether employees believe they are paid fairly for the work they do.

Around 30,000 of our employees are shareholders through our incentive and all-employee share plans and have the ability to express their views through voting on the Directors' Remuneration Report.

## Discretion

The Committee has certain discretions that allow it, in appropriate circumstances, to vary the remuneration provided to EDs and other employees. For example, under the rules of the RBS 2014 Employee Share Plan, the Committee can: determine that awards should vest even where this treatment would not apply as standard under the rules; decide to vest earlier than the normal vesting date; and vary the pro-rating for time elapsed that would normally apply. Such discretions would only be used in exceptional circumstances to ensure a fair outcome for the relevant individual and for shareholders, taking into account the circumstances of departure, the performance of the individual and the need to ensure an orderly transition.

Further discretions include the ability to: treat awards in a range of ways in the event of a change of control; change measures, targets, and adjust awards if major events occur (for example transaction and capital raisings); and make administrative changes to the plan rules.

In addition, the Committee retains discretion to apply malus and clawback to awards and also to adjust the vesting outcome in relation to certain long-term incentive awards through the application of an underpin.



## Directors' Remuneration Policy

### Remuneration policy for the Chairman and non-executive directors

Element of pay	Purpose and link to strategy	Operation	Maximum potential value	Performance metrics and period
Fees	<p>To provide a competitive level of fixed remuneration that reflects the skills, experience and time commitment required for the role.</p> <p>No variable pay is provided so that the Chairman and non-executive directors can maintain appropriate independence, focus on long-term decision making and constructively challenge performance of the executive directors.</p>	<p>Fees are paid monthly.</p> <p>The level of remuneration reflects their responsibility and time commitment and the level of fees paid to directors of comparable major UK companies.</p> <p>The Chairman and non-executive directors do not participate in any incentive or performance plan. Fees are reviewed regularly.</p>	<p>The rates for the year ahead are set out in the annual report on remuneration on page 82.</p> <p>Any future increases to fees will be considered against directors at comparable companies and will not normally be greater than the average inflation rate over the period under review, taking into account that any change in responsibilities, role or time commitment may merit a larger increase.</p> <p>Additional fees may be paid for new Board Committees provided these are not greater than fees payable for the existing Board Committees as detailed in the annual report on remuneration.</p>	n/a
Benefits	Any benefits offered would be in line with market practice.	Reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in performance of duties. The Chairman also receives private medical cover in line with the scheme rules.	The value of the private medical cover provided to the Chairman will be in line with market rates and disclosed in the annual report on remuneration.	n/a

### Recruitment remuneration policy

- The approach to recruitment of directors is to consider both internal and external candidates and to pay no more than is required to attract the most suitable candidate for the role.
- The policy on the recruitment of new directors aims to structure pay in line with the framework and quantum applicable to current directors, taking into account that some variation may be necessary to secure the preferred candidate.
- Consideration will be given to the skills and experience held by the individual being recruited as well as the incumbent's position.
- No sign-on awards or payments will be offered over and above the normal buy-out policy to replace awards forfeited or payments foregone. The Committee will seek to minimise buy-outs wherever possible and will seek to ensure they are no more generous than, and on substantially similar terms to, the original awards or payments they are replacing.
- The maximum level of variable pay which may be granted to new executive directors is the same as that applicable to existing executive directors, excluding any buy-out arrangements. The Chairman and non-executive directors do not receive variable pay.

### Recruitment of Ewen Stevenson during 2014

Ewen Stevenson was appointed to the Board as Chief Financial Officer on 19 May 2014. His annual remuneration arrangements on appointment were as follows:

Salary	£800,000
Fixed share allowance	£800,000
Pension allowance	£280,000
Benefit funding	£26,250
Total fixed remuneration	<u>£1,906,250</u>

Maximum variable pay (long-term incentive award) is calculated in line with the ratio limiting variable to fixed remuneration, including the EBA discount for long-term deferral, with the first award due to be made in March 2015. Further details are set out in the implementation of policy section on page 82.

An award over 584,506 shares was made on Ewen's appointment to replace awards he forfeited on leaving Credit Suisse. The award is eligible to vest between March 2015 and March 2017 on terms that are no more generous than the terms of the awards they have replaced.

## Directors' Remuneration Policy

### Service contracts and policy on payments for loss of office – directors

Provision	Policy	Details
Payments for loss of office	Payment in lieu of notice only	<p>If either party wishes to terminate an executive director's service contract they are required to give 12 months' notice to the other party.</p> <p>The service contracts do not contain any pre-determined provisions for compensation on termination. The service contracts give RBS the discretion to make a payment in lieu of notice, which is based on salary only (with no payment in respect of any other benefits, pension or fixed share allowances) and is released in monthly instalments. During the period when instalments are being paid, the executive director must take all reasonable steps to find alternative work and any remaining instalments will be reduced as appropriate to offset income from any such work.</p>
Treatment of annual and long-term incentives on termination	Treatment in line with the relevant plan rules as approved by shareholders	<p>Existing annual incentive awards under the Deferral Plan will not normally lapse on termination, unless termination is for Cause (as defined in the rules of the Deferral Plan). The awards will normally continue to vest on the original vesting dates, subject to provisions regarding malus, clawback, competitive activity and detrimental activity as appropriate.</p> <p>Existing long-term incentive awards normally lapse on leaving unless the termination is for one of a limited number of specified 'good leaver' reasons or the Committee exercises its discretion to prevent lapsing. The Committee may exercise this discretion where it believes this is an appropriate outcome in light of the contribution of the participant and shareholders' interests. Where awards do not lapse on termination, any vesting will normally take place on the original vesting dates subject to the performance conditions being met and pro-rating to reflect the proportion of the period that has elapsed at the date of termination. Malus and clawback provisions may also apply in accordance with policy.</p>
Fixed share allowances	Treatment in line with the plan rules as approved by shareholders	Any shares already received under fixed share allowances will not be forfeited on termination but must continue to be held for the original retention periods. The fixed share allowance will continue to accrue for the period up to cessation of employment.
Other provisions	Standard contractual terms in line with market practice	Contracts include standard clauses covering remuneration arrangements and discretionary incentive plans (as set out in the main policy table above), reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in performance of duties, redundancy terms and sickness absence, the performance review process, the disciplinary procedure and terms for dismissal in the event of personal underperformance or breaches of RBS policies.
Other payments	Discretionary	The Committee retains the discretion to make payments (including but not limited to professional and outplacement fees) to mitigate against legal claims, subject to any payments being made pursuant to a settlement or release agreement.
Provisions for non-executive directors (NEDs) and the Chairman		<p>NEDs do not have service contracts or notice periods although they have letters of engagement reflecting their responsibilities and time commitments. No compensation would be paid to any NED in the event of termination of appointment.</p> <p><a href="#">Arrangements for the Chairman</a></p> <p>Philip Hampton is entitled to receive a cash payment in lieu of notice of 12 months' fees in the event that his appointment is terminated as a result of the majority shareholder seeking to effect the termination of his appointment, or if RBS terminates his appointment without good reason, or if his re-election is not approved by shareholders at a General Meeting resulting in the termination of his appointment.</p>

In accordance with the provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code, all directors of the company stand for election or re-election annually by shareholders at the company's Annual General Meetings. Neither of the current executive directors hold a non-executive director role at another company.

# Annual report on remuneration

## Annual report on remuneration

### Total remuneration paid to directors for 2014

The sections audited by the company's auditors, Deloitte LLP, are as indicated.

### Total remuneration for executive directors (audited)

	Current directors				Former director	
	Ross McEwan (1)		Ewen Stevenson (2)		Nathan Bostock (3)	
	2014 £000s	2013 £000s	2014 £000s	2013 £000s	2014 £000s	2013 £000s
Salary	1,000	250	497	—	313	191
Fixed share allowance	—	—	497	—	—	—
Benefits (4)	143	40	16	—	11	7
Pension	350	88	174	—	109	67
Annual bonus	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long-term Incentive Plan (LTIP) (5)	358	—	—	—	—	—
Other awards (6)	—	—	1,911	—	—	—
<b>Total remuneration</b>	<b>1,851</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>3,095</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>265</b>

#### Notes:

- (1) Ross McEwan's remuneration for 2013 reflected his service from appointment to the Board on 1 October to 31 December 2013.
- (2) Ewen Stevenson was appointed to the Board on 19 May 2014 and the table reflects his remuneration for the period since appointment.
- (3) Nathan Bostock joined the Board on 1 October 2013 and stepped down from the Board on 28 May 2014. See page 84 for details of termination arrangements.
- (4) Benefits figure includes standard benefit funding of £26,250 per annum with the remainder being relocation expenses provided to Ross McEwan.
- (5) The value for Ross McEwan relates to an award made on appointment to his previous role as CEO UK Retail to replace awards forfeited on leaving Commonwealth Bank of Australia. This element of the award was subject to RBS performance conditions which ended on 31 December 2014 and have been assessed as set out below.
- (6) The amount shown for Ewen Stevenson relates to an award made on appointment to replace the value of awards forfeited on leaving Credit Suisse. The award was delivered entirely in shares and subject to deferral, on terms that are no more generous than the terms of the awards replaced.

### LTIP vesting amount included in the total remuneration table above (audited)

Ross McEwan was granted an award on joining RBS in 2012 to replace part of the awards forfeited on leaving Commonwealth Bank of Australia. This element was subject to RBS performance conditions over a three year period. Given his change in role over the period, this has resulted in a weighting of 50% being based on the performance of the Retail franchise and 50% based on RBS-wide measures. As the award does not vest until August 2015, an indicative share price has been used to estimate the vesting value.

Number of shares under award	Vesting outcome for RBS measures (1)	Vesting outcome for Retail measures (2)	Final vesting outcome (weighted 50:50)	Number of shares to vest in August 2015	Average share price October – December 2014	Value for total remuneration table above
130,841	61.5%	84.2%	72.85%	95,318	£3.76	£358,396

#### Notes:

- (1) This element follows the performance conditions applicable to the overall RBS-wide measures for the 2012 LTIP awards and the assessment is detailed on page 85.
- (2) The performance measures applicable for UK Retail were based on: Financial targets (weighted 50%) covering risk weighted assets, nominal assets, loan:deposit ratio, notional return on equity, operating profit, cost:income ratio; Customer measures (weighted 10%); People measures (weighted 10%); and Risk measures (weighted 30%). All financial targets were deemed to have been met in full with the customer, people and risk measures ranked as partially met. The Committee also considered recommendations from the Board Risk Committee in determining the final outcome.

### Share plan interests awarded under the LTIP during 2014 (audited)

	Grant date	Face value of award (£000)	Number of shares awarded	% that would vest at threshold and maximum	Performance requirements
Ross McEwan (1)	7 March 2014	3,000	915,193	Vesting between 0% - 100% with 20% vesting at threshold for the TSR measure and 25% vesting at threshold for the Economic Profit measure.	Conditional share awards subject to stretching performance conditions covering Economic Profit, Relative Total Shareholder Return, Safe & Secure Bank and Customers & People. Performance measured over a three year period. See page 85 for further details.
Ewen Stevenson (2)	19 May 2014	1,911	584,506	Award made on appointment to replace the value of awards forfeited on leaving Credit Suisse. The shares are deferred over a similar time period as the awards replaced and subject to employment, malus and clawback provisions. No threshold vesting applies.	

#### Notes:

- (1) The number of shares awarded is based on a multiple of salary and an award price of £3.278 calculated based on the average share price over five business days prior to the grant date.
- (2) The number of shares is based on the value of awards replaced and an award price of £3.270 calculated based on the average share price over five business days prior to the grant date.

# Annual report on remuneration

## Chairman and non-executive directors' remuneration for 2014 (audited)

Remuneration of non-executive directors, excluding the Chairman, was reviewed in 2014. In light of the increased activity of the Nominations Committee, and after consideration of comparable fees paid to directors of other major UK banks, it was agreed that fees for membership of the Nominations Committee should be increased from £5,500 to £10,000 per annum with effect from 1 April 2014. An additional Board Committee was also established to oversee RBS Capital Resolution and the implementation of its strategy. The fees paid during 2014 are set out below.

	Board and Committee fees £000s	Benefits and other fees £000s	2014 Total £000s	2013 Total £000s
Philip Hampton (1)	750	1	751	751
Sandy Crombie	213	—	213	186
Alison Davis	141	—	141	132
Morten Friis (2)	112	—	112	—
Robert Gillespie (3)	149	35	184	7
Penny Hughes	178	—	178	154
Brendan Nelson	183	—	183	164
Baroness Noakes	186	—	186	136

## Former non-executive directors

Tony Di Iorio (4)	34	11	45	136
Philip Scott (5)	125	—	125	164

### Notes

- (1) Philip Hampton is entitled to private medical cover and the value is shown in the benefits column.
- (2) Morten Friis was appointed to the Board with effect from 10 April 2014.
- (3) Robert Gillespie is the RBS nominated director of Citizens Financial Group, Inc. (CFG) and is entitled to fees for the period from 1 August 2014 to 31 December 2014. As part of the compensation plan for directors agreed on the IPO of the business in September 2014, Mr Gillespie is also entitled to restricted stock units in CFG which will vest on the date of the CFG AGM in 2015. The value of the fees and restricted stock is shown in the Benefits and other fees column, converted using an average exchange rate during 2014 of \$1.647:£1.
- (4) Tony Di Iorio became a non-executive director of CFG on 15 January 2014 and the value of fees received for the period to 26 March 2014, the date he retired from the RBS Board, is shown in the Benefits and other fees column, converted using an average exchange rate during 2014 of \$1.647:£1.
- (5) Philip Scott stepped down from the Board on 31 October 2014.

## Implementation of remuneration policy in 2015

The information below sets out how RBS intends to implement the policy in 2015. No changes have been made to the underlying policy.

### Executive directors

	Salary	Benefits	Pension 35% of salary	Fixed Share Allowance 100% of salary (1)	Long-term incentive award (LTI) calculated in line with regulatory cap (2)
Chief Executive	£1,000,000	£26,250 (3)	£350,000	£1,000,000	£1,559,810
Chief Financial Officer	£800,000	£26,250	£280,000	£800,000	£2,160,000

### Notes:

- (1) Fixed Share Allowance will be payable broadly in arrears and the shares will be released in equal tranches over a five year period.
- (2) The LTI that can be awarded in 2015 is limited to the level of fixed remuneration, on an annualised basis where appropriate. The value at grant incorporates the discount factor for long-term deferral calculated in line with European Banking Authority rules and results in a maximum LTI value of approximately 113% of fixed remuneration.
- (3) Also receives relocation benefits which include housing and flight allowances, the value of which is disclosed each year in the total remuneration table.

## Chairman and non-executive directors' fees

Chairman	£750,000
Non-executive Director Group Board	£72,500
Senior Independent Director (SID)	£30,000
Membership of: Group Audit Committee (GAC), Board Risk Committee (BRC), Group Performance and Remuneration Committee (RemCo) and Sustainable Banking Committee (SBC)	£30,000
Additional fee for Chairman of the GAC, BRC, RemCo or SBC	£30,000
Membership of the RCR Board Oversight Committee (RCR BOC)	£15,000
Additional fee for Chairman of the RCR BOC	£15,000
Membership of Group Nominations Committee (NomsCo)	£10,000

Morten Friis is the RBS Board nominated member of the Steering Group to oversee compliance remediation activities in respect of RBS's US businesses for which he receives fees of £15,000 per annum.

## Board Committee membership as at 31 December 2014

Sandy Crombie	Alison Davis	Morten Friis	Robert Gillespie	Penny Hughes	Brendan Nelson	Baroness Noakes
SID	RemCo	GAC	BRC	SBC Chairman	GAC Chairman	BRC Chairman
RemCo Chairman	SBC	BRC	RemCo	BRC	BRC	RCR BOC Chairman
GAC	NomsCo	NomsCo	SBC	NomsCo	RCR BOC	GAC
RCR BOC			NomsCo		NomsCo	NomsCo
NomsCo						



# Annual report on remuneration

## LTI awards to be granted to executive directors in 2015

### Performance criteria

The performance measures are designed to be stretching and to support delivery of the business strategy. The measures are discussed each year with major shareholders. A three year performance period will apply which will end, in normal circumstances, on 31 December 2017. Subject to the achievement of the performance conditions, shares will then vest in equal tranches in years four and five.

In line with previous practice, awards granted to executive directors in March 2015 will be subject to four equally weighted performance categories. For Ewen Stevenson's award, each performance category can vest up to 100% of base salary, subject to the maximum award under the approved policy. Ross McEwan's award will be structured in a similar manner but at a lower level in line with the regulatory cap limiting the amount of variable remuneration. Details of the performance measures and the Committee's rationale for selecting them are set out below.

### Economic profit (25%)

**Reason:** Economic Profit, being a risk-adjusted financial measure, is consistent with the PRA/FCA Remuneration Code and also provides a balance between measuring growth and the cost of capital employed in delivering that growth.

**Measure:** Economic Profit is defined as Operating Profit after Tax and preference share charges less Tangible Net Asset Value multiplied by the Cost of Equity. The measure will be based on the 'go-forward' business.

### Performance target and weightings

Weighting	Performance target	Vesting range
25%	The economic profit target will be consistent with the achievement of RBS's strategic long term return on equity target of 12%+.	25 - 100%

Details of the actual targets, and performance against these, will be disclosed retrospectively once the awards vest.

### Relative Total Shareholder Return (25%)

**Reason:** Relative TSR provides a direct connection between executive directors' awards and relative returns delivered to shareholders.

**Measure:** The measure compares performance against a group of comparator banks. The group and respective weightings were changed in 2014 to be more in line with the new strategy and the same comparator group will apply to awards made in 2015.

### Relative TSR Comparator Group

		Weighting
1	Barclays	200%
2	Lloyds Banking Group	
3	HSBC	100%
4	Standard Chartered	
5 to 13	BBVA, BNP Paribas, Credit Agricole, Credit Suisse Group, Deutsche Bank, Santander, Societe Generale, UBS, Unicredito	50%

### Performance target and weightings

Weighting	Performance target	Vesting range
25%	TSR between median and upper quartile	20 - 100%

## Safe & Secure Bank (25%)

**Reason:** The Safe & Secure Bank measures have a particular focus on risk reduction and the building of a safer, sustainable franchise.

**Measure:** The key measures in this category are the achievement of pre-determined Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) and Cost:income (C:I) ratios.

## Customers & People (25%)

**Reason:** These measures reward management for building a customer-focussed franchise with strength in terms of reputation and the engagement of employees. In February 2014, RBS committed to targeting both trust and advocacy which is reflected in this category.

**Measure:** Net Promoter Scores (NPS) and Net Trust Scores (NTS) will be used, measured against a defined peer group. Employee engagement will be measured against the Global Financial Services (GFS) norm.

### Performance target and weightings

Category	Metrics	Performance target
Safe & Secure Bank	CET1 ratio (12.5%)	target consistent with the achievement of RBS's target to operate at 13% for the period of international network restructuring
	C:I ratio (12.5%)	target consistent with the achievement of RBS's strategic long term C:I target of <50%
Customers & People	Advocacy (6.25%)	NPS gap to #1 of 6.0 <sup>(1)</sup>
	Trust (6.25%)	NTS: NatWest 55, RBS 42
	Engagement (12.5%)	Employee Engagement Index within 2% of GFS norm

Note:

(1) The NPS metric adopted is a bank-wide measure of the gap to #1 bank, which RBS plans to close to zero by 2020. It is calculated using the gap to #1 leading competitor in each customer segment, weighted by the revenue contribution of each segment.

The overall vesting under the above categories will be qualified by the Committee's discretion taking into account changes in circumstances over the performance period, the margin by which individual targets have been missed or exceeded, and any other relevant factors. Details of performance against targets will be disclosed once the awards vest.

## Risk underpin and clawback

The Committee will also review financial and operational performance against the business strategy and the risk environment prior to agreeing vesting of awards. In assessing this, the Committee will be advised independently by the BRC. If the Committee considers that the vesting outcome calibrated in line with the performance conditions outlined above does not reflect underlying financial results or if the Committee is not satisfied that conduct and risk management during the performance period has been effective, then the terms of the awards allow for an underpin to be used to reduce vesting or lapse the award.

All awards are subject to malus provisions which allow for awards to be reduced, if appropriate to zero, prior to vesting. In addition, awards granted in 2015 will be subject to clawback provisions for a period of seven years from the grant date, in line with the requirements of the PRA/FCA Remuneration Code. Any awards that vest will be subject to a minimum six month retention period.

## Annual report on remuneration

### Payments for loss of office (audited)

Nathan Bostock ceased to be Group Finance Director on 19 May 2014 and stepped down from the Board on 28 May 2014. He continued to receive payment of salary, pension and benefit funding until his employment ended on 18 August 2014 (a total of £234,952 for the period from 28 May to 18 August 2014). No payment was made for loss of office and all outstanding share awards were lapsed. There have been no payments made to departing non-executive directors for loss of office.

### Payments to past directors (audited)

Stephen Hester and Bruce Van Saun received shares on 7 March 2014 following the assessment of performance conditions for the LTIP award granted in 2011. The award for Stephen Hester was reduced to reflect time served during the period. The underlying award structure consisted of four performance categories each of which could give rise to shares worth 100% of salary at grant but with the overall maximum capped at 375% of salary. The performance assessment is set out below. The current executive directors did not participate in this award.

### Executive directors' LTIP awards granted in 2011 – final assessment of performance outcome (audited)

Performance Measure	Weighting	Threshold performance	Vesting at threshold	Performance for maximum vesting	Vesting at maximum	Actual performance	Vesting % of maximum
Economic Profit	25%	Meet minimum economic profit targets	25%	Performance ahead of the Strategic Plan	100%	The minimum target was not met	0%
Relative TSR	25%	TSR at median	20%	TSR at upper quartile	100%	TSR was below median	0%
Balance Sheet & Risk	25%	Half objectives met	25%	Objectives met or exceeded in all material respects	100%	9/10 targets met or exceeded <sup>(1)</sup>	100%
Strategic Scorecard	25%		25%		100%	targets not met <sup>(2)</sup>	0%
Overall vesting outcome							25%

#### Notes:

- (1) Targets relating to non-core assets, cumulative non-core loss, Core Tier 1 capital, wholesale funding, liquidity, leverage ratio, loan to deposit ratio, risk appetite and funded assets were met or exceeded. While the credit rating condition was not met, given the over-achievement on other measures, the Committee determined that the Balance Sheet & Risk element should vest in full.
- (2) The cost:income ratio target was not achieved within the Strategic Scorecard and taking into account the extent of the shortfall, the Committee determined that this element should not vest.

### Value of payments on vesting (audited)

Performance category	% vesting	Number of shares and value per category					
		Stephen Hester			Bruce Van Saun		
		Maximum shares (2)	Vested shares	Value (3)	Maximum shares (2)	Vested shares	Value (3)
Economic Profit	0%	257,912	—	—	170,677	—	—
Relative TSR	0%	257,912	—	—	170,677	—	—
Balance Sheet & Risk	100%	257,912	257,912	£858,847	170,677	170,677	£568,354
Strategic Scorecard	0%	257,912	—	—	170,677	—	—
Overall shares vesting <sup>(1)</sup>	25%		257,912	£858,847		170,677	£568,354
Check within maximum shares available to vest			955,228			632,136	

#### Notes:

- (1) The Committee also considered recommendations from the Board Risk Committee in determining the outcome above.
- (2) The maximum number of shares is calculated in line with the underlying award structure where each of the four performance categories could give rise to shares worth 100% of salary at grant but with the overall maximum capped at 375% of salary.
- (3) Based on share price of £3.33 on date of vesting.

### Total Pension Entitlements – Bruce Van Saun (audited)

Bruce Van Saun's Unfunded Unapproved Retirement Benefit Scheme operates as a cash balance plan. The rate of return on the accrued fund is determined annually to reflect a long-term low risk investment return on an unsecured basis. For 2014 this rate was 4%. His accrued entitlement at the year end is shown below. There is no provision for any additional benefit on early retirement.

	2014 £000s	2013 £000s
Balance at 1 January 2014	1,030	682
Aggregate contributions that would have been made if funded	—	306
Investment return	41	42
Total value of fund at 31 December 2014	1,071	1,030

## Annual report on remuneration

### Performance conditions for LTIP awards granted in 2012, 2013 and 2014

Awards are due to vest in 2015 to 2017. An assessment of performance of each relevant element is provided by the control functions and PwC assesses relative TSR performance. The Committee determines overall vesting based on these assessments including consideration of the drivers of performance and the context against which it was delivered. Each of the four performance categories could give rise to shares worth 100% of salary at grant, but with the overall maximum capped at 300% of salary. The assessment is analytical and if any discretion is used in the final assessment, it will be explained.

### 2012 LTIP – final assessment of RBS-wide performance measures (audited)

Performance Measure	Weighting	Threshold performance	Vesting at threshold	Performance for maximum vesting	Vesting at maximum	Actual Performance	Vesting % of maximum
Economic Profit	25%	(£3.5 billion)	25%	£1 billion	100%	(£1.8 billion)	53%
Relative TSR	25%	TSR at median	20%	TSR at upper quartile	100%	65 <sup>th</sup> percentile ranking	68%
Balance Sheet & Risk	25%	Half objectives met	25%	Objectives met or exceeded in all material respects	100%	8/8 targets met <sup>(1)</sup>	100%
Strategic Scorecard	25%		25%		100%	4/7 targets met <sup>(2)</sup>	25%
Overall vesting outcome <sup>(3)</sup>							61.5%

#### Notes:

- (1) Targets relating to non-core assets (<£40 billion), cumulative non-core loss (<£6.8 billion), Core Tier 1 capital (>10%), leverage ratio (<18x), wholesale funding (<10%), liquidity reserves (>1.5x short-term wholesale funding), loan to deposit ratio (<100%) and earnings volatility (<100%) were uniformly met or exceeded resulting in 100% vesting for this element of the award.
- (2) Targets relating to customer franchise, cost:income ratio, lending targets, sustainability performance, employee engagement, leadership index and succession. The cost:income ratio and employee engagement index were both behind target and overall it was determined that half of the Strategic Scorecard measures had been met satisfactorily resulting in a 25% vesting outcome.
- (3) The Committee also considered recommendations from the Board Risk Committee in determining the outcome above.

### 2013 and 2014 LTIP – current assessment

The table below shows performance assessment in respect of the 2013 and 2014 LTIP awards which are due to vest in March 2016 and March 2017 respectively. The table below represents an early indication of potential vesting outcomes only based on the position at 31 December 2014.

Performance measure	Weighting	Vesting	2013 Current Assessment	2014 Current Assessment
Economic Profit	25%	<p>Threshold: 25% vesting for meeting minimum economic profit targets</p> <p>Maximum: 100% vesting for performance ahead of the Strategic Plan.</p>	Performance consistent with some level of vesting based on current assessment.	A strong start has been made in 2014. The Committee notes that strategic decisions have been taken in 2014 and will monitor the impact of these in the remaining performance period.
Relative TSR	25%	<p>Threshold: 20% vesting if TSR is at median of the comparator group.</p> <p>Maximum: 100% vesting if TSR is at upper quartile of the comparator group. Pro-rata vesting in between.</p>	Latest assessment shows percentile ranking of 53.7% which would result in 32% vesting for this element.	Latest assessment shows percentile ranking of 100% which would result in 100% vesting for this element.
Balance Sheet & Risk (for 2013 award)	25%	For 2013, vesting will be qualified by Committee discretion. Indicative vesting levels are:	All measures currently expected to be on track or ahead of targets by end of 2015.	A strong start has been made in 2014. The Committee notes that strategic decisions have been taken in 2014 and will monitor the impact of these in the remaining performance period.
Safe & Secure Bank (for 2014 award)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over half of objectives not met: 0%;</li> <li>Half of objectives met: 25%;</li> <li>Two-thirds of objectives met: 62.5%; and</li> <li>Objectives met or exceeded in all material respects: 100%.</li> </ul>		
Strategic Scorecard (for 2013 award)	25%	For 2014 awards, target ranges have been set for each measure and vesting will be qualified by Committee discretion taking into account the margin by which targets have been missed or exceeded.	The cost:income ratio target remains challenging and is unlikely to be met. Engagement Index is behind target. Customer and leadership metrics would result in some level of vesting on current assessment.	Engagement Index currently behind target. Improvement in Net Promoter Score over 2014 would lead to some level of vesting if continued.
Customers & People (for 2014 award)				

## Annual report on remuneration

### Directors' interests in shares and shareholding requirements (audited)

The target shareholding level is 250% of salary for the Chief Executive and 125% of salary for the Chief Financial Officer, in each case excluding any unvested share awards in the calculation. A period of five years is allowed in which to build up shareholdings to meet the required levels. Shareholding requirements will be considered when relevant individuals request permission to sell shares, recognising the timeframe allowed to achieve the target level. The Committee receives annual updates on progress towards meeting these requirements.

	Shares beneficially owned	As at 31 December 2014 (or date of cessation if earlier)			
		Value (1) (£)	% of shareholding requirement met	Unvested LTIP awards	Unvested Deferral Plan awards
Ross McEwan	754,987	2,974,649	119%	1,742,186	37,596
Ewen Stevenson	70,978	279,653	28%	584,506	—
Nathan Bostock <sup>(2)</sup>	375,969	1,289,574	135%	—	—
Philip Hampton	27,630				
Sandy Crombie	20,000				
Alison Davis	20,000				
Morten Friis <sup>(3)</sup>	20,000				
Robert Gillespie	25,000				
Penny Hughes	562				
Brendan Nelson	12,001				
Baroness Noakes	21,000				
Tony Di Iorio <sup>(4)</sup>	30,000				
Philip Scott <sup>(5)</sup>	50,000				

#### Notes:

- (1) Value is based on the share price on 31 December 2014, which was £3.94; for Nathan Bostock the value is based on the share price of £3.43 on 28 May 2014, the date he stepped down from the Board. During the year ended 31 December 2014, the share price ranged from £2.96 to £4.04.
- (2) Stepped down from the Board on 28 May 2014.
- (3) Interest is 10,000 American Depositary Receipts representing 20,000 ordinary shares.
- (4) Interest is 15,000 American Depositary Receipts representing 30,000 ordinary shares. Stepped down from the Board on 26 March 2014.
- (5) Stepped down from the Board on 31 October 2014.

No other director had an interest in the company's ordinary shares during the year or held a non-beneficial interest in the shares of the company at 31 December 2014, at 1 January 2014 or date of appointment if later. The interests shown above include connected persons of the directors. As at 25 February 2015, there were no changes to the directors' interests in shares shown in the table above.

Members of the Executive Committee are also subject to shareholding requirements with a target shareholding level of 125% of salary. In line with the requirements of the PRA/FCA Remuneration Code and the RBS Staff Dealing Rules, employees must not engage in any personal hedging strategies to lessen the impact of a reduction in value of unvested share awards, for example if the RBS share price goes down.

### Directors' interests under the Group's share plans (audited)

#### Long-Term Incentive Plan (LTIP) awards

	Awards held at 1 January 2014 (or date of appointment if later)	Awards granted in 2014	Award price £	Awards vested in 2014	Market price on vesting £	Value on vesting £	Awards held at 31 December 2014	End of period for qualifying conditions to be fulfilled
Ross McEwan	562,929 <sup>(1)</sup>		2.14	432,088	3.40	1,469,099	130,841	07.08.15
	696,152		3.09				696,152	08.03.16
		915,193	3.28				915,193	07.03.17
	1,259,081	915,193		432,088			1,742,186	
Ewen Stevenson <sup>(2)</sup>	584,506		3.27				584,506	09.03.15 – 07.03.17

#### Deferred awards

	Awards held at 1 January 2014	Awards granted in 2014	Award price £	Awards vested in 2014	Market price on vesting £	Value on Vesting £	Awards held at 31 December 2014	End of period for qualifying conditions to be fulfilled
Ross McEwan	56,395		3.09	18,799	3.33	62,601	37,596	08.03.15 – 08.03.16

#### Notes:

- (1) Relates to an award made to Ross McEwan on joining RBS as CEO UK Retail in September 2012 to replace awards forfeited on leaving Commonwealth Bank of Australia.
- (2) Ewen Stevenson was appointed to the Board on 19 May 2014. Award granted on appointment to replace awards forfeited on leaving Credit Suisse.

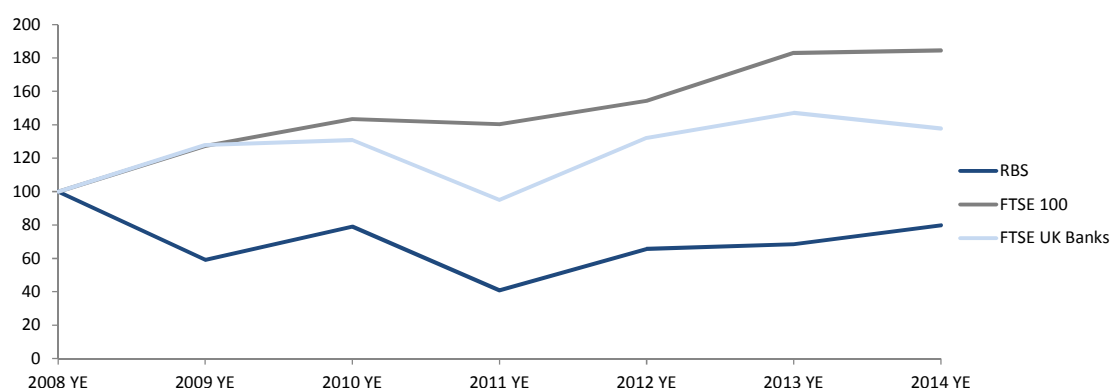
Nathan Bostock stepped down from the Board on 28 May 2014. Outstanding share awards under the LTIP (2,151,234 shares), Deferred awards (289,536 shares), the Executive Share Option Plan (option over 207,467 shares at £4.62) and the Medium-term Performance Plan (117,809 scheme interests) all lapsed as a result of his departure.



# Annual report on remuneration

## Total Shareholder Return (TSR) performance

The graph below shows the performance of RBS over the past six years in terms of TSR compared with that of the companies comprising the FTSE 100 Index. This index has been selected because it represents a cross-section of leading UK companies. The TSR for FTSE UK banks for the same period has been added for comparison. The TSR for the company and the indices have been rebased to 100 at 1 January 2009. *Source: Datastream*



## Historical Chief Executive pay over same period

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 (1)	2014
Total remuneration (£000s)	1,647	3,687	1,646	1,646	1,235 (SH) 378 (RM)	1,851
Annual bonus against maximum opportunity	0%	85%	0%	0%	0%	n/a
LTIP vesting rates against maximum opportunity (2)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	72.85%

Note:

- (1) 2013 remuneration includes Stephen Hester (SH) as CEO for the period to 30 September and Ross McEwan (RM) for the period from 1 October to 31 December 2013.  
(2) The LTIP vesting for Ross McEwan relates to an award made on appointment to his previous role as CEO UK Retail to replace awards forfeited on leaving Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

## Change in Chief Executive pay compared to employees

The table below shows the percentage change in remuneration for the Chief Executive between 2014 and 2013 compared with the percentage change in the average remuneration of RBS employees based in the UK. In each case, remuneration is based on salary, benefits and annual bonus.

	Salary 2014 to 2013 change	Benefits 2014 to 2013 change	Annual Bonus 2014 to 2013 change
Chief Executive (1)	0%	0%	n/a
UK employees (2)	3%	3%	(4%)

Notes:

- (1) Executive directors are not eligible for an annual bonus. Standard benefit funding for executive directors remained unchanged between 2013 and 2014. The benefits for the Chief Executive excludes the relocation expenses provided to Ross McEwan as part of his recruitment as CEO UK Retail in 2012. The value of relocation benefits is disclosed each year in the total remuneration table.  
(2) Data represents full year salary costs of the UK based employee population, which covers the majority of RBS employees and is considered to be the most representative comparator group.

## Relative importance of spend on pay

The table below shows a comparison of remuneration expenditure against other disbursements.

	2014 (1) £m	2013 (1) £m	change
Remuneration paid to all employees (2)	5,225	5,554	(6%)
Distributions to holders of ordinary shares	—	—	—
Distributions to holders of preference shares (3)	699	398	76%
Taxation and other charges recognised in the income statement:			
- Social security and other payments	379	422	(10%)
- Bank levy	250	200	25%
- Corporation tax	1,909	186	£1,723m
Other payments made by RBS			
- Irrecoverable VAT and other indirect taxes incurred by RBS (4)	665	703	(5%)

Notes:

- (1) Numbers exclude discontinued operations, principally CFG.  
(2) Remuneration paid to all employees represents total staff expenses per Note 3 to the Financial Statements, exclusive of social security and other staff costs.  
(3) Includes initial payment relating to the initial dividend on the Dividend Access Share in 2014.  
(4) Input VAT and other indirect taxes not recoverable by RBS due to it being partially exempt.

The items above have been included as they reflect the key stakeholders for RBS and the major categories of disbursements made by RBS to its key stakeholders, including its ordinary and preference shareholders and Governments in RBS's operational territories. The amounts included above have been calculated in accordance with applicable accounting standards and reflect the amounts included in RBS's Income statement.

# Annual report on remuneration

## Consideration of matters relating to directors' remuneration

### Membership of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee

All members of the Committee are independent non-executive directors. The Committee held nine scheduled meetings in 2014 and a further seven ad hoc meetings.

	Attended/ scheduled
Penny Hughes <sup>(1)</sup>	5/5
Sandy Crombie <sup>(2)</sup>	9/9
Alison Davis	9/9
Robert Gillespie <sup>(3)</sup>	6/6

Notes:

(1) Chair until 25 June 2014

(2) Chairman from 25 June 2014

(3) Robert Gillespie was appointed to the Committee on 1 April 2014.

### The role and responsibilities of the Committee

The Committee is responsible for approving the remuneration policy for all employees and overseeing its implementation. It reviews performance and makes recommendations to the Board in respect of the remuneration arrangements of the executive directors. The Committee is also responsible for approving remuneration arrangements for members and formal attendees of the Executive Committee and employees with total annual compensation which exceeds £1 million. It is also responsible for setting the remuneration framework and principles for MRTs falling within the scope of the PRA/FCA Remuneration Code. A definition of employees deemed to be MRTs along with details of how risk is taken into account in the remuneration process is provided on pages 91 and 92.

In mitigating potential conflicts of interest, directors are not involved in decisions regarding their own remuneration and remuneration advisers are appointed by the Committee rather than management. The terms of reference of the Committee are available on [www.rbs.com](http://www.rbs.com) and these are reviewed at least annually and approved by the Board.

### Summary of the principal activity of the Committee during 2014

The Committee considered issues under the accountability review process at every meeting and CRD IV implementation at the majority of meetings. Consideration was also given to various remuneration issues for CFG in the run up to its IPO. Set out below is a summary of other key activities considered by the Committee.

#### First quarter

- 2013 performance reviews and remuneration arrangements for members of the Executive Committee, Code Staff and high earners.
- Approval of variable pay pools and Directors' Remuneration Report.
- Outcomes of the annual performance evaluation of the Committee.
- Assessment of the performance to date of unvested LTIP awards and performance targets for 2014 awards.
- Appointment and departure terms for various senior positions.
- Presentation from Compliance and Risk on business and strategic priorities and people plans.

#### Second quarter

- Executive Committee members 2014 objectives.
- Proposals for specific areas including CIB and RCR.
- Compensation funding model including 2014 risk adjustment process.
- Response to FCA letter in relation to Malus Performance Adjustment.
- Group Sales and Service Incentives Committee 2013 annual incentive report and FCA Incentives Thematic Review Report.

#### Third quarter

- Review of the implementation of the remuneration policy.
- Executive Committee members and attendees half year performance reviews and objectives update.
- Organisation design and executive grading framework update.
- External environment including PRA consultation on further changes to the Remuneration Code.
- The Committee undertook a 'Masterclass' in July 2014 where in-depth consideration was given to pay construct and people proposition; the role & scope of the Committee; and stakeholder engagement.

#### Fourth quarter

- 2014 preliminary pay elements including bonus pool, deferral, LTIP and clawback policy.
- Remuneration Policy Statement for the PRA.
- Update on external environment and regulatory developments.
- RCR remuneration proposals.
- Consideration of governance issues including delegated authorities and the Accountability Review framework.

### Performance evaluation process

A thorough internal review of the effectiveness of the Committee was conducted during 2014 involving questionnaires and follow-up interviews. The Committee considered the outcomes of the evaluation and is satisfied with the way in which the evaluation has been conducted.

The review concluded that the Committee continued to operate effectively and the Masterclass was viewed as a positive development in building the future agenda. Themes emerging from the evaluation included using the time of the Committee more effectively and the need to focus on higher level strategic performance and remuneration priorities. The importance of concise papers highlighting key issues was also raised and a roll out of board paper training is already underway in Q1 2015 to address some of these concerns. Other priorities that were identified for 2015 included: alignment of remuneration strategy to the business strategy; creating a compelling employee proposition; and considering performance trajectory and the pay construct for the future business.

# Annual report on remuneration

## Advisers to the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee

The Committee reviews its selection of advisers annually. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) were appointed as the Committee's remuneration advisers on 14 September 2010 following a review of potential advisers, and their appointment was reconfirmed by the Committee in July 2014 after an annual review of the quality of the advice received and fees charged. PwC are signatories to the voluntary code of conduct in relation to remuneration consulting in the UK.

PwC also provide professional services in the ordinary course of business including assurance, advisory, tax and legal advice to RBS subsidiaries. The Chairman of the Committee is notified of other remuneration work that is being undertaken by PwC. In addition, there are processes in place to ensure the advice received by the Committee is independent of any support provided to management. As well as receiving advice from PwC in 2014, the Committee took account at meetings of the views of the Chairman, Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer, Chief HR Officer, the Director, Organisation & Performance, the Chief Governance Officer and Board Counsel, the Chief Risk Officer and the Chief Conduct and Regulatory Affairs Officer. The fees paid to PwC for advising the Committee in relation to directors' remuneration are charged on a time/cost basis and in 2014 amounted to £137,749 excluding VAT (2013 - £190,465).

## Statement of Shareholding Voting

The table below sets out the voting by shareholders on the resolutions to approve the Directors' Remuneration Policy and the 2013 Remuneration Report at the AGM held in June 2014.

### 1. Directors' Remuneration Policy

For	Against	Total votes cast	Withheld
20,893,215,888 (99.66%)	70,382,756 (0.34%)	20,963,598,644	170,307,216

### 2. Annual Report on Remuneration for 2013

For	Against	Total votes cast	Withheld
21,034,273,904 (99.81%)	40,636,912 (0.19%)	21,074,910,816	58,993,972

## Shareholders views and their impact on remuneration policy

An extensive consultation is undertaken every year with major shareholders including UKFI and other stakeholders on our remuneration approach. The consultation process, led by the Chairman of the Committee, typically involves inviting our largest shareholders to attend either one-to-one meetings or roundtable sessions with relevant shareholder bodies. The process takes place in sufficient time for shareholder views to be considered prior to the Committee making any final decisions on remuneration and variable pay awards.

In late 2014 and early 2015, meetings took place with a number of institutional shareholders and shareholder bodies representing a substantial portion of the non-UKFI shareholding. The topics discussed during the latest consultation included strategic direction and financial performance, determination of pay outcomes for the 2014 performance year, and developments that may impact pay arrangements going forward.

Shareholders asked a number of questions including how conduct issues and the FX fines would be reflected in the bonus pool. The evolving regulatory environment and EBA guidance on role-based allowances were also discussed. Some shareholders were interested to know whether operating within the 1:1 ratio of variable to fixed remuneration was causing any particular concerns for RBS. The potential impact on recruitment and the importance of employee engagement were also discussed. Another theme was explaining progress on performance measures and it was noted that additional detail on LTIP performance targets would be helpful.

The Chairman of the Committee responded to the questions by explaining how adjustments for risk and conduct events were incorporated into the bonus pool and also confirmed that operating within the 1:1 cap had proved to be manageable to date. Overall, recruitment into specialist roles had not been as difficult as had been anticipated although certain 'hotspots' remained. The future pay construct was also discussed and the Chairman acknowledged the need for a fair sharing ratio between rewards to employees and returns to shareholders over the long-term.

The reaction to the consultation process was positive and allowed the Committee to gain valuable insight into areas that shareholders were likely to support and those areas of concern. Shareholders continue to play a vital role in developing remuneration practices that support the long-term interests of the business and the Committee is grateful and greatly encouraged by their involvement in the process.

## Shareholder dilution

During the ten year period to 31 December 2014, awards made that could require new issue shares under the company's share plans represented 4.7% of the company's issued ordinary share capital (including the B share capital), leaving an available dilution headroom of 5.3%. The company meets its employee share plan obligations through a combination of new issue shares and market purchase shares.

Sandy Crombie  
Chairman of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee  
25 February 2015

## Other Remuneration Disclosures

### Remuneration of eight highest paid senior executives below Board <sup>(1)</sup>

(£000s)	Executive 1	Executive 2	Executive 3	Executive 4	Executive 5	Executive 6	Executive 7	Executive 8
Fixed pay (cash)	800	594	550	600	575	492	536	575
Fixed share allowance	800	600	550	600	600	500	288	300
Annual bonus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long term incentive awards (vested value)	449	211	193	—	—	144	196	—
Total remuneration <sup>(2)</sup>	2,049	1,405	1,293	1,200	1,175	1,136	1,020	875

Notes:

- (1) Remuneration earned in 2014 at RBS for eight members of the Executive Committee. Reported remuneration was lower in 2013 due to:
- i) pro-rated earnings and no long term incentive award vesting for new hires; and
  - ii) split year earnings of newly promoted Executive Committee members.
- (2) Disclosure includes prior year long term incentive awards which vested during 2014. The amounts shown reflect the value of vested awards using the share price on the day the awards vested.



## Other Remuneration Disclosures

### Our remuneration policy for all employees

The remuneration policy supports the business strategy and is designed to promote the long-term success of RBS. It aims to reward employees for delivering good performance against targets provided this is achieved in a manner consistent with our values and within acceptable risk parameters. The remuneration policy applies the same principles to all employees including Material Risk Takers (MRTs) subject to the PRA/FCA Remuneration Code (1). The current key elements underpinning the remuneration policy are set out below.

Element of pay	Objective	Operation
Base salary	To aid recruitment and retention of high performing individuals whilst paying no more than is necessary. To provide a competitive level of fixed cash remuneration, reflecting the skills and experience required, and to discourage excessive risk taking.	Base salaries are reviewed annually and should reflect the talents, skills and competencies that the individual brings to the business.
Role-based allowance	To provide fixed pay that reflects the skills and experience required for the role.	Allowances are provided to certain employees in key roles in line with market practice, structured to qualify as fixed remuneration for regulatory requirements. They are delivered in cash and/or shares depending on the level of the allowance and the seniority of the recipient. Shares are subject to an appropriate retention period, not less than six months.
Benefits (including pension)	To provide a range of flexible and market competitive benefits. To encourage planning for retirement and long-term savings.	In most jurisdictions, employee benefits or a cash equivalent are provided from a flexible benefits account.
Annual bonus	To support a culture where employees recognise the importance of serving customers well and are rewarded for superior performance.	<p>The annual bonus pool is based on a balanced scorecard of measures including customer, financial, risk and people measures. Allocation from the pool depends on performance of the franchise or function and the individual. Individual performance assessment is supported by a structured performance management framework.</p> <p>Guaranteed awards are only used in very limited circumstances in accordance with the PRA/FCA Remuneration Code. Immediate cash awards are limited to a maximum of £2,000. Under the deferral arrangements a significant proportion of annual bonus awards for our more senior employees are deferred over a three year period. Deferred awards are subject to malus and clawback provisions. For MRTs, a minimum of 50% of any annual bonus is delivered in RBS shares and subject to a minimum six month retention period post vesting.</p> <p>In certain circumstances, formulaic short-term incentive arrangements are used to align the objectives of employees with the strategy of the relevant area in which they work.</p>
Long-term incentive awards	To support a culture where good performance against a full range of measures will be rewarded. To encourage the creation of value over the long term and to align further the rewards of the participants with the returns to shareholders.	<p>RBS provides certain employees in senior roles with long-term incentive awards. Awards are structured as performance-vesting shares. Performance is typically measured over a three year period.</p> <p>The amount of the award that vests may vary between 0-100% depending on the performance achieved. Awards are subject to malus and clawback provisions and a minimum six month retention period applies to MRTs post vesting.</p>
Other share plans	To offer employees in certain jurisdictions the opportunity to acquire RBS shares.	Employees in certain countries are eligible to contribute to share plans which are not subject to performance conditions.

Note:

(1) The EBA has issued criteria for identifying MRT roles i.e. staff whose professional activities have a material influence over RBS's performance or risk profile. The criteria for identifying MRTs are both Qualitative (based on the nature of the role) and Quantitative (i.e. those who exceed the stipulated total remuneration threshold based on the previous year's total remuneration). The Qualitative criteria can be summarised as: staff within the management body; senior management; other staff with key functional or managerial responsibilities; and staff, individually or as part of a Committee, with authority to approve new business products or to commit to credit risk exposures and market risk transactions above certain levels. The Quantitative Remuneration criteria are: individuals earning €500,000 or more in the previous year; or individuals in the top 0.3% of earners in the previous year; or individuals who earned more than the lowest paid identified staff per the Qualitative criteria, subject to specific exceptions in the criteria.

In accordance with the PRA/FCA Remuneration Code and the RBS Staff Dealing Rules, the conditions attaching to discretionary share-based awards prohibit the use of any personal hedging strategies to lessen the impact of a reduction in value of such awards.

## Other Remuneration Disclosures

### How risk is reflected in our remuneration process

The RBS remuneration policy explicitly aligns remuneration with effective risk management. Focus on risk is achieved through clear risk input into objectives, performance reviews, the determination of variable pools and incentive plan design as well as the application of malus and clawback. The Committee is supported in this by the Board Risk Committee (BRC) and the RBS risk management function.

A robust process is used to assess risk performance. A range of measures are considered, specifically the overall Risk Profile, Credit, Regulatory Risk & Conduct Risk, Operational Risk, Enterprise Risk and Market Risk. The steps we take to ensure appropriate and thorough risk adjustment are also fully disclosed and discussed with the PRA and the FCA.

### Variable pay pool determination

For the 2014 performance year, RBS has adopted a multi-step process which is a control function led assessment to determine performance and therefore the appropriate bonus pool by franchise and function.

The process considers a balanced scorecard of performance assessments at the level of each franchise or support function. The assessments are made across financial, customer and people measures. Risk and conduct assessments at the same franchise or functional level are then conducted to ensure that performance that is achieved without appropriate risk and conduct controls or culture is not inappropriately rewarded.

BRC will then review any material risk and conduct events and if appropriate an underpin may be applied to the individual business and function bonus pools and where appropriate to the overall RBS bonus pool. BRC may recommend reduction of a bonus pool if it considers that risk and conduct performance is unacceptable or that the impact of poor risk management has yet to be fully reflected in the respective inputs.

Following further review against overall performance and conduct, the Chief Executive will make a final recommendation to the Committee informed by all the previous steps in the process and his strategic view of the business. The Committee will then make an independent decision on the final bonus pool taking all of these earlier steps into account.

### Accountability review process and malus/clawback

Our Accountability Review process is an important tool in how we manage remuneration and manage adjustments to remuneration. A summary of the accountability review process is as follows:

- Exists to enable RBS to respond in instances where current and/or new information would change variable pay decisions made in previous years and/or the decisions to be made in the current year.
- The process for review assessments (which consider material risk management, control and general policy breach failures, accountability for those events and appropriate action against individuals) is operated across RBS.

- Decisions must take into account not only any financial losses, but also behavioural issues and reputational or internal costs.
- Collective responsibility may be considered where a committee or group of employees are deemed to have not appropriately discharged their duties.
- Malus provisions apply to any unvested variable pay awards and can be applied to reduce awards (if appropriate to zero) regardless of whether or not disciplinary action has been undertaken.
- In addition to malus provisions that RBS has operated for a number of years, any variable pay awarded from 1 January 2014 was subject to clawback and this policy was updated for MRTs from 1 January 2015 to extend clawback to seven years from the date of grant. Clawback allows for the recovery of awards that have vested and our policy is in line with the requirement under the PRA/FCA Remuneration Code.

### How have we applied this in practice?

The Accountability Review process is fully embedded and is operated throughout the year. There are certain trigger events under which malus and clawback will be considered including:

- the individual participating in or being responsible for conduct which results in significant losses for RBS;
- the individual failing to meet appropriate standards of fitness and propriety;
- reasonable evidence of an individual's misbehaviour or material error; and
- RBS or the individual's relevant business unit suffering a material failure of risk management.

During 2014 a number of issues and events were considered under the Accountability Review framework. The outcomes covered a range of actions including: forfeiture of unvested awards through malus, reduction of current year variable pay awards; dismissal with forfeiture of unvested awards; and suspension of awards pending further investigation.

### Remuneration Code

As part of the annual remuneration governance process we provide details of our approach to pay and how we comply with the Remuneration Code to the PRA and FCA. As in previous years we have received the required regulatory confirmation in order to conclude our year end remuneration process.

## Other Remuneration Disclosures

### Remuneration of MRTs

The quantitative disclosures below are made in accordance with Article 450 of the EU Capital Requirements Regulation in relation to employees who have been identified as MRTs. During the year, there were 904 employees identified as MRTs excluding CFG (954 employees including CFG). The tables below show remuneration details for the population excluding CFG.

#### 1. Aggregate remuneration expenditure

Aggregate remuneration expenditure in respect of 2014 performance was as follows:

CIB £m	Rest of RBS £m
202.2	239.9

#### 2. Amounts and form of fixed and variable remuneration

##### Fixed remuneration for 2014

Consisted of salaries, allowances, pensions and benefits.

Senior management £m	Others £m
15.6	279.8

##### Variable remuneration for 2014 performance

Consisted of deferred awards payable over a three year period. Cash awards were limited to a maximum of £2,000 per employee.

Form of remuneration	Senior management £m	Others £m
Variable remuneration (cash)	—	1.4
Deferred remuneration (bonds)	—	14.2
Deferred remuneration (shares)	—	99.2

##### Long-term incentives awarded for 2014 performance

Long-term incentive awards vest subject to the extent to which performance conditions are met and can result in zero payment.

Senior management £m	Others £m
14.4	17.5

In accordance with Article 94(1)(g) of the fourth Capital Requirements Directive, the variable component of total remuneration for MRTs at RBS shall not exceed 100% of the fixed component. Based on the information disclosed above, the average ratio between fixed and variable remuneration for 2014 is approximately 1:0.5.

#### 3. Outstanding deferred remuneration through 2014

The table below includes deferred remuneration awarded or paid out in 2014 in respect of prior performance years. Deferred remuneration reduced during the year relates to long-term incentives lapsed when performance conditions are not met, long-term incentives and deferred awards forfeited on leaving and malus of prior year deferred awards and long-term incentives.

Category of deferred remuneration	Senior management £m	Others £m
Unvested from prior year	34.5	357.3
Awarded during the financial year	16.2	242.4
Paid out	8.7	189.6
Reduced from prior years	11.3	48.1
Unvested at year end	32.3	366.2

#### 4. Sign-on and severance payments

A sign-on award for guaranteed variable remuneration of £190,000 is included in the tables above. This relates to a commitment on recruitment made in respect of one new employee. No severance payments were made outside of contractual payments related to termination of employment such as pay in lieu of notice and benefits.

#### Notes on the presentation of remuneration

In the relevant tables above, assumptions have been made for the notional value of LTIP (verified by external advisors) and forfeitures through resignation for deferred awards. In addition, the share price relevant to the date of the event or valuation point has been used.

#### All staff total remuneration

- The average salary for all employees is £35,000.
- 15,500 employees earn between £50,000 and £100,000.
- 6,700 employees earn between £100,000 and £250,000.
- 1,200 employees earn total remuneration over £250,000.

Total remuneration by band for all employees earning >€1 million	Number of employees 2014	Number of employees 2013
€1.0m - €1.5m	59	88
€1.5m - €2.0m	29	22
€2.0m - €2.5m	8	6
€2.5m - €3.0m	5	4
€3.0m - €3.5m	3	3
€3.5m - €4.0m	0	1
€4.0m - €4.5m	1	2
€4.5m - €5.0m	2	2
€5.0m - €6.0m	3	2
€6.0m - €7.0m	0	0
€7.0m - €8.0m	0	1
Total	110	131

#### Notes:

- Total remuneration in the table above includes fixed pay, pension and benefit funding and variable pay (including actual value of LTIP vesting in 2014) after the application of clawback.
- Executive directors and 16 employees of CFG are not included in the table.
- An illustration of a comparable population from 2013 is shown for ease of reference. The table is based on an exchange rate where applicable of €1.241 to £1.

Employees that earned total remuneration of over €1 million in 2014 represent just 0.1% of our employees. This number reduces to 98 employees if we exclude pension and benefit funding. These employees include those who manage major businesses and functions with responsibility for significant assets, earnings or areas of strategic activity and can be grouped as follows:

- The CEOs responsible for each area and their direct reports.
- Employees managing large businesses within a franchise.
- Income generators responsible for high levels of income including those involved in managing trading activity and supporting clients with more complex financial transactions, including financial restructuring.
- Those responsible for managing our balance sheet and liquidity and funding positions across the business.
- Employees managing the successful disposal of assets in RCR and reducing RBS's capital requirements.

### Statement of compliance

RBS is committed to high standards of corporate governance, business integrity and professionalism in all its activities.

Throughout the year ended 31 December 2014, RBS has complied with all of the provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code issued by the Financial Reporting Council dated September 2012 (the "Code") except in relation to provision (D.2.2) that the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee should have delegated responsibility for setting remuneration for the Chairman and executive directors. RBS considers that this is a matter which should rightly be reserved for the Board and this is an approach RBS has adopted for a number of years. Remuneration for the executive directors is first considered by the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee which then makes recommendations to the Board for consideration. This approach allows all non-executive directors, and not just those who are members of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee, to participate in decisions on the executive directors' and the Chairman's remuneration and also allows the executive directors to input to the decision on the Chairman's remuneration. The Board believes this approach is very much in line with the spirit of the Code and no director is involved in decisions regarding his or her own remuneration. We do not anticipate any changes to our approach on this aspect of the Code. Information on how RBS has applied the main principles of the Code can be found in the Corporate governance report on pages 42 to 93. A copy of the Code can be found at [www.frc.org.uk](http://www.frc.org.uk)

RBS has also implemented the recommendations arising from the Walker Review and complied in all material respects with the Financial Reporting Council Guidance on Audit Committees issued in September 2012.

Under the US Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, specific standards of corporate governance and business and financial disclosures and controls apply to companies with securities registered in the US. RBS complies with all applicable sections of the US Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, subject to a number of exceptions available to foreign private issuers.

### Internal control

The Board is responsible for the system of internal control that is designed to facilitate effective and efficient operations and to ensure the quality of internal and external reporting and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. In devising internal controls, RBS has regard to the nature and extent of the risk, the likelihood of it crystallising and the cost of controls.

A system of internal control is designed to manage, but not eliminate, the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can only provide reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against the risk of material misstatement, fraud or losses.

The Board has established a process for the identification, evaluation and management of the significant risks faced by RBS, which operated throughout the year ended 31 December 2014 and to 25 February 2015, the date the directors approved the Report and Accounts. This is confirmed by a semi-annual Control Environment Certification process which requires senior members of the executive and management to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of their internal control framework and certify that their business or function is compliant with the requirements of Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404 and the UK Corporate Governance Code Section C2. The policies that govern these processes, and reports on internal controls arising from them, are regularly reviewed by the Board and meet the requirements of the document entitled "Guidance on Risk Management, Internal Control and Related Financial and Business Reporting" issued by the Financial Reporting Council in September 2014. Enhancements have been made to the Risk Management framework throughout 2014 and further improvements will be made in 2015.

The effectiveness of RBS's internal controls framework is reviewed regularly by the Board, the Group Audit Committee and the Board Risk Committee. Internal Audit provides independent assurance to the Board and executive management on the quality and effectiveness of governance, risk management and internal controls to monitor, manage and mitigate risks in achieving RBS's objectives. Executive management committees or boards of directors in each of the RBS businesses also receive regular reports on significant risks facing their business and how they are being controlled. In addition, the Board receives monthly risk management reports. Details of the approach to risk management are given in the Capital and risk management section. The Group Audit Committee has received confirmation that management has taken, or is taking, the necessary action to remedy any material failings or weaknesses identified through the operation of RBS's framework of controls.

RBS's independent auditors present to the Group Audit Committee reports that include details of any significant internal control matters which they have identified. The system of internal controls of the authorised institutions and other regulated entities in RBS is also subject to regulatory oversight in the UK and overseas. Additional details of regulatory oversight are given in the Supervision section on page 470.



### Internal control over financial reporting

RBS is required to comply with Section 404 of the US Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and assess the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of 31 December 2014.

RBS has assessed the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting as of 31 December 2014 based on the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in the 2013 publication of 'Internal Control - Integrated Framework'.

Based on its assessment, management has concluded that, as of 31 December 2014, RBS's internal control over financial reporting is effective.

RBS's auditors have audited the effectiveness of RBS's internal control over financial reporting and have given an unqualified opinion.

Management's report on the RBS's internal control over financial reporting will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as part of the 2014 Annual Report on Form 20-F.

### Disclosure controls and procedures

As required by US regulations, management (including the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer) have conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness and design of RBS's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in the Exchange Act rules) as at 31 December 2014. Based on this evaluation, management (including the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer) concluded that RBS's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this annual report.

### Changes in internal control

There was no change in RBS's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, RBS's internal control over financial reporting.

### The New York Stock Exchange

As a foreign issuer with American Depositary Shares representing ordinary shares, preference shares and debt securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE"), RBS is not required to comply with all of the NYSE standards applicable to US domestic companies (the "NYSE Standards") provided that it follows home country practice in lieu of the NYSE Standards and discloses any significant ways in which its corporate governance practices differ from the NYSE Standards. RBS is also required to provide an Annual Written Affirmation to the NYSE of its compliance with the applicable NYSE Standards.

As a foreign private issuer, the company must, however, comply fully with the provisions of the NYSE Standards that relate to the composition, responsibilities and operation of audit committees. These provisions incorporate the relevant rules concerning audit committees of the Exchange Act. The Group Audit Committee complies with the provisions of the NYSE Standards that relate to the composition, responsibilities and operation of audit committees. In May 2014, the company submitted its required annual written affirmation to the NYSE confirming its full compliance with those and other applicable provisions. More detailed information about the Group Audit Committee and its work during 2014 is set out in the Group Audit Committee report on pages 57 to 61.

RBS has reviewed its corporate governance arrangements and is satisfied that these are consistent with the NYSE Standards, subject to the following departures: (i) the Chairman of the Board is also the Chairman of the Group Nominations Committee, which is permitted under the Code (since the Chairman was considered independent on appointment) (ii) although the members of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee are deemed independent in compliance with the provisions of the Code, the Board has not assessed the independence of the members of the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee and of its compensation committee advisers in accordance with the independence tests prescribed by the NYSE Standards (iii) the NYSE Standards require that the compensation committee must have direct responsibility to review and approve the Chief Executive's remuneration. As stated at the start of this Compliance report, in the case of RBS, the Board, rather than the Group Performance and Remuneration Committee, reserves the authority to make the final determination of the remuneration of the Chief Executive. RBS's Group Audit, Board Risk, Sustainable Banking and Group Nominations Committees are otherwise composed solely of non-executive directors deemed by the Board to be independent.

This Compliance report forms part of the Corporate governance report and the Report of the directors.

## Report of the directors

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The directors present their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014.

### Group structure

The company is a holding company owning the entire issued ordinary share capital of The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, the principal direct operating subsidiary undertaking of the company. RBS comprises the company and all its subsidiary and associates, including the Royal Bank and NatWest. Details of the principal subsidiary undertakings of the company are shown in Note 8 on page 456.

Following placing and open offers in December 2008 and in April 2009, HM Treasury (HMT) owned approximately 70.3% of the enlarged ordinary share capital of the company. In December 2009, the company issued a further £25.5 billion of new capital to HMT. This new capital took the form of B shares, which do not generally carry voting rights at general meetings of ordinary shareholders but are convertible into ordinary shares and qualify as Core Tier 1 capital. Following the issuance of the B shares, HMT's holding of ordinary shares of the company remained at 70.3%, although its economic interest rose to 84.4%.

At 31 December 2014, HMT's holding in the company's ordinary shares was 62.3% and its economic interest was 79.1%.

### Strategic review

On 27 February 2014, RBS announced a refreshed strategic direction with the ambition of building a bank which earns its customers' trust by serving them better than any other bank.

RBS is now structured to deliver this ambition by organising itself around the needs of its customers, so as to combine customer groups with similar needs into franchises able to deliver co-ordinated services.

The reorganised bank will be a UK-focused retail and corporate bank with an international footprint to drive its corporate business. The previously reported operating divisions are now realigned into three franchises:

- Personal & Business Banking (PBB), comprising two reportable segments, UK Personal & Business Banking, including Williams & Glyn, (UK PBB) and Ulster Bank.
- Commercial & Private Banking (CPB), comprising two reportable segments, Commercial Banking and Private Banking.
- Corporate & Institutional Banking (CIB).

In addition to the segments noted above, RBS will continue to manage and report Citizens Financial Group (CFG) and RBS Capital Resolution (RCR) separately until disposal or wind-down.

RCR became fully operational on 1 January 2014 with a pool of c.£29 billion of assets with particularly high long-term capital intensity, credit risk and/or potentially volatile outcomes in stressed environments. RCR brings these assets under common management and increases focus on managing these assets down so as to release capital.

On 31 October 2014 RBS confirmed it will retain Ulster Bank following completion of the strategic review. Ulster Bank remains a core part of RBS, offering a good strategic fit with RBS's focused retail and commercial banking strategy.

### Results and dividends

The loss attributable to the ordinary and B shareholders of the company for the year ended 31 December 2014 amounted to £3,470 million compared with a loss of £8,995 million for the year ended 31 December 2013, as set out in the consolidated income statement on page 342.

The company did not pay a dividend on ordinary shares in 2013 or 2014.

RBS has now resumed payments on all discretionary non-equity capital instruments following the end of the European Commission ban in 2012 for RBS and 2013 for RBS N.V. Future coupons and dividends on hybrid capital instruments will only be paid subject to, and in accordance with, the terms of the relevant instruments.

In the context of prior macro-prudential policy discussions, the Board decided to partially neutralise any impact on Core Tier 1 capital of coupon and dividend payments in respect of 2014 Group hybrid capital instruments through equity issuances of c.£300 million. Consequently, approximately £300 million was raised during 2014 through the issue of new ordinary shares.

For 2015, the Board has decided to continue partially neutralising the Core Tier 1 impact of Group hybrid capital instruments. It is expected that £300 million of new equity will be issued during the course of 2015 to achieve this aim.

The Dividend Access Share (DAS) retirement agreement was approved at the General Meeting of shareholders held on 25 June 2014. The first dividend payment on the DAS of £320 million was made in the third quarter of 2014. The balance of £1.18 billion is to be paid by 31 December 2015, if the balance is not paid by this point then interest begins to accrue on the balance outstanding at 5% per annum until 1 January 2021 and 10% thereafter.

# Report of the directors

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## Business review

### Activities

RBS is engaged principally in providing a wide range of banking and other financial services. Further details of the organisational structure and business overview of RBS, including the products and services provided by each of its segments and the competitive markets in which they operate, are contained in the Business review on pages 105 to 107. Details of the strategy for delivering the company's objectives can be found in the Strategic report.

### Risk factors

RBS's future performance and results could be materially different from expected results depending on the outcome of certain potential risks and uncertainties. Certain risk factors RBS faces are summarised in the Business review on page 108 to 110. Fuller details of these and other risk factors are set out on page 474 to 492.

The reported results of RBS are also sensitive to the accounting policies, assumptions and estimates that underlie the preparation of its financial statements. Details of RBS's critical accounting policies and key sources of accounting judgments are included in Accounting policies on pages 357 to 359.

RBS's approach to risk management, including its financial risk management objectives and policies and information on RBS's exposure to price, credit, liquidity and cash flow risk, is discussed in the Business review: Capital and risk management.

### Financial performance

A review of RBS's performance during the year ended 31 December 2014, including details of each segment, and RBS's financial position as at that date is contained in the Business review on pages 111 to 162.

### RBS Holdings N.V. (formerly ABN AMRO Holding N.V.)

In 2007, RFS Holdings B.V., which was jointly owned by RBS, the Dutch State (successor to Fortis) and Santander (together, the "Consortium Members") completed the acquisition of ABN AMRO Holding N.V.

On 1 April 2010, the businesses acquired by the Dutch State were transferred to ABN AMRO Group N.V., itself owned by the Dutch State. In connection with the transfer ABN AMRO Holding N.V. was renamed RBS Holdings N.V. and its banking subsidiary was renamed The Royal Bank of Scotland N.V. ("RBS N.V.").

In October 2011, RBS completed the transfer of a substantial part of the UK activities of RBS N.V. to the Royal Bank. Substantially all of the Netherlands and EMEA businesses were transferred to the Royal Bank in September 2012. Russia, Korea and the North American businesses were transferred to the Royal Bank in 2013. During 2014, the Thailand business was transferred to the Royal Bank. Certain assets of RBS N.V. continue to be shared by the Consortium Members.

## Business divestments

To comply with the European Commission State Aid requirements RBS agreed a series of restructuring measures. These include the divestment of Direct Line Insurance Group plc (completed in 2014) the sale of 80.01% of RBS's Global Merchant Services business (completed in 2010) and the sale of substantially all of the RBS Sempra Commodities joint venture business (largely completed in 2010), as well as the divestment of the RBS branch-based business in England and Wales and the NatWest branches in Scotland, along with the direct SME customers across the UK ("UK branch-based businesses").

In October 2012, Santander UK plc withdrew from its agreed purchase of the UK branch-based businesses. In September 2013, RBS reached an agreement with an investor consortium led by Corsair Capital and Centerbridge Partners for an investment in these businesses ahead of a stock market flotation. This includes 308 RBS branches in England and Wales. The new bank will be called Williams & Glyn, the brand RBS used for its branches in England and Wales before 1985. It is intended that Williams & Glyn will be launched by the end of 2016.

During 2014, RBS completed the disposal of its shareholding in Direct Line Insurance Group (DLG). This followed earlier disposals of 34.7% of DLG shares in 2012 and 36.8% of DLG shares in 2013.

In September 2014, RBS completed a partial IPO of Citizens Financial Group (CFG) resulting in 28.75% of CFG's shares being floated. Full disposal of CFG is expected by the end of 2016.

## Employees

As at 31 December 2014, RBS employed 108,700 people (full-time equivalent basis, including temporary workers) throughout the world. Details of related costs are included in Note 3 on the consolidated accounts.

## Leadership

Developing great leaders with the capability to deliver our ambition to be number one for customer service, trust and advocacy is a key priority, aligned to our People and Leadership Standards. In 2014 we rolled out Team Effectiveness sessions for new executive teams to help them role model our values and lead the transition to a new RBS.

## Employee engagement

For RBS, building an engaged, healthy and inclusive workforce is crucial. Every year since 1999, through the Our View survey, people in all our businesses have shared their thoughts about what it's like to work at RBS. The survey enables our people leaders to monitor levels of engagement and work with their teams to make improvements to the working environment. It also provides a mechanism for RBS to track employee perception of our culture and the progress we're making.

## Report of the directors

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### Living our values

The ways that we recruit, promote, reward, and manage our people are all aligned to our values, and this coherent approach is making a difference within the organisation – with more people (year on year) believing our values are making a difference to the way we work.

How we behave forms the character of our company and dictates how others see us. RBS's code of conduct, Our Code, reflects our values and applies to everyone who works here. It is supported by the YES Check: a simple decision-making framework to help our people translate Our Code into their day-to-day roles. The YES check has been designed to meet the Financial Conduct Authority's standard of conduct and is underpinned by ethical principles.

Our Code lets everyone know what to expect of each other, what to do when unsure of a decision, and where to go for advice when needed. It's available at [rbs.com/about-us/our-values](http://rbs.com/about-us/our-values), or without charge, upon request, by contacting Corporate Governance and Secretariat at the telephone number listed on page 516.

### Customer performance

Our approach to performance management allows us to provide clarity for our people about how their individual contribution links to our ambition, reward the behaviour that supports our values, and hold individuals to account for behaviour and performance that does not. In 2014 we completed alignment of our approach to performance management across RBS, so that in 2015 there is consistent bank-wide use of our balanced scorecard, People standards, Leadership standards, and online system.

### Simple Organisation

RBS is making steady progress towards building a smaller, simpler organisation. In 2014, we defined clear principles and practices around how the organisation would work, and new role accountabilities for the top 150 roles across the RBS, as part of redesigning our operating model.

We've moved from seven divisions to three customer franchises, redesigning our supporting functions and services to remove duplication and unnecessary management layers. In addition to supporting our strategic direction, this work has strengthened accountabilities across RBS, with robust governance in place to ensure future organisation designs are in line with these principles, positioning us to respond to ongoing regulatory requirements.

### Employee consultation

RBS recognises employee representatives such as trade unions and work councils in a number of businesses and countries. Our European Employee Council provides an opportunity for elected representatives and management to discuss developments in RBS's European operations. Discussions have continued to take place with employee representatives where appropriate on the progress of our strategic plans.

### Employee learning and development

RBS maintains a strong commitment to providing all our people with the opportunity to grow through learning and development, which in turn helps to achieve business objectives and drive excellent customer service.

Supporting the professionalisation of our front line staff, all of our customer-facing employees are aware of the professional standards expected of them, and as at the end of 2014, 86% have completed related professional development programmes, giving colleagues the skills they need to do their job and serve customers well. Building the capability of our people is also crucial to ensure effective compliance behaviour. RBS has mandatory training modules for all employees to improve their understanding of the processes and controls required to properly manage key risks.

### Diversity and inclusion

RBS's ambition is to be number one for customer service, trust and advocacy in every one of our chosen business areas by 2020, supported by a people commitment to make RBS a great place to work. Valuing difference is therefore essential for our customers and colleagues. Our inclusion policy standard applies to all our people globally; and our strategy for diversity and inclusion sits with the Board and Executive Committee.

Our approach during 2014/15 focuses on building inclusion into all stages of the employee lifecycle. In 2014 we started rolling out bank-wide unconscious bias learning for all employees, which will continue across 2015. We've introduced a gender target to increase the number of women in senior roles across RBS. And we continue to support our employee-led networks, with membership across RBS at over 15,000 people.

This year RBS has been recognised for its work on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion by retaining our Platinum ranking from Opportunity Now (gender) for the second year; increasing our ranking from Silver to Gold for Race for Opportunity (race); retaining a position in the Times Top 50 Employers for Women for the eighth consecutive year; and improving upon our ranking in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index (LGBT).

### Wellbeing

Ensuring and supporting the wellbeing of our people is an important responsibility for RBS. A wide range of health benefits and services is in place to help them maintain good physical and psychological health, and support them if they do become unwell, including Lifematters, RBS's Employee Assistance Programme. We continue to enhance and promote these services, targeting those issues that we know affect our people's ability to bring the best of themselves to work. In 2014, Lifematters Online activity improved significantly through promotion via road shows, wellbeing fairs, and internal communications; and the popularity of the Lifematters App, which was launched in late 2013, continued to grow. In 2014 RBS also signed up to Time to Change: the UK's biggest programme to challenge mental health stigma.

### Sustainability

Sustainability at RBS means building our business around long term thinking and support for our customers and the communities in which they live. Our core responsibility is to obey the law and to ensure that our business is built on safe and secure financial foundations, and we have worked hard in the years since the financial crisis to achieve this position. This underpins everything that RBS does and enables people to run their daily lives and businesses. Our position as a provider of credit supports economic growth and brings wider benefits to society.



# Report of the directors

But our ambition is to go further, to shape the world around us in a positive way. We recognise that we still have a long way to go achieve this position across our business. Sustainability is therefore not just about the many responsibilities and obligations that RBS has, but about taking leadership on a broad range of issues that are important to our Stakeholders.

The Sustainable Banking Committee is responsible for overseeing and challenging how management is addressing sustainable banking and reputation issues, considering the long term interests of all stakeholder groups.

For more information on our approach and progress read the RBS Sustainability Report, available on [rbs.com/sustainable](http://rbs.com/sustainable).

## Greenhouse gas emissions

Disclosures relating to greenhouse gas emissions are included in the Strategic report on page 39.

## Going concern

RBS's business activities and financial position, the factors likely to affect its future development and performance and its objectives and policies in managing the financial risks to which it is exposed and its capital are discussed in the Business review. The risk factors which could materially affect RBS's future results are set out on page 474 to 492. RBS's regulatory capital resources and significant developments in 2014 and anticipated future developments are detailed on pages 195 to 215. The liquidity and funding section on pages 216 to 230 describes RBS's funding and liquidity profile, including changes in key metrics, the build up of liquidity reserves and the outlook for 2015.

Having reviewed RBS's forecasts, projections and other relevant evidence, the directors have a reasonable expectation that RBS and the company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the financial statements of RBS and of the company have been prepared on a going concern basis.

## BBA disclosure code

RBS's 2014 financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the principles set out in the Code for Financial Reporting Disclosure published by the British Bankers' Association in 2010. The Code sets out five disclosure principles together with supporting guidance. The principles are that RBS and other major UK banks will provide high quality, meaningful and decision-useful disclosures; review and enhance their financial instrument disclosures for key areas of interest to market participants; assess the applicability and relevance of good practice recommendations to their disclosures acknowledging the importance of such guidance; seek to enhance the comparability of financial statement disclosures across the UK banking sector; and clearly differentiate in their annual reports between information that is audited and information that is unaudited.

## Corporate governance

The company is committed to high standards of corporate governance. Details are given in the Corporate governance report on pages 42 to 93. The Corporate governance report and compliance report (pages 94 and 95) form part of this Report of the directors.

## Share capital

Details of the ordinary and preference share capital at 31 December 2014 and movements during the year are shown in Note 26 on the consolidated accounts.

During 2014, the company allotted and issued a total of 89 million new ordinary shares of £1 each for the purposes of ensuring 2014 coupon payments on discretionary hybrid capital securities were partly neutralised from a Core Tier 1 capital perspective. The shares were allotted to UBS AG at the subscription prices and determined by reference to the average market prices during the sale periods set out below.

Number of shares sold	Subscription price	Sale period	Gross proceeds	Share price on allotment
32.8m	305.329p	27/2/2014 - 2/5/2014	£100 million	331.7p
15.5m	328.910p	2/5/2014 - 3/7/2014	£51 million	332.8p
23.9m	355.890p	1/8/2014- 30/9/2014	£85 million	368.2p
16.8m	381.398p	31/10/2014-25/11/2014	£64 million	387.1p

In addition, the company issued 74 million ordinary shares of £1 each in connection with employee share schemes.

## Additional information

Where not provided elsewhere in the Report of the directors, the following additional information is required to be disclosed by Part 6 of Schedule 7 to the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

The rights and obligations attached to the company's ordinary shares and preference shares are set out in the company's Articles of Association, copies of which can be obtained from Companies House in the UK or can be found at [rbs.com/about](http://rbs.com/about) us.

On a show of hands at a general meeting of the company every holder of ordinary shares and cumulative preference shares present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote shall have one vote. On a poll, every holder of ordinary shares or cumulative preference shares present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote shall have four votes for every share held. The notices of Annual General Meetings and General Meetings specify the deadlines for exercising voting rights and appointing a proxy or proxies to vote in relation to resolutions to be passed at the meeting.

The cumulative preference shares represent less than 0.014% of the total voting rights of the company, the remainder being represented by the ordinary shares.

There are no restrictions on the transfer of ordinary shares in the company other than certain restrictions which may from time to time be imposed by laws and regulations (for example, insider trading laws). Pursuant to the Listing Rules of the FCA, certain employees of the company require the approval of the company to deal in the company's shares.

## Report of the directors

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The rules governing the powers of directors, including in relation to issuing or buying back shares and their appointment are set out in the company's Articles of Association. It will be proposed at the 2015 Annual General Meeting that the directors be granted authorities to allot shares under the Companies Act 2006. The company's Articles of Association may only be amended by a special resolution at a general meeting of shareholders.

A number of the company's share plans include restrictions on transfers of shares while shares are subject to the plans or the terms under which the shares were awarded.

The rights and obligations of holders of non-cumulative preference shares are set out in Note 26 on the consolidated accounts.

Except in relation to the Dividend Access Share, the company is not aware of any agreements between shareholders that may result in restrictions on the transfer of securities and/or voting rights. There are no persons holding securities carrying special rights with regard to control of the company.

Under the rules of certain employee share plans, eligible employees are entitled to acquire shares in the company, and shares are held in trust for participants by The Royal Bank and Ulster Bank Dublin Trust Company as Trustees. Voting rights are exercised by the Trustees on receipt of participants' instructions. If a participant does not submit an instruction to the Trustee no vote is registered.

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 1992 Employee Share Trust, The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc 2001 Employee Share Trust and The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc 2007 US Employee Share Trust hold shares on behalf of RBS's employee share plans. The voting rights are exercisable by the Trustees, however, in accordance with investor protection guidelines, the Trustees abstain from voting. The Trustees would take independent advice before accepting any offer in respect of their shareholdings for the company in a takeover bid situation.

Awards granted under the company's employee share plans may be met through a combination of newly issued shares and shares acquired in the market by the company's employee benefit trusts.

A change of control of the company following a takeover bid may cause a number of agreements to which the company is party to take effect, alter or terminate. All of the company's employee share plans contain provisions relating to a change of control. Outstanding awards and options may vest and become exercisable on change of control, subject where appropriate to the satisfaction of any performance conditions at that time and pro-rating of awards. In the context of the company as a whole, these agreements are not considered to be significant.

### Directors

The names and brief biographical details of the current directors are shown on pages 46 to 49.

Sandy Crombie, Alison Davis, Robert Gillespie, Philip Hampton, Penny Hughes, Ross McEwan, Brendan Nelson and Baroness Noakes all served throughout the year and to the date of signing of the financial statements.

Tony di Iorio stepped down from the Board on 26 March 2014.

Nathan Bostock stepped down from the Board on 28 May 2014.

Phillip Scott stepped down from the Board on 31 October 2014.

Morten Friis was appointed to the Board on 10 April 2014.

Ewen Stevenson was appointed to the Board on 19 May 2014.

On 25 February 2015 the Board approved the appointment of Howard Davies as a non-executive director with effect from the end of June and as Chairman from 1 September 2015.

All directors of the company are required to stand for election or re-election annually by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting and, in accordance with the UK Listing Rules, the election or re-election of independent directors requires approval by all shareholders and also by independent shareholders.

### Directors' interests

The interests of the directors in the shares of the company at 31 December 2014 are shown on page 86. None of the directors held an interest in the loan capital of the company or in the shares or loan capital of any of the subsidiary undertakings of the company, during the period from 1 January 2014 to 25 February 2015.

### Directors' indemnities

In terms of section 236 of the Companies Act 2006 (the "Companies Act"), Qualifying Third Party Indemnity Provisions have been issued by the company to its directors, members of the RBS Executive Committee, PRA/FCA Approved Persons and certain directors and/or officers of RBS subsidiaries.

In terms of section 236 of the Companies Act, Qualifying Pension Scheme Indemnity Provisions have been issued to all trustees of RBS pension schemes.

### Post balance sheet events

There have been no significant events between the year end and the date of approval of these accounts which would require a change to or disclosure in the accounts.

### Controlling shareholder

In accordance with the UK Listing Rules, the company has entered into an agreement with HM Treasury (the 'Controlling Shareholder') which is intended to ensure that the Controlling Shareholder complies with the independence provisions set out in the UK Listing Rules. The company has complied with the independence provisions in the relationship agreement and as far as the company is aware the independence and procurement provisions in the relationship agreement have been complied with in the period by the controlling shareholder.

# Report of the directors

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## Shareholdings

The table below shows shareholders that have notified RBS that they hold more than 3% of the total voting rights of the company at 31 December 2014.

Solicitor For The Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury as Nominee for Her Majesty's Treasury	Number of shares (millions)	% of share class held	% of total voting rights held
Ordinary shares	3,964	62.3	62.3
B shares (non-voting)	51,000	100	-

As at 25 February 2015, there were no changes to the shareholdings shown in the table above.

## Listing Rule 9.8.4

In accordance with the UK Financial Conduct Authority's Listing Rules the information to be included in the Annual Report and Accounts under LR 9.8.4, is set out in this Directors' report with the exception of details of contracts of significance under LR 9.8.4. (10) and (11) given in Additional Information on pages 471 to 473.

## Political donations

At the Annual General Meeting in 2014, shareholders gave authority under Part 14 of the Companies Act, for a period of one year, for the company (and its subsidiaries) to make political donations and incur political expenditure up to a maximum aggregate sum of £100,000. This authorisation was taken as a precaution only, as the company has a longstanding policy of not making political donations or incurring political expenditure within the ordinary meaning of those words. During 2014, RBS made no political donations, nor incurred any political expenditure in the UK or EU and it is not proposed that RBS's longstanding policy of not making contributions to any political party be changed. Shareholders will be asked to renew this authorisation at the Annual General Meeting in 2015.

## Directors' disclosure to auditors

Each of the directors at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- (a) so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- (b) the director has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a director to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of section 418 of the Companies Act.

## Auditors

The auditors, Deloitte LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. A resolution to re-appoint Deloitte LLP as the company's auditors will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

As discussed in more detail in the Group Audit Committee report, following a tender process, EY will be appointed as the company's auditors for the financial year ending 31 December 2016, replacing Deloitte.

By order of the Board

Aileen Taylor  
Company Secretary  
25 February 2015

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc  
is registered in Scotland No. SC45551

## Statement of directors' responsibilities

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This statement should be read in conjunction with the responsibilities of the auditor set out in their report on pages 336 to 341.

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the Annual Report and Accounts. The directors are required by Article 4 of the IAS Regulation (European Commission Regulation No 1606/2002) to prepare Group accounts, and as permitted by the Companies Act 2006 have elected to prepare company accounts, for each financial year in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union. They are responsible for preparing accounts that present fairly the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the Group and the company. In preparing those accounts, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and to enable them to ensure that the Annual Report and Accounts complies with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors confirm that to the best of their knowledge:

- the financial statements, prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company and the undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole; and
- the Strategic Report and Directors' report (incorporating the Business review) include a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the company and the undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole, together with a description of the principal risks and uncertainties that they face.

In addition, the directors are of the opinion that the Annual Report and Accounts, taken as a whole, is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the company's performance, business model and strategy.

By order of the Board

Philip Hampton  
Chairman

Ross McEwan  
Chief Executive

Ewen Stevenson  
Chief Financial Officer

25 February 2015

### Board of directors

#### Chairman

Philip Hampton

#### Executive directors

Ross McEwan

Ewen Stevenson

#### Non-executive directors

Sandy Crombie

Alison Davis

Morten Friis

Robert Gillespie

Penny Hughes

Brendan Nelson

Baroness Noakes



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## Presentation of information

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In the Report and Accounts, and unless specified otherwise, the term 'company' or 'RBSG' means The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, 'RBS', 'RBS Group' or the 'Group' means the company and its subsidiaries, 'the Royal Bank' or 'RBS plc' means The Royal Bank of Scotland plc and 'NatWest' means National Westminster Bank Plc.

The company publishes its financial statements in pounds sterling ('£' or 'sterling'). The abbreviations '£m' and '£bn' represent millions and thousands of millions of pounds sterling, respectively, and references to 'pence' represent pence in the United Kingdom ('UK'). Reference to 'dollars' or '\$' are to United States of America ('US') dollars. The abbreviations '\$m' and '\$bn' represent millions and thousands of millions of dollars, respectively, and references to 'cents' represent cents in the US. The abbreviation '€' represents the 'euro', the European single currency, and the abbreviations '€m' and '€bn' represent millions and thousands of millions of euros, respectively.

The geographic analysis in the Business Review, including the average balance sheet and interest rates, changes in net interest income and average interest rates, yields, spreads and margins in this report have generally been compiled on the basis of location of office - UK and overseas – unless indicated otherwise. 'UK' in this context includes transactions conducted through the offices in the UK which service international banking transactions.

The results, assets and liabilities of individual business units are classified as trading or non-trading based on their predominant activity. Although this method may result in some non-trading activity being classified as trading, and vice versa, any resulting misclassification is not expected to be material.

### International Financial Reporting Standards

As required by the Companies Act 2006 and Article 4 of the European Union IAS Regulation, the consolidated financial statements of RBS are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and interpretations issued by the IFRS Interpretations Committee of the IASB as adopted by the European Union (together 'IFRS'). They also comply with IFRS as issued by the IASB.

### Revised organisational structure

During 2014, RBS announced a new organisational structure based on three franchises:

- Personal & Business Banking, comprising two reportable segments, UK Personal & Business Banking, including Williams & Glyn, and Ulster Bank.
- Commercial & Private Banking, comprising two reportable segments, Commercial Banking and Private Banking.
- Corporate & Institutional Banking, a single reportable segment.

In addition, RBS will continue to manage and report Citizens Financial Group and RBS Capital Resolution (RCR) separately until disposal or wind-down. No business lines were moved to RCR so comparative data has not been restated. Non-Core was dissolved on 31 December 2013.

### Non-statutory results

The financial information on a non-statutory basis, prepared using RBS accounting policies, shows the underlying performance of RBS which excludes certain reconciling items. Information is provided in this form to give a better understanding of the results of RBS operations.

A number of previously reported reconciling items (Payment Protection Insurance costs, Interest Rate Hedging Products redress and related costs, regulatory and legal actions, restructuring costs, amortisation of purchased intangible assets, write down of other intangible assets and bank levy) have now been allocated to the reportable segments. Consistent with the manner in which RBS is managed, operating profit on a non-statutory basis excludes:

- Own credit adjustments;
- Gain on redemption of own debt;
- Write down of goodwill;
- Asset Protection Scheme;
- Strategic disposals; and
- RFS Holdings minority interest (RFS MI)

and includes the results of Citizens that are included in discontinued operations in the statutory results.

In addition, during 2014 RBS also made changes to the method of allocating costs relating to Services and Functions, the basis of allocation of RBS Treasury costs and the calculation of segment return on equity. For further information on these changes, see page 126.

Comparatives have been restated accordingly for the changes outlined above.

### Statutory results

The statutory results include the reconciling items in the appropriate captions in the income statement.

Reconciliations between the non-statutory and statutory results are detailed on pages 163 to 165.

### Discontinued operations

RBS disposed of 29.5% of its interest in Citizens in 2014. In accordance with IFRS 5 'Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations', Citizens has been recognised as a discontinued operation with consequent changes to the presentation of comparative financial information. The assets and liabilities relating to Citizens are included in disposal groups at 31 December 2014.

### Glossary

A glossary of terms is provided on pages 505 to 511.

### Description of business

#### Introduction

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc is the holding company of a large banking and financial services group. Headquartered in Edinburgh, RBS operates in the United Kingdom, the United States and internationally through its principal subsidiaries, the Royal Bank and NatWest. Both the Royal Bank and NatWest are major UK clearing banks. In the United States, RBS's subsidiary Citizens Financial Group Inc. is a large commercial banking organisation. Globally, RBS has a diversified customer base and provides a wide range of products and services to personal, commercial and large corporate and institutional customers.

Following the placing and open offers in December 2008 and in April 2009, HM Treasury owned approximately 70.3% of the enlarged ordinary share capital of the company. In December 2009, the company issued a further £25.5 billion of new capital to HM Treasury. This new capital took the form of B shares, which do not generally carry voting rights at general meetings of ordinary shareholders but are convertible into ordinary shares and qualify as Core Tier 1 capital. Following the issuance of the B shares, HM Treasury's holding of ordinary shares of the company remained at 70.3% although its economic interest rose to 84.4%.

At 31 December 2014, HM Treasury's holding in the company's ordinary shares was 62.3% and its economic interest was 79.1%.

RBS had total assets of £1,051 billion and owners' equity of £57 billion at 31 December 2014. The risk asset ratios at 31 December 2014 were a Total capital ratio of 13.7%, a Common Equity Tier 1 capital ratio of 11.2% and a Tier 1 capital ratio of 11.2%.

#### Organisational structure

On 27 February 2014, RBS announced a refreshed strategic direction with the ambition of building a bank which earns its customers' trust by serving them better than any other bank.

RBS is now structured to deliver this ambition by organising itself around the needs of its customers, so as to combine customer groups with similar needs into franchises able to deliver co-ordinated services.

The reorganised bank will be a UK-focused retail and corporate bank with an international footprint to drive its corporate business. The previously reported operating divisions are now realigned into three franchises:

*Personal & Business Banking (PBB)* comprises two reportable segments, UK Personal & Business Banking, including Williams & Glynn, (UK PBB) and Ulster Bank:

- *UK Personal & Business Banking (UK PBB)* offers a comprehensive range of banking products and related financial services to the personal and small business market. It serves customers through a number of channels including: the Royal Bank and NatWest network of branches and ATMs in the UK, telephony, online and mobile. UK PBB is committed to serving customers well, making banking easier and convenient whilst ensuring that we do business in an open, honest and sustainable manner.

- *Ulster Bank* is a leading retail and commercial bank in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It provides a comprehensive range of financial services through both its Retail Banking division, which provides loan and deposit products through a network of branches and direct channels, and its Corporate Banking division, which provides services to businesses and corporate customers.

*Commercial & Private Banking (CPB)* comprises two reportable segments, Commercial Banking and Private Banking:

- *Commercial Banking* is a leading provider of banking, finance and risk management services to the commercial, mid-corporate and corporate sector in the UK. It offers a full range of banking products and related financial services through a nationwide network of relationship managers, telephone and internet channels. The product range includes invoice finance through the RBSIF brand and asset finance through the Lombard brand.
- *Private Banking* provides banking and wealth management services in the UK through Coutts & Co and Adam & Company, offshore through RBS International and Isle of Man Bank and internationally through Coutts & Co Ltd.

*Corporate & Institutional Banking (CIB)* serves our corporate and institutional clients primarily in the UK and Western Europe, as well as those US and Asian multinationals with substantial trade and investment links in the region, with debt financing, risk management and trade services, focusing on core product capabilities that are of most relevance to our clients. CIB is a single reportable segment.

In addition to the segments noted above, RBS will continue to manage and report Citizens Financial Group (CFG) and RBS Capital Resolution (RCR) separately until disposal or wind-down.

*Citizens Financial Group (CFG)* provides financial services primarily through the Citizens and Charter One brands. CFG is engaged in retail and corporate banking activities through its branch network in 11 states in the United States and through non-branch offices in other states. RBS disposed of 29.5% of its interest in CFG in 2014 and it is intended that RBS will complete the disposal of CFG by 2016. CFG has been reclassified as a discontinued operation, it continues to be presented as reportable segment.

*RBS Capital Resolution (RCR)* became fully operational on 1 January 2014 with a pool of c.£29 billion of assets with particularly high long-term capital intensity, credit risk and/or potentially volatile outcomes in stressed environments. RCR brings assets under common management and increases focus on managing these assets so as to release capital.

*Services* supports the customer-facing businesses and provides operational technology, customer support in telephony, account management, lending and money transmission, global purchasing, property and other services. Services drives efficiencies and supports income growth across multiple brands and channels by using a single, scalable platform and common processes wherever possible. It also leverages RBS's purchasing power and is the centre of excellence for managing large-scale and complex change. For reporting purposes, Services costs are allocated to the operating segments above. It is not deemed a reportable segment.

### Description of business *continued*

*Central Functions* comprises corporate functions, such as treasury, finance, risk management, compliance, legal, communications and human resources. Central functions manages RBS capital resources and RBS-wide regulatory projects and provides services to the reportable segments.

### Business divestments

To comply with the European Commission State Aid requirements RBS agreed a series of restructuring measures. These included the sale of 80.01% of RBS Global Merchant Services business (completed in 2010) and the sale of substantially all of the RBS Semptra Commodities joint venture business (largely completed in 2010), as well as the divestment of Direct Line Insurance Group plc (completed in 2014, following earlier disposals of 34.7% of DLG shares in 2012 and 36.8% of DLG shares in 2013).

In October 2012, Santander UK plc withdrew from its agreed purchase of the UK branch-based businesses. In September 2013, RBS reached an agreement with an investor consortium led by Corsair Capital and Centerbridge Partners for an investment in these businesses ahead of a stock market flotation. This includes 308 RBS branches in England and Wales along with the related direct SME customers across the UK ("UK branch-based businesses"). The new bank will be called Williams & Glyn, the brand RBS used for its branches in England and Wales before 1985. It is intended that Williams & Glyn will be launched by the end of 2016.

In September 2014, RBS completed an initial public offering of 28.75% of CFG common stock and currently has an interest of 70.5%. It is intended that RBS will cede control of CFG by the end of 2015, with full disposal completed by the end of 2016.



### Competition

#### Personal & Business Banking

In the personal and small business banking business, the bank competes with a range of providers including UK banks and building societies, major retailers and life assurance companies, as well as the UK subsidiaries of major international banks. In the mortgage market, the bank competes with UK banks, building societies and specialist lenders. Increasingly, the ambitions of non-traditional players in the UK market are gaining credibility, with new entrants active and seeking to build their platforms either through organic growth or in some cases by acquiring businesses made available through restructuring of incumbents. Entrants with new business models such as peer-to-peer lending platforms, while currently small, have shown rapid growth and are emerging as significant competitors. Such competitors often target specific elements of the value chain or customer segments. RBS distributes life assurance products to banking customers in competition with independent advisors and life assurance companies.

In Ireland, Ulster Bank competes in retail and commercial banking with the major Irish banks and building societies, and with other UK and international banks and building societies active in the market.

In the UK credit card market large retailers and specialist card issuers are active in addition to the UK banks. In addition to physical distribution channels, providers compete through direct marketing activity and digital channels.

Key competitive factors in this market segment include cost management, growing digital sales focus, branch network re-shaping, and product simplification. Cost management remains a key focus in the market, as banks seek to simplify their organisational and IT architectures while at the same time investing to ensure that they can meet customers' evolving channel preferences. Customers have increasingly focused on the use of internet and mobile as sales and service channels for certain types of products. Therefore, competitive position and performance in the sector increasingly depends on the possession of user-friendly, diverse and efficient online solutions. Although conveniently located branches are still important, RBS faces competitive pressure to adjust its branch formats to meet changing customer expectations and to manage its branch footprint as over-the-counter transaction volumes decline. In terms of product offering, the industry trend is to limit the number of products and present the product structure and costs in a clear and transparent manner.

#### Commercial & Private Banking

Competition for corporate and institutional customers in the UK is from UK banks, from specialised global and regional investment banks and from large foreign universal banks that offer combined investment and commercial banking capabilities as well as from new entrants and non-bank challengers. In asset finance and invoice finance, the bank competes with banks and specialist finance providers, both captive and non-captive. In the small business banking market, the bank competes with other UK banks, specialist finance providers and building societies. In all of these areas, entrants with new technology-based business model are also showing rapid growth. In Private Banking, The Royal Bank of Scotland International competes with other UK and international banks to offer offshore banking services as well as domestic banking services in the Channel Islands, Gibraltar and the Isle of Man. Coutts and Adam & Company compete as private banks with UK clearing and private banks, asset managers and with international private banks. Competition in wealth management remains strong as banks maintain their focus on competing for affluent and high net worth customers.

#### Corporate & Institutional Banking

In UK, European, Asian and the US corporate and institutional banking markets the bank competes with the large domestic banks active in these markets, the major international banks and a number of investment banks. Future competition in these markets, especially in Asia and the US, will be impacted by the implementation of the refined CIB strategy. With continued pressure on margins and fees, market participants stay focused on optimising core businesses, principally through reallocation of resources to areas generating economic returns where client opportunities are greater. In some cases this means closing part of overseas operations and focusing on home countries, while in others, notably among Japanese banks, competitors are searching for growth opportunities beyond home markets.

#### Citizens Financial Group (CFG)

In the United States, following a successful initial public offering, RBS retains a controlling interest in CFG. CFG competes in the New England, Mid-Atlantic and Mid-West retail and mid-corporate banking markets with local and regional banks and other financial institutions. CFG's mortgage lending, auto lending, student lending and commercial banking businesses operate in select additional markets. CFG Commercial Banking offers its corporate, not-for-profit and institutional clients a broad range of wholesale banking products and services including treasury services, specialty finance, foreign exchange, capital markets and debt syndication.

### Risk factors

Set out below is a summary of certain risks which could adversely affect the Group; it should be read in conjunction with the Capital and risk management section of the Business review (pages 168 to 334). This summary should not be regarded as a complete and comprehensive statement of all potential risks and uncertainties. A fuller description of these and other risk factors is included on pages 474 to 492.

- The Group is implementing a large number of existing and new programmes and initiatives intended to improve the Group's capital position, meet legal and regulatory requirements and result in the Group becoming a safer and more competitive, customer focused and profitable bank. These initiatives include, among other things, the execution of the Group's strategic plan announced in 2013 and 2014 and which includes the implementation of its new divisional and functional structure (the "2013/2014 Strategic Plan") as well as a major investment programme to upgrade and rationalise the Group's information technology ("IT") and operational infrastructure (the "IT and Operational Investment Plan"), further initiatives designed to reduce the size of the Group's balance sheet and de-risk its business, in particular through the divestments of the Group's interest in Williams & Glyn, its remaining stake in Citizens Financial Group, Inc. ("CFG") and the "higher risk and capital intensive assets" in RCR as well as a significant restructuring of the Group's Corporate and Institutional Banking ("CIB") division and of the Group's business as a result of the implementation of the regulatory ring-fencing of retail banking operations (the "ring-fence"). Together, these initiatives are referred to as the "Transformation Plan" and present significant risks for the Group, including the following:
  - The Transformation Plan, and in particular the restructuring of the Group's CIB business and the divestment of certain of the Group's portfolios and businesses, including its remaining stake in CFG, are designed to allow the Group to achieve its capital targets. There is no assurance that the Group will be able to successfully implement these initiatives on which its capital plan depends or that it will achieve its goals within the time frames contemplated.
  - The implementation of the ring-fence will likely result in considerable operational and legal difficulties as it will require significant restructuring of the Group and its businesses with the possible transfer of a large number of customers between new or existing legal entities. This implementation exercise will be complex, costly, will result in significant changes for the Group's customers and there is no certainty that the Group will be able to implement the ring-fence successfully or in time to meet the regulatory deadline of 2019.
  - The changes to the Group resulting from the implementation of the Transformation Plan will result in major changes to the Group's corporate structure, the delivery of its business activities in the UK and other jurisdictions as well as the Group's business model. Although the goals of the Transformation Plan are for the Group to emerge as a less complex and safer bank, there can be no assurance that the final results will be successful and that the Group will be a viable, competitive, customer focused and profitable bank at the end of this long period of restructuring.
  - The level of structural change required to implement the Group's Transformation Plan is likely to be disruptive and increase operational and people risks for the Group. In addition, the Group will incur significant costs in implementing the Transformation Plan and its revenues may also be impacted by lower levels of customer retention and revenue generation following the restructuring of its business and activities. Further, the competitive landscape in which the Group operates is constantly evolving and recent regulatory and legal changes, including ring-fencing, are likely to result in new market participants. These changes, combined with the changes to the Group's structure and business as a result of the implementation of the Transformation Plan, may result in increased competitive pressures on the Group.
  - Substantial investments are being made in the Group's IT and operational structure through targeted investment and rationalisation programmes as part of the IT and Operational Investment Plan. Any failure by the Group to realise the benefits of this IT and Operational Investment Plan, whether on time or at all, could have a material adverse effect on the Group's business and its ability to retain or grow its customer business and remain competitive.
- The Group's ability to implement its Transformation Plan and its future success depends on its ability to attract and retain qualified personnel. The Group could fail to attract or retain senior management, which may include members of the Group Board, or other key employees. The Group's changing strategy has led to the departure of many talented staff. Implementation of the Group's Transformation Plan, and in particular of the ring-fence and restructuring of the Group's CIB business, as well as increased legal and regulatory supervision, including the implementation of the new responsibility regime introduced under the Financial Services (Banking Reform) Act 2013 in the UK, (the "Banking Reform Act 2013") including the new Senior Persons Regime, may further hinder the Group's ability to attract or retain senior management and other skilled personnel. Following the implementation of CRD IV and the Government's views on variable compensation, there is now a restriction on the Group's ability to pay individual bonuses greater than fixed remuneration, which may put the Group at a competitive disadvantage. An inability to attract and retain qualified personnel could have an adverse impact on the implementation of the Group's strategy and regulatory commitments.
- The Group has been, and continues to be, subject to litigation and regulatory and governmental investigations that may impact its business, reputation, results of operations and financial condition. Although the Group settled a number of legal proceedings and regulatory investigations during 2014, the Group is expected to continue to have material exposure to litigation and regulatory proceedings in the medium term. The Group also expects greater regulatory and governmental scrutiny for the foreseeable future particularly as it relates to compliance with historical, existing and new laws and regulations.

- Ahead of the upcoming election in May 2015 in the UK, there is uncertainty around how the policies of the newly elected government may impact the Group, including a possible referendum on the UK's membership of the EU. The implementation of these policies, including the outcome of the EU referendum, could significantly impact the environment in which the Group operates and the fiscal, monetary, legal and regulatory requirements to which it is subject.
- Operational and reputational risks are inherent in the Group's businesses, but are heightened as a result of the implementation of the Transformation Plan. Employee misconduct may also result in regulatory sanctions and serious reputational or financial harm to the Group.
- Despite the improved outlook for the global and UK economy over the near to medium-term, actual or perceived difficult global economic conditions, potential volatility in the UK housing market as well as increased competition, particularly in the UK, may create challenging economic and market conditions and a difficult operating environment for the Group's businesses, as it continues to refocus its operations on the UK. These factors, together with continuing uncertainty relating to the recovery of the eurozone economy and volatile financial markets, in part due to the monetary and fiscal policies and measures carried out by central banks, have adversely affected and may continue to adversely affect the Group's businesses, earnings, financial condition and prospects.
- The Group's business performance, financial condition and capital and liquidity ratios could be adversely affected if its capital is not managed effectively or as a result of increasingly stringent regulatory requirements relating to capital adequacy, including those arising out of the implementation of Basel III or future proposals and the uncertainty arising from the consistent implementation of such rules in the various jurisdictions in which the Group operates. Maintaining adequate capital resources and meeting the requisite capital adequacy requirements may prove increasingly difficult and costly and will depend on the Group's continued access to funding sources, including following the implementation of the ring-fence, as well as the effective management of its balance sheet and capital resources.
- The Group's ability to meet its obligations including its funding commitments depends on the Group's ability to access sources of liquidity and funding. The inability to access liquidity and funding due to market conditions or otherwise or to do so at a reasonable cost, could adversely affect the Group's financial condition and results of operations. Furthermore, the Group's borrowing costs and its access to the debt capital markets and other sources of liquidity depend significantly on its and, to a lesser extent the UK Government's credit ratings.
- The Group is subject to substantial regulation and oversight and although it is difficult to predict with certainty the effect that the recent regulatory changes, developments and heightened levels of public and regulatory scrutiny will have on the Group, the enactment of legislation and regulations in the UK, the EU and the US has resulted in increased capital, funding and liquidity requirements, changes in the competitive landscape, changes in other regulatory requirements and increased operating costs and has impacted, and will continue to impact, products offerings and business models as well as the risks that the Group may be unable to comply with such requirements in the manner or within the timeframes required. A number of reviews and investigations are currently ongoing in the UK and other jurisdictions in which the Group operates which may result in further legislative changes.
- The Group or any of its UK bank subsidiaries may face the risk of full nationalisation or other resolution procedures, including recapitalisation of the Group or any of its UK bank subsidiaries, through the exercise of the bail-in tool which was introduced in the UK by the Banking Reform Act 2013 and implemented in line with the provisions of the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive. In the event of the failure of the Group, various actions could be taken by or on behalf of the UK Government, including actions in relation to any securities issued, new or existing contractual arrangements and transfers of part or all of the Group's businesses.
- The Group is highly dependent on its IT systems, which are currently subject to a significant investment and rationalisation programme. The Group has been and expects to continue to be subject to cyber-attacks which expose the Group to loss of customer data or other sensitive information and which, combined with other failures of the Group's information technology systems, may hinder its ability to service its customers which could result in long-term damage to the Group's reputation, businesses and brands.
- As a result of the UK Government's majority shareholding in the Group it is able to exercise a significant degree of influence over the Group including on dividend policy, the election of directors or appointment of senior management, remuneration policy and/or limiting the Group's operations. The offer or sale by the UK Government of all or a portion of its shareholding in the Company could affect the market price of the equity shares and other securities and acquisitions of ordinary shares by the UK Government (including through conversions of other securities or further purchases of shares) may result in the delisting of the Company from the Official List.

### Risk factors continued

- The Group is required to make planned contributions to its pension schemes and to compensation schemes in respect of certain financial institutions (such as the UK Financial Services Compensation Scheme). Pension contributions may be increased to meet pension deficits or to address additional funding requirements, including those which may arise in connection with the restructuring of the Group's pension plan as a result of the implementation of the ring-fence. The Group may also be required to make further contributions under resolution financing arrangements applicable to banks and investment firms. Additional or increased contributions may have an adverse impact on the Group's results of operations, cash flow and financial condition.
- The deterioration of the prevailing economic and market conditions and the actual or perceived failure or worsening credit of the Group's counterparties or borrowers and depressed asset valuations resulting from poor market conditions, have adversely affected the Group and could continue to adversely affect the Group if, due to a deterioration in economic and financial market conditions or continuing weak economic growth, it were to recognise or realise further write-downs or impairment charges. Changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates, oil and other commodity prices also impact the value of the Group's investment and trading portfolios and may have a material adverse effect on the Group's financial performance and business operations.
- The value of certain financial instruments recorded at fair value is determined using financial models incorporating assumptions, judgements and estimates that may change over time or may ultimately not turn out to be accurate. The Group's valuation, capital and stress test models and the parameters and assumptions on which they are based rely on market data inputs and need to be constantly updated to ensure their accuracy. Failure of these models to accurately reflect changes in the environment in which the Group operates or the failure to properly input any such changes could have an adverse impact on the modeled results.
- Developments in regulatory or tax legislation could have an effect on how the Group conducts its business and on its results of operations and financial condition, and the recoverability of certain deferred tax assets recognised by the Group is subject to uncertainty.

## Business review

### Key financials

	Non-statutory			Statutory		
	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>for the year ended 31 December</b>						
Total income (1)	18,197	19,442	22,085	15,150	16,737	14,715
Profit/(loss) before impairment losses (2)	2,348	932	4,166	1,291	(729)	(1,042)
Impairment releases/(losses)	1,155	(8,432)	(5,279)	1,352	(8,120)	(5,010)
Operating profit/(loss) before tax	2,643	(8,849)	(6,052)	2,643	(8,849)	(6,052)
Loss attributable to ordinary and B shareholders	(3,470)	(8,995)	(6,055)	(3,470)	(8,995)	(6,055)
Cost:income ratio (3)	87%	95%	81%	91%	104%	107%
Adjusted cost:income ratio (4)	68%	72%	65%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Basic earnings/(loss) per ordinary and equivalent B share from continuing operations (pence)	0.5p	(85.0p)	(58.9p)	0.5p	(85.0p)	(58.9p)
Adjusted earnings/(loss) per ordinary and equivalent B share from continuing operations (pence) (5)	0.8p	(77.7p)	(30.2p)	n/a	n/a	n/a

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>At 31 December</b>			
Funded balance sheet (6)	697,173	739,839	870,392
Total assets	1,050,763	1,027,878	1,312,295
Loans and advances to customers	378,238	440,722	500,135
Deposits (7)	452,304	534,859	622,684
Owners' equity	57,246	58,742	68,678
Risk asset ratios - Common Equity Tier 1/Core Tier 1 (8)	11.2%	10.9%	10.3%
- Tier 1	11.2%	13.1%	12.4%
- Total	13.7%	16.5%	14.5%

#### Notes:

- (1) Total income on a non-statutory basis excludes own credit adjustments, gain on redemption of own debt, Asset Protection Scheme, strategic disposals and RFS MI.
- (2) Profit/(loss) on a non-statutory basis excludes own credit adjustments, gain on redemption of own debt, write down of goodwill, Asset Protection Scheme, strategic disposals and RFS MI.
- (3) Cost:income ratio on a non-statutory basis represents operating expenses including litigation and conduct costs and integration and restructuring costs and excluding write down of goodwill and RFS MI, expressed as a percentage of total income as defined in (1) above. On a statutory basis, cost:income ratio represents operating expenses expressed as a percentage of total income.
- (4) Adjusted cost:income ratio on a non-statutory basis represents operating expenses excluding litigation and conduct costs and integration and restructuring costs, write down of goodwill and RFS MI, expressed as a percentage of total income as defined in (1) above.
- (5) Adjusted earnings/(loss) per ordinary and equivalent B share is based on earnings from continuing operations adjusted for own credit adjustments, gain on redemption of own debt, write down of goodwill, Asset Protection Scheme and strategic disposals. Adjusted earnings per ordinary and equivalent B share excludes the participation rights of the dividend access share.
- (6) Funded balance sheet represents total assets less derivatives.
- (7) Comprises deposits by banks and customer accounts.
- (8) Common Equity Tier 1 ratio with effect from 1 January 2014.
- (9) The results of Citizens on a non-statutory basis are included in the appropriate captions and are included in discontinued operations in the statutory results.



## Business review

### Summary consolidated income statement for the year ended 31 December 2014

In the non-statutory income statement set out below, own credit adjustments, gain on redemption of own debt, write down of goodwill, Asset Protection Scheme, strategic disposals and RFS Holdings minority interest are shown separately. In the statutory consolidated income statement on page 342, these items are included in the appropriate captions. On a non-statutory basis the results of Citizens are included in the appropriate captions and are included in discontinued operations in the statutory results.

	Non-statutory			Statutory		
	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Net interest income	11,274	10,992	11,417	9,258	9,017	9,356
Fees and commissions receivable	5,148	5,460	5,709	4,414	4,678	4,898
Fees and commissions payable	(900)	(942)	(833)	(875)	(923)	(818)
Other non-interest income	2,675	3,932	5,792	2,353	3,965	1,279
Non-interest income	6,923	8,450	10,668	5,892	7,720	5,359
Total income	18,197	19,442	22,085	15,150	16,737	14,715
Staff and non-staff expenses	(12,398)	(14,010)	(14,313)	(13,859)	(17,466)	(15,757)
Integration and restructuring costs	(1,257)	(656)	(1,415)	—	—	—
Litigation and conduct costs	(2,194)	(3,844)	(2,191)	—	—	—
Operating expenses	(15,849)	(18,510)	(17,919)	(13,859)	(17,466)	(15,757)
Profit/(loss) before impairment losses	2,348	932	4,166	1,291	(729)	(1,042)
Impairment releases/(losses)	1,155	(8,432)	(5,279)	1,352	(8,120)	(5,010)
Operating profit/(loss) (1)	3,503	(7,500)	(1,113)	2,643	(8,849)	(6,052)
Own credit adjustments	(146)	(120)	(4,649)	—	—	—
Gain on redemption of own debt	20	175	454	—	—	—
Write down of goodwill	(130)	(1,059)	(18)	—	—	—
Asset Protection Scheme	—	—	(44)	—	—	—
Strategic disposals	191	161	113	—	—	—
Citizens discontinued operations	(771)	(606)	(775)	—	—	—
RFS Holdings minority interest	(24)	100	(20)	—	—	—
Operating profit/(loss) before tax	2,643	(8,849)	(6,052)	2,643	(8,849)	(6,052)
Tax charge	(1,909)	(186)	(156)	(1,909)	(186)	(156)
Profit/(loss) from continuing operations	734	(9,035)	(6,208)	734	(9,035)	(6,208)
(Loss)/profit from discontinued operations, net of tax						
- Citizens (2)	(3,486)	410	490	(3,486)	410	490
- Other	41	148	(172)	41	148	(172)
(Loss)/profit from discontinued operations, net of tax	(3,445)	558	318	(3,445)	558	318
Loss for the year	(2,711)	(8,477)	(5,890)	(2,711)	(8,477)	(5,890)
Non-controlling interests	(60)	(120)	136	(60)	(120)	136
Other owners' dividends	(379)	(398)	(301)	(379)	(398)	(301)
Dividend Access Share dividend	(320)	—	—	(320)	—	—
Loss attributable to ordinary and B shareholders	(3,470)	(8,995)	(6,055)	(3,470)	(8,995)	(6,055)

#### Notes:

(1) On a statutory basis, operating profit/(loss) excludes the results of Citizens.

(2) Included within Citizens discontinued operations are the results of the reportable operating segment Citizens Financial Group (CFG), the loss provision for CFG on transfer to disposal groups, certain Citizens related activities in Central items and related one-off and other items.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Basic earnings/(loss) per ordinary and equivalent B share from continuing operations	0.5p	(85.0p)	(58.9p)
Own credit adjustments	1.1p	1.0p	32.5p
Gain on redemption of own debt	(0.2p)	(1.7p)	(3.2p)
Write down of goodwill	1.1p	9.4p	0.1p
Asset Protection Scheme	—	—	0.3p
Strategic disposals	(1.7p)	(1.4p)	(1.0p)
Adjusted earnings/(loss) per ordinary and equivalent B share from continuing operations	0.8p	(77.7p)	(30.2p)

### Results summary

#### 2014 compared with 2013

##### Operating profit

On a non-statutory basis, operating profit excluding own credit adjustments, gain on redemption of own debt, write down of goodwill, strategic disposals and RFS MI and including the results of Citizens, which is classified as a discontinued operation improved to £3,503 million for 2014, compared with an operating loss of £7,500 million in 2013, benefiting from improved operating results in core businesses together with significant impairment releases in Ulster Bank and RCR.

On a statutory basis, operating profit was £2,643 million compared with a loss of £8,849 million in 2013. This included a reduction of £929 million in goodwill write down. The loss from discontinued operations of £3,445 million reflected a £3,994 million fair value adjustment in relation to the reclassification of CFG to disposal groups.

##### Total income

On a non-statutory basis, total income was £18,197 million, down 6% from 2013, with improvements in net interest income in PBB and CPB offset by lower income from trading activities in CIB, in line with its smaller balance sheet and reduced risk profile.

On a statutory basis, total income was £15,150 million, down 9% from 2013, including the impact of lower gains from the redemption of own debt of £20 million in 2014 compared with £175 million in 2013.

##### Net interest income

On a non-statutory basis, net interest income increased by 3% to £11,274 million with improvements in deposit margins in PBB and CPB supported by a larger balance sheet in CFG through purchased portfolios, increased investments and organic growth.

On a statutory basis, net interest income increased by 3% to £9,258 million which excluded the impact of CFG.

On a non-statutory basis, net interest margin was 2.23% (statutory basis 2.13%), up from 2.01% (statutory basis - 1.88%) in 2013, with improved liability margins partially offset by pressure on mortgage and corporate lending margins and by the continuing shift in mix towards lower margin secured lending.

##### Non-interest income

On a non-statutory basis, non-interest income declined by £1,527 million, or 18%, to £6,923 million, principally reflecting a 46% reduction in income from trading activities in line with CIB's smaller balance sheet and reduced risk profile and lower gains on the disposal of available-for-sale securities in RBS Treasury which were down £575 million to £149 million for 2014

Net fees and commission on both a non-statutory and statutory basis fell by 6% principally reflecting declines in CIB and Commercial Banking.

On a statutory basis, non-interest income declined by £1,828 million or 24% to £5,892 million including lower gains from the redemption of own debt of £20 million compared with £175 million in 2013.

##### Operating expenses

On a non-statutory basis, operating expenses decreased by £2,661 million or 14% to £15,849 million. Operating expenses excluding restructuring costs of £1,257 million and litigation and conduct costs of £2,194 million declined by £1,612 million, or 12%, to £12,398 million, mainly reflecting cost savings of £1.1 billion.

Litigation and conducts costs totalled £2,194 million compared with £3,844 million in 2013. This included additional provisions for PPI redress (£650 million) in PBB, provisions relating to investigations into the foreign exchange market (£720 million) in CIB, Interest Rate Hedging Product redress (£185 million), the fine relating to the 2012 IT incident (£59 million) booked in Centre and other costs (£580 million) including provisions relating to packaged accounts and investment products.

Restructuring costs increased by £601 million to £1,257 million, including £378 million in relation to Williams & Glyn and a £247 million write-off of intangible assets.

On a statutory basis, operating expenses decreased by £3,607 million or 21% to £13,859 million, including write down of goodwill of £130 million in 2014 compared with £1,059 million in 2013.

##### Impairment losses

On a non-statutory basis, net impairment releases were £1,155 million compared with a net impairment charge of £8,432 million in 2013, which included £4,490 million provisions related to the creation of RCR.

Releases were recorded principally in RCR (£1,306 million) and in Ulster Bank (£365 million), which benefited from favourable economic and market conditions supported by rising Irish property values and proactive debt management. Excluding these releases, the underlying charge was lower at just over £500 million.

On a statutory basis, net impairment releases of £1,352 million were recorded in 2014 compared with a net impairment charge of £8,120 million and excluded the impact of Citizens.

On a non-statutory basis, loan impairment releases represented 0.3% (statutory basis - 0.4%) of gross loans and advances to customers (excluding repos) compared with loan impairment charges of 2.0% (statutory basis - 2.0%) in 2013.

On a non-statutory basis, risk elements in lending represented 6.8% (statutory basis - 7.6%) of loans and advances to customers excluding reverse repos, compared with 9.4% (statutory basis - 9.5%) the previous year. Provision coverage remained stable at 65% (statutory basis - 64%).

##### Non-operating items

Non-operating items shown separately on a non-statutory basis included a charge of £146 million (2013 - £120 million) for own credit adjustments.

Liability management exercises undertaken during 2014 resulted in a net gain of £20 million (2013 - £175 million).

### Results summary continued

#### Tax

The tax charge of £1,909 million included a net write-off of deferred tax assets of £1.5 billion relating to the UK (£850 million) and the US (£775 million), reflecting the impact of scaling back the CIB operations, partially offset by write-backs relating to Ulster Bank.

#### Earnings per share

Basic earnings per ordinary and equivalent B share from continuing operations was 0.5p per share compared with a loss of 85.0p per share in 2013. Adjusted earnings per ordinary and equivalent B share from continuing operations was 0.8p per share compared with a loss of 77.7p per share in 2013.

### 2013 compared with 2012

#### Operating loss

On a non-statutory basis, operating loss excluding own credit adjustments, gain on redemption of own debt, write down of goodwill, strategic disposals RFS MI and in 2012 the Asset Protection Scheme, and including the results of Citizens was £7,500 million compared with £1,113 million in 2012. The decline in performance primarily related to increased impairment losses resulting from the establishment of RCR, elevated conduct and litigation costs and lower income in CIB.

On a statutory basis, operating loss for the year was £8,849 million compared with £6,052 million in 2012. This reflected £4,529 million lower own credit adjustment partially offset by a £1,041 million higher write-off of goodwill.

#### Total income

On a non-statutory basis, total income decreased by 12% to £19,442 million principally driven by lower income in CIB reflecting the smaller balance sheet, reduced risk levels and the uncertain market environment.

On a statutory basis, total income increased by 14% to £16,737 million in 2013 primarily reflecting a lower accounting charge for own credit of £120 million in 2013 compared with £4,649 million in 2012.

#### Net interest income

On a non-statutory basis, net interest income decreased by 4% to £10,992 million largely reflecting lower interest-earning asset balances partially offset by re-pricing initiatives.

On a statutory basis, net interest income decreased by 4% to £9,017 million and excluded the impact of Citizens.

On a non-statutory basis, net interest margin improved by 9 basis points to 2.01% and on a statutory basis by 10 basis points to 1.88%. This was driven by moves to reprice deposits in a number of segments, partially offset by a roll-off in higher yielding securities.

#### Non-interest income

On a non-statutory basis, non-interest income decreased by 21% to £8,450 million in 2013 principally driven by lower income from trading activities in CIB as the segment managed down the scale of the balance sheet and reduced risk. This was partially offset by a £506 million improvement in Non-Core trading losses. Operating lease and rental income fell by £392 million, largely reflecting the disposal of RBS Aviation Capital in 2012.

On a statutory basis, non-interest income increased 44% to £7,720 million from £5,359 million in 2012. This included a loss on own credit adjustments of £120 million (2012 - £4,649 million), net gain on redemption of own debt of £175 million (2012 - £454 million) and movements in the fair value of the Asset Protection Scheme resulting in a £44 million charge in 2012.

#### Operating expenses

On a non-statutory basis, operating expenses increased by £591 million, or 3% to £18,510 million operating expenses excluding conduct and litigation costs and integration and restructuring costs decreased 2% to £14,010 million. This was primarily due to staff costs down 7% as headcount fell by 4% to 114,900, principally in UK PBB, Ulster Bank, CIB and Non-Core driven by exiting staff and lower central support requirements on run-down partially offset by the write-down of other intangible assets, including software, of £344 million related to CIB.

Litigation and conduct costs of £3,844 million (2012 - £2,191 million), reflected a charge for PPI of £900 million in 2013, a charge of £550 million for redress in relation to certain interest-rate hedging products sold to small and medium-sized businesses classified as retail clients under FSA rules and charges relating to regulatory and legal actions of £2,394 million, these charges primarily relate to various claims and conduct related matters affecting RBS companies, primarily those related to mortgage-backed securities and securities related litigation.

Integration and restructuring costs were £656 million compared with £1,415 million in 2012 with most of the costs relating to the Retail transformation, a reduction in the size of the CIB segment and programme costs for the EC mandated disposal of certain UK branch-based businesses.

On a statutory basis, operating expenses increased 11% to £17,466 million from £15,757 million in 2012, including write down of goodwill of £1,059 million (2012 - £18 million).

#### Impairment losses

On a non-statutory basis, impairment losses increased by 60% to £8,432 million from £5,279 million in 2012 primarily due to increased charges resulting from the establishment of RCR. Excluding the impact of RCR (£4,490 million), impairment losses fell by 25% to £3,942 million with significant improvements in Non-Core, UK PBB and Ulster Bank partially offset by increases in CFG and CIB.

On a statutory basis, net impairment losses were £8,120 million compared to £5,010 million.

On a non-statutory and statutory basis, loan impairments represented 2.0% of gross loans and advances to customers excluding reverse repos compared with 1.2% (statutory basis 1.1%) in 2012.

On a non-statutory basis, risk elements in lending at 31 December 2013 represented 9.4% (statutory basis 9.5%) of loans and advances excluding reverse repos, compared with 9.1% (statutory basis 9.1%) a year earlier. On a non-statutory and statutory basis, provision coverage was 64% compared with 52% at 31 December 2012.

### Non-operating items

Non-operating items shown separately on a non-statutory basis included a £120 million accounting charge in relation to own credit adjustments versus £4,649 million in 2012 reflecting the continuing, albeit modest, strengthening of RBS's credit profile

Liability management exercises undertaken during 2013 resulted in a net gain of £175 million (2012 - £454 million).

The Asset Protection Scheme, which the RBS exited from in 2012, was accounted for as a credit derivative and movements in the fair value of the contract included in income from trading activities. The APS fair value charge was £44 million in 2012.

The gain on strategic disposals of £161 million primarily relates to the disposal of RBS' remaining interest in WorldPay. In 2012 the gain of £113 million primarily related to the disposal of RBS Aviation Capital.

Write down of goodwill was £1,059 million compared with £18 million in 2012 in relation to a write-off in CIB.

### Tax

The tax charge was £186 million in 2013 compared with £156 million in 2012. The tax charge for the year reflects losses in low tax regimes (principally Ireland), losses in overseas subsidiaries for which a deferred tax asset has not been recognised (principally Ireland), a reduction in the carrying value of the deferred tax asset in respect of UK losses and the effect of the reduction of 3% in the rate of UK corporation tax enacted in July 2013.

### Loss per share

Basic loss per ordinary and equivalent B share from continuing operations was 85.0p per share compared with 58.9p per share in 2012. Adjusted loss per ordinary and equivalent B share from continuing operations was 77.7p per share compared with 30.2p per share in 2012.

## Business review

### Analysis of results

#### Net interest income

	Non-statutory			Statutory		
	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Interest receivable (1,2,4,5)	15,294	16,706	18,538	13,090	14,454	16,091
Interest payable (1,2,3,5)	(4,067)	(5,800)	(7,127)	(3,879)	(5,523)	(6,741)
Net interest income	11,227	10,906	11,411	9,211	8,931	9,350

#### Yields, spreads and margins of the banking business

	%	%	%	%	%	%
Gross yield on interest-earning assets of the banking business (6)	3.04	3.07	3.12	3.03	3.04	3.07
Cost of interest-bearing liabilities of the banking business	(1.13)	(1.38)	(1.49)	(1.24)	(1.47)	(1.57)
Interest spread of the banking business (7)	1.91	1.69	1.63	1.79	1.57	1.50
Benefit from interest-free funds	0.32	0.32	0.29	0.34	0.31	0.28
Net interest margin of the banking business (8)	2.23	2.01	1.92	2.13	1.88	1.78

#### Gross yield (6)

- Group	3.04	3.07	3.12	3.03	3.04	3.07
- UK	3.57	3.53	3.48	3.57	3.53	3.48
- Overseas	2.15	2.32	2.56	1.56	1.84	2.15

#### Interest spread (7)

- Group	1.91	1.69	1.63	1.79	1.57	1.50
- UK	2.35	2.01	1.83	2.35	2.01	1.83
- Overseas	1.31	1.30	1.41	0.19	0.57	0.84

#### Net interest margin (8)

- Group	2.23	2.01	1.92	2.13	1.88	1.78
- UK	2.52	2.17	1.98	2.52	2.17	1.98
- Overseas	1.75	1.74	1.82	1.08	1.16	1.34

#### The Royal Bank of Scotland plc base rate (average)

London inter-bank three month offered rates (average)	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
- Sterling	0.54	0.52	0.82	0.54	0.52	0.82
- Eurodollar	0.23	0.24	0.43	0.23	0.24	0.43
- Euro	0.21	0.27	0.53	0.21	0.27	0.53

#### Notes:

- (1) Interest receivable has been increased by £11 million (2013 - £4 million; 2012 - £8 million) and interest payable has been increased by £58 million (2013 - £83 million; 2012 - £152 million) to record interest on financial assets and liabilities designated as at fair value through profit or loss. Related interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities have also been adjusted.
- (2) Interest receivable has been decreased by nil (2013 - £38 million; 2012 - nil) and interest payable has been decreased by nil (2013 - £31 million; 2012 - £138 million) in respect of non-recurring adjustments.
- (3) Interest payable has been decreased by £3 million (2013 - £11 million; 2012 - £15 million) to exclude RFS Holdings minority interest.
- (4) Interest receivable includes £794 million (2013 - £798 million; 2012 - £565 million) in respect of loan fees forming part of the effective interest rate of loans and receivables.
- (5) Interest receivable has been increased by £2,204 million (2013 - £2,252 million; 2012 - £2,447 million) and interest payable has been increased by £191 million (2013 - £288 million; 2012 - £401 million) to include the discontinued operations of Citizens. Related interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities have also been adjusted.
- (6) Gross yield is the interest earned on average interest-earning assets of the banking book.
- (7) Interest spread is the difference between the gross yield and the interest rate paid on average interest-bearing liabilities of the banking business.
- (8) Net interest margin is net interest income of the banking business as a percentage of average interest-earning assets of the banking business.
- (9) The analysis into UK and overseas has been compiled on the basis of location of office.
- (10) Interest receivable and interest payable on trading assets and liabilities are included in income from trading activities.
- (11) Interest income includes amounts (unwind of discount) recognised on impaired loans and receivables. The average balances of such loans are included in average loans and advances to banks and loans and advances to customers.



## Business review

### Average balance sheet and related interest

		Non-statutory 2014			Non-statutory 2013		
		Average balance £m	Interest £m	Rate %	Average balance £m	Interest £m	Rate %
<b>Assets</b>							
Loans and advances to banks	- UK	34,592	216	0.62	42,466	261	0.61
	- Overseas	34,779	154	0.44	32,240	169	0.52
Loans and advances to customers	- UK	252,695	10,792	4.27	256,728	11,022	4.29
	- Overseas	126,727	3,396	2.68	143,128	4,065	2.84
Debt securities	- UK	28,639	267	0.93	38,391	628	1.64
	- Overseas	25,398	469	1.85	30,928	561	1.81
Interest-earning assets	- UK	315,926	11,275	3.57	337,585	11,911	3.53
	- Overseas	186,904	4,019	2.15	206,296	4,795	2.32
Total interest-earning assets	- banking business (1,2,4,5)	502,830	15,294	3.04	543,881	16,706	3.07
	- trading business (10)	166,643			216,211		
Interest-earning assets		669,473			760,092		
Non-interest-earning assets		371,881			467,274		
Total assets		1,041,354			1,227,366		
Percentage of assets applicable to overseas operations		27.4%			33.0%		
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Deposits by banks	- UK	5,860	49	0.84	7,997	144	1.80
	- Overseas	10,730	92	0.86	15,477	251	1.62
Customer accounts: demand deposits	- UK	118,628	470	0.40	123,707	501	0.40
	- Overseas	32,169	136	0.42	35,733	169	0.47
Customer accounts: savings deposits	- UK	85,649	710	0.83	93,245	1,266	1.36
	- Overseas	25,344	68	0.27	28,864	101	0.35
Customer accounts: other time deposits	- UK	18,866	278	1.47	31,714	433	1.37
	- Overseas	17,405	217	1.25	22,806	361	1.58
Debt securities in issue	- UK	38,801	1,042	2.69	50,684	1,244	2.45
	- Overseas	2,857	27	0.95	5,239	145	2.77
Subordinated liabilities	- UK	19,144	685	3.58	17,775	650	3.66
	- Overseas	4,515	202	4.47	6,413	206	3.21
Internal funding of trading business	- UK	(15,426)	89	(0.58)	(24,041)	348	(1.45)
	- Overseas	(4,635)	2	(0.04)	4,477	(19)	(0.42)
Interest-bearing liabilities	- UK	271,522	3,323	1.22	301,081	4,586	1.52
	- Overseas	88,385	744	0.84	119,009	1,214	1.02
Total interest-bearing liabilities	- banking business (1,2,3,5)	359,907	4,067	1.13	420,090	5,800	1.38
	- trading business (10)	177,156			223,264		
Interest-bearing liabilities		537,063			643,354		
Non-interest-bearing liabilities:							
Demand deposits	- UK	58,060			55,303		
	- Overseas	26,815			21,304		
Other liabilities		357,841			438,856		
Owners' equity		61,575			68,549		
Total liabilities and owners' equity		1,041,354			1,227,366		
Percentage of liabilities applicable to overseas operations		29.6%			28.7%		

For the notes to this table refer to page 116.

## Business review

### Average balance sheet and related interest *continued*

		Non-statutory 2012		
		Average balance £m	Interest £m	Rate £m
<b>Assets</b>				
Loans and advances to banks	- UK	33,656	248	0.74
	- Overseas	40,342	245	0.61
Loans and advances to customers	- UK	277,646	11,326	4.08
	- Overseas	151,740	4,862	3.20
Debt securities	- UK	50,457	1,023	2.03
	- Overseas	40,221	834	2.07
<b>Interest-earning assets</b>	- UK	361,759	12,597	3.48
	- Overseas	232,303	5,941	2.56
<b>Total interest-earning assets</b>	- banking business (1,2,3,5)	594,062	18,538	3.12
	- trading business (10)	240,131		
Interest-earning assets		834,193		
Non-interest-earning assets		596,179		
<b>Total assets</b>		1,430,372		
Percentage of assets applicable to overseas operations		37.8%		
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Deposits by banks	- UK	18,276	196	1.07
	- Overseas	20,129	384	1.91
Customer accounts: demand deposits	- UK	121,541	643	0.53
	- Overseas	35,087	210	0.60
Customer accounts: savings deposits	- UK	84,972	1,479	1.74
	- Overseas	26,989	133	0.49
Customer accounts: other time deposits	- UK	39,813	522	1.31
	- Overseas	26,038	509	1.95
Debt securities in issue	- UK	69,272	1,831	2.64
	- Overseas	22,469	342	1.52
Subordinated liabilities	- UK	16,026	490	3.06
	- Overseas	5,891	189	3.21
Internal funding of trading business	- UK	(21,140)	264	(1.25)
	- Overseas	11,992	(65)	(0.54)
<b>Interest-bearing liabilities</b>	- UK	328,760	5,425	1.65
	- Overseas	148,595	1,702	1.15
<b>Total interest-bearing liabilities</b>	- banking business (1,3,5)	477,355	7,127	1.49
	- trading business (10)	248,647		
Interest-bearing liabilities		726,002		
Non-interest-bearing liabilities:				
Demand deposits	- UK	46,420		
	- Overseas	27,900		
Other liabilities		556,242		
<b>Owners' equity</b>		73,808		
<b>Total liabilities and owners' equity</b>		1,430,372		
Percentage of liabilities applicable to overseas operations		33.9%		

For the notes to this table refer to page 116.

## Business review

		Statutory 2014			Statutory 2013		
		Average balance £m	Interest £m	Rate %	Average balance £m	Interest £m	Rate %
<b>Assets</b>							
Loans and advances to banks	- UK	34,592	216	0.62	42,466	261	0.61
	- Overseas	33,383	151	0.45	30,716	172	0.56
Loans and advances to customers	- UK	252,695	10,792	4.27	256,728	11,022	4.29
	- Overseas	72,034	1,555	2.16	87,846	2,105	2.40
Debt securities	- UK	28,639	267	0.93	38,391	628	1.64
	- Overseas	11,165	109	0.98	19,379	266	1.37
Interest-earning assets	- UK	315,926	11,275	3.57	337,585	11,911	3.53
	- Overseas	116,582	1,815	1.56	137,941	2,543	1.84
Total interest-earning assets	- banking business (1,2,4)	432,508	13,090	3.03	475,526	14,454	3.04
	- trading business (10)	166,643			216,211		
Interest-earning assets		599,151			691,737		
Non-interest-earning assets		442,203			535,629		
Total assets		1,041,354			1,227,366		
Percentage of assets applicable to overseas operations		27.4%			33.0%		
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Deposits by banks	- UK	5,860	49	0.84	7,997	144	1.80
	- Overseas	4,327	26	0.60	14,629	133	0.91
Customer accounts: demand deposits	- UK	118,628	470	0.40	123,707	501	0.40
	- Overseas	21,622	128	0.59	26,228	163	0.62
Customer accounts: savings deposits	- UK	85,649	710	0.83	93,245	1,266	1.36
	- Overseas	1,595	21	1.32	2,131	33	1.55
Customer accounts: other time deposits	- UK	18,866	278	1.47	31,714	433	1.37
	- Overseas	11,155	162	1.45	14,907	286	1.92
Debt securities in issue	- UK	38,801	1,042	2.69	50,684	1,244	2.45
	- Overseas	2,156	25	1.16	5,002	144	2.88
Subordinated liabilities	- UK	19,144	685	3.58	17,775	650	3.66
	- Overseas	4,302	192	4.46	6,190	197	3.18
Internal funding of trading business	- UK	(15,426)	89	(0.58)	(24,041)	348	(1.45)
	- Overseas	(4,635)	2	(0.04)	4,477	(19)	(0.42)
Interest-bearing liabilities	- UK	271,522	3,323	1.22	301,081	4,586	1.52
	- Overseas	40,522	556	1.37	73,564	937	1.27
Total interest-bearing liabilities	- banking business (1,2)	312,044	3,879	1.24	374,645	5,523	1.47
	- trading business (10)	177,156			223,264		
Interest-bearing liabilities		489,200			597,909		
Non-interest-bearing liabilities:							
Demand deposits	- UK	58,060			55,303		
	- Overseas	11,153			5,052		
Other liabilities		421,366			500,553		
Owners' equity		61,575			68,549		
Total liabilities and owners' equity		1,041,354			1,227,366		
Percentage of liabilities applicable to overseas operations		29.6%			28.7%		

For the notes to this table refer to page 116.

## Business review

### Average balance sheet and related interest *continued*

		Statutory 2012		
		Average balance £m	Interest £m	Rate %
<b>Assets</b>				
Loans and advances to banks	- UK	33,656	248	0.74
	- Overseas	39,307	248	0.63
Loans and advances to customers	- UK	277,646	11,326	4.08
	- Overseas	96,051	2,794	2.91
Debt securities	- UK	50,457	1,023	2.03
	- Overseas	26,976	452	1.68
Interest-earning assets	- UK	361,759	12,597	3.48
	- Overseas	162,334	3,494	2.15
Total interest-earning assets	- banking business (1,2,3,4)	524,093	16,091	3.07
	- trading business (10)	240,131		
Interest-earning assets		764,224		
Non-interest-earning assets		666,148		
Total assets		1,430,372		
Percentage of assets applicable to overseas operations			37.8%	
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Deposits by banks	- UK	18,276	196	1.07
	- Overseas	16,582	217	1.31
Customer accounts: demand deposits	- UK	121,541	643	0.53
	- Overseas	25,467	185	0.73
Customer accounts: savings deposits	- UK	84,972	1,479	1.74
	- Overseas	2,058	44	2.14
Customer accounts: other time deposits	- UK	39,813	522	1.31
	- Overseas	15,864	412	2.60
Debt securities in issue	- UK	69,272	1,831	2.64
	- Overseas	22,436	342	1.52
Subordinated liabilities	- UK	16,026	490	3.06
	- Overseas	5,759	181	3.14
Internal funding of trading business	- UK	(21,140)	264	(1.25)
	- Overseas	11,992	(65)	(0.54)
Interest-bearing liabilities	- UK	328,760	5,425	1.65
	- Overseas	100,158	1,316	1.31
Total interest-bearing liabilities	- banking business (1,2)	428,918	6,741	1.57
	- trading business (10)	248,647		
Interest-bearing liabilities		677,565		
Non-interest-bearing liabilities:				
Demand deposits	- UK	46,420		
	- Overseas	12,619		
Other liabilities		619,960		
Owners' equity		73,808		
Total liabilities and owners' equity		1,430,372		
Percentage of liabilities applicable to overseas operations			33.9%	

For the notes to this table refer to page 116.

## Business review

### Analysis of change in net interest income - volume and rate analysis

Volume and rate variances have been calculated based on movements in average balances over the period and changes in interest rates on average interest-earning assets and average interest-bearing liabilities. Changes due to a combination of volume and rate are allocated pro rata to volume and rate movements.

	2014 over 2013 - non-statutory			2014 over 2013 - statutory		
	Increase/(decrease) due to changes in: Average volume £m	Average rate £m	Net change £m	Increase/(decrease) due to changes in: Average volume £m	Average rate £m	Net change £m
<b>Interest-earning assets</b>						
Loans and advances to banks						
UK	(49)	4	(45)	(49)	4	(45)
Overseas	12	(27)	(15)	14	(35)	(21)
Loans and advances to customers						
UK	(177)	(53)	(230)	(177)	(53)	(230)
Overseas	(448)	(221)	(669)	(354)	(196)	(550)
Debt securities						
UK	(133)	(228)	(361)	(133)	(228)	(361)
Overseas	(104)	12	(92)	(94)	(63)	(157)
Total interest receivable of the banking business						
UK	(359)	(277)	(636)	(359)	(277)	(636)
Overseas	(540)	(236)	(776)	(434)	(294)	(728)
	(899)	(513)	(1,412)	(793)	(571)	(1,364)
<b>Interest-bearing liabilities</b>						
Deposits by banks						
UK	32	63	95	32	63	95
Overseas	63	96	159	72	35	107
Customer accounts: demand deposits						
UK	31	—	31	31	—	31
Overseas	16	17	33	27	8	35
Customer accounts: savings deposits						
UK	96	460	556	96	460	556
Overseas	11	22	33	8	4	12
Customer accounts: other time deposits						
UK	185	(30)	155	185	(30)	155
Overseas	77	67	144	63	61	124
Debt securities in issue						
UK	314	(112)	202	314	(112)	202
Overseas	48	70	118	58	61	119
Subordinated liabilities						
UK	(49)	14	(35)	(49)	14	(35)
Overseas	71	(67)	4	70	(65)	5
Internal funding of trading business						
UK	97	162	259	97	162	259
Overseas	(15)	(6)	(21)	(15)	(6)	(21)
Total interest payable of the banking business						
UK	706	557	1,263	706	557	1,263
Overseas	271	199	470	283	98	381
	977	756	1,733	989	655	1,644
<b>Movement in net interest income</b>						
UK	347	280	627	347	280	627
Overseas	(269)	(37)	(306)	(151)	(196)	(347)
	78	243	321	196	84	280



## Business review

### Analysis of change in net interest income - volume and rate analysis continued

	2013 over 2012 - non-statutory			2013 over 2012 - statutory		
	Increase/(decrease) due to changes in: Average volume £m	Average rate £m	Net change £m	Increase/(decrease) due to changes in: Average volume £m	Average rate £m	Net change £m
<b>Interest-earning assets</b>						
Loans and advances to banks						
UK	60	(47)	13	60	(47)	13
Overseas	(44)	(32)	(76)	(50)	(26)	(76)
Loans and advances to customers						
UK	(873)	569	(304)	(873)	569	(304)
Overseas	(267)	(530)	(797)	(226)	(463)	(689)
Debt securities						
UK	(219)	(176)	(395)	(219)	(176)	(395)
Overseas	(177)	(96)	(273)	(112)	(74)	(186)
Total interest receivable of the banking business						
UK	(1,032)	346	(686)	(1,032)	346	(686)
Overseas	(488)	(658)	(1,146)	(388)	(563)	(951)
	(1,520)	(312)	(1,832)	(1,420)	(217)	(1,637)
<b>Interest-bearing liabilities</b>						
Deposits by banks						
UK	144	(92)	52	144	(92)	52
Overseas	80	53	133	23	61	84
Customer accounts: demand deposits						
UK	(12)	154	142	(12)	154	142
Overseas	(4)	45	41	(6)	28	22
Customer accounts: savings deposits						
UK	(133)	346	213	(133)	346	213
Overseas	(9)	41	32	(2)	13	11
Customer accounts: other time deposits						
UK	112	(23)	89	112	(23)	89
Overseas	59	89	148	24	102	126
Debt securities in issue						
UK	463	124	587	463	124	587
Overseas	366	(169)	197	376	(178)	198
Subordinated liabilities						
UK	(57)	(103)	(160)	(57)	(103)	(160)
Overseas	(17)	—	(17)	(14)	(2)	(16)
Internal funding of trading business						
UK	(39)	(45)	(84)	(39)	(45)	(84)
Overseas	(34)	(12)	(46)	(34)	(12)	(46)
Total interest payable of the banking business						
UK	478	361	839	478	361	839
Overseas	441	47	488	367	12	379
	919	408	1,327	845	373	1,218
<b>Movement in net interest income</b>						
UK	(554)	707	153	(554)	707	153
Overseas	(47)	(611)	(658)	(21)	(551)	(572)
	(601)	96	(505)	(575)	156	(419)

## Non-interest income

	Non-statutory (1)			Statutory		
	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Fees and commissions receivable	5,148	5,460	5,709	4,414	4,678	4,898
Fees and commissions payable	(900)	(942)	(833)	(875)	(923)	(818)
Income from trading activities	1,422	2,651	3,533	1,285	2,571	1,459
Gain on redemption of own debt	—	—	—	20	175	454
Other operating income	1,253	1,281	2,259	1,048	1,219	(634)
<b>Total non-interest income</b>	<b>6,923</b>	<b>8,450</b>	<b>10,668</b>	<b>5,892</b>	<b>7,720</b>	<b>5,359</b>

Note:

(1) Non-statutory basis excludes movements in own credit adjustments, gain on redemption of own debt, Asset Protection Scheme, strategic disposals and RFS MI and includes Citizens which is classified as a discontinued operation on a statutory basis.

### 2014 compared with 2013

Net fees and commissions on both a statutory basis and a non-statutory basis fell by 6% principally reflecting declines in CIB and Commercial Banking.

On a non-statutory basis, income from trading activities decreased by £1,229 million, or 46%, to £1,422 million, in line with CIB's smaller balance sheet and reduced risk profile and reflecting lower gains on the disposal of available-for-sale securities in RBS Treasury, down £575 million to £149 million for 2014.

On a statutory basis, income from trading activities declined by £1,286 million, or 50%, and included higher charges in relation to own credit adjustments of £40 million (2013 - £35 million gain).

On a non-statutory basis, other operating income remained broadly flat.

On a statutory basis, the decrease in other operating income reflected lower charges in relation to own credit adjustments of £106 million (2013 - £155 million) and a loss from RFS MI of £18 million (2013 - gain of £111 million).

Liability management exercises undertaken during 2014 resulted in a net gain of £20 million (2013 - £175 million).

### 2013 compared with 2012

On a non-statutory basis, net fees and commissions fell by 7% principally reflecting declines in CIB, Non-Core, UK PBB and Commercial Banking.

On a statutory basis, net fees and commissions fell by 8%.

On a non-statutory basis, income from trading activities decreased by £882 million, or 25%, to £2,651 million as increases in Non-Core were partially offset by a reduction in CIB, where income from trading activities declined by £969 million as the segment managed down the scale of the balance sheet and reduced risk.

On a statutory basis, income from trading activities increased by £1,112 million to £2,571 million principally due the lower charge in relation to own credit adjustment.

On a non-statutory basis, other operating income decreased £978 million to £1,281 million primarily reflecting losses on disposal and value adjustments in Non-Core. In addition, the disposal of RBS Aviation Capital in June 2012 resulted in a £392 million reduction in operating lease income.

On a statutory basis, the increase in other operating income predominantly reflected the lower accounting charges for own credit adjustments as RBS's credit profile strengthened.

Liability management exercises undertaken during 2013 resulted in a net gain of £175 million (2012 - £454 million).

## Business review

### Operating expenses

	Non-statutory (1)			Statutory		
	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Staff expenses	6,406	6,882	7,377	5,757	6,086	7,150
Premises and equipment	2,094	2,233	2,096	2,081	2,038	1,951
Other administrative expenses	2,635	3,147	3,074	4,568	6,692	4,929
Restructuring costs	1,257	656	1,415	—	—	—
Litigation and conduct costs	2,194	3,844	2,191	—	—	—
Administrative expenses	14,586	16,762	16,153	12,406	14,816	14,030
Depreciation and amortisation	1,107	1,404	1,660	930	1,247	1,603
Write down of goodwill	—	—	—	130	1,059	18
Write down of other intangible assets	156	344	106	393	344	106
Operating expenses	15,849	18,510	17,919	13,859	17,466	15,757
Staff costs as a percentage of total income	35%	35%	33%	38%	36%	49%

Note:

(1) Non-statutory basis excludes write down of goodwill and RFS MI and includes Citizens which is classified as a discontinued operation on a statutory basis.

### 2014 compared with 2013

On a non-statutory basis, operating expenses decreased by £2,661 million, or 14%, to £15,849 million. Operating expenses excluding restructuring costs of £1,257 million (2013 - £656 million) and litigation and conduct costs of £2,194 million (2013 - £3,844 million) declined by £1,612 million, or 12%, to £12,398 million.

On a non-statutory basis, staff expenses declined by 7% (statutory basis - 5%) and by 1% on a per capita basis against average full time employees. Average full time employees, rounded to the nearest hundred, for continuing operations was 95,600 (2013 - 102,000).

Restructuring costs increased by £601 million to £1,257 million, including £378 million in relation to Williams & Glyn and a £247 million write-off of intangible assets.

Litigation and conducts costs totalled £2,194 million compared with £3,844 million in 2013. This included additional provisions for Payment Protection Insurance redress (£650 million) in PBB, potential costs following investigations into the foreign exchange market (£720 million) in CIB, Interest Rate Hedging Product redress (£185 million) in Commercial Banking and CIB, the IT incident fine (£59 million) booked in Centre and other costs (£580 million) primarily relating to packaged accounts and investment products.

On a statutory basis, operating expenses decreased by £3,607 million or 21% to £13,859 million, including a write down of goodwill of £130 million in 2014 compared with £1,059 million in 2013.

### 2013 compared with 2012

On a non-statutory basis operating expenses increased by £591 million, or 3%, to £18,510 million, primarily due to increased litigation and conduct costs of £3,844 million (2012 - £2,191 million), partly offset by lower staff numbers principally in UK PBB, Ulster Bank, CIB and Non-Core and reduced central support requirements on run-down.

On a non-statutory basis, staff expenses were down 7% at £6,882 million as staff numbers (FTEs) fell by 4% to 118,400, principally in Ulster Bank, UK PBB, CIB and Non-Core.

Integration and restructuring costs of £656 million were down 54% (2012 - £1,415 million).

Litigation and conduct costs totalled £3,844 million, compared with £2,191 million in 2012. This included charges of £2,394 million of regulatory and litigation provisions recorded during the year, primarily relating to mortgage-backed and other securities in the US, a charge for PPI of £900 million and charges of £550 million for redress in relation to certain interest-rate hedging products sold to small and medium sized businesses classified as retail clients under FSA rules.

On a statutory basis, operating expenses increased by £1,709 million, or 11%, including the write down of goodwill and other intangible assets of £1,403 million (2012 - £124 million) which included £1,059 million relating to CIB following an impairment review.

## Business review

### Impairment losses

	Non-statutory (1)			Statutory		
	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
New impairment (releases)/losses	(950)	8,688	5,620	(1,147)	8,246	5,203
Less: recoveries of amounts previously written-off	(205)	(256)	(341)	(205)	(126)	(193)
(Release)/charge to income statement	(1,155)	8,432	5,279	(1,352)	8,120	5,010
Comprising:						
Loan impairment (releases)/losses	(1,170)	8,412	5,315	(1,364)	8,105	5,054
Securities	15	20	(36)	12	15	(44)
(Release)/charge to income statement	(1,155)	8,432	5,279	(1,352)	8,120	5,010

Note:

(1) Non-statutory basis includes Citizens which is classified as a discontinued operation on a statutory basis.

### 2014 compared with 2013

On a non-statutory basis, net loan impairment releases were £1,170 million compared with a net impairment charge of £8,412 million in 2013 which included £4,490 million provisions related to the creation of RCR.

Releases were recorded principally in RCR (£1,306 million), which benefited from favourable economic and market conditions, and in Ulster Bank (£365 million) supported by rising Irish property values and proactive debt management. Excluding these releases, the underlying charge was low at just over £500 million, primarily in UK PBB (£268 million) and Citizens (£194 million).

Loan impairment provision coverage of REIL remained stable at 64% and the provision now stands at £18.0 billion, a £7.2 billion reduction in the year. Provision coverage of gross loans is 4.4% compared with 6.0% at the end of 2013.

On a statutory basis, net impairment releases of £1,352 million were recorded in 2014 compared with a net impairment charge of £8,120 million in 2013.

### 2013 compared with 2012

On a non-statutory basis, loan impairment losses rose by 58% to £8,412 million reflecting the increased provisions recognised in connection with the creation of RCR. Adjusting for this, impairment losses fell by £1,393 million (26%) to £3,922 million, driven by significant improvements in Non-Core, UK PBB and Ulster Bank, partially offset by increases in CFG and CIB.

Additional loan impairments arising from the RCR accelerated asset recovery strategy totalled £4,490 million, of which £3,118 million related to Non-Core, £892 million to Ulster Bank, £123 million to Commercial Banking and £355 million to CIB.

Excluding the impact of the creation of RCR, Ulster Bank excluding Non-Core loan impairments fell by £482 million (35%) to £882 million, mainly as a result of continued improvement in retail mortgage debt-flow and in recovery trends. UK PBB loan impairments fell by £243 million (33%), primarily from lower default levels.

Excluding the impact of the creation of RCR, Non-Core loan impairments fell by £792 million to £1,528 million, reflecting the continued reduction in the overall portfolio.

On a statutory basis, net impairment losses were £8,120 million compared to £5,010 million and include £4,490 million provisions related to the creation of RCR.

### Tax

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Tax charge	(1,909)	(186)	(156)
UK corporation tax rate	21.5%	23.25%	24.5%

### 2014 compared with 2013

The tax charge for the year ended 31 December 2014 reflects a reduction in the carrying value of the deferred tax asset in respect of UK tax losses (£850 million) and US temporary differences (£775 million) reflecting the impact of the decision to restructure CIB, partially offset by an increase in the carrying value of the deferred tax asset in respect of Irish tax losses, the benefit of previously unrecognised Irish tax losses being offset against profits arising in Ireland during the year and the impact of certain conduct charges that do not qualify for tax relief.

### 2013 compared with 2012

The tax charge in the year ended 31 December 2013 reflects losses in low tax regimes (principally Ireland), losses in overseas subsidiaries for which a deferred tax asset has not been recognised (principally Ireland), a reduction in the carrying value of the deferred tax asset in respect of UK losses and the effect of the reduction of 3% in the rate of UK corporation tax enacted in July 2013.

## Business review

### Segment performance

#### Reporting changes

In order to present a more complete picture of funding, operational and business costs of the franchises and operating segments and to improve the transparency of the operating performance of the segments, the following reporting changes have been implemented:

A number of previously reported reconciling items (Payment Protection Insurance costs, Interest Rate Hedging Products redress and related costs, regulatory and legal actions, restructuring costs, amortisation of purchased intangible assets, write-down of other intangibles and bank levy) have now been allocated to the reportable segments. Only the following will now be reported as reconciling items:

- Own credit adjustments;
- Gain on redemption of own debt;
- Write down of goodwill;
- Asset Protection Scheme;
- Strategic disposals; and
- RFS Holdings minority interest (RFS MI).

#### Allocation of costs

As part of its internal reorganisation, RBS has centralised all services and functions. The costs relating to Services and Functions previously reported as direct expenses in the divisions are now reallocated to businesses using appropriate drivers and reported as indirect expenses in the segmental income statements.

#### Treasury allocations

The basis of allocation of RBS Treasury costs has been amended to align the recovery of funding and hedging costs across RBS and for the transfer of certain assets and their associated costs out of RBS Treasury.

#### Segmental return on equity

For the purposes of computing segmental return on equity, notional equity is calculated as a percentage of the monthly average of segmental RWAs. Previously, notional equity was allocated at 10% of RWAs after capital deductions (RWAs). This has been revised to 12% of RWAs across all businesses.

Comparatives have been restated accordingly.

#### Operating profit/(loss) by segment

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
UK Personal & Business Banking	1,450	819	671
Ulster Bank	606	(1,609)	(1,133)
Personal & Business Banking	2,056	(790)	(462)
Commercial Banking	1,290	530	748
Private Banking	150	(61)	141
Commercial & Private Banking	1,440	469	889
Corporate & Institutional Banking	(892)	(2,882)	(247)
Central items	(850)	647	845
Citizens Financial Group	761	605	760
RCR	988	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	(5,549)	(2,898)
Operating profit/(loss) - non-statutory basis	3,503	(7,500)	(1,113)
Own credit adjustments	(146)	(120)	(4,649)
Gain on redemption of own debt	20	175	454
Write down of goodwill	(130)	(1,059)	(18)
Asset Protection Scheme	—	—	(44)
Strategic disposals	191	161	113
Citizens discontinued operations	(771)	(606)	(775)
RFS Holdings minority interest	(24)	100	(20)
Operating profit/(loss) before tax	2,643	(8,849)	(6,052)

Operating profit/(loss) on a non-statutory basis includes the results of Citizens which are included in discontinued operations in the statutory results.



## Business review

Impairment losses/(releases) by segment	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
UK Personal & Business Banking	268	501	741
Ulster Bank	(365)	1,774	1,364
Personal & Business Banking	(97)	2,275	2,105
Commercial Banking	76	652	545
Private Banking	(4)	29	46
Commercial & Private Banking	72	681	591
Corporate & Institutional Banking	(9)	680	229
Central items	(12)	64	40
Citizens Financial Group	197	156	91
RCR	(1,306)	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	4,576	2,223
RBS impairment (releases)/losses	(1,155)	8,432	5,279

Net interest margin by segment	2014 %	2013 %	2012 %
UK Personal & Business Banking	3.68	3.56	3.57
Ulster Bank	2.27	1.88	1.84
Personal & Business Banking	3.42	3.21	3.20
Commercial Banking	2.74	2.64	2.66
Private Banking	3.71	3.47	3.50
Commercial & Private Banking	2.93	2.81	2.83
Corporate & Institutional Banking	0.99	0.80	0.78
Citizens Financial Group	2.88	2.91	2.98
RBS net interest margin	2.23	2.01	1.92

Risk-weighted assets by segment	2014 £bn	2013 £bn	2012 £bn
UK Personal & Business banking	42.8	51.2	53.4
Ulster Bank	23.8	30.7	36.1
Personal & Business Banking	66.6	81.9	89.5
Commercial Banking	64.0	65.8	67.6
Private Banking	11.5	12.0	12.3
Commercial & Private Banking	75.5	77.8	79.9
Corporate & Institutional Banking	107.1	120.4	157.8
Other	16.3	20.1	15.5
Citizens Financial Group	68.4	56.1	56.5
RCR	22.0	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	29.2	60.4
RBS risk-weighted assets	355.9	385.5	459.6

## Business review

### Segment performance *continued*

#### Employee numbers at 31 December

(full time equivalents rounded to the nearest hundred)

	2014	2013	2012
UK Personal & Business Banking	24,800	26,600	28,300
Ulster Bank	4,400	4,700	4,500
Personal & Business Banking	29,200	31,300	32,800
Commercial Banking	6,200	7,300	6,900
Private Banking	3,400	3,500	3,600
Commercial & Private Banking	9,600	10,800	10,500
Corporate & Institutional Banking	3,700	4,600	5,300
Centre	10,600	11,600	11,800
Citizens Financial Group	17,400	18,800	18,900
RCR	700	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	1,300	2,900
	71,200	78,400	82,200
Services	37,400	40,000	40,300
Integration and restructuring	100	200	500
RBS employee numbers	108,700	118,600	123,000

## Business review

### Personal & Business Banking

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Income statement</b>			
Net interest income	5,319	5,109	5,167
Net fees and commissions	1,426	1,450	1,494
Other non-interest income	122	113	54
Non-interest income	1,548	1,563	1,548
<b>Total income</b>	<b>6,867</b>	<b>6,672</b>	<b>6,715</b>
Direct expenses			
- staff costs	(1,139)	(1,167)	(1,212)
- other costs	(454)	(587)	(333)
Indirect expenses	(2,292)	(2,217)	(2,128)
Restructuring costs			
- direct	(2)	(145)	(167)
- indirect	(122)	(121)	(114)
Litigation and conduct costs	(899)	(950)	(1,118)
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>(4,908)</b>	<b>(5,187)</b>	<b>(5,072)</b>
Profit before impairment releases/(losses)	1,959	1,485	1,643
Impairment releases/(losses)	97	(2,275)	(2,105)
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>2,056</b>	<b>(790)</b>	<b>(462)</b>
Operating expenses - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	(3,885)	(3,971)	(3,673)
<b>Operating profit - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>3,079</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>937</b>
<b>Performance ratios</b>			
Return on equity <sup>(2)</sup>	17.5%	(5.7%)	(3.1%)
Return on equity - adjusted <sup>(1,2)</sup>	26.2%	3.1%	6.3%
Net interest margin	3.42%	3.21%	3.20%
Cost:income ratio	71%	78%	76%
Cost:income ratio - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	57%	60%	55%
<b>Capital and balance sheet</b>			
	£bn	£bn	£bn
Loans and advances to customers (gross)	154.5	159.2	161.8
Loan impairment provisions	(5.3)	(8.4)	(7.3)
<b>Net loans and advances to customers</b>	<b>149.2</b>	<b>150.8</b>	<b>154.5</b>
Funded assets	161.8	160.2	163.6
Total assets	161.9	160.4	163.7
Risk elements in lending	8.6	13.2	13.3
Provision coverage <sup>(3)</sup>	62%	63%	56%
Customer deposits	169.3	166.6	157.1
Assets under management (excluding deposits)	4.9	5.8	6.0
Loan:deposit ratio (excluding repos)	88%	91%	98%
<b>Total risk-weighted assets <sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>89.5</b>

#### Notes:

(1) Excluding restructuring costs and litigation and conduct costs.

(2) Return on equity is based on operating profit after tax divided by average notional equity (based on 12% of the monthly average of segmental RWAs); RWAs in 2012 and 2013 are on a Basel 2.5 basis.

(3) Provision coverage represents loan impairment provisions as a percentage of risk elements in lending.

(4) RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis. RWAs on the end-point CRR basis as at 1 January 2014 were £77.9 billion.

### Key points

Personal & Business Banking (PBB) comprises the former UK Retail and business banking elements of former UK Corporate (UK Personal & Business Banking - UK PBB) and Ulster Bank reportable segments. PBB supports individuals in managing their personal and business banking, with a full range of financial services and advice. Through the RBS, NatWest, and Ulster Bank brands, PBB serves over 18 million personal and business customers in the UK and Ireland. Customers can choose how they manage their finances through access to branches, online banking, fixed and mobile technology and one of the largest ATM networks in the UK and Ireland.

## Business review

### UK Personal & Business Banking

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Income statement</b>			
Net interest income	4,683	4,490	4,532
Net fees and commissions	1,287	1,309	1,349
Other non-interest income	67	14	3
Non-interest income	1,354	1,323	1,352
<b>Total income</b>	<b>6,037</b>	<b>5,813</b>	<b>5,884</b>
Direct expenses			
- staff costs	(892)	(928)	(998)
- other costs	(380)	(524)	(284)
Indirect expenses	(2,027)	(1,954)	(1,861)
Restructuring costs			
- direct	(10)	(118)	(140)
- indirect	(92)	(109)	(104)
Litigation and conduct costs	(918)	(860)	(1,085)
Operating expenses	(4,319)	(4,493)	(4,472)
Profit before impairment losses	1,718	1,320	1,412
Impairment losses	(268)	(501)	(741)
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>671</b>
Operating expenses - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	(3,299)	(3,406)	(3,143)
<b>Operating profit - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>2,470</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Analysis of income by product</b>			
Personal advances	920	923	916
Personal deposits	706	468	662
Mortgages	2,600	2,605	2,367
Cards	730	838	864
Business Banking	1,021	973	1,075
Other	60	6	—
<b>Total income</b>	<b>6,037</b>	<b>5,813</b>	<b>5,884</b>
<b>Analysis of impairments by sector</b>			
Personal advances	161	179	307
Mortgages	(26)	31	92
Business Banking	53	177	212
Cards	80	114	130
<b>Total impairment losses <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>268</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>741</b>
<b>Loan impairment charge as a % of gross customer loans and advances (excluding reverse repurchase agreements) by sector</b>			
Personal advances	2.2%	2.2%	3.4%
Mortgages	—	—	0.1%
Business Banking	0.4%	1.2%	1.4%
Cards	1.6%	2.0%	2.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>

### Performance ratios

Return on equity <sup>(3)</sup>	19.4%	9.8%	7.4%
Return on equity - adjusted <sup>(1,3)</sup>	33.1%	22.8%	22.0%
Net interest margin	3.68%	3.56%	3.57%
Cost:income ratio	72%	77%	76%
Cost:income ratio - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	55%	59%	53%

#### Notes:

(1) Excluding restructuring costs and litigation and conduct costs.

(2) Includes £2 million in 2013 pertaining to the creation of RCR and related strategy.

(3) Return on equity is based on operating profit after tax divided by average notional equity (based on 12% of the monthly average of segmental RWAs); RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis.

(4) From Q1 2015 business segment return on equity will be calculated based on operating profit after tax adjusted for preference share dividends divided by average notional equity (based on 13% of the monthly average RWAs). At 31 December 2014 the RWAs on this basis were £46.6 billion and the return on equity 16%.

## Business review

Capital and balance sheet	2014 £bn	2013 £bn	2012 £bn
Loans and advances to customers (gross)			
- personal advances	7.4	8.1	8.9
- mortgages	103.2	99.3	99.1
- business	14.3	14.6	15.6
- cards	4.9	5.8	5.6
Total loans and advance to customers (gross)	129.8	127.8	129.2
Loan impairment provisions	(2.6)	(3.0)	(3.4)
Net loans and advances to customers	127.2	124.8	125.8
Funded assets	134.3	132.2	133.0
Total assets	134.3	132.2	133.0
Risk elements in lending	3.8	4.7	5.8
Provision coverage (1)	69%	63%	60%
Customer deposits			
- personal current accounts	35.9	32.5	29.0
- personal savings	81.0	82.3	78.6
- business/commercial	31.8	30.1	27.4
Total customer deposits	148.7	144.9	135.0
Assets under management (excluding deposits)	4.9	5.8	6.0
Loan:deposit ratio (excluding repos)	86%	86%	93%
Risk-weighted assets (2)			
- credit risk (non-counterparty)	33.4	41.4	43.2
- operational risk	9.4	9.8	10.2
Total risk-weighted assets	42.8	51.2	53.4

### Notes:

(1) Provision coverage represents loan impairment provisions as a percentage of risk elements in lending.

(2) RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis. RWAs on the end-point CRR basis as at 1 January 2014 were £49.7 billion.

### Key points

The strategic goal of UK PBB is to become the number one personal and business bank for customer service, trust and advocacy in the UK.

Throughout 2014, the business has made steady progress in making banking fairer and simpler for its customers through a number of fair banking initiatives and technology investments. Progress made in 2014 by UK PBB included:

#### Helping customers with their needs:

- As the UK's biggest lender for SMEs, UK PBB continued to offer support to small business customers. Following storms and floods in February 2014, the business introduced a £250 million interest free loan fund for small business to help them get themselves back on their feet. An additional £1 billion Small Business Fund was launched to support small businesses with fee free, fixed rate loans.
- UK PBB has been able to help more customers in 2014. With additional mortgage advisors recruited (up 18% from 630 to 744), gross mortgage lending increased by 37% year on year. The business's commitment to helping its customers get on and move up the property ladder has been a success and it has now helped almost 15,000 customers buy their first or next home with the government-backed Help to Buy schemes since their launch in May 2013.

- There are now more ways to bank with UK PBB than ever. With services being extended to the Post Office network, customers now have over 13,000 branches and post offices across the UK where they can carry out their every day banking.

Simpler and fairer products supported by the launch of the 'Goodbye-Hello' campaign:

- The business committed to responsible and fair lending by removing 0% teaser deals from its offering and introducing the new Clear Rate and cash-back credit cards in 2014.
- Business banking arrangement fees and surprise overdraft fees have been replaced with fixed rates on new business loans and text alerts when customers are overdrawn to keep them on track.
- Service charges have been reviewed and made simpler and fairer for customers. The business re-introduced access to the LINK ATM network for all basic account customers, reduced its daily overdraft fees for all customers, placed a 60 day cap on overdraft charges and improved credit card late fee terms.



### UK Personal & Business Banking *continued*

- RBS became the first of the main high street banks to ensure all of its savers get the same or better deals as new customers. Those deals are available regardless of how customers choose to bank (e.g. branch, telephony or digital). With just five personal savings products now on sale the range is the simplest on the high street both for customers and for front line staff. Teaser savings rates have been removed and the business is committed to helping customers save for the long term rather than luring them in for the short term.

#### Investments in Technology

- UK PBB continued with its commitment to invest in technology to make things better for the customer. As its award winning mobile banking application celebrated 5 years, the business received another gold award for the "Pay your Contacts" service, which was named "Best new service of the year" in July at the 'Best in Biz' International awards. UK PBB now has over 6.9 million online and mobile banking users, with the mobile app being used more than 23 million times every week.
- Further improvements have been made to the mobile banking application and personal customers are now able to use the new industry-wide Pay-m application that allows customers to receive payments from customers of other participating banks just by providing their mobile number. Customers will no longer have to divulge their sort code and account number to receive payment. Pay-m has already enrolled over 1.8 million customers in the service since its launch at the end of April 2014. WiFi in branches has also been a great success with customers already using the free service over 1 million times since it started in May.

#### 2014 compared with 2013

UK PBB recorded an operating profit of £1,450 million, up £631 million, while adjusted operating profit totalled £2,470 million compared with £1,906 million in the prior year. This reflected higher income, up 4% to £6,037 million and lower adjusted expenses, down 3% to £3,299 million, together with substantially lower impairments, down £233 million to £268 million.

Net interest income increased by £193 million or 4% with strong improvements in deposit margins and volume growth. This was partly offset by lower asset margins linked to the continued change in the mix of the loan book towards secured lending and lower mortgage margins.

Non-interest income increased by £31 million or 2%, largely reflecting the transfer of the commercial cards business to UK PBB from CPB in August 2014.

Operating expenses decreased by £174 million or 4%, reflecting lower restructuring and litigation and conduct costs. Excluding these items, expenses declined by £107 million or 3% supported by a 7% reduction in headcount and lower Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) accruals. Litigation and conduct costs included additional provisions for Payment Protection Insurance redress (£650 million) and other conduct provisions in respect of legacy investment products and packaged account sales.

The net impairment charge was down by 47% to £268 million driven by a further decrease in new default charges together with releases of provisions and recoveries on previously written off debt.

Mortgage balances increased by £3.9 billion or 4%, to £103.2 billion driven by strong performance as advisor capacity increased. Gross new mortgage business increased by 37% to £19.7 billion, representing a market share of 10% with our stock share of 8% continuing to grow.

RWAs to decline of 16% to £42.8 billion with improved credit quality and lower unsecured balances.

#### 2013 compared with 2012

Operating profit increased by 22% to £819 million driven by a 32% decline in impairment losses. Net interest income was broadly stable, though investment advice income was adversely impacted following changes introduced by the Retail Distribution Review (RDR). Within UK PBB, costs increased primarily because of a higher FSCS levy and other regulatory charges totalling £118 million in the year, conduct-related provisions of £63 million and additional technology investment of £45 million.

Mortgage balance growth in UK PBB was affected in H1 2013 by mortgage advisor training; however, balances recovered during H2 2013 assisted by early adoption of the second phase of the UK Government's Help To Buy scheme. Gross mortgage lending increased to £8.9 billion in H2 2013. Customer deposits increased by 7%, above the UK market average of 4% due to strong growth in current accounts (12%), personal instant access savings accounts (5%) and business banking deposits (10%).

Net interest income and margin were both broadly flat.

- Mortgage new business margins reduced in line with market conditions, overall book margins improved.
- Deposit margins declined reflecting the impact of continued lower rates on current account hedges. Savings margins, however, have increased over 2013 with improved market pricing.

Non-interest income fell by 2% to £1,323 million due to a change in the fee charging structure in business banking and subdued personal advice income post RDR.

Direct costs increased by 13% due primarily to higher FSCS levy and other regulatory charges. This was partly offset by lower staff costs due to a reduction in headcount of 2,000 in UK PBB. Indirect costs increased by 4%, largely due to investment in technology.

Impairments declined by 32% to £501 million due to lower customer defaults across all product areas reflecting continued improvement in asset quality.

Risk-weighted assets declined by 4% to £51.2 billion largely reflecting balance reductions across the unsecured portfolios and quality improvements.

## Business review

### Ulster Bank

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Income statement</b>			
Net interest income	636	619	635
Net fees and commissions	139	141	145
Other non-interest income	55	99	51
Non-interest income	194	240	196
<b>Total income</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>831</b>
Direct expenses			
- staff costs	(247)	(239)	(214)
- other costs	(74)	(63)	(49)
Indirect expenses	(265)	(263)	(267)
Restructuring costs			
- direct	8	(27)	(27)
- indirect	(30)	(12)	(10)
Litigation and conduct costs	19	(90)	(33)
Operating expenses	(589)	(694)	(600)
Profit before impairment releases/(losses)	241	165	231
Impairment releases/(losses)	365	(1,774)	(1,364)
<b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>(1,609)</b>	<b>(1,133)</b>
Operating expenses - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	(586)	(565)	(530)
<b>Operating profit/(loss) - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>609</b>	<b>(1,480)</b>	<b>(1,063)</b>
<b>Analysis of income by business</b>			
Corporate	268	315	360
Retail	401	408	360
Other	161	136	111
<b>Total income</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>831</b>
<b>Analysis of impairments by sector</b>			
Mortgages	(172)	235	646
Commercial real estate			
- investment	(16)	593	221
- development	(11)	153	55
Other corporate	(186)	771	389
Other lending	20	22	53
<b>Total impairment (releases)/losses</b>	<b>(365)</b>	<b>1,774</b>	<b>1,364</b>
<b>Loan impairment (release)/charge as a % of gross customer loans and advances (excluding reverse repurchase agreements) by sector</b>			
Mortgages	(1.0%)	1.2%	3.4%
Commercial real estate			
- investment	(1.6%)	17.4%	6.1%
- development	(3.7%)	21.9%	7.9%
Other corporate	(3.8%)	10.9%	5.0%
Other lending	2.0%	1.8%	4.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>(1.5%)</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>Performance ratios</b>			
Return on equity <sup>(3)</sup>	16.1%	(33.2%)	(22.1%)
Return on equity - adjusted <sup>(1,3)</sup>	16.2%	(30.6%)	(20.7%)
Net interest margin	2.27%	1.88%	1.84%
Cost:income ratio	71%	81%	72%
Cost:income ratio - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	71%	66%	64%

#### Notes:

- (1) Excluding restructuring costs and litigation and conduct costs.
- (2) Includes £892 million in 2013 pertaining to the creation of RCR and related strategy.
- (3) Return on equity is based on operating profit after tax divided by average notional equity (based on 12% of the monthly average of segmental RWAs; RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis).
- (4) From Q1 2015 business segment return on equity will be calculated based on operating profit after tax adjusted for preference share dividends divided by average notional equity (based on 13% of the monthly average RWAs). At 31 December 2014 the RWAs on this basis were £22.3 billion and the return on equity 17.2%.

## Business review

### Ulster Bank continued

Capital and balance sheet	2014 £bn	2013 £bn	2012 £bn
Loans and advances to customers (gross)			
Mortgages	17.5	19.0	19.2
Commercial real estate			
- investment	1.0	3.4	3.6
- development	0.3	0.7	0.7
Other corporate	4.9	7.1	7.8
Other lending	1.0	1.2	1.3
Total loans and advances to customers (gross)	24.7	31.4	32.6
Loan impairment provisions			
- mortgages	(1.4)	(1.7)	(1.5)
- commercial real estate			
- investment	(0.2)	(1.2)	(0.6)
- development	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.2)
- other corporate	(0.8)	(2.0)	(1.4)
- other lending	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Total loan impairment provisions	(2.7)	(5.4)	(3.9)
Net loans and advances to customers (1)	22.0	26.0	28.7
Funded assets	27.5	28.0	30.6
Total assets	27.6	28.2	30.7
Risk elements in lending			
- mortgages	3.4	3.2	3.1
- commercial real estate			
- investment	0.3	2.3	1.6
- development	0.2	0.5	0.4
- other corporate	0.8	2.3	2.2
- other lending	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total risk elements in lending	4.8	8.5	7.5
Provision coverage (2)	57%	64%	52%
Customer deposits	20.6	21.7	22.1
Loan:deposit ratio (excluding repos)	107%	120%	130%
Risk-weighted assets (3,4)			
- credit risk			
- non-counterparty	22.2	28.2	33.6
- counterparty	0.1	0.3	0.6
- market risk	—	0.5	0.2
- operational risk	1.5	1.7	1.7
Total risk-weighted assets	23.8	30.7	36.1
Spot exchange rate - € / £	1.285	1.201	1.227

#### Notes:

- (1) 31 December 2014 includes £11.4 billion in relation to legacy tracker mortgages.  
(2) Provision coverage represents loan impairment provisions as a percentage of risk elements in lending.  
(3) RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis. RWAs on the end-point CRR basis as at 1 January 2014 were £28.2 billion.  
(4) 31 December 2014 includes £10.7 billion in relation to legacy tracker mortgages.

### Key points

Following completion of a strategic review, Ulster Bank was confirmed as a core part of RBS reflecting its fit with RBS's retail and commercial strategy; 2014 saw a return to profitability with significant progress made addressing legacy issues and the strengthening of its core business for the future.

The transfer of £4.4 billion of gross assets to RCR on 1 January 2014 and subsequent deleveraging has enabled Ulster Bank to focus on the

development of its core business. This has had a material impact on the comparison of 2014 financial performance with 2013.

Ulster Bank recorded an operating profit of £606 million in 2014, the first annual profit since 2008. This represented a major turnaround from 2013 largely due to impairment releases supported by enhanced collections performance and an improvement in key macroeconomic indicators. Net interest margin also improved and operating expenses were reduced.

Considerable progress was made to improve Ulster Bank's service offering and to enhance the customer experience. The bank continued to re-shape its distribution network during 2014 while online and mobile banking services were further developed to support the upward trend in digital transactions, which now represent 57% of total transaction volumes. The bank's 'Web Chat' initiative, launched in 2012, is now handling over 15,000 customer enquiries each month. Ulster Bank in Northern Ireland recently launched its 'Bank on Wheels' service and extended its partnership with the Post Office which provides customers with 484 new points of presence.

There has been a significant increase in new lending activity during 2014 following the launch of the 'Big Yes' mortgage and 'Ahead for Business' campaigns. New mortgage lending increased by over 40% in 2014 while over £1 billion of new lending was made available to business customers, despite a challenging business environment.

The investment made to support customers in financial difficulty has resulted in a sustained reduction since Q1 2013 in the number of mortgage customers in arrears of 90 days or more and an increase in the number of business customers returning to mainstream management.

### 2014 compared with 2013

Ulster Bank recorded an operating profit of £606 million in 2014 compared with a loss of £1,609 million in 2013. The turnaround was driven by £365 million net impairment releases compared with impairment losses of £1,774 million in 2013. Adjusted operating profit was £609 million compared with a loss of £1,480 million.

Profit before impairment losses was £241 million, £76 million higher than in 2013.

Total income decreased by £29 million to £830 million largely as a result of the non-recurrence of significant hedging gains on the mortgage portfolio in 2013. Net interest income increased by £17 million to £636 million, primarily driven by a significant reduction in the cost of deposits and a benefit from the recognition of income on certain previously non-performing assets, partly offset by the adverse impact on the tracker mortgage book of lower European Central Bank refinancing interest rates. Net interest margin increased 39 basis points to 2.27%.

The continued focus on costs resulted in a reduction in staff numbers and the bank's property footprint. Litigation and conduct costs decreased by £109 million reflecting the outcome of reviews relating to provisions on PPI and Interest Rate Hedging Products. These benefits were partly offset by higher regulatory charges and levies including a new bank levy introduced in the Republic of Ireland, of £15 million, and the impact of a realignment of costs following the creation of RCR, £44 million.

The transfer of assets to RCR coupled with improved credit quality across key portfolios resulted in a 44% reduction in risk elements in lending. Provision coverage reduced from 64% to 57% during 2014 reflecting the further de-risking of the balance sheet coupled with the impact of an increase in asset values. RWAs decreased by 22% reflecting an improvement in credit metrics and a reduced loan book.

The loan:deposit ratio decreased from 120% to 107% during 2014 mainly due to a 15% reduction in net loan balances to £22 billion reflecting the transfer of assets to RCR and continued customer deleveraging partly offset by growth in new lending. Customer deposits declined by 5% largely driven by exchange rate movements.

### 2013 compared with 2012

Excluding the impact of the creation of RCR, operating result improved by £435 million or 38% primarily due to a higher income and lower impairment losses on the mortgage portfolio.

Total income increased by £28 million or 3% to £859 million primarily reflecting hedging gains on the mortgage portfolio. Net interest margin for 2013 increased by 4 basis points to 1.88% although net interest income was £16 million lower at £619 million, largely driven by lower interest earning assets and a higher cost of funding.

Total expenses increased by £94 million or 16% to £694 million driven by the costs of mandatory change programmes such as the Single Euro Payment Area, £18 million, an investment of £10 million in programmes to support customers in financial difficulty and an accelerated depreciation charge of £12 million. Litigation and conduct costs were £57m higher in 2013 due to increased provisions made for legacy issues including PPI and interest rate hedging product redress and administration.

Impairment losses, excluding the impact of RCR, were lower by £482 million or 35%. This was predominantly due to a sharp reduction in losses on the mortgage portfolio which reduced by £411 million or 64% due to a decline in arrears levels driven by an improved collections performance and the development of programmes to assist customers in financial difficulty, coupled with stabilising residential property prices.

The loan:deposit ratio reduced from 130% to 120% during 2013 reflecting continued customer deleveraging and low levels of demand for new lending. Retail and SME deposit balances increased by 2% during 2013, offset by a reduction in wholesale customer balances, resulting in a 2% decline in total deposit balances.

Risk-weighted assets decreased by 15% reflecting a smaller performing loan book and stabilising credit metrics.

## Business review

### Commercial & Private Banking

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Income statement</b>			
Net interest income	2,732	2,620	2,645
Net fees and commissions	1,220	1,299	1,347
Other non-interest income	340	315	454
Non-interest income	1,560	1,614	1,801
<b>Total income</b>	<b>4,292</b>	<b>4,234</b>	<b>4,446</b>
Direct expenses			
- staff costs	(825)	(830)	(852)
- other costs	(321)	(353)	(371)
Indirect expenses	(1,321)	(1,366)	(1,255)
Restructuring costs			
- direct	(48)	(36)	(83)
- indirect	(63)	(46)	(55)
Litigation and conduct costs	(202)	(453)	(350)
Operating expenses	(2,780)	(3,084)	(2,966)
Profit before impairment losses	1,512	1,150	1,480
Impairment losses	(72)	(681)	(591)
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>889</b>
Operating expenses - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	(2,467)	(2,549)	(2,478)
<b>Operating profit - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>1,753</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>1,377</b>
<b>Performance ratios</b>			
Return on equity <sup>(2)</sup>	11.9%	3.7%	7.4%
Return on equity - adjusted <sup>(1,2)</sup>	14.4%	7.9%	11.5%
Net interest margin	2.93%	2.81%	2.83%
Cost:income ratio	65%	73%	67%
Cost:income ratio - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	57%	60%	56%
<b>Capital and balance sheet</b>			
	2014 £bn	2013 £bn	2012 £bn
Loans and advances to customers (gross)	102.7	101.8	102.3
Loan impairment provisions	(1.1)	(1.6)	(1.7)
Net loans and advances to customers	101.6	100.2	100.6
Funded assets	109.8	108.9	109.7
Total assets	109.9	108.9	109.8
Assets under management (Private Banking)	28.3	29.7	28.9
Risk elements in lending	2.7	4.6	4.2
Provision coverage <sup>(3)</sup>	38%	38%	39%
Customer deposits (excluding repos)	122.9	127.9	130.9
Loan:deposit ratio (excluding repos)	83%	78%	77%
Risk-weighted assets <sup>(4)</sup>	75.5	77.8	79.9

#### Notes:

(1) Excluding restructuring costs and litigation and conduct costs.

(2) Return on equity is based on operating profit after tax divided by average notional equity (based on 12% of the monthly average of segmental RWAs; RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis).

(3) Provision coverage represents loan impairment provisions as a percentage of risk elements in lending.

(4) RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis. RWAs on the end-point CRR basis as at 1 January 2014 were £73.5 billion.

### Key points

Commercial & Private Banking comprises parts of the former UK Corporate, Wealth and International Banking divisions. It is committed to supporting the bank's ambition to be the number one bank for customer service, trust and advocacy in its chosen markets by 2020. Commercial Banking's customers range from UK businesses with an annual turnover of £2 million up to large UK corporations, including real estate and institutional customers.

Aligning the Private Banking business with Commercial Banking will enable the bank to better serve and connect those who own and run businesses. With a set of strong brands including RBS, NatWest, Lombard, Coutts and Adam & Company, the Commercial & Private Banking business provides its customers with dedicated relationship management and access to sophisticated products and services including lending, speciality finance, transaction banking, risk management and wealth management.



## Business review

### Commercial Banking

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Income statement</b>			
Net interest income	2,041	1,962	1,969
Net fees and commissions	885	944	981
Other non-interest income	284	251	370
Non-interest income	1,169	1,195	1,351
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>3,320</b>
Direct expenses			
- staff costs	(508)	(513)	(533)
- other costs	(249)	(269)	(261)
Indirect expenses	(882)	(891)	(780)
Restructuring costs			
- direct	(40)	(18)	(71)
- indirect	(53)	(37)	(39)
Litigation and conduct costs	(112)	(247)	(343)
Operating expenses	(1,844)	(1,975)	(2,027)
Profit before impairment losses	1,366	1,182	1,293
Impairment losses	(76)	(652)	(545)
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>748</b>
Operating expenses - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	(1,639)	(1,673)	(1,574)
<b>Operating profit - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>1,201</b>
<b>Analysis of income by business</b>			
Commercial lending	1,830	1,911	1,934
Deposits	353	208	350
Asset and invoice finance	740	671	686
Other	287	367	350
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>3,320</b>
<b>Analysis of impairments by sector</b>			
Commercial real estate	(2)	431	317
Asset and invoice finance	11	31	41
Private sector education, health, social work, recreational and community services	(8)	125	33
Banks & financial institutions	—	10	12
Wholesale and retail trade repairs	20	9	57
Hotels and restaurants	7	28	45
Manufacturing	10	1	8
Construction	9	(2)	14
Other	29	19	18
<b>Total impairment losses <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>76</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>545</b>
<b>Loan impairment charge as a % of gross customer loans and advances by sector</b>			
Commercial real estate	—	2.1%	1.4%
Asset and invoice finance	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%
Private sector education, health, social work, recreational and community services	(0.1%)	1.6%	0.4%
Banks & financial institutions	—	0.1%	0.2%
Wholesale and retail trade repairs	0.3%	0.2%	1.0%
Hotels and restaurants	0.2%	0.8%	1.0%
Manufacturing	0.3%	—	0.2%
Construction	0.5%	(0.1%)	0.6%
Other	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>

Notes:

(1) Excluding restructuring costs and litigation and conduct costs.

(2) Includes £123 million in 2013 pertaining to the creation of RCR and related strategy.

## Business review

### Commercial Banking continued

Performance ratios	2014	2013	2012
Return on equity (1)	12.6%	4.9%	7.5%
Return on equity - adjusted (1,2)	14.6%	7.7%	12.1%
Net interest margin	2.74%	2.64%	2.66%
Cost:income ratio	57%	63%	61%
Cost:income ratio - adjusted (2)	51%	53%	47%
Capital and balance sheet	£bn	£bn	£bn
Loans and advances to customers (gross)			
- commercial real estate	18.3	20.2	23.1
- asset and invoice finance	14.2	11.7	11.2
- private sector education, health, social work, recreational and community services	6.9	7.9	7.7
- banks & financial institutions	7.0	6.9	6.3
- wholesale and retail trade repairs	6.0	5.8	6.0
- hotels and restaurants	3.4	3.6	4.4
- manufacturing	3.7	3.7	4.0
- construction	1.9	2.1	2.5
- other	24.7	23.1	20.0
Total loans and advances to customers (gross)	86.1	85.0	85.2
Loan impairment provisions	(1.0)	(1.5)	(1.6)
Net loans and advances to customers (3)	85.1	83.5	83.6
Funded assets	89.4	87.9	88.3
Total assets	89.4	87.9	88.3
Risk elements in lending	2.5	4.3	4.0
Provision coverage (4)	38%	38%	39%
Customer deposits	86.8	90.7	92.0
Loan:deposit ratio (excluding repos)	98%	92%	91%
Risk-weighted assets (5)			
- credit risk (non-counterparty)	57.6	59.7	61.5
- operational risk	6.4	6.1	6.1
Total risk-weighted assets	64.0	65.8	67.6

#### Notes:

- (1) Return on equity is based on operating profit after tax divided by average notional equity (based on 12% of the monthly average of segmental RWAs; RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis).
- (2) Excluding restructuring costs and litigation and conduct costs.
- (3) December 2014 includes £15 billion third party assets and £12 billion risk-weighted asset equivalents in relation to the run-down legacy book.
- (4) Provision coverage represents loan impairment provisions as a percentage of risk elements in lending.
- (5) RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis. RWAs on the end-point CRR basis as at 1 January 2014 were £61.5 billion.
- (6) From Q1 2015 business segment return on equity will be calculated based on operating profit after tax adjusted for preference share dividends divided by average notional equity (based on 13% of the monthly average RWAs). At 31 December 2014 the RWAs on this basis were £69.8 billion and the return on equity 9.5%.

### Key points

Commercial Banking implemented a simplified and delayed management structure in 2014. With over 120 products removed from sale and over 400 process improvements implemented, the segment is becoming easier to do business with.

Tangible progress is being made via a bank-wide strategic lending programme which will transform the end-to-end customer lending experience, ensuring faster decisions and a smoother application process. Over the year there has been an improvement in the Net Promoter Score and rating of overall service quality across the business, together with a continuing fall in complaints.

Commercial Banking continues to back UK businesses and communities, with over 8,400 Statement of Appetite letters issued in 2014 at a total value of £4.7 billion. As part of our plan to support entrepreneurs across the UK, the first of eight accelerator hubs opened in February 2015, offering free space, support and advice to high growth business owners. A series of customer campaigns were launched, proactively engaging customers on their international and asset finance needs.

Significant progress has been made to drive connectivity across the bank, with a focus on providing employees with the skills and tools they need to serve customers better. This has included investment in professional qualifications as well as the development of a suite of banking tools to be rolled out in 2015. The alignment of Commercial & Private Banking continues to yield benefits, with a pilot resulting in over 140 referrals between the businesses.

### 2014 compared with 2013

Commercial Banking recorded an operating profit of £1,290 million compared with £530 million in the prior year. This was driven by lower net impairment losses, down £576 million, lower operating expenses, down £131 million and higher income, up £53 million. Adjusted operating profit increased by £663 million to £1,495 million.

Net interest income increased by £79 million or 4%, largely reflecting re-pricing activity on deposits partly offset by the impact of reduced asset margins, a result of the net transfer in of lower margin legacy loans (after the cessation of Non-Core).

Non-interest income was down £26 million or 2% as lower Corporate & Institutional Banking revenue share income, restructuring fees and the transfer out of commercial cards income to UK Personal & Business Banking in August 2014 were only partially offset by higher fair value gains and operating lease income, along with lower close out costs of interest rate products associated with impaired loans.

Operating expenses were down £131 million or 7%, as a result of lower litigation and conduct costs, primarily relating to interest rate swap redress, and lower underlying direct costs reflecting the continued focus on cost saving. These reductions were partially offset by higher restructuring costs, as the business aligns itself to better support customers, and growth in operating lease depreciation. Operating expenses excluding restructuring costs and litigation and conduct costs declined by £34 million.

Net impairment losses declined £576 million to £76 million, as 2013 included the impact of the creation of RCR. Excluding the RCR charges, underlying impairments declined by £453 million with fewer individual cases across the portfolio, reduced collectively assessed provisions and higher latent provision releases, reflecting improved credit conditions.

The loan:deposit ratio increased to 98%, from reduced deposits, down 4%, reflecting the rebalancing of the bank's liquidity position, and a 2% increase in net loans and advances, as reductions in the commercial real estate and restructuring portfolio were offset by growth across other businesses.

RWAs were £1.8 billion lower at £64.0 billion, primarily reflecting net transfers to RCR, effective 1 January 2014, and improving credit quality on the back of UK economic recovery, offset by loan growth.

### 2013 compared with 2012

Operating profit decreased by £218 million to £530 million (a return on equity of 4.9%), driven by lower income, higher impairments and indirect costs partly offset by lower restructuring, litigation and conduct costs.

Net interest income was in line with 2012 as increased income from re-pricing initiatives and higher average lending volumes offset the impact of the lower rate environment on deposit returns and the non-repeat of 2012 deferred income recognition revisions (£28 million).

Non-interest income decreased by 12% primarily from lower CIB revenue share income, a decline in operating lease income (offset by an associated reduction of operating lease depreciation in expenses), lower lending fees and higher costs arising from closing out interest rate hedging products associated with impaired loans.

Total expenses declined by 3% or £52 million, driven by lower restructuring, litigation and conduct costs partially offset by higher indirect expenses. Direct costs were down £12 million from reduced staff costs, a decline in operating lease depreciation and lower CIB revenue share related costs.

Impairments increased by £107 million primarily relating to higher commercial real estate impairment losses. Full year impairments include the additional impact of increased impairments losses related to the creation of RCR (£123 million) in Q4 2013.

The loan:deposit ratio increased by 100 basis points primarily from lower deposit volumes following re-pricing initiatives in line with the wider bank funding strategy.

Risk-weighted assets decreased by 3% as net movements into default more than offset increases resulting from the implementation of risk model changes.

## Business review

### Private Banking

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Income statement</b>			
Net interest income	691	658	676
Net fees and commissions	335	355	366
Other non-interest income	56	64	84
Non-interest income	391	419	450
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>1,126</b>
Direct expenses			
- staff costs	(317)	(317)	(319)
- other costs	(72)	(84)	(110)
Indirect expenses	(439)	(475)	(475)
Restructuring costs			
- direct	(8)	(18)	(12)
- indirect	(10)	(9)	(16)
Litigation and conduct costs	(90)	(206)	(7)
Operating expenses	(936)	(1,109)	(939)
Profit/(loss) before impairment losses	146	(32)	187
Impairment releases/(losses)	4	(29)	(46)
<b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>(61)</b>	<b>141</b>
Operating expenses - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	(828)	(876)	(904)
<b>Operating profit - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>258</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>176</b>

#### Of which: international private banking activities <sup>(2)</sup>

Total income	230	267
Operating expenses	(257)	(357)
Impairment losses	—	(20)
<b>Operating loss</b>	<b>(27)</b>	<b>(110)</b>

#### Analysis of income by business

Investments	176	198	214
Banking	906	879	912
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>1,126</b>

#### Performance ratios

Return on equity <sup>(3)</sup>	7.8%	(3.1%)	7.1%
Return on equity - adjusted <sup>(1,3)</sup>	13.4%	8.7%	8.8%
Net interest margin	3.71%	3.47%	3.50%
Cost:income ratio	87%	103%	83%
Cost:income ratio - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	77%	81%	80%

#### Notes:

(1) Excluding restructuring costs and litigation and conduct costs.

(2) Private banking and wealth management activities outside of the British Isles, broadly indicative of the businesses being exited.

(3) Return on equity is based on operating profit after tax divided by average notional equity (based on 12% of the monthly average of segmental RWAs; RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis).

(4) From Q1 2015 business segment return on equity will be calculated based on operating profit after tax adjusted for preference share dividends divided by average notional equity (based on 13% of the monthly average RWAs). At 31 December 2014 the RWAs on this basis were £11.5 billion and the return on equity 6.1%.

## Business review

	2014 £bn	2013 £bn	2012 £bn
<b>Capital and balance sheet</b>			
Loans and advances to customers (gross)			
- personal	5.4	5.5	5.5
- mortgages	8.9	8.7	8.8
- other	2.3	2.6	2.8
Total loans and advances to customers (gross)	16.6	16.8	17.1
Loan impairment provisions	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)
Net loans and advances to customers	16.5	16.7	17.0
Funded assets	20.4	21.0	21.4
Total assets	20.5	21.2	21.5
Assets under management	28.3	29.7	28.9
Risk elements in lending	0.2	0.3	0.2
Provision coverage <sup>(1)</sup>	34%	43%	44%
Customer deposits	36.1	37.2	38.9
Loan:deposit ratio (excluding repos)	46%	45%	44%
Risk-weighted assets <sup>(2)</sup>			
- credit risk			
- non-counterparty	9.5	10.0	10.3
- counterparty	0.1	—	—
- market risk	—	0.1	0.1
- operational risk	1.9	1.9	1.9
Total risk-weighted assets	11.5	12.0	12.3
<b>Of which: international private banking activities <sup>(3)</sup></b>			
Net loans and advances to customers	3.0	3.1	
Assets under management	14.5	15.6	
Customer deposits (excluding repos)	7.3	8.0	
Risk-weighted assets <sup>(2)</sup>	2.2	2.5	

**Notes:**

(1) Provision coverage represents loan impairment provisions as a percentage of risk elements in lending.

(2) RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis. RWAs on the end-point CRR basis at 1 January 2014 were £12.0 billion.

(3) Private banking and wealth management activities outside of the British Isles, broadly indicative of the businesses being exited.

### Key points

During 2014, Private Banking has continued to provide excellent service to clients against the background of a major business review and significant organisational change.

Following the announcement of RBS's new strategy in February 2014, Private Banking set out a new vision and strategic direction in August. Coutts and Adam & Company will focus on growing the UK based high net worth client franchise. All private banking and wealth management activities where the primary relationship management is conducted outside the British Isles will be exited to align better with RBS's stated UK focus.

The ambition of the business is to be the leading UK based private bank and wealth manager for wealthy individuals seeking exceptional private banking and wealth management. Private Banking has gathered significant momentum behind its ambition, supported by a straightforward plan centred around five key priorities: an improved banking proposition; a refocused advice and wealth management model; an enhanced proposition for international clients managed from the UK; an integrated client approach across RBS; and increased client engagement.

Since September, good progress has been made towards the sale of the business outside the British Isles. A primary focus of the transaction is to execute the deal with minimal disruption for clients and staff.

Private Banking has made tangible steps towards working more closely with Commercial Banking, which includes an energetic approach to client cross referrals as well as functional synergies.

The business has progressed well against key priorities in 2014. Improvements are evidenced by several industry awards including: 'Best private bank in the UK' (PWM/The Banker) and 'Most innovative digital offering' (Private Banker International). Coutts continues to be recognised as a leader in philanthropy, with its '\$1 million donors' report receiving significant media coverage, and its expertise as an adviser for family businesses and entrepreneurs remains a strong point of differentiation.



### Private Banking continued

#### 2014 compared with 2013

Private Banking recorded an operating profit of £150 million compared with a loss of £61 million in the prior year. This was driven by reduced operating expenses, down £173 million, net impairment releases of £4 million compared with a net £29 million loss in 2013, and higher income, up £5 million. Adjusted operating profit increased by £86 million to £258 million.

Net interest income increased by £33 million or 5% as improved deposit margin reflected the full year impact of the 2013 deposit re-pricing initiative.

Non-interest income was down £28 million or 7%, with lower transactional and investment activity due to subdued market volatility across the international business.

Operating expenses declined by £173 million or 16% primarily driven by lower restructuring and litigation and conduct costs. Adjusted operating expenses declined by £48 million or 5% to £828 million, reflecting lower technology costs and one-off benefits from the exit of a number of London properties.

Net impairment releases of £4 million, compared with a net impairment loss of £29 million in the prior year reflected the non-repeat of a single £20 million provision, coupled with improved economic conditions and higher UK property prices.

Client deposits decreased by £1.1 billion or 3% reflecting the rebalancing of the bank's liquidity position.

Assets under management decreased by £1.4 billion or 5% to £28.3 billion, driven by low margin custody outflows.

#### 2013 compared with 2012

There was an operating loss of £61 million in 2013 compared with an operating profit of £141 million in 2012, principally driven by an increase in litigation and conduct costs, with lower income offsetting lower direct costs and lower impairments.

Total income declined by 4% to £1,077 million, with a full year reduction in net interest income reflecting the lower spread earned on deposits as a result of the lower interest rate environment.

Non-interest income fell by 7% to £419 million due to the non-repeat of the disposal of the Latin American, Caribbean and African businesses for a profit of £15 million in the first half of 2012 together with a decline in fee income in the International business.

Total expenses increased by £170 million driven by litigation and conduct costs increase of £199 million, partly offset by lower direct costs as a result of reduced headcount, continued discretionary cost management and the non-recurrence of two regulatory fines totalling £26 million incurred during 2012. This was partially offset by a one-off UK tax treaty charge in the International business.

Impairments were £17 million lower at £29 million, largely reflecting a small number of specific impairments.

Client assets and liabilities managed by the division declined by 2%, with a £1.7 billion reduction in deposits following re-pricing initiatives in the UK in line with the wider bank funding strategy. Assets under management increased by 3% due to positive market movements. Lending was 2% lower, reflecting increased levels of repayments in the UK.

## Business review

### Corporate & Institutional Banking

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Income statement</b>			
Net interest income from banking activities	817	684	816
Net fees and commissions	972	1,109	1,310
Income from trading activities	2,023	3,074	4,043
Other operating income	137	141	242
Non-interest income	3,132	4,324	5,595
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,949</b>	<b>5,008</b>	<b>6,411</b>
Direct expenses			
- staff costs	(729)	(979)	(1,358)
- other costs	(400)	(688)	(520)
Indirect expenses	(2,432)	(2,900)	(2,846)
Restructuring costs			
- direct	(93)	(76)	(411)
- indirect	(202)	(126)	(571)
Litigation and conduct costs	(994)	(2,441)	(723)
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>(4,850)</b>	<b>(7,210)</b>	<b>(6,429)</b>
Loss before impairment releases/(losses)	(901)	(2,202)	(18)
Impairment releases/(losses)	9	(680)	(229)
<b>Operating loss</b>	<b>(892)</b>	<b>(2,882)</b>	<b>(247)</b>
Operating expenses - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	(3,561)	(4,567)	(4,724)
Operating profit/(loss) - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	397	(239)	1,458
<b>Analysis of income by product</b>			
Rates	975	1,075	1,843
Currencies	754	903	706
Credit	1,088	1,639	2,067
Global Transaction Services	818	881	1,021
Portfolio	653	623	724
Total (excluding revenue share and run-off businesses)	4,288	5,121	6,361
Inter-segment revenue share	(236)	(261)	(322)
Run-off businesses	(103)	148	372
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,949</b>	<b>5,008</b>	<b>6,411</b>
<b>Performance ratios</b>			
Return on equity <sup>(2)</sup>	(4.2%)	(12.9%)	(1.0%)
Return on equity - adjusted <sup>(1,2)</sup>	1.9%	(1.1%)	5.7%
Net interest margin	0.99%	0.80%	0.78%
Cost:income ratio	123%	144%	100%
Cost:income ratio - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	90%	91%	74%

#### Notes:

(1) Excluding restructuring costs and litigation and conduct costs.

(2) Return on equity is based on operating profit after tax divided by average notional equity (based on 12% of the monthly average of the RWAs; RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis).

(3) From Q1 2015 business segment return on equity will be calculated based on operating profit after tax adjusted for preference share dividends divided by average notional equity (based on 13% of the monthly average RWAs). At 31 December 2014 the RWAs on this basis were £108.9 billion and the return on equity (4.8%).

## Business review

### Corporate & Institutional Banking continued

	2014	2013	2012
Capital and balance sheet	£bn	£bn	£bn
Loans and advances to customers (gross, excluding reverse repos)	73.0	69.1	80.2
Loan impairment provisions	(0.2)	(0.9)	(0.6)
Total loans and advances to customers (excluding reverse repos)	72.8	68.2	79.6
Net loans and advances to banks (excluding reverse repos) (1)	16.9	20.5	21.4
Reverse repos	61.6	76.2	103.8
Securities	57.0	72.1	95.0
Cash and eligible bills	23.2	20.6	30.6
Other	9.6	11.0	15.3
Funded assets	241.1	268.6	345.7
Total assets	577.2	551.2	775.5
Provision coverage (2)	105%	59%	68%
Customer deposits (excluding repos)	59.4	64.8	80.2
Bank deposits (excluding repos)	33.3	30.2	51.0
Repos	61.1	74.8	120.4
Debt securities in issue	14.1	21.5	32.6
Loan:deposit ratio (excluding repos)	122%	105%	99%
Risk-weighted assets (3)			
- credit risk			
- non-counterparty	51.3	61.8	65.1
- counterparty	25.1	17.5	34.7
- market risk	18.9	26.4	36.9
- operational risk	11.8	14.7	21.1
Total risk-weighted assets	107.1	120.4	157.8

#### Notes:

(1) Excludes disposal groups.

(2) Provision coverage represents loan impairment provisions as a percentage of risk elements in lending.

(3) RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis. RWAs on the end-point CRR basis as at 1 January 2014 were £147.1 billion.

### Key points

Corporate & Institutional Banking (CIB) focused on its strengths in core product areas during 2014, reducing the scale of the business and simplifying the operating model. This allowed CIB to better serve customers while deploying fewer resources. The commitment to customers was demonstrated by the award of The Banker's Most Innovative Bank in Risk Management in Q3 2014 and by winning IFR magazine's Sterling Bond House of the year award in Q4 2014. The drive to concentrate on core products is evidenced by the 27% fall in RWAs (compared with 1 January 2014 on a CRR basis) and the 22% year on year fall in adjusted expenses (excluding litigation and conduct costs and restructuring costs).

### 2014 compared with 2013

CIB recorded an operating loss of £892 million compared with a loss of £2,882 million in 2013. This included litigation and conduct costs of £994 million compared with £2,441 million a year before. The adjusted operating result improved from a loss of £239 million in 2013 to a profit of £397 million in 2014. This movement was primarily driven by substantial reductions in expenses, partially offset by lower income. Net impairment releases totalled £9 million compared with a net impairment charge of £680 million in 2013.

Total income declined by 21%, reflecting reduced deployment of resources and difficult trading conditions, characterised by subdued levels of client activity and limited market volatility:

- Rates suffered from a weak trading performance in Q4 2014. This, combined with subdued client flow and balance sheet de-risking, reduced income.
- Currencies income declined in a highly competitive market as both market volatility and client activity remained subdued for much of the year. Some volatility returned in Q4 2014, boosting income in the Options business in particular.
- Credit reduced RWAs by 61% in 2014, including the wind-down of Credit Trading and the US asset-backed products (ABP) business. This impacted income, as did the year on year weakening in corporate investment grade debt capital market issuance in EMEA.
- Income from Global Transaction Services dipped by 7%, primarily as a result of the disposal of the Global Travel Money Service business in Q4 2013. The underlying business was stable.
- Run-off and recovery businesses incurred a loss of £103 million.

Operating expenses fell by £2,360 million driven primarily by lower litigation and conduct costs. Adjusted expenses decreased by £1,006 million, or 22%, reflecting the continued focus on cost savings across both business and support areas.

Net impairment releases totalled £9 million compared with a net impairment charge of £680 million in 2013, reflecting a reduction in latent loss provisions and a low level of new impairments. This contrasted with 2013 which included substantial impairments related to the establishment of RCR.

Funded assets fell by 10% reflecting the focus on core product areas including the wind-down of Credit Trading and the US ABP businesses

RWAs were managed down by £40.0 billion from £147.1 billion on 1 January 2014 to £107.1 billion on 31 December 2014. The 27% reduction was driven by a sustained programme of risk and business reductions, notably in Credit due to the wind-down of the US asset-backed products business (down £15 billion over the same period to £4 billion).

### 2013 compared with 2012

Operating loss increased by £2,635 million, driven by litigation and conduct costs of £2,441 million (2012 - £723 million). Income fell by 22%, reflecting the strategic reduction in trading products and challenging market conditions. De-risking resulted in a 24% reduction in risk-weighted assets.

Rates actively repositioned the business during 2013, lowering the balance sheet and reducing risk. This, combined with a weak trading performance in H1 2013, resulted in subdued returns.

Currencies income increased as the franchise remained resilient and FX Options benefited from opportunities in volatile FX and emerging markets.

Credit income reduced, reflecting the de-risking of Flow Credit Trading and lower income from Asset Backed Products which was affected by investor concerns regarding tapering of the Federal Reserve's programme of quantitative easing and a reduction in the balance sheet and risk resources deployed by the business.

Global Transaction Services income was 14% lower driven by Cash Management, principally reflecting a decline in three-month LIBOR rates.

The reduction in Portfolio income of 14% reflected a smaller balance sheet.

Excluding restructuring and litigation and conduct costs of £2,643 million (2012 - £1,705 million) costs decreased by £157 million, or 3%, primarily reflecting a reduction in headcount and tightly controlled discretionary expenses. This was partially offset by a higher level of legal costs, primarily related to legacy issues in the US asset backed products business.

The increase in impairments mainly related to the creation of RCR (£355 million) in addition to a number of single name provisions.

Reducing risk and refocusing the trading business on core fixed income and currencies products drove the substantial reduction in both balance sheet and risk capital. Funded assets were £77.1 billion lower than December 2012 and risk weighted assets at £120.4 billion were down £37.4 billion.

### Central items

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Central items not allocated	(850)	647	845

Funding and operating costs have been allocated to operating segments based on direct service usage, the requirement for market funding and other appropriate drivers where services span more than one segment.

Residual unallocated items relate to volatile corporate items that do not naturally reside within a segment.

#### 2014 compared with 2013

Central items not allocated represented a charge of £850 million compared with a credit of £647 million in 2013. The change includes lower gains on the disposal of available-for-sale securities in Treasury, which were down £575 million to £149 million in 2014, along with a £309 million higher restructuring charge relating to the Williams & Glyn franchise. In addition 2014 includes a charge of £247 million write-down of previously capitalised software development expenditure and £134 million lower income from investments in associates. In addition, unallocated Treasury funding costs, including volatile items under IFRS, were £437 million in the year versus £282 million in 2013.

#### 2013 compared with 2012

Central items not allocated, represented a credit of £647 million in 2013 compared with £845 million in 2012, a reduction of £198 million.

This has been principally driven by higher unallocated Treasury and funding costs, including volatile items under IFRS and lower gains on Treasury available-for-sale securities, down £156 million from £880 million in 2012 to £724 million in 2013.

Central items included a property-related impairment of £65 million which was offset by the non-repeat of £175 million costs incurred in 2012 in relation to the technology incident along with income recognised in relation to RBS's share of profit from its stake in Saudi Hollandi.



## Business review

### Citizens Financial Group

	2014 US\$m	2013 US\$m	2012 US\$m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Income statement</b>						
Net interest income	3,317	2,960	3,071	2,013	1,892	1,938
Net fees and commissions	1,168	1,190	1,253	709	761	791
Other non-interest income	589	489	584	359	312	368
Non-interest income	1,757	1,679	1,837	1,068	1,073	1,159
<b>Total income</b>	<b>5,074</b>	<b>4,639</b>	<b>4,908</b>	<b>3,081</b>	<b>2,965</b>	<b>3,097</b>
Direct expenses						
- staff costs	(1,697)	(1,707)	(1,644)	(1,030)	(1,091)	(1,037)
- other costs	(1,631)	(1,544)	(1,630)	(990)	(986)	(1,027)
- litigation settlement	—	—	(138)	—	—	(88)
Indirect expenses	—	(173)	(148)	—	(111)	(95)
Restructuring costs	(169)	(24)	2	(103)	(16)	1
Operating expenses	(3,497)	(3,448)	(3,558)	(2,123)	(2,204)	(2,246)
Profit before impairment losses	1,577	1,191	1,350	958	761	851
Impairment losses	(324)	(244)	(145)	(197)	(156)	(91)
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>760</b>
Operating expenses - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	(3,328)	(3,424)	(3,422)	(2,020)	(2,188)	(2,159)
Operating profit - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	1,422	971	1,341	864	621	847
Average exchange rate - US\$/£				1.647	1.565	1.585

	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012
<b>Performance ratios</b>						
Return on equity <sup>(2)</sup>	6.6%	5.7%	7.1%	6.6%	5.7%	7.1%
Return on equity - adjusted <sup>(1,2)</sup>	7.5%	5.8%	7.5%	7.5%	5.8%	7.5%
Net interest margin	2.88%	2.91%	2.98%	2.88%	2.91%	2.98%
Cost:income ratio	69%	74%	72%	69%	74%	72%
Cost:income ratio - adjusted <sup>(1)</sup>	66%	74%	71%	66%	74%	71%
Loan impairment charge as % of gross customer loans and advances	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%

#### Notes:

(1) Excluding restructuring costs and litigation settlement.

(2) Return on equity is based on operating profit after tax divided by average notional equity (based on 12% of the monthly average of RWAs); RWA's in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis.

## Business review

### Citizens Financial Group continued

Capital and balance sheet	US\$bn	US\$bn	US\$bn	£bn	£bn	£bn
Loans and advances to customers (gross)						
- residential mortgages	12.1	9.6	9.4	7.7	5.8	5.8
- home equity	18.8	20.1	21.5	12.0	12.1	13.3
- SBO home equity	1.8	—	—	1.2	—	—
- corporate and commercial	43.6	39.8	38.5	27.9	24.1	23.8
- other consumer	17.6	14.1	13.5	11.3	8.6	8.4
Total loans and advances to customers (gross)	93.9	83.6	82.9	60.1	50.6	51.3
Loan impairment provisions	(0.8)	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.3)	(0.3)
Net loans and advances to customers	93.1	83.2	82.4	59.6	50.3	51.0
Funded assets	132.0	117.9	116.7	84.5	71.3	72.2
Total assets	132.6	118.6	117.8	84.9	71.7	72.9
Investment securities	24.7	21.3	19.5	15.8	12.9	12.0
Risk elements in lending						
- retail	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.8
- commercial	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3
Total risk elements in lending	2.1	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.0	1.1
Provision coverage (1)	40%	26%	25%	40%	26%	25%
Customer deposits (excluding repos)	94.6	91.1	95.6	60.6	55.1	59.2
Bank deposits (excluding repos)	8.0	3.3	2.9	5.1	2.0	1.8
Loan:deposit ratio (excluding repos)	98%	91%	86%	98%	91%	86%
Risk-weighted assets (2)						
- credit risk						
- non-counterparty	97.4	83.8	82.0	62.4	50.7	50.8
- counterparty	1.4	0.8	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.8
- operational risk	8.0	8.2	7.9	5.1	4.9	4.9
Total risk-weighted assets	106.8	92.8	91.3	68.4	56.1	56.5
Spot exchange rate - US\$/£				1.562	1.654	1.616

#### Notes:

- (1) Provision coverage represents loan impairment provisions as a percentage of risk elements in lending.  
(2) RWAs in 2013 and 2012 are on a Basel 2.5 basis. RWAs on the end-point CRR basis as at 1 January were £60.6 billion (\$100.2 billion).  
(3) From Q1 2015 business segment return on equity will be calculated based on operating profit after tax adjusted for preference share dividends divided by average notional equity (based on 13% of the monthly average RWAs). At 31 December 2014 the RWAs on this basis were £68.6 billion and the return on equity 6.1%.

### Key points

In accordance with a commitment to the EC to sell Citizens by 31 December 2016, RBS disposed of 29.5% of its interest in Citizens Financial Group, Inc. during the second half of 2014 primarily through an initial public offering in the USA. In accordance with IFRS 5 'Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations', Citizens is presented with effect from 31 December 2014 as a discontinued operation, with comparatives restated, and as a disposal group.

Although CFG has been reclassified as a discontinued operation it continues to be a reportable operating segment.

The results for 2014 are not directly comparable to prior periods; prior year results exclude Non-Core operations and include indirect expenses. In the context of the planned disposal of Citizens Financial Group, indirect expenses are no longer allocated to the segment.

### 2014 compared with 2013

Operating profit increased by £156 million (\$306 million), or 26%, to £761 million (\$1,253 million), reflecting the Q2 2014 gain on the sale of the Illinois franchise. The former Non-Core portfolio is now included and indirect expenses are no longer allocated on a prospective basis from 1 January 2014. On a comparable basis, operating profit excluding the impact of the Illinois sale, £170 million (\$283 million) net gain, and restructuring costs, £103 million (\$169 million) (FY 2013 - £16 million (\$24 million)), was up 11% driven by an increase in net interest income and a decrease in impairment losses partially offset by lower non-interest income.

Net interest income was up £121 million (\$357 million), or 6%, to £2,013 million (\$3,317 million) driven by a larger investment portfolio, loan growth including the transfer of assets from Non-Core, the benefit of interest rate swaps and deposit pricing discipline. This was partially offset by a reduction in loan spreads, reflecting the impact of the relatively persistent low-rate environment on loan yields, higher borrowing costs related to subordinated debt issuances and the impact of lost revenue from the Illinois franchise sale.

Higher rates led to investment security purchases resulting in average portfolio growth of £3.3 billion (\$5.4 billion) over the year.

Average loans and advances were up 17% driven by the £2.1 billion (\$3.4 billion) transfer of assets from Non-Core, commercial loan growth, auto loan organic growth and purchases of residential mortgages and auto loans, which were partially offset by a reduction in home equity loans.

Average customer deposits were up 4%. On a US dollar basis average customer deposits were down 2% with planned run-off of high priced deposits.

Loan:deposit ratio improved 700 basis points to 98%.

Excluding the gain on the sale of the Illinois franchise of £170 million (\$283 million), non-interest income was down £175 million (\$205 million), or 16%, to £898 million (\$1,474 million) reflecting lower securities gains of £70 million (\$116 million), lower mortgage banking fees of £32 million (\$52 million), as refinancing volumes have slowed, lower deposit fees of £32 million (\$52 million) due to a change in the posting order of transactions and the impact of lost revenue from the Illinois franchise sale. This was partially offset by underlying strength in commercial banking fee income. Mortgage origination activity has slowed as market rates have risen, leading to lower applications combined with lower levels of gains on sales of mortgages.

Excluding restructuring costs of £103 million (\$169 million) (2013 - £16 million (\$24 million)), total expenses were down £168 million (\$96 million), or 8%, to £2,020 million (\$3,328 million) driven by the removal of indirect costs in 2014 and the impact of the Illinois franchise sale partially offset by lower mortgage servicing rights impairment release and higher consumer regulatory compliance costs.

Restructuring costs include costs related to the sale of the Illinois franchise, separation from RBS, as well as efforts to improve processes and enhance efficiency.

Impairment losses increased by £41 million (\$80 million) to £197 million (\$324 million) due to charge-offs related to assets transferred from Non-Core.

### 2013 compared with 2012

Operating profit of £605 million (\$947 million) was down £155 million (\$258 million), or 20%. The operating environment and market conditions remained challenging, with intense competition for loans. An extended period of low short-term rates limited net interest margin expansion and the rise in long-term rates dramatically slowed mortgage refinance volumes.

Net interest income was down 2% at £1,892 million (\$2,960 million) due to a smaller investment portfolio, consumer loan run-off and the effect of prevailing economic conditions on asset yields partially offset by the benefit of interest rate swaps, commercial loan growth and favourable funding costs.

Average loans and advances were flat, with commercial loan growth of 5% despite competition for lending opportunities offset by run-off of long-term fixed-rate consumer products.

Average customer deposits were flat, with planned run-off of high priced time deposits and lower wholesale deposits offset by growth achieved in checking and money market balances. Consumer checking balances grew by 3% while small business checking balances grew by 7% over the year.

Excluding the £47 million (\$75 million) gross gain on the sale of Visa B shares in 2012, non-interest income was down £39 million (\$83 million), or 4% at £1,073 million (\$1,679 million), reflecting lower mortgage banking fees as refinancing volumes have slowed, and lower deposit fees. This was partially offset by higher securities gains and commercial banking fee income.

Excluding the £88 million (\$138 million) litigation settlement in 2012 relating to a class action lawsuit regarding the way overdraft fees were assessed on customer accounts prior to 2010 and the £8 million (\$13 million) litigation reserve associated with the sale of Visa B shares, total expenses of £2,204 million (\$3,448 million) were broadly in line with prior year. This largely reflects a mortgage servicing rights impairment recapture driven by the increase in long-term rates offset by the cost of regulatory compliance and new technology investments and a one-off £21 million (\$33 million) pension gain in 2012.

Impairment losses increased by £65 million (\$99 million) to £156 million (\$244 million) for the year and represented 0.3% of loans and advances to customers.

## Business review

### RBS Capital Resolution

RCR is managed and analysed in four asset management groups - Ulster Bank (RCR Ireland), Real Estate Finance, Corporate and Markets. Real Estate Finance excludes commercial real estate lending in Ulster Bank.

	2014 £m
<b>Income statement</b>	
Net interest expense	(24)
Net fees and commissions	58
Income from trading activities (1)	(218)
Other operating income (1)	229
Non-interest income	69
<b>Total income</b>	<b>45</b>
Direct expenses	
- staff	(167)
- other	(85)
Indirect expenses	(104)
Restructuring costs	(7)
Operating expenses	(363)
Loss before impairment losses	(318)
Impairment releases (1)	1,306
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>988</b>
Operating expenses - adjusted (2)	(356)
<b>Operating profit - adjusted (2)</b>	<b>995</b>
 Total income	
Ulster Bank	(20)
Real Estate Finance	222
Corporate	(17)
Markets	(140)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>45</b>
 <b>Impairment (releases)/losses</b>	
Ulster Bank	(1,106)
Real Estate Finance	(183)
Corporate	(21)
Markets	4
<b>Total impairment releases</b>	<b>(1,306)</b>
 <b>Loan impairment charge as a % of gross customer loans and advances (3)</b>	
Ulster Bank	(10.1%)
Real Estate Finance	(4.5%)
Corporate	(0.3%)
Markets	(1.7%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(6.0%)</b>

Notes:

- (1) Asset disposals contributed £904 million to RCR's operating profit: impairment provision releases of £874 million; £87 million gain in income from trading activities and £57 million loss in other operating income.  
(2) Excluding restructuring costs.  
(3) Includes disposal groups.

## Business review

	2014 £bn
<b>Capital and balance sheet</b>	
Loans and advances to customers (gross) (1)	21.9
Loan impairment provisions	(10.9)
Net loans and advances to customers	11.0
Debt securities	1.0
Funded assets	14.9
Total assets	29.0
Risk elements in lending (1)	15.4
Provision coverage (2)	71%
Risk-weighted assets	
- credit risk	
- non-counterparty	13.6
- counterparty	4.0
- market risk	4.4
Total risk-weighted assets	22.0
<b>Gross loans and advances to customers (1)</b>	
Ulster Bank	11.0
Real Estate Finance	4.1
Corporate	6.2
Markets	0.6
	<u>21.9</u>
<b>Funded assets - Ulster Bank</b>	
Commercial real estate - investment	1.2
Commercial real estate - development	0.7
Other corporate	0.7
	<u>2.6</u>
<b>Funded assets - Real Estate Finance</b>	
UK	2.5
Germany	0.4
Spain	0.5
Other	0.8
	<u>4.2</u>
<b>Funded assets - Corporate</b>	
Structured finance	1.7
Shipping	1.8
Other	2.3
	<u>5.8</u>
<b>Funded assets - Markets</b>	
Securitised products	1.8
Emerging markets	0.5
	<u>2.3</u>

Notes:

(1) Includes disposal groups.

(2) Provision coverage represents loan impairment provisions as a percentage of risk elements in lending.



## Business review

### RBS Capital Resolution continued Funded assets and RWAE

	Non-performing (1)					Performing (1)					Total				
	Funded assets		RWAE	RWA	Capital deducts	Funded assets		RWAE	RWA	Capital deducts	Funded assets		RWAE (2)	RWA	Capital deducts (3)
	Gross £bn	Net £bn				Gross £bn	Net £bn				Gross £bn	Net £bn			
2014															
Ulster Bank	10.7	2.2	3.4	—	340	0.5	0.4	0.5	1.3	(82)	11.2	2.6	3.9	1.3	258
Real Estate Finance	3.2	2.0	1.0	—	98	2.2	2.2	4.8	4.7	13	5.4	4.2	5.8	4.7	111
Corporate	2.2	1.1	1.6	—	161	4.7	4.7	6.7	7.2	(49)	6.9	5.8	8.3	7.2	112
Markets	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	12	2.2	2.2	9.2	8.8	41	2.3	2.3	9.3	8.8	53
Total RCR	16.2	5.4	6.1	—	611	9.6	9.5	21.2	22.0	(77)	25.8	14.9	27.3	22.0	534

Notes:

- (1) Performing assets are those with an internal asset quality band of AQ1-AQ9; and non-performing assets are in AQ10 with a probability of default being 100%.
- (2) RWA equivalent (RWAE) is an internal metric that measures the equity capital employed in segments. RWAE converts both performing and non-performing exposures into a consistent capital measure, being the sum of the regulatory RWAs and the regulatory capital deductions, the latter converted to RWAE by applying a multiplier. RBS applies a CET1 ratio of 10% for RCR; this results in an end-point CRR RWAE conversion multiplier of 10.
- (3) The most significant component of capital deductions relate to expected loss less impairment provisions of £518 million. The negative capital deductions for performing exposures are a result of the latent loss provisions held in respect of the performing portfolio.

### Funded assets

	1 January 2014 £bn	Repayments £bn	Disposals (1) £bn	Impairments £bn	Other £bn	31 December 2014 £bn
Ulster Bank	4.8	(0.2)	(2.8)	1.1	(0.3)	2.6
Real Estate Finance	9.5	(2.3)	(2.9)	0.1	(0.2)	4.2
Corporate	9.8	(2.3)	(1.9)	—	0.2	5.8
Markets	4.8	(1.1)	(1.5)	—	0.1	2.3
Total	28.9	(5.9)	(9.1)	1.2	(0.2)	14.9

### Risk-weighted assets

	1 January 2014 £bn	Repayments £bn	Disposals (1) £bn	Risk parameters (2) £bn	Impairments £bn	Other (3) £bn	31 December 2014 £bn
Ulster Bank	3.3	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.9)	—	(0.1)	1.3
Real Estate Finance	13.5	(2.2)	(1.4)	(5.2)	—	—	4.7
Corporate	16.4	(2.2)	(3.0)	(4.1)	(0.4)	0.5	7.2
Markets	13.5	(2.7)	(2.7)	0.2	—	0.5	8.8
Total	46.7	(7.6)	(7.6)	(10.0)	(0.4)	0.9	22.0

### Capital deductions

	1 January 2014 £bn	Repayments £bn	Disposals (1) £bn	Risk parameters (2) £bn	Impairments £bn	Other (3) £bn	31 December 2014 £bn
Ulster Bank	559	(30)	(226)	(116)	81	(10)	258
Real Estate Finance	505	(396)	(683)	621	78	(14)	111
Corporate	477	(192)	(113)	17	(102)	25	112
Markets	291	(15)	(80)	(139)	1	(5)	53
Total	1,832	(633)	(1,102)	383	58	(4)	534

### RWA equivalent (4)

	1 January 2014 £bn	Repayment £bn	Disposals (1) £bn	Risk parameters (2) £bn	Impairments £bn	Other (3) £bn	31 December 2014 £bn
Ulster Bank	8.9	(0.8)	(2.7)	(2.1)	0.7	(0.1)	3.9
Real Estate Finance	18.6	(6.2)	(8.2)	0.9	0.7	—	5.8
Corporate	21.1	(4.0)	(4.0)	(4.0)	(1.4)	0.6	8.3
Markets	16.4	(2.8)	(3.5)	(1.1)	—	0.3	9.3
Total	65.0	(13.8)	(18.4)	(6.3)	—	0.8	27.3

Notes:

- (1) Includes all effects relating to disposals, including associated removal of deductions from regulatory capital.
- (2) Principally reflects credit migration and other technical adjustments.
- (3) Includes fair value adjustments and foreign exchange movements.
- (4) RWA equivalent (RWAE) is an internal metric that measures the equity capital employed in segments. RWAE converts both performing and non-performing exposures into a consistent capital measure, being the sum of the regulatory RWAs and the regulatory capital deductions, the latter converted to RWAE by applying a multiplier. RBS applies a CET1 ratio of 10% for RCR; this results in an end-point CRR RWAE conversion multiplier of 10.

## Business review

### Gross loans and advances, REIL and impairments

				Credit metrics				
	Gross loans £bn	REIL £bn	Provisions £bn	REIL as a % of gross loans %	Provisions as a % of REIL %	Provisions as a % of gross loans %	Impairment (releases)/ losses (2) £m	Amounts written-off £m
2014 (1)								
By sector								
Commercial real estate								
- investment	6.2	4.9	2.8	79	57	45	(553)	1,911
- development	6.4	6.2	5.3	97	85	83	(611)	560
Asset finance	2.3	0.9	0.4	39	44	17	37	80
Other corporate	7.0	3.4	2.4	49	71	34	(169)	1,032
	21.9	15.4	10.9	70	71	50	(1,296)	3,583
By donating segment and sector								
Ulster Bank								
Commercial real estate								
- investment	3.0	2.9	2.0	97	69	67	(450)	445
- development	5.8	5.8	5.1	100	88	88	(608)	425
Other corporate	2.2	2.0	1.5	91	75	68	(48)	256
Total Ulster Bank	11.0	10.7	8.6	97	80	78	(1,106)	1,126
Commercial Banking								
Commercial real estate								
- investment	1.2	0.7	0.2	58	29	17	(5)	228
- development	0.4	0.3	0.1	75	33	25	(11)	104
Other corporate	1.0	0.5	0.3	50	60	30	—	192
Total Commercial Banking	2.6	1.5	0.6	58	40	23	(16)	524
CIB								
Commercial real estate								
- investment	2.0	1.3	0.6	65	46	30	(98)	1,238
- development	0.2	0.1	0.1	50	100	50	8	31
Asset finance	2.3	0.9	0.4	39	44	17	37	80
Other corporate	3.8	0.9	0.6	24	67	16	(121)	584
Total CIB	8.3	3.2	1.7	39	53	20	(174)	1,933
Total	21.9	15.4	10.9	70	71	50	(1,296)	3,583
Of which								
UK	10.0	6.2	4.1	62	66	41	(402)	2,266
Europe	10.9	8.9	6.6	82	74	61	(875)	1,267
US	0.3	0.1	—	33	—	—	(19)	26
RoW	0.7	0.2	0.2	29	100	29	—	24
Customers	21.9	15.4	10.9	70	71	50	(1,296)	3,583
Banks	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	(10)	8
Total	22.4	15.4	10.9	69	71	49	(1,306)	3,591

#### Notes:

(1) Includes disposal groups.

(2) Impairment (releases)/losses include those relating to AFS securities; sector analyses above include allocation of latent impairment charges.

### **RBS Capital Resolution** continued 2014 compared with 2013

RCR funded assets were reduced by £14 billion, or 48%, during 2014, driven by disposals and repayments.

The original target was for RCR to reduce funded assets by between 55% to 70% by the end of 2015 and by 85% over three years from 1 January 2014. Based on the strong performance in 2014, RCR is now expected to reduce funded assets by 85% by the end of 2015, a year earlier than planned.

RWA equivalent decreased by £38 billion, or 58%, during 2014. This primarily reflects disposals and repayments, supplemented by methodology changes and lower market risk RWAs.

Operating profit of £988 million reflects impairment provision releases and higher than anticipated sale prices for assets driven by a combination of strong execution and favourable market conditions particularly in Ireland.

The net effect of the £988 million operating profit and RWA equivalent reduction of £38 billion<sup>(1)</sup> was CET1 accretion of £4.8 billion.

### **Funding employed**

RCR continues to be funded primarily by RBS Treasury and has no material third party deposits.

The funding is based on the original target of reducing third party assets by 85% over three years from the creation of RCR on 1 January 2014.

Note:

(1) Capital equivalent: £3.8 billion at an internal CET1 ratio of 10%.

## Business review

### Non-Core

	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Income statement</b>		
Net interest income	(61)	346
Net fees and commissions	55	105
Loss from trading activities	(148)	(654)
Other operating income		
- rental income	142	421
- other <sup>(1)</sup>	(334)	70
Non-interest income	(285)	(58)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>(346)</b>	<b>288</b>
Direct expenses		
- staff costs	(190)	(256)
- operating lease depreciation	(76)	(246)
- other costs	(126)	(171)
Indirect expenses	(213)	(282)
Restructuring cost		
- direct	(16)	(1)
- indirect	(6)	(7)
Operating expenses	(627)	(963)
Loss before impairment losses	(973)	(675)
Impairment losses	(4,576)	(2,223)
<b>Operating loss</b>	<b>(5,549)</b>	<b>(2,898)</b>
<b>Analysis of (loss)/income by business</b>		
Banking & portfolios	(496)	40
International businesses	51	250
Markets	99	(2)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>(346)</b>	<b>288</b>
<b>Loss from trading activities</b>		
Monoline exposures	(46)	(205)
Credit derivative product companies	(5)	(205)
Asset-backed products <sup>(2)</sup>	103	101
Other credit exotics	32	(28)
Equities	2	(2)
Banking book hedges	3	(38)
Other	(237)	(277)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(148)</b>	<b>(654)</b>
<b>Impairment losses</b>		
Banking & portfolios	4,646	2,346
International businesses	1	56
Markets	(71)	(179)
<b>Total impairment losses <sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>4,576</b>	<b>2,223</b>
<b>Loan impairment charge as a % of gross customer loans and advances</b> <b>(excluding reverse repurchase agreements) <sup>(4)</sup></b>		
Banking & portfolios	12.9%	4.2%
International businesses	0.5%	5.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.8%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>

#### Notes:

- (1) Includes losses on disposals of £221 million for 2013 (2012 - £14 million).  
(2) Asset-backed products include super asset-backed structures and other asset-backed products.  
(3) Includes £3,118 million pertaining to the creation of RCR and related strategy.  
(4) Includes disposal groups.

## Business review

### Non-Core continued

Performance ratios	2013	2012
Net interest margin	(0.19%)	0.31%
Capital and balance sheet	£bn	£bn
Loans and advances to customers (gross) <sup>(1)</sup>	35.6	55.4
Loan impairment provisions	(13.8)	(11.2)
Net loans and advances to customers	21.8	44.2
Total third party assets (excluding derivatives)	28.0	57.4
Total third party assets (including derivatives)	31.2	63.4
Risk elements in lending <sup>(1)</sup>	19.0	21.4
Provision coverage <sup>(2)</sup>	73%	52%
Customer deposits (excluding repos) <sup>(1)</sup>	2.2	2.7
Risk-weighted assets		
- credit risk		
- non-counterparty	21.0	45.1
- counterparty	3.7	11.5
- market risk	3.3	5.4
- operational risk	1.2	(1.6)
Total risk-weighted assets	29.2	60.4
Gross customer loans and advances		
Banking & portfolios	35.4	54.5
International businesses	0.2	0.9
	35.6	55.4
Risk-weighted assets		
Banking & portfolios	26.2	53.3
International businesses	0.7	2.4
Markets	2.3	4.7
	29.2	60.4
Third party assets (excluding derivatives)		
Banking & portfolios	25.9	51.1
International businesses	0.3	1.2
Markets	1.8	5.1
	28.0	57.4

#### Notes:

(1) Excludes disposal groups.

(2) Provision coverage represents loan impairment provisions as a percentage of risk elements in lending.



2013 was the final reporting period for the Non-Core division.

Approximately £12 billion of assets which were managed by Non-Core were returned to the relevant originating segments, with the remaining assets transferring to RCR from 1 January 2014.

Non-Core had successfully achieved and surpassed its five year Strategic Plan target, reducing third party assets from the opening £258 billion position to end 2013 significantly below the original c.£40 billion target at £28 billion. Over the life of Non-Core this represented an overall reduction of £230 billion, or 89%. This was achieved through a mixture of disposals, run-off and impairments. By the end of 2013, the Non-Core funded balance sheet was c.4% of the Group's funded balance sheet compared with 21% when the division was created. RWAs had reduced from £171 billion to £29 billion, or 83%, over the life of Non-Core.

### 2013 compared with 2012

Third party assets declined by £29 billion, or 51%, reflecting run-off of £15 billion, disposals of £11 billion and impairments of £5 billion, of which £3.1 billion is driven by the new RCR strategy to exit these assets over a shorter timeframe than previous plans.

Risk-weighted assets were £31 billion lower, driven by disposals and run-off.

Operating loss of £5,549 million was £2,651 million higher than 2012, principally due to a £2,353 million increase in impairments. This was predominantly due to £3,118 million of 2013 impairments related to the creation of RCR, most significantly with £2,299 million in Ulster Bank and £742 million in International Banking, driven by the new RCR strategy to exit these assets over a shorter timeframe than previous plans, which has led to increased impairment losses on the non-performing assets.

Operating loss before impairment losses was £298 million higher with a reduction in net interest income of £343 million, £207 million additional disposal losses and £104 million further fair value writedowns offset by £506 million lower losses from trading activities.

The reduction in net interest income of £343 million was driven by a 31% fall in interest earning assets driven by run-off and disposals.

Headcount declined by 1,700, or 55% to 1,400 of which 1,000 relates to operations in India and Romania, reflecting divestment activity and run-off.

## Business review

### Consolidated balance sheet at 31 December 2014

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and balances at central banks	74,872	82,659	79,290
Net loans and advances to banks	23,027	27,555	29,168
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	20,708	26,516	34,783
Loans and advances to banks	43,735	54,071	63,951
Net loans and advances to customers	334,251	390,825	430,088
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	43,987	49,897	70,047
Loans and advances to customers	378,238	440,722	500,135
Debt securities subject to repurchase agreements	23,048	55,554	91,173
Other debt securities	63,601	58,045	66,265
Debt securities	86,649	113,599	157,438
Equity shares	5,635	8,811	15,232
Settlement balances	4,667	5,591	5,741
Derivatives	353,590	288,039	441,903
Intangible assets	7,781	12,368	13,545
Property, plant and equipment	6,167	7,909	9,784
Deferred tax	1,540	3,478	3,443
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	5,878	7,614	7,820
Assets of disposal groups	82,011	3,017	14,013
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,050,763</b>	<b>1,027,878</b>	<b>1,312,295</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Bank deposits	35,806	35,329	57,073
Repurchase agreements and stock lending	24,859	28,650	44,332
Deposits by banks	60,665	63,979	101,405
Customers deposits	354,288	414,396	433,239
Repurchase agreements and stock lending	37,351	56,484	88,040
Customer accounts	391,639	470,880	521,279
Debt securities in issue	50,280	67,819	94,592
Settlement balances	4,503	5,313	5,878
Short positions	23,029	28,022	27,591
Derivatives	349,805	285,526	434,333
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	13,346	16,017	14,801
Retirement benefit liabilities	2,579	3,210	3,884
Deferred tax	500	507	1,141
Subordinated liabilities	22,905	24,012	26,773
Liabilities of disposal groups	71,320	3,378	10,170
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>990,571</b>	<b>968,663</b>	<b>1,241,847</b>
Non-controlling interests	2,946	473	1,770
Owners' equity	57,246	58,742	68,678
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>60,192</b>	<b>59,215</b>	<b>70,448</b>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	<b>1,050,763</b>	<b>1,027,878</b>	<b>1,312,295</b>

### Commentary on consolidated balance sheet

#### 2014 compared with 2013

Total assets of £1,050.8 billion at 31 December 2014 were up £22.9 billion, 2%, compared with 31 December 2013. This was driven by mark-to-market increases in derivative assets, partly offset by a reduction in funded assets, primarily in CIB and RCR.

Loans and advances to banks decreased by £10.3 billion, 19%, to £43.7 billion. Excluding reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing ('reverse repos'), down £5.8 billion, 22%, to £20.7 billion, bank placings declined £4.5 billion, 16%, to £23.0 billion.

Loans and advances to customers declined £62.5 billion, 14%, to £378.2 billion. Within this, reverse repos were down £5.9 billion, 12%, to £44.0 billion. Customer lending decreased by £56.6 billion, 14%, to £334.2 billion, or £64.3 billion to £351.7 billion before impairments. This reflected the transfer to disposal groups at 31 December 2014 of £60.1 billion (equivalent 2013 - £50.6 billion) of customer balances relating to Citizens together with run-down and disposals in RCR.

Debt securities were down £27.0 billion, 24%, to £86.6 billion, driven mainly by the transfer of £15.3 billion of Citizens' debt securities to assets of disposal groups and reductions within CIB and Treasury in holdings of US government securities and financial institution bonds.

Equity shares decreased by £3.2 billion, 36%, to £5.6 billion primarily due to the ongoing run-down of the CIB equities business.

Movements in the value of derivative assets, up £65.6 billion, 23%, to £353.6 billion, and liabilities, up £64.3 billion, 23% to £349.8 billion, primarily reflects significant mark-to-market increases on interest rate contracts driven by significant downward shifts in major yield curves.

Property, plant and equipment decreased by £1.7 billion, 22%, to £6.2 billion driven largely by disposals of investment properties and the transfer of Citizens to assets of disposal groups.

Intangible assets decreased by £4.6 billion, 37%, to £7.8 billion primarily as a result of the transfer to disposal groups of £4.5 billion of intangible assets relating to Citizens.

The increase in assets and liabilities of disposal groups, up £79.0 billion to £82.0 billion, and £67.9 billion to £71.3 billion respectively, primarily reflects the transfer to disposal groups of Citizens at 31 December 2014. This was partly offset by decreases resulting from the disposals of the interest in associates in Direct Line Group and the Chicago area retail branches, small business operations and select middle market relationships in the Chicago area, which formed part of Citizens.

Deposits by banks decreased £3.3 billion, 5%, to £60.7 billion, with increases in inter-bank deposits, up £0.5 billion, 1%, to £35.8 billion and decreases in repurchase agreements and stock lending ('repos'), down £3.8 billion, 13%, to £24.9 billion, as a result of the transfer of £6.8 billion of Citizens' bank deposits to liabilities of disposal groups, partly offset by higher derivative cash collateral.

Customer accounts decreased £79.2 billion, 17%, to £391.6 billion. Within this, repos decreased £19.1 billion, 34%, to £37.4 billion. Excluding repos, customer deposits were down £60.1 billion, 15%, at £354.3 billion, primarily reflecting the transfer to disposal groups of £60.6 billion (equivalent 2013 - £55.1 billion) of customer accounts relating to Citizens and the reduction of corporate deposits in both Commercial Banking and CIB.

Debt securities in issue decreased £17.5 billion, 26%, to £50.3 billion due to the buy-back and maturity of medium term notes in issue given the lower funding requirements of a reduced balance sheet.

Retirement benefit liabilities decreased by £0.6 billion, 20%, to £2.6 billion primarily driven by additional employer contributions of £0.7 billion to the Group's Main scheme as part of the schedule of additional contributions to eliminate the deficit in the scheme which were agreed following completion of the triennial valuation of the Main scheme.

Subordinated liabilities decreased by £1.1 billion, 5% to £22.9 billion, primarily as a result of the net decrease in dated loan capital with redemptions of £3.5 billion being partially offset by issuances of £2.2 billion and the effects of exchange rate and other movements of £0.2 billion.

Non-controlling interests increased by £2.5 billion to £2.9 billion, due to the disposal of a 29.5% interest in Citizens during the second half of 2014, primarily through an initial public offering in the USA.

Owner's equity decreased by £1.5 billion, 3%, to £57.2 billion, driven by the £3.5 billion attributable loss for the year. Partially offsetting this reduction were movements in cash flow hedging reserves, £1.1 billion, and available-for-sale reserves, £0.6 billion, share issuances of £0.5 billion, and other reserve movements, £0.2 billion.

### Commentary on consolidated balance sheet continued

#### 2013 compared with 2012

Total assets of £1,027.9 billion at 31 December 2013 were down £284.4 billion, 22%, compared with 31 December 2012. This was driven by the downsizing of the CIB business, primarily reflected in decreases in loans to banks and customers, debt securities and derivatives balances, and a further decrease in loans and advances to banks and customers due to Non-Core disposals and run off.

Loans and advances to banks decreased by £9.9 billion, 15%, to £54.1 billion. Excluding reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing ('reverse repos'), down £8.3 billion, 24%, to £26.5 billion, bank placings declined £1.6 billion, 6%, to £27.6 billion.

Loans and advances to customers declined £59.4 billion, 12%, to £440.7 billion. Within this, reverse repurchase agreements were down £20.1 billion, 29%, to £49.9 billion. Customer lending decreased by £39.3 billion, 9%, to £390.8 billion, or £35.2 billion to £416.0 billion before impairments. This reflected reductions in Non-Core of £19.9 billion, along with declines in CIB, £11.1 billion, Ulster Bank, £1.9 billion, UK Personal & Business Banking, £1.3 billion, Private Banking, £0.3 billion, Citizens Financial Group, £0.2 billion and Commercial Banking, £0.1 billion, which included the impact of £0.7 billion of customer loans being transferred to assets of disposal groups at 31 December 2013, and the effect of exchange rate and other movements, £0.4 billion.

Debt securities were down £43.8 billion, 28%, to £113.6 billion, driven mainly by reductions within CIB and RBS Treasury in holdings of UK and Eurozone government securities and financial institution bonds.

Equity shares decreased by £6.4 billion, 42%, to £8.8 billion due to the targeted run-down of CIB' equities business.

Movements in the value of derivative assets, down £153.9 billion, 35%, to £288.0 billion, and liabilities, down £148.8 billion, 34% to £285.5 billion, primarily reflects upward shifts in major yield curves which resulted in significant mark-to-market decreases on interest rate contracts.

Property, plant and equipment decreased by £1.9 billion, 19%, to £7.9 billion driven largely by the disposal of Non-Core assets.

Intangible assets decreased by £1.2 billion, 9%, to £12.4 billion primarily as a result of the write-down of goodwill relating to the former International Banking division at 31 December 2013.

The decrease in assets and liabilities of disposal groups, down £11.0 billion, 78%, to £3.0 billion, and £6.8 billion, 67%, to £3.4 billion respectively, primarily reflects the deconsolidation of Direct Line Group following the further sale of shares and ceding of control in 2013. The remaining interest, classified as an associate, is included in assets of disposal groups at 31 December 2013. In addition, disposal groups include loans and deposits in Illinois branches for sale in Citizens Financial Group.

Deposits by banks decreased £37.4 billion, 37%, to £64.0 billion, with decreases in inter-bank deposits, down £21.7 billion, 38%, to £35.3 billion and repurchase agreements and stock lending ('repos'), down £15.7 billion, 35%, to £28.7 billion, as a result of lower funding requirements and reduced derivative cash collateral.

Customer accounts decreased £50.4 billion, 10%, to £470.9 billion. Within this, repos decreased £31.6 billion, 36%, to £56.5 billion. Excluding repos, customer deposits were down £18.8 billion, 4%, at £414.4 billion, primarily reflecting decreases in CIB, £15.6 billion, Citizens Financial Group, £5.9 billion, Private Banking £1.7 billion, Commercial Banking, £1.0 billion and Ulster Bank, £0.7 billion, which included the impact of £3.2 billion of customer deposits being transferred to liabilities of disposal groups at 31 December 2013, and the effect of exchange rate and other movements of £3.4 billion. These decreases were partially offset by increases in UK Personal & Business Banking, £9.8 billion.

Debt securities in issue decreased £26.8 billion, 28%, to £67.8 billion due to lower funding requirements as a result of the reduction in the overall size of the balance sheet, with most of the reduction in medium term notes in issue.

Retirement benefit liabilities decreased by £0.7 billion, 17%, to £3.2 billion with net actuarial gains of £0.5 billion arising from improved asset returns and higher discount rates partly offset by an increase in the assumed inflation rate. Additional employer contributions of £0.4 billion to the Group's Main scheme also reduced retirement benefit liabilities.

Subordinated liabilities decreased by £2.8 billion, 10% to £24.0 billion, primarily as a result of the net decrease in dated loan capital with redemptions of £3.4 billion and the effects of exchange and other movements of £1.2 billion being partially offset by issuances of £1.8 billion.

Non-controlling interests decreased by £1.3 billion, 73%, to £0.5 billion, predominantly due to the deconsolidation of Direct Line Group following the further sale of shares and ceding of control in 2013.

Owner's equity decreased by £9.9 billion, 14%, to £58.7 billion, driven by the £9.0 billion attributable loss for the year together with movements in cash flow hedging reserves, £1.7 billion and foreign exchange reserves, £0.2 billion. Partially offsetting these reductions were share issuances of £0.4 billion, the termination of the contingent capital facility, £0.3 billion, the recognition of actuarial gains in respect of the Group's defined benefit pension schemes, net of tax, £0.2 billion and other reserve movements, £0.1 billion.

## Cash flow

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Net cash flows from operating activities	(20,387)	(30,631)	(45,113)
Net cash flows from investing activities	6,609	21,183	27,175
Net cash flows from financing activities	(404)	(2,728)	2,017
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	909	512	(3,893)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(13,273)	(11,664)	(19,814)

### 2014

The major factors contributing to the net cash outflow from operating activities of £20,387 million were the decrease of £17,948 million in operating assets and liabilities, loans and advances written-off net of recoveries of £5,073 million, other provisions utilised of £3,528 million and the loss before tax of £564 million from continuing and discontinued operations. These were partially offset by the loss on reclassification to disposal groups of £3,994 million and other provisions charged net of releases of £2,711 million.

Net cash inflows from investing activities of £6,609 million related to the net inflows from sales and maturity of securities of £7,744 million and the sale of property, plant and equipment of £1,162 million, offset by net investments in business interests and intangible assets of £1,481 million and net cash outflows from the purchase of property, plant and equipment of £816 million.

Net cash outflows from financing activities of £404 million relate primarily to the repayment of subordinated liabilities of £3,480 million and interest paid on subordinated liabilities of £854 million partly offset by the issue of subordinated liabilities of £2,159 million and proceeds of non-controlling interests issued of £2,147 million.

### 2013

The major factors contributing to the net cash outflow from operating activities of £30,631 million were the decrease of £28,780 million in operating assets and liabilities, the net loss before tax of £8,066 million from continuing and discontinued operations, loans and advances written-off net of recoveries of £4,090 million and other provisions utilised of £2,066 million. These were partially offset by provisions for impairment losses of £8,432 million and other provisions charged net of releases of £4,422 million.

Net cash inflows from investing activities of £21,183 million related to the net inflows from sales of securities of £19,211 million, the sale of property, plant and equipment of £1,448 million and net divestments of business interests and intangible assets of £1,150 million offset by net cash outflows from the purchase of property, plant and equipment of £626 million.

Net cash outflows from financing activities of £2,728 million relate primarily to the repayment of subordinated liabilities of £3,500 million and interest paid on subordinated liabilities of £958 million partly offset by the issue of subordinated liabilities of £1,796 million.

### 2012

The major factors contributing to the net cash outflow from operating activities of £45,113 million were the decrease of £48,736 million in operating assets and liabilities, the net loss before tax of £5,388 million from continuing and discontinued operations, loans and advances written off net of recoveries of £3,925 million and other non-cash items of £1,491 million. These were partially offset by the elimination of foreign exchange differences of £7,140 million, provisions for impairment losses of £5,283 million and depreciation and amortisation of £1,854 million.

Net cash inflows from investing activities of £27,175 million related to the net inflows from sales of securities of £26,092 million, the sale of property, plant and equipment of £2,215 million and divestments in business interests and intangible assets of £352 million offset by net cash outflows from the purchase of property, plant and equipment of £1,484 million.

Net cash inflows from financing activities of £2,017 million relate primarily to the issue of subordinated liabilities of £2,093 million and proceeds of non-controlling interests issued of £889 million partly offset by interest paid on subordinated liabilities of £746 million and dividends paid of £301 million.



## Business review

### Capital resources

The following table analyses RBS's regulatory capital resources on a fully consolidated basis at 31 December as monitored by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) for regulatory purposes.

	2014		Basel 2.5 basis			
	End-point CRR basis £m	PRA transitional basis £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2010 £m
<b>Capital</b>						
Tier 1	39,919	47,117	50,626	57,135	56,990	60,124
Tier 2	8,717	13,626	13,305	12,152	8,546	9,897
	48,636	60,743	63,931	69,287	65,536	70,021
Less supervisory deductions	—	—	(272)	(2,487)	(4,828)	(4,732)
Total regulatory capital	48,636	60,743	63,659	66,800	60,708	65,289
<b>Risk-weighted assets</b>						
	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn
Credit risk						
- non-counterparty	264.7	264.7	291.1	323.2	344.3	385.9
- counterparty	30.4	30.4	22.3	48.0	61.9	68.1
Market risk	24.0	24.0	30.3	42.6	64.0	80.0
Operational risk	36.8	36.8	41.8	45.8	37.9	37.1
	355.9	355.9	385.5	459.6	508.1	571.1
Asset Protection Scheme relief	—	—	—	—	(69.1)	(105.6)
	355.9	355.9	385.5	459.6	439.0	465.5
<b>Risk asset ratios</b>						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Common Equity Tier 1/Core Tier 1 (1)	11.2	11.1	10.9	10.3	10.6	10.7
Tier 1	11.2	13.2	13.1	12.4	13.0	12.9
Total	13.7	17.1	16.5	14.5	13.8	14.0

Note:

(1) Common Equity Tier 1 ratio with effect from 1 January 2014.

It is RBS's policy to maintain a strong capital base, to expand it as appropriate and to utilise it efficiently throughout its activities to optimise the return to shareholders while maintaining a prudent relationship between the capital base and the underlying risks of the business. In carrying out this policy, RBS has regard to the supervisory requirements of the PRA. The PRA uses risk asset ratio (RAR) as a measure of capital adequacy in the UK banking sector, comparing a bank's capital resources with its risk-weighted assets (the assets and off-balance sheet exposures are 'weighted' to reflect the inherent credit and other risks); by international agreement, the RAR should be not less than 8% with a Tier 1 component of not less than 4%. At 31 December 2014, RBS's total RAR on an end-point CRR basis was 13.7% (2013 - 16.5% on a Basel 2.5 basis) and the Tier 1 RAR on an end-point CRR basis was 11.2% (2013 - 13.1% on a Basel 2.5 basis). For further information refer to Capital and risk management: Capital management on pages 195 to 215.

## Business review

### Reconciliations of non-statutory to statutory income statements

#### Basis of preparation of non-statutory results

The financial information on a non-statutory basis, prepared using RBS's accounting policies, shows the underlying performance of RBS which excludes certain one-off and other items which are listed on page 104. This information is provided to give a better understanding of the results of RBS's operations.

#### Income statement for the year ended 31 December 2014

	Non-statutory £m	Reallocation of one-off items £m	CFG (1) £m	Statutory £m
Net interest income	11,274	(3)	(2,013)	9,258
Non-interest income	6,923	47	(1,078)	5,892
<b>Total income</b>	<b>18,197</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>(3,091)</b>	<b>15,150</b>
Operating expenses	(15,849)	(133)	2,123	(13,859)
<b>Profit before impairment losses</b>	<b>2,348</b>	<b>(89)</b>	<b>(968)</b>	<b>1,291</b>
Impairment releases	1,155	—	197	1,352
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>3,503</b>	<b>(89)</b>	<b>(771)</b>	<b>2,643</b>
Own credit adjustments	(146)	146	—	—
Gain on redemption of own debt	20	(20)	—	—
Write down of goodwill	(130)	130	—	—
Strategic disposals	191	(191)	—	—
Citizens discontinued operations	(771)	—	771	—
RFS Holdings minority interest	(24)	24	—	—
<b>Operating profit before tax</b>	<b>2,643</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,643</b>
Tax charge	(1,909)	—	—	(1,909)
<b>Profit from continuing operations</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>734</b>
(Loss)/profit from discontinued operations, net of tax				
- Citizens	(3,486)	—	—	(3,486)
- Other	41	—	—	41
<b>Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax</b>	<b>(3,445)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(3,445)</b>
<b>Loss for the year</b>	<b>(2,711)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(2,711)</b>
Non-controlling interests	(60)	—	—	(60)
Preference share and other dividends	(699)	—	—	(699)
<b>Loss attributable to ordinary and B shareholders</b>	<b>(3,470)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(3,470)</b>

For the notes to this table refer to page 165.

## Business review

### Reconciliations of non-statutory to statutory income statements *continued* Income statement for the year ended 31 December 2013

	Non-statutory £m	Reallocation of one-off items £m	CFG (1) £m	Statutory £m
Net interest income	10,992	(11)	(1,964)	9,017
Non-interest income	8,450	326	(1,056)	7,720
<b>Total income</b>	<b>19,442</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>(3,020)</b>	<b>16,737</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>(18,510)</b>	<b>(1,058)</b>	<b>2,102</b>	<b>(17,466)</b>
<b>Profit/(loss) before impairment losses</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>(743)</b>	<b>(918)</b>	<b>(729)</b>
<b>Impairment losses</b>	<b>(8,432)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>(8,120)</b>
<b>Operating loss</b>	<b>(7,500)</b>	<b>(743)</b>	<b>(606)</b>	<b>(8,849)</b>
Own credit adjustments	(120)	120	—	—
Gain on redemption of own debt	175	(175)	—	—
Write down of goodwill	(1,059)	1,059	—	—
Strategic disposals	161	(161)	—	—
Citizens discontinued operations	(606)	—	606	—
RFS Holdings minority interest	100	(100)	—	—
<b>Operating loss before tax</b>	<b>(8,849)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(8,849)</b>
<b>Tax charge</b>	<b>(186)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(186)</b>
<b>Loss from continuing operations</b>	<b>(9,035)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(9,035)</b>
<b>Profit from discontinued operations, net of tax</b>				
- Citizens	410	—	—	410
- Other	148	—	—	148
<b>Profit from discontinued operations, net of tax</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>558</b>
<b>Loss for the year</b>	<b>(8,477)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(8,477)</b>
Non-controlling interests	(120)	—	—	(120)
Preference share and other dividends	(398)	—	—	(398)
<b>Loss attributable to ordinary and B shareholders</b>	<b>(8,995)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(8,995)</b>

For the notes to this table refer to the following page.

## Business review

### Income statement for the year ended 31 December 2012

	Non-statutory £m	Reallocation of one-off items £m	CFG (1) £m	Statutory £m
Net interest income	11,417	(15)	(2,046)	9,356
Non-interest income	10,668	(4,129)	(1,180)	5,359
Total income	22,085	(4,144)	(3,226)	14,715
Operating expenses	(17,919)	(20)	2,182	(15,757)
Profit/(loss) before impairment losses	4,166	(4,164)	(1,044)	(1,042)
Impairment losses	(5,279)	—	269	(5,010)
Operating loss	(1,113)	(4,164)	(775)	(6,052)
Own credit adjustments	(4,649)	4,649	—	—
Gain on redemption of own debt	454	(454)	—	—
Write down of goodwill	(18)	18	—	—
Asset Protection Scheme	(44)	44	—	—
Strategic disposals	113	(113)	—	—
Citizens discontinued operations	(775)	—	775	—
RFS Holdings minority interest	(20)	20	—	—
Operating loss before tax	(6,052)	—	—	(6,052)
Tax charge	(156)	—	—	(156)
Loss from continuing operations	(6,208)	—	—	(6,208)
Profit/(loss) from discontinued operations, net of tax				
- Citizens	490	—	—	490
- Other	(172)	—	—	(172)
Profit from discontinued operations, net of tax	318	—	—	318
Loss for the year	(5,890)	—	—	(5,890)
Non-controlling interests	136	—	—	136
Preference share and other dividends	(301)	—	—	(301)
Loss attributable to ordinary and B shareholders	(6,055)	—	—	(6,055)

Note:

(1) The results of Citizens, which is classified as a discontinued operation.

## Business review

### Analysis of balance sheet pre and post disposal groups

In accordance with IFRS 5, assets and liabilities of disposal groups are presented as a single line on the face of the balance sheet. As allowed by IFRS, disposal groups are included within risk measures in the Capital and risk management section.

	2014			2013			2012		
	Balance sheet £m	Disposal groups (1) £m	Gross of disposal groups £m	Balance sheet £m	Disposal groups (2) £m	Gross of disposal groups £m	Balance sheet £m	Disposal groups (3) £m	Gross of disposal groups £m
<b>Assets</b>									
Cash and balances at central banks	74,872	622	75,494	82,659	2	82,661	79,290	18	79,308
Net loans and advances to banks	23,027	1,745	24,772	27,555	22	27,577	29,168	2,112	31,280
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	20,708	—	20,708	26,516	41	26,557	34,783	—	34,783
Loans and advances to banks	43,735	1,745	45,480	54,071	63	54,134	63,951	2,112	66,063
Net loans and advances to customers	334,251	60,550	394,801	390,825	1,765	392,590	430,088	1,863	431,951
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	43,987	—	43,987	49,897	—	49,897	70,047	—	70,047
Loans and advances to customers	378,238	60,550	438,788	440,722	1,765	442,487	500,135	1,863	501,998
Debt securities	86,649	15,293	101,942	113,599	24	113,623	157,438	7,186	164,624
Equity shares	5,635	572	6,207	8,811	—	8,811	15,232	5	15,237
Settlement balances	4,667	—	4,667	5,591	—	5,591	5,741	—	5,741
Derivatives	353,590	402	353,992	288,039	1	288,040	441,903	15	441,918
Intangible assets	7,781	583	8,364	12,368	30	12,398	13,545	750	14,295
Property, plant and equipment	6,167	503	6,670	7,909	32	7,941	9,784	223	10,007
Deferred tax	1,540	—	1,540	3,478	1	3,479	3,443	—	3,443
Other financial assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	924	924
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	5,878	1,741	7,619	7,614	936	8,550	7,820	742	8,562
Assets of disposal groups	82,011	(82,011)	—	3,017	(2,854)	163	14,013	(13,838)	175
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,050,763</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,050,763</b>	<b>1,027,878</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,027,878</b>	<b>1,312,295</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,312,295</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>									
Bank deposits	35,806	5,128	40,934	35,329	—	35,329	57,073	1	57,074
Repurchase agreements and stock lending	24,859	1,666	26,525	28,650	—	28,650	44,332	—	44,332
Deposits by banks	60,665	6,794	67,459	63,979	—	63,979	101,405	1	101,406
Customer deposits	354,288	60,583	414,871	414,396	3,273	417,669	433,239	753	433,992
Repurchase agreements and stock lending	37,351	706	38,057	56,484	—	56,484	88,040	—	88,040
Customer accounts	391,639	61,289	452,928	470,880	3,273	474,153	521,279	753	522,032
Debt securities in issue	50,280	1,625	51,905	67,819	—	67,819	94,592	—	94,592
Settlement balances	4,503	—	4,503	5,313	—	5,313	5,878	—	5,878
Short positions	23,029	—	23,029	28,022	—	28,022	27,591	—	27,591
Derivatives	349,805	144	349,949	285,526	1	285,527	434,333	7	434,340
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	13,346	683	14,029	16,017	101	16,118	14,801	2,679	17,480
Retirement benefit liabilities	2,579	197	2,776	3,210	1	3,211	3,884	—	3,884
Deferred tax	500	362	862	507	—	507	1,141	—	1,141
Insurance liabilities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,193	6,193
Subordinated liabilities	22,905	226	23,131	24,012	—	24,012	26,773	529	27,302
Liabilities of disposal groups	71,320	(71,320)	—	3,378	(3,376)	2	10,170	(10,162)	8
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>990,571</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>990,571</b>	<b>968,663</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>968,663</b>	<b>1,241,847</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,241,847</b>

For the notes to this table refer to the following page.



## Business review

	2014			2013			2012		
	Balance sheet £m	Disposal groups (1) £m	Gross of disposal groups £m	Balance sheet £m	Disposal groups (2) £m	Gross of disposal groups £m	Balance sheet £m	Disposal groups (3) £m	Gross of disposal groups £m
<b>Selected financial data</b>									
Gross loans and advances to customers	351,711	61,090	412,801	415,978	1,774	417,752	451,224	1,875	453,099
Customer loan impairment provisions	(17,460)	(540)	(18,000)	(25,153)	(9)	(25,162)	(21,136)	(12)	(21,148)
Net loans and advances to customers (4)	334,251	60,550	394,801	390,825	1,765	392,590	430,088	1,863	431,951
Gross loans and advances to banks	23,067	1,745	24,812	27,618	22	27,640	29,282	2,112	31,394
Bank loan impairment provisions	(40)	—	(40)	(63)	—	(63)	(114)	—	(114)
Net loans and advances to banks (4)	23,027	1,745	24,772	27,555	22	27,577	29,168	2,112	31,280
Total loan impairment provisions	(17,500)	(540)	(18,040)	(25,216)	(9)	(25,225)	(21,250)	(12)	(21,262)
Customer REIL	26,842	1,335	28,177	39,322	—	39,322	40,993	13	41,006
Bank REIL	42	—	42	70	—	70	134	—	134
REIL	26,884	1,335	28,219	39,392	—	39,392	41,127	13	41,140
Gross unrealised gains on debt securities	1,316	261	1,577	1,541	—	1,541	3,946	230	4,176
Gross unrealised losses on debt securities	(145)	(137)	(282)	(887)	—	(887)	(1,832)	(15)	(1,847)

**Notes:**

- (1) Primarily Citizens.
- (2) Primarily investment in associate (Direct Line Group) and Illinois branches of Citizens.
- (3) Primarily Direct Line Group.
- (4) Excludes reverse repos.

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## Overview\*

### Presentation of information

Except as otherwise indicated by an asterisk (\*), information in the Capital and risk management section (pages 168 to 334) is within the scope of the Independent auditor's report. Disclosures in this section include disposal groups in relevant exposures unless otherwise indicated. Refer to pages 166 and 167 for the Analysis of balance sheet pre and post-disposal groups.

### Business model and associated risks

RBS aims to become a bank that its customers and all other stakeholders can depend on. It intends to do so by focusing on Personal & Business Banking (PBB), Commercial & Private Banking (CPB) and Corporate & Institutional Banking (CIB) customers, in its main market of the UK. By delivering only services that meet their needs, it aims to achieve an appropriate return. Accordingly, RBS plans to simplify its services as well as the processes it uses to deliver them, enabling RBS to provide customers with better value services. It aims to become the number one bank in the UK for customer service, trust and advocacy by 2020.

At present RBS serves approximately 24 million customers worldwide. UK PBB offers individuals and small businesses a variety of traditional retail banking products, including current and savings accounts, residential mortgages and credit cards, while CPB provides both businesses and high-net-worth individuals with loan products and investment services. Both are focused on the UK. CIB offers wholesale banking services, including debt financing and fixed income trading, to corporations and financial institutions across a wide range of countries. Ulster Bank, part of PBB, offers loan and investment products, as well as transactional services, to individuals and businesses in Ireland.

The products are delivered through a diverse array of channels, including extensive branch networks, in-store branches and call centres, in addition to online and mobile channels.

The main sources of earnings are interest income from lending and fee income from transactional and other services. Given the low interest rate environment in both the UK and the US, its net interest margin, that is, the difference between the interest it earns from lending and the interest it pays on deposits, has been under pressure. In order to offset this pressure, work is underway to reduce costs and increase non-interest income.

RBS is reducing costs through rationalisation, integration and simplification. For example, PBB is rationalising its service delivery channels and simplifying the operations that support them. The other franchises are taking similar steps.

RBS also owns a number of businesses which it is divesting as it seeks to refocus on its UK customers and reduce its risk profile as well as to comply with regulatory requirements. It is in the process of selling its stake in Citizens Financial Group Inc (CFG), a subsidiary offering loan and investment products, together with transactional services, to customers in the US. Similarly, it is committed to selling Williams & Glyn, which provides retail and commercial banking services in the UK, in the next few years. Other businesses identified for divestment and wind-down include the international private banking activities of CPB and RBS Securities Inc respectively. Finally, RBS continues to reduce the assets held in RCR (refer to page 150 for further details). These divestment and rationalisation projects expose it to execution and strategic risk.

Finally, RBS is also exposed to a range of other risks through its customer businesses including pension, business, regulatory, reputational and strategic risk. This is set out in the Risk coverage section and illustrated by the concentration of risk-weighted assets (RWAs) by segment below.

### Risk-weighted assets by segment

Group 100%	
	%
Credit Risk	83.0
Market Risk	6.7
Operational Risk	10.3

UK PBB 12.0%	
	%
Credit Risk	9.4
Market Risk	0.0
Operational Risk	2.6

Ulster Bank 6.7%	
	%
Credit Risk	6.3
Market Risk	0.0
Operational Risk	0.4

Commercial Banking 18.0%	
	%
Credit Risk	16.2
Market Risk	0.0
Operational Risk	1.8

Private Banking 3.2%	
	%
Credit Risk	2.7
Market Risk	0.0
Operational Risk	0.5

CIB 30.1%	
	%
Credit Risk	21.5
Market Risk	5.3
Operational Risk	3.3

CFG 19.2%	
	%
Credit Risk	17.8
Market Risk	0.0
Operational Risk	1.4

RCR 6.2%	
	%
Credit Risk	5.0
Market Risk	1.2
Operational Risk	0.0

Other 4.6%	
	%
Credit Risk	4.1
Market Risk	0.2
Operational Risk	0.3

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Risk coverage

The main risk types faced by RBS are presented below. For further information, refer to pages 184 to 334.

Risk type	How the risk arises	2014 overview
Conduct and legal risk	<p>Conduct risk can result in fines and reputational damage if customers are not treated in line with their and other stakeholders' expectations.</p> <p>Conduct risk exists across all stages of RBS's relationships with its customers, from sales through service delivery to post-sales processes. It also exists in the activities RBS undertakes to manage its business, from the development of business strategies, through governance and human resource management. Conduct risk also exists if RBS does not take effective action to prevent fraud, bribery and money laundering.</p>	<p>RBS continued to remediate historical conduct issues, while also restructuring its customer-facing businesses and support functions around the needs of its customers. Actions taken by RBS to address underlying control deficiencies included strengthening significantly the systems and controls governing RBS's LIBOR submissions, and simplifying RBS's retail product offering and sales processes. The conduct risk framework was also further developed, with the embedding of a new Conduct and Regulatory Affairs (C&amp;RA) operating model, and the orientation of C&amp;RA's assurance coverage and testing towards customer outcomes.</p> <p>The impact of conduct issues resulted in litigation and conduct costs remaining high at £2.2 billion in 2014, albeit lower than the £3.8 billion recorded in 2013.</p>
Regulatory risk	Regulatory risk arises from RBS's regulatory, business or operating environments and from how RBS responds to them.	The level of regulatory risk remained high as policymakers and regulators continue to strengthen regulations and supervision in response to the events of 2007 and 2008. RBS will in future focus CIB's business model on its leading positions in UK rates, debt capital markets and foreign exchange; this will leave RBS well-placed to implement the ring-fencing requirements, in 2019.
Operational risk	<p>Operational risk may arise from a failure to manage operations, transactions and assets appropriately. It may arise from human error, an inability to deliver change on time or adequately, or the unavailability of technology services or the loss of customer data.</p> <p>Fraud and theft are sources of operational risk, as is the impact of natural and man-made disasters. It may also arise from a failure to take appropriate measures to protect assets or take account of changes in law.</p>	RBS's transformation plan is material and complex affecting all business areas and functions simultaneously and so has the potential to increase operational risk profile at least in the short term. Significant investments were made to improve technology resilience for core banking services, operating practices and risk management across the three lines of defence. In particular, enhancements were made to cyber security programmes, mitigating a number of vulnerabilities.
Capital adequacy risk	Capital adequacy risk arises from inefficient management of capital resources.	<p>Key milestones achieved in 2014 included the sell down of the first tranche of CFG; run down of the RCR and CIB assets; and the sell down of the RBS N.V. AFS portfolio. A £3.1 billion improvement in CET1 capital and a £73 billion reduction in RWAs resulted in the CET1 ratio improving during the year by 260 basis points from 8.6% to 11.2%. Risk reduction strategies contributed to the RWA reduction, £40 billion in CIB and £25 billion in RCR. The improvement in CET1 capital reflected profit of £0.7 billion from continuing operations, £0.6 billion gains on available-for-sale securities, share issuance of £0.5 billion and lower regulatory deductions primarily relating to deferred tax assets (£1.0 billion) and prudential valuation adjustment (£0.4 billion).</p> <p>RBS's current Pillar 2A requirement is 3.5% of RWAs at 31 December 2014. From 1 January 2015, 56% of the total Pillar 2A or 2.0% of RWAs will be met from CET1 capital.</p> <p>Based on capital that is required to be held to meet the overall financial adequacy rule, including holding current estimates of Pillar 2A constant, RBS estimates that its 'fully phased' CET1 maximum distributable amount (MDA) requirement would be 10.5% in 2019. Assuming a 13% steady state CET1 capital ratio is achieved, RBS currently estimates that it would have a 2.5% headroom to MDA trigger in 2019.</p> <p>A significant reduction of £142 billion or 13% in the leverage exposure to £940 billion and a year on year increase in Tier 1 capital (100% CET1 currently) contributed to an 80 basis points improvement in leverage ratio from 3.4% to 4.2%. Full implementation of the 2014 Basel III leverage ratio framework, particularly on securities financing transactions, also contributed to the leverage exposure reduction.</p>

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Overview\* continued

Risk type	How the risk arises	2014 overview
Liquidity and funding risk	<p>Liquidity and funding risk arise through the maturity transformation role that RBS performs. It is exposed to capital adequacy risk if it manages its capital resources inefficiently.</p> <p>Liquidity and funding risk arises from RBS's day-to-day operations.</p>	<p>Liquidity metrics remained strong reflecting balance sheet and risk reduction as well as growth in UK PBB deposits: the liquidity coverage ratio improved to 112%; the net stable funding ratio was 121%; and the liquidity portfolio of £151 billion covered short-term and total wholesale funding of £28 billion and £90 billion by more than five and 1.5 times respectively. Based on its assessment of the Financial Stability Board's proposals, RBS may issue £3 - £5 billion per annum of qualifying debt between 2015 - 2019 to meet future total loss absorbing capital requirements.</p>
Reputational risk	<p>Reputational risk can arise from the conduct of either RBS as a whole or that of the individuals it employs; from the activities of customers and the countries in which they operate; from the products RBS offers and the transactions it supports; and from its operations and infrastructure.</p>	<p>The most material threat to RBS's reputation continued to originate from historical and more recent conduct deficiencies. RBS has been the subject of investigations and review by a number of regulators, some of which have resulted in fines and public censure.</p>
Credit risk	<p>The most significant source of credit risk is lending. RBS offers a number of lending products where it has an obligation to provide credit facilities to a customer. A further significant source of credit risk arises from activities in the derivatives and securities financing transaction markets, which result in counterparty credit risk (the risk of financial loss arising from the failure of a customer to meet obligations that vary in value by reference to a market factor). RBS holds some debt securities generally for liquidity management purposes, and is exposed to credit risk as a result. It is also exposed to credit risk from off-balance sheet products such as trade finance activities and guarantees.</p>	<p>RBS's credit risk portfolio continued to improve with an overall reduction in exposure, an improvement in credit quality and a material provision release in 2014. These improvements were driven by supportive economic and market conditions in the UK and Ireland, better liquidity and increased collateral values, and also reflected improvements in credit risk measurement. Balance sheet credit exposure after credit mitigation decreased by 9% to £353 billion and credit RWAs fell by £62 billion or 17% to £295 billion primarily reflecting risk reduction and RCR disposal strategy. The wind-down of CIB's US asset-backed products business contributed to a £13 billion decrease in asset-backed securities, now at £25 billion, an £86 billion reduction on the 2008 peak of £111 billion.</p> <p>Impairment provisions of £18.0 billion, down £7.2 billion, covered risk elements in lending of £28.2 billion, down £11.2 billion, by 64%. Commercial real estate lending fell by £9.3 billion to £43.3 billion, of which £13.3 billion was in risk elements in lending with a provision coverage of 68%. Favourable market conditions, particularly in Ireland, resulted in impairment releases of £3.6 billion more than offsetting new impairment charges of £2.4 billion. This led to a net release of £1.2 billion, of which £1.3 billion was in RCR and £0.4 billion in Ulster Bank, partly offset by net impairment charges of £0.3 billion in UK PBB and £0.2 billion in CFG.</p>
Market risk	<p>The majority of RBS's traded market risk exposure arises in CIB and RCR through transactions in financial instruments including debt securities, loans, deposits and equities, as well as securities financing and derivatives.</p> <p>The majority of its non-traded market risk exposure arises from retail and commercial banking activities in all franchises from assets and liabilities that are not classified as held for trading.</p>	<p>RBS's traded market risk profile decreased significantly, with market risk limits being reduced across all businesses, in some instances by 50-60%. Average trading value-at-risk (VaR) decreased significantly during the year to £27.8 million, 35% of the 2013 average, reflecting risk reductions in CIB and RCR, as well as the effect of a more comprehensive economic view of risk from the incorporation of credit and funding valuation adjustments in the VaR calculation. Market risk RWAs also decreased by £6.3 billion to £24.0 billion.</p>

\*unaudited



Risk type	How the risk arises	2014 overview
Pension risk	RBS is exposed to pension risk through its defined benefit schemes worldwide and the variations in their value. The five largest schemes represent around 96% of pension liabilities. The largest is the Royal Bank of Scotland Group Pension Fund ('Main scheme') and this is the principal source of pension risk.	The triennial actuarial funding valuation of the Main scheme was agreed in May 2014 and showed an excess in the value of liabilities over the value of assets of £5.6 billion at 31 March 2013; a ratio of 82%. In 2014, various pension stress-testing initiatives were undertaken, both on internally defined scenarios and those to meet integrated Prudential Regulation Authority and European Banking Authority stress testing requirements.
Country risk	<p>Country risk arises from possible economic or political events in each country to which RBS has exposure, and from unfavourable conditions affecting daily operations in a country.</p> <p>It has the potential to affect all parts of RBS's portfolio across wholesale and retail activities that are directly or indirectly linked to the country in question.</p> <p>The activities of several customer businesses, particularly CIB but also Ulster Bank and CFG, expose RBS to country risk.</p>	RBS maintained a cautious stance as many clients continued to reduce debt levels. Total eurozone net balance sheet exposure decreased by £5 billion or 5% to £97.6 billion. Within this amount, eurozone periphery exposures decreased by £10 billion, or 25%, to £31 billion, primarily in Spain, reflecting the disposal of legacy liquidity portfolio bonds, and in Ireland and Italy. Total exposure to Greece was £0.4 billion but only £120 million after the effect of collateral and guarantees. Limits for Russia and Ukraine were adjusted, additional credit restrictions were placed on new business and exposures were reviewed against international sanctions.
Business risk	Business risk exists at all levels of the organisation and is generated at the transaction level. It is affected by other risks RBS faces, which could contribute to any adverse changes in the bank's revenues or costs.	RBS reduced its business risk profile as it curtailed riskier activities in CIB, made disposals through RCR, and announced an intensified cost management programme.
Strategic risk	Strategic risk arises from strategic decisions that fail to reflect the operating environment, or which do not take adequate account of execution challenges. These include decisions related to RBS products and services which have implications for profitability, risk, the customer base, and for business growth.	In early 2014, RBS announced the results of a strategic review with a defined plan to shift the business mix towards the UK and the retail and commercial banking segments, with the aim of a lower risk profile. The year saw good progress, with results in general exceeding targets and run-down or sell-off of non-core assets ahead of schedule. Capital ratios increased considerably, a significant step towards targeted levels of financial strength which, when attained, will provide RBS with more strategic options. However, RBS continued to work through the impact of tougher regulatory regime on banks.

### Overview\* continued

#### Top and emerging risk scenarios

As part of the risk management process, top and emerging risk scenarios are identified and monitored. These are events that, should they materialise, would lead to a significant unexpected negative outcome, thereby causing RBS as a whole, or a particular business, to fail to meet one or more strategic objectives. In assessing the potential impact of risk materialisation, both financial and reputational considerations are taken into account.

Management is concerned with a range of risk scenarios, but some have attracted particular attention from senior management during the past year. These were grouped into three broad categories:

- Macro-economic risks and other external risks;
- Regulatory and legal risks; and
- Risks related to operations.

Further information on these and other risks facing RBS is detailed in Risk factors on page 474.

The top and emerging risks were as follows:

#### Macro-economic and other external risks

##### (i) Risks related to the macro-economy

RBS remains vulnerable to changes in the external economic environment. Among other scenarios, the following could have a material negative impact: a recession in the UK in any of our other major markets; a resumption of the eurozone crisis (including a worsening of the situation in Greece); global deflation; large house price falls in the UK; and major geopolitical instability.

##### Impact on RBS

The ability to hit strategic targets could be reduced owing to multiple effects, including lower-than-expected revenues, increases in impairments and a material deterioration in key prudential metrics. Exiting non-strategic businesses or portfolios could be disrupted by market volatility.

##### Mitigants

RBS has improved its capital, liquidity and leverage ratios and has passed regulatory stress tests. A number of higher risk portfolios have been exited or reduced. Stress testing is used to inform strategic planning.

##### (ii) The effect of the run-up to, and the result of, the UK general election on performance and strategy

Political party statements suggest that the election outcome will affect matters that are material to RBS's strategy, including banking levy rates, banking sector competition and remuneration, the approach to sale of the public stake, and the UK's position in the EU. Of note is the potential for a referendum on the UK's membership of the EU during the next parliament, which would increase macro-economic and operational uncertainty.

##### Impact on RBS

Achievement of strategic objectives in general, more specifically its ability to generate income and retain high quality personnel, and its strategy, structure and attractiveness to investors, may all be affected to varying degrees in a range of election-related scenarios.

##### Mitigants

RBS actively monitors, and considers responses to, varying UK election outcomes to ensure that it is well prepared for all eventualities.

#### Regulatory and legal risks

##### (i) Risks to income, costs and business models arising from existing and future regulatory requirements or decisions

RBS faces potentially sustained increases in regulatory capital needs, but also risks related to regulatory intervention that affect its business models. These include: the results of a review of the personal current account and small business banking markets; Independent Commission on Banking ring fencing proposals and US Intermediate Holding Company requirements; and Risk Data Aggregation and Reporting.

##### Impact on RBS

RBS risks increased capital requirements, reduced income or raised costs due to business model changes and fines, remediation costs or legal action if it fails to comply with regulatory requirements. Its reputation may also suffer.

##### Mitigants

RBS considers proposed or potential regulatory requirements in strategic and financial planning rounds and plans accordingly.

##### (ii) Risks to income, costs and business models arising from existing and future regulatory requirements specifically related to conduct

RBS continues to manage issues related to its past business conduct. Remediation costs for some of these could remain high, while the impact of outcomes of other reviews remains uncertain. Moreover, it faces ongoing scrutiny of its business conduct, particularly towards retail customers, and of its ability to embed a strong appreciation of risk and good conduct across the bank.

##### Impact on RBS

RBS risks fines, remediation costs, legal action and reputational damage, but also lower income or higher expenses due to business model changes.

##### Mitigants

RBS continues to work to deal with past conduct breaches. Major programmes are in place to ensure that future conduct meets the expectations of external stakeholders and to ensure that a strong and pervasive risk culture is embedded throughout RBS.

### Risk related to operations

#### (i) Increased losses arising from a failure to execute successfully major projects

RBS has a number of transformational, execution and IT development projects under way, the successful conclusion of which are essential to meet new regulatory and strategic requirements. These new requirements affect its organisational structure, its business strategies, its information technology systems, its operational processes and its product offerings. Given the number, scale and complexity of these projects, there is a risk that it will not complete them successfully.

#### Impact on RBS

Failure to complete these projects successfully would affect RBS's ability to achieve its strategic objectives. It may also incur regulatory fines, lose market share and suffer damage to its reputation.

#### Mitigants

RBS is working to implement change in line with its project plans while assessing the risks to implementation and taking steps to mitigate those risks where possible.

#### (ii) An increase in RBS's obligations to support pension schemes

RBS has established various pension schemes for its employees as a result of which it has incurred certain obligations as sponsor of these schemes. If economic growth stagnates and interest rates remain low as a result, the value of pension scheme assets may not be adequate to fund the pension scheme's liabilities. All of the businesses are exposed to this risk.

#### Impact on RBS

RBS's pension schemes' combined deficit had risen by £2.1 billion at the most recent valuation, requiring RBS to set aside additional capital in support. Additional capital required if the deficit widened further would depend on the size of the deficit, the efficacy of management actions undertaken to address it, and the regulatory view of those actions. RBS increased its cash contributions to the schemes to address the increased deficit. Similarly, additional contributions required if the deficit widened further would depend on the size of the deficit. RBS undertakes a number of stress tests and scenario analyses on its material defined benefit pension schemes each year as part of its risk measurement framework.

#### Mitigants

The trustee is responsible for the investment of the Main scheme's assets, which are held separately from RBS's own assets. To restrict liability increases, defined benefit pension schemes are closed to new members and terms for existing members have been altered. Deficit-closing payments are spread over ten years to reduce the strain on income.

#### (iii) Impaired performance due to an inability to recruit or retain suitable staff

RBS is undergoing significant organisational change, the result of a need to implement new business strategies and respond to a changing external environment. The pace of change, coupled with the associated uncertainty may cause experienced staff members to leave and prospective staff members not to join. Although these risks concern all customer businesses, they particularly affect CIB and CFG.

#### Impact on RBS

If it cannot retain or attract the necessary staff members, the RBS may be unable to implement its business strategies or meet regulatory requirements on time, or at all. It may also experience control failures. Its reputation may suffer as a result.

#### Mitigants

RBS has communicated expected changes in its organisational structure to members of staff, implementing plans aimed at minimising unexpected staff losses. It is also working to develop and implement an enhanced recruitment strategy.

#### (iv) Increased losses arising from cyber attacks

RBS has experienced cyber attacks, which are increasing in frequency and severity across the industry. This risk affects all customer businesses.

#### Impact on RBS

A successful cyber attack could lead to fraudulent activity or the loss of customer data. RBS could experience significant losses as a result of the need to reimburse customers, pay fines or both. Further, a successful cyber attack could cause significant damage to its reputation.

#### Mitigants

RBS has participated in an industry-wide cyber attack simulation. It has also initiated a large-scale programme to improve controls over user access. It has reviewed its websites and taken steps to rationalise them, put additional anti-virus protections in place and taken steps to educate staff on information protection.

#### (v) Increased losses arising from the failure of information technology systems

The information technology systems are complex and at risk of disruption. Recovering from failure can be challenging.

#### Impact on RBS

A failure of information technology systems could lead to an inability to process transactions or provide services to its customers. Should a failure not be rectified promptly, it might lose funding, be subject to fines, incur remediation costs or face legal action. Its reputation might also suffer.

#### Mitigants

A major investment programme has significantly improved the resilience of the systems and more benefits are expected. It has improved back-up system sustainability and created a 'shadow bank' able to provide basic services if needed. It is also improving the documentation of critical business functions.

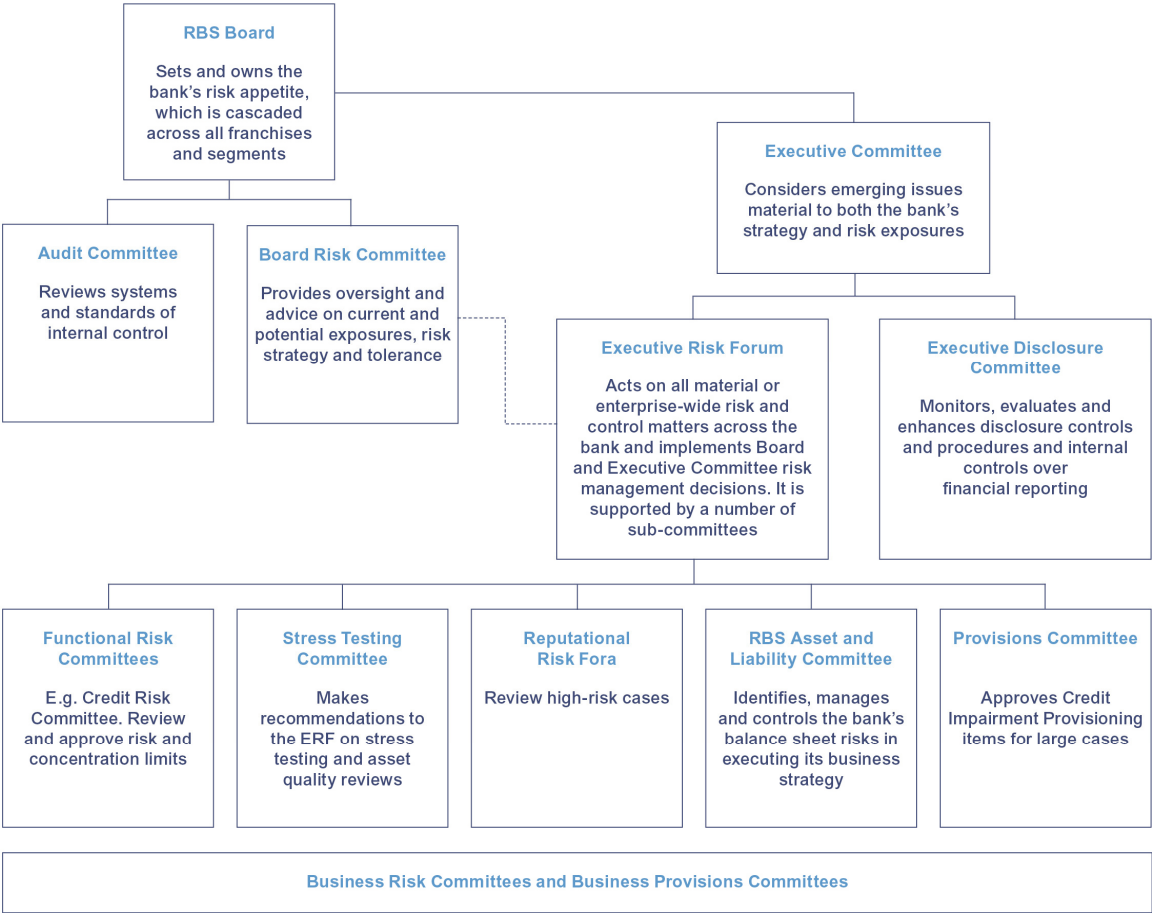
Risk governance	
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Risk governance\*

Governance structure

RBS is committed to achieving the highest standards of corporate governance in every aspect of its business, including risk management. A key aspect of the Board's responsibility as the main decision-making body is the setting of risk appetite (refer to page 181 for more information on risk appetite) to ensure that the levels of risk RBS is willing to accept in the attainment of its strategic business and financial objectives are clearly understood. The Board delegates authority for risk management to specific committees.

The risk governance structure and the main purposes of each of the committees is illustrated below:



\*unaudited

### **Risk governance\*** continued

#### **Three lines of defence**

The three lines of defence model is used industry-wide for the management of risk. It provides a clear set of principles by which to implement a cohesive operating model, one that defines accountabilities and responsibilities for managing risk across the organisation.

#### *First line of defence - Management and supervision*

The first line of defence includes customer franchises, Technology and Operations and support functions such as HR and Communications.

Responsibilities include:

- Owning, managing and supervising, within a defined risk appetite, the risks which exist in the business area.
- Ensuring appropriate controls are in place to mitigate risk: balancing control, cost, customer service and competitive advantage.
- Ensuring that the culture of the business supports balanced risk decisions and compliance with policy, laws and regulations.
- Ensuring that the business has effective mechanisms for identifying, reporting and managing risk and controls.

#### *Second line of defence - Oversight and control*

The second line of defence includes RBS Risk Management and Conduct and Regulatory Affairs.

Responsibilities include:

- Owning and developing the risk and control policies, limits and tools for the business to use to discharge its responsibilities.
- Overseeing and challenging the management of risks and controls.
- Leading the design, development and communication of the bank's risk culture and appetite.
- Analysing the aggregate risk profile and ensuring that risks are being managed to the desired level (risk appetite).
- Providing expert support and advice to the business on risk management.
- Providing senior executives with relevant management information and reports and escalating concerns where appropriate.
- Undertaking assurance.

#### *Third line of defence - Internal Audit*

Responsibilities include:

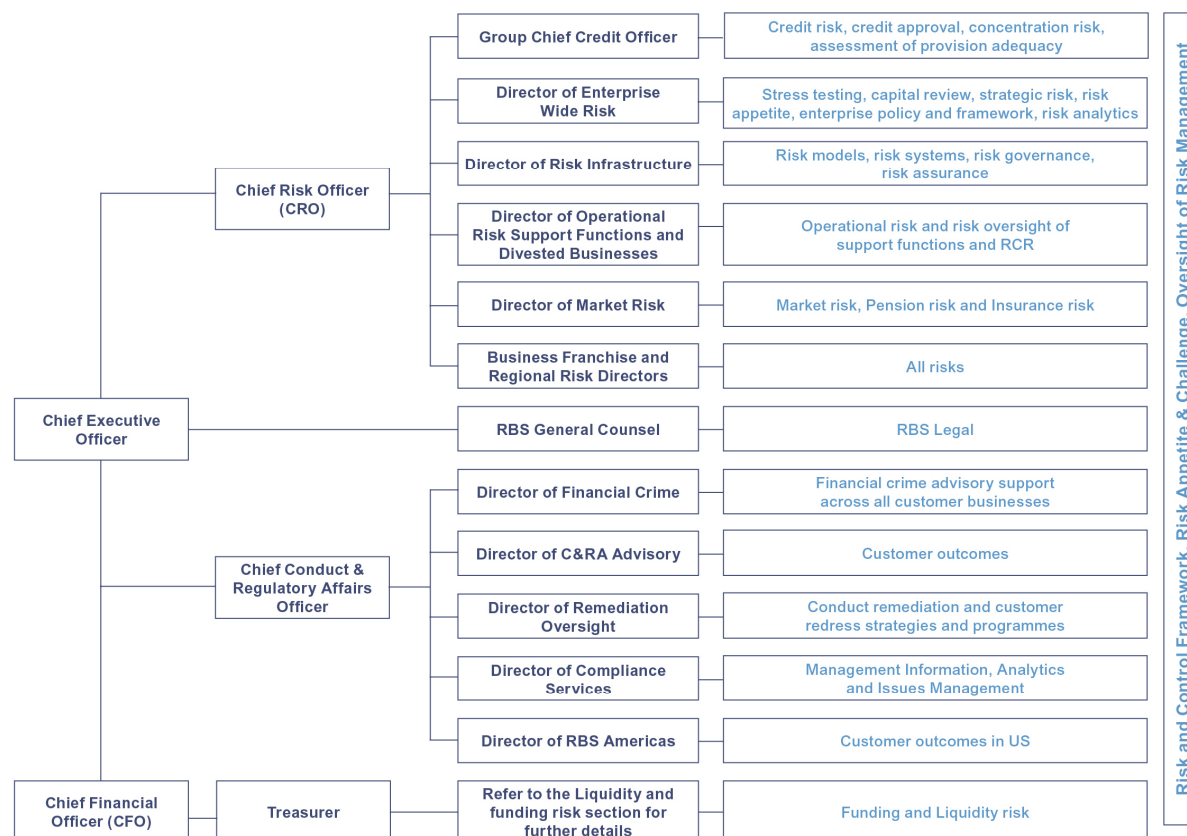
- Providing assurance on the key risks to the organisation by assessing the entire control framework.
- Holding RBS Risk Management accountable for establishing an appropriate risk management framework.

\*unaudited



## Management structure

RBS's management structure and the main elements of each role are illustrated below.



### Notes:

- (1) **RBS Risk management**  
The RBS Chief Risk Officer (CRO) leads RBS Risk Management. The CRO reports directly to the Chief Executive and the Board Risk Committee, with a right of access to the Chairman of the Board Risk Committee.

RBS Risk Management is an independent function, structured by risk discipline to facilitate the effective management of risk.

In 2014, Risk Management, which had previously been spread across the different business segments, re-organised itself into five functional areas: Operational Risk, Support Functions & Divested Businesses; Credit Risk; Market Risk; Enterprise-Wide Risk Management and Risk Infrastructure. Directors of Risk were also appointed for each of the franchises and for Services. The streamlined structure consolidates risk information, allowing for more efficient decision-making.

The directors of risk functions are responsible for RBS-wide risk appetite and standards within their respective disciplines and report directly to the CRO.

CROs are in place for certain jurisdictions and legal entities to meet local regulatory and governance requirements. They lead the risk management teams locally in support of functional risk heads where teams follow a functional operating model. The key CRO roles report directly to the RBS CRO.

Risk committees in the customer businesses oversee risk exposures arising from their business activities and focus on ensuring that they are adequately monitored and controlled.

- (2) **Conduct and Regulatory Affairs**  
Conduct & Regulatory Affairs (C&RA) is led by the Chief Conduct & Regulatory Affairs Officer, who reports directly to the Chief Executive. It is responsible for providing oversight of conduct risk and regulatory risk at RBS, and does so by setting bank-wide policy and standards, providing advice to each customer business, and ensuring that the mitigating controls are suitable. C&RA also provides leadership of the bank's relationships with its regulators.

The functional heads (the directors of Remediation, Compliance Services, RBS Americas, Financial Crime, Regulatory Affairs and Advisory) report directly to the Chief Conduct & Regulatory Affairs Officer. Each is responsible, where appropriate, for the bank-wide risk appetite and standards of their respective areas:

A Chief Compliance Officer in each franchise, reporting to the Director of C&RA Advisory, provides advisory support to assist businesses in their management of conduct, regulatory affairs and financial crime.

Risk appetite and culture	
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Risk appetite and culture\*

Risk appetite

Risk appetite is both a key business tool and an integral part of risk management. It is aligned with RBS's strategic objectives, aiming to strike an optimal balance between building a sustainable risk profile and creating long-term value for customers, investors and wider stakeholders. The risk appetite framework seeks to ensure that each business can withstand significant deteriorations in economic and market conditions.

The Board reviews and approves the risk appetite framework and targets annually, which establishes the level and types of risks RBS is able and willing to take in order to meet its:

- Strategic objectives - The strategic plan is built on the core foundations of serving customers well, building a sustainable risk profile and creating long-term value for its shareholders; and
- Wider obligations to stakeholders - If RBS is safe and sound and puts serving customers at the heart of its thinking, it will also perform well for its owners, employees, regulators and communities.

Risk appetite is cascaded and embedded across RBS. The risk appetite framework provides each business with a greater understanding of acceptable risk levels, aligning commercial strategies with the most effective use of financial resources, such as capital and funding. The risk appetite framework allows RBS to focus on its key business strengths and competitive advantages over the long term.

Strategic risk objectives

Risk management plays an integral role in the delivery of strategic goals. The implementation of a stronger and more effective culture of risk management and control provides the platform necessary to address vulnerabilities, rebuild on core strengths and position RBS on a sustainable and profitable path for future growth.

Financial strength and resilience are at the heart of the strategic plan. RBS has defined this level of robustness as that which is capable of achieving and sustaining a standalone credit rating (i.e. without government support) that is in line with those of its strongest international peers.

Given this central aim, the Board has set out four key strategic objectives, aligned with the strategic plan:

- *Maintain capital adequacy.* To ensure there is sufficient capital resources to meet regulatory requirements and to cover the potential for unexpected losses in its asset portfolio.
- *Deliver stable earnings growth.* To ensure that strategic growth is based around a longer-term risk-versus reward consideration, with significantly lower volatility in underlying profitability than was seen during the financial crisis.
- *Ensure stable and efficient access to funding and liquidity.* To ensure that there is sufficient funding to meet its obligations, taking account of the constraint that some forms of funding may not be available when they are most needed.
- *Maintain stakeholder confidence.* To ensure that stakeholders have confidence in RBS's ability to attain its strategic objectives and establish and maintain an appropriate business culture and operational controls.

Each objective is essential in its own right, but also mutually supportive of the others. The strategic risk objectives are the bridge between the RBS-wide business strategy and the frameworks, limits and tolerances that are used to set risk appetite and manage risk in the business franchises on a day-to-day basis.



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### Risk appetite and culture\* continued

#### Risk appetite measures

Risk appetite starts with the strategic goals and risk philosophy set by the Board and is cascaded through key targets, limits and risk tolerances that influence decision making at all levels.

The risk appetite framework is based on four main pillars:

- Business and financial targets - RBS has set long-term targets for capital ratio, leverage ratio, loan:deposit ratio, the return on tangible equity and cost:income ratio. These are the broad boundaries within which it operates.
- Quantitative risk appetite targets - Risk appetite is also aligned with potential risk exposures and vulnerabilities under severe but plausible stress conditions. Quantitative targets, to be met under stress conditions, are set around the strategic risk objectives for maintaining capital adequacy, delivering stable earnings growth and ensuring stable and efficient access to funding and liquidity.
- Qualitative risk appetite targets - The fourth strategic risk objective of maintaining stakeholder confidence covers qualitative aspects relating to the culture of risk management and controls and meeting stakeholder expectations. Stakeholders include customers, employees, investors, societies and communities.
- Risk control frameworks and limits - Risk control frameworks set detailed tolerances and limits for material risk types (e.g. credit risk and market risk) that are used to manage risk on a day-to-day basis. These limits support and are required to be consistent with the high-level risk appetite targets.

The framework is supported by a programme of communication, engagement and training rolled out across RBS to embed a wide understanding of the purpose and value of an effective risk appetite.

Risk appetite supports value creation in a safe, sustainable way. It is embedded within the annual planning and budgeting process. The risk implications of business strategies are assessed to ensure that those strategies will not cause RBS to exceed agreed risk appetite. A range of different but complementary tools has been developed to measure whether strategic plans are consistent with risk appetite, to test broader 'what if' questions and to assess the impact of changes in key assumptions:

- Stress testing - assesses how earnings, capital and funding positions change under an unfavourable, yet plausible, scenario. Stress scenarios can differ by theme, geographical location or severity.
- Economic capital - provides complementary insights, with a breadth of understanding of risk profile changes and 'tail risks' across millions of different modelled scenarios.
- Sensitivity analysis - provides 'ready reckoners' around changes in key variables. It offers a high-level view on questions such as 'what if gross domestic product worsened by a further 1%', identifying certain tipping points where the bank's risk profile moves outside appetite.

Effective processes for reporting the results have also been developed, presenting the Board and senior management with a more holistic and dynamic view of key risk exposures.

#### Risk appetite statements

Risk appetite is set at RBS-wide level then cascaded and embedded across all business areas. Each franchise is required to develop, own and manage a risk appetite statement aligned with the bank's risk appetite that:

- Covers the limits and tolerances in place for all identified material risks; and
- Enables each business to understand its acceptable levels of risk.

By setting a clear risk appetite and embedding a strong risk culture throughout its businesses, RBS can identify, measure and control risk exposures and respond effectively to shocks. Each franchise is responsible for ensuring its strategic plans are consistent with its approved risk appetite.

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### Risk control frameworks and limits

Risk control frameworks and their associated limits are an integral part of the risk appetite framework and a key part of embedding risk appetite targets in day-to-day risk management decisions. The risk control frameworks manage risk by expressing a clear tolerance for material risk types that is aligned to business activities.

The Group Policy Framework directly supports the qualitative aspects of risk appetite, helping to rebuild and maintain stakeholder confidence in RBS's risk control and governance. Its integrated approach is designed to ensure that an appropriate standard of control is set for each of the material risks it faces, with an effective assurance process put in place to monitor and report on performance. Risk appetite has its own policy standard within the Group Policy Framework. This standard sets out clear roles and responsibilities to set, measure, cascade and report performance against risk appetite, and provides assurances that business is being conducted within approved risk limits and tolerances.

### Culture, values and remuneration

#### Objectives for risk culture

The establishment of a strong risk culture is essential to the realisation of RBS's ambition to build "a truly customer-centric bank". A strong risk culture is a key part of ensuring risk appetite is effectively embedded across RBS. The link between risk appetite and strategic objectives encourages people at all levels of the business to think about risk, how they identify it and how they manage it. It incorporates the quantitative and qualitative aspects of risk and uses both absolute and relative risk measures.

#### Risk culture policies

A core principle behind the development of the risk appetite framework is that risk appetite contributes to a strong risk management culture, in which risk is clearly and meaningfully aligned with business behaviours and outcomes. RBS's values - of "serving customers", "working together", "doing the right thing" and "thinking long term" - act as a clear starting point for a strong and effective risk culture. A wide range of communication and engagement activities (detailed below) has been undertaken to discuss the meaning of each value with employees and how they affect and guide day-to-day activities.

The embedding of RBS's values into a strong risk culture is supported by a revised and more focused Code of Conduct. The Code provides guidance on expected behaviour and sets out the standards of conduct that support the values. It explains the effect of decisions that are taken and describes the principles that must be followed.

These business principles cover conduct-related issues as well as wider business activities. They focus on desired outcomes, with practical guidelines to align the values with commercial strategy and actions. The embedding of business principles facilitates sound decision making and a clear focus on good customer outcomes in 'the moments that matter'. It is aligned with the people management and remuneration processes to support a positive and strong risk culture through appropriate incentive structures.

A simple decision-making guide (called the "YES check") has been included in the Code of Conduct. It is a simple, intuitive set of five questions, designed to ensure the values guide day-to-day decisions:

- Does what I am doing keep our customers and RBS safe and secure?
- Would customers and colleagues say I am acting with integrity?
- Am I happy with how this would be perceived on the outside?
- Is what I am doing meeting the standards of conduct required?
- In five years' time would others see this as a good way to work?

Each question is a prompt to think about the situation and how it fits with RBS's values. It ensures that employees can think through decisions that do not have a clear answer, guiding the judgements behind their decisions and actions.

#### Training

Across the risk management function, a series of events and activities have been undertaken to bring alive the bank's values and culture for employees. This is supported by performance management processes that hold individuals to account for poor behaviour and reward the behaviour that supports the bank's purpose, vision and values.

RBS Risk Management runs a Risk Academy which helps to train staff and to spread a common risk culture across the bank. Training plans are aligned with Risk function strategy to ensure staff have the skills and capabilities to support business and to meet changing regulatory and policy requirements.

#### Risk-based key performance indicators

RBS-wide remuneration policy requires remuneration to be aligned with, and to support, effective risk management. The policy ensures that the remuneration arrangements for all employees reflect the principles and standards prescribed by the UK Remuneration Code. For further information refer to page 91.

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### Conduct risk\*

#### Definition

Conduct risk is the risk that the behaviour of RBS and its staff towards customers, or in the markets in which it operates, leads to unfair or inappropriate customer outcomes and results in reputational damage, financial loss or both. The damage or loss may be the result of breaches of regulatory rules or laws, or of failing to meet customers' or regulators' expectations.

#### Sources of risk

Conduct risk exists across all stages of RBS's relationships with its customers, from the development of its business strategies, through governance arrangements, to post-sales processes. Activities through which conduct risk may arise are diverse and include product design, marketing and sales, complaint handling, staff training, and handling of confidential and non-public price sensitive information. Conduct risk also exists if RBS does not take effective action to prevent fraud, bribery and money laundering.

#### Key developments in 2014

The level of conduct risk remained high throughout 2014. As set out in the Litigation, investigations and reviews section on page 430, RBS and certain members of it are party to legal proceedings and are subject to investigation and other regulatory action in the UK, the US and other jurisdictions.

RBS continued to remediate historical conduct issues, while also restructuring its customer-facing businesses and support functions around the needs of its customers. Specific actions taken by RBS to address underlying control deficiencies included:

- Strengthening significantly the systems and controls governing RBS's LIBOR submissions. An independent and ring-fenced rate setting team was created, and new preventative and detective controls were also put in place, including independent monitoring and statistical checking of submissions. A new rate-setting board was also created to oversee the submission process.
- Simplifying RBS's retail product offering and sales processes; enhancing training for, and controls in relation to, customer advisors; and improving management information on product sales.
- Embedding a new Conduct and Regulatory Affairs (C&RA) operating model and governance structure, by integrating former divisional and functional resources to drive consistent bank-wide standards for managing conduct risks more efficiently;

The conduct risk framework was also further developed. Key elements included:

- Orientating C&RA's assurance coverage and testing towards customer outcomes, and away from controls and policy compliance;
- Establishing a Conduct Advisory function with the expertise and skills to effectively interrogate and assess business models, strategy and products; provide oversight, challenge and technical policy advice; and make selective risk-based interventions;
- Transferring accountability for RBS-wide customer remediation to C&RA, and the establishment of a specialist remediation centre to deliver fair, consistent and timely customer outcomes;
- Developing product risk management tools to improve the customer outcomes of new products;
- Ensuring the focus of RBS's culture is always about delivering good customer outcomes. Although a long-term project, RBS is confident that it has already resulted in material changes to the way business is conducted; and
- Strengthening the whistleblowing framework by aligning the policy with RBS values.

#### Governance

Effective conduct risk management is a commercial imperative for the bank: customers, clients and counterparties demand it as a precursor to building trust. It also reflects the developing regulatory environment in the UK, as well as the increasing focus of overseas regulators on conduct risk.

C&RA is responsible for defining appropriate standards of conduct, and for designing the framework for managing conduct risk, driving adherence, and overseeing remediation activity. It also provides appropriate controls, challenge and oversight to ensure good customer outcomes. In so doing, C&RA acts as a second line of defence control function.

Key elements of the governance structure are set out below:

- The C&RA Executive Committee considers emerging issues material to the C&RA strategy, and implements Board and Executive Committee risk management policy decisions; and
- The Financial Crime Accountable Executive Committee (accountable to the Executive Risk Forum) ensures that the customer businesses and the Services function fulfil strategic objectives by identifying and managing their financial crime risks effectively.

\*unaudited

### Conduct risk\* continued

#### Controls and assurance

Under the RBS Policy Framework, C&RA owns 26 conduct risk policies, grouped under employee, corporate and market conduct, and; and conduct towards customers. Each policy is designed to provide both high-level direction and RBS-wide requirements. The policies and chapters are designed to ensure RBS meets its regulatory obligations; and to provide the necessary clarity for staff on their conduct obligations.

Assurance and monitoring activities are essential to help measure the extent to which RBS manages its delivery of specific customer outcomes. During 2014, in addition to the provision of risk-based assurance over key conduct, financial crime, systems and infrastructure topics, the C&RA assurance function provided RBS-wide assurance in support of Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) attestations, principally those relating to complaints and anti-money laundering (AML). Assurance activities are pre-emptive in highlighting conduct issues and influencing the business to re-consider the impact of their approach; and are flexible so as to achieve the right customer outcomes.

Risk assessments are used to identify material conduct risks and key controls across all business areas. The risk assessment process is designed to confirm that risks are effectively managed and prioritised and controls are tested to verify that they operate effectively.

Scenario analysis is used to assess the impacts of extreme but plausible conduct risks including financial crime. The scenarios assess the exposures that could significantly affect RBS's financial performance or reputation and are an important component in the operational risk framework and capital model.

#### Risk appetite

RBS has articulated a customer-focused vision to be the leading UK bank for trust, customer service and advocacy by 2020. In line with this, C&RA has evolved from focusing on policy compliance towards considering the wider business implications of placing customers at the heart of the business.

A conduct risk appetite framework is being developed to ensure that RBS's risk profile is based on its strategic risk objectives, with quantitative targets supplemented by qualitative criteria focused on attaining good customer outcomes, upholding market integrity, meeting stakeholder expectations and promoting a strong risk culture. Work to refine and embed the risk appetite framework and associated control processes continues in 2015.

### Risk monitoring and measurement

C&RA works closely with the customer facing businesses to assess business models, strategy and products and influence better outcomes for customers.

RBS's senior boards and committees receive updates on conduct risk exposures and action plans through monthly C&RA initiated reporting. The reporting has been enhanced to be more focused, forward-looking and action-oriented.

An annual Money Laundering Reporting Officer's Report is submitted to the Board and the FCA. Covering the operation and effectiveness of the systems and controls in place to comply with Anti-Money Laundering law and regulation, it also describes RBS's AML framework. In addition, it covers the systems and controls in place to prevent the financing of terrorism and to ensure compliance with sanctions as well as embargoes and export controls imposed by the UN, governments and other supranational bodies.

The Group Audit Committee is provided with an annual Whistleblowing Update Report. It details cases by internal reporting categories based on the Public Interest Disclosure Act (1998) category, identifies underlying causal and subject trends, and highlights the outcome of investigations and actions taken.

C&RA is working with the business franchises to define the data required to ensure appropriate customer outcomes are delivered and are compliant with the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision principles for effective risk data aggregation and risk reporting. RBS's ability to aggregate, analyse and report conduct risk internally is being enhanced so it can assess the effectiveness of mitigating actions.

\*unaudited

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### Operational risk\*

#### Definition

Operational risk is the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems, or external events. It arises from day-to-day operations and is relevant to every aspect of the business.

Operational risks may have a direct customer or reputational impact (for example, a major IT systems failure or fraudulent activity) or both. Operational risk failures may also have a link with conduct risk as evidenced by customer complaints made in connection with Payment Protection Insurance.

#### Sources of risk

Operational risk may arise from a failure to manage operations, transactions and assets appropriately. It may arise from forms of human error, an inability to deliver change on time or adequately, or the unavailability of technology services or the loss of customer data. Fraud and theft are sources of operational risk, as is the impact of natural and man-made disasters. It may also arise from a failure to take appropriate measures to protect assets or take account of changes in law.

#### Key developments in 2014

RBS's transformation programme is material and complex, affecting all business areas and functions simultaneously, and so it has the potential to increase the operational risk profile at least in the short term. The risks associated with transformation are being managed in accordance with the operational risk framework and the programme management infrastructure.

The transformation programme affects many of its people and their tasks. RBS is monitoring the resourcing impacts arising from this, as it recognises that employee capacity and engagement are essential to delivering change and completing day-to-day activities.

A key component of the programme was the implementation in 2014 of a new functional operating model for operational risk to ensure it is managed in a more standardised and consistent manner. The new operating model supplemented activity undertaken by the customer businesses to increase understanding of the operational risk profile and the actions required to mitigate risks outside of appetite.

Work started on enhancing the operational risk management framework (ORMF). This will continue in 2015 and beyond. The intention is to improve the ability to identify and assess operational risk by delivering an ORMF that is implemented consistently.

Following the major IT incident that occurred in 2012, a programme was created to address the weaknesses identified, with its core objective to deliver improvements to the technology processes, as well as the efficiency and resilience of those processes, through a number of key workstreams. In 2014, this programme improved technology resilience for core banking services, operating practices and risk management across the three lines of defence. Significant investments were made in upgrading infrastructure and in improving a broad range of processes and tools.

The threat to the security of RBS's information from cyber attacks is a key focus for operational risk. During 2014 specific enhancements were made to cyber security programmes, mitigating a number of identified vulnerabilities. RBS continues to monitor this threat closely as it continues to develop rapidly.

#### Risk governance

A strong operational risk management function is vital to support the bank's profitability. Better management of operational risk directly supports RBS's strategic objective of improving stakeholder confidence and is vital for stability and reputational integrity.

The operational risk function, an independent second line of defence, plays a leadership role and seeks to achieve a robust risk management framework and culture across the bank. The Director of Operational Risk, Support Functions and Divested Businesses, who leads the function, reports to the Chief Risk Officer.

The operational risk function is responsible for the design and maintenance of the ORMF. The Operational Risk Policy and associated standards are incorporated in the Group Policy Framework and provide direction for the consistent identification, assessment, management, monitoring and reporting of operational risk.

The Operational Risk Executive Committee (OREC), which is a sub-committee of the Executive Risk Forum, acts on all operational risk matters. This includes reviewing the exposure against risk appetite; identifying and assessing material operational risks, encompassing both current and emerging material risks; reviewing and monitoring the operational risk profile; and reviewing and approving material policy changes.

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### Controls and assurance

Control Environment Certification (CEC) is used to review and assess the internal control framework. Members of the senior management team are required to provide a bi-annual assessment of the robustness of the internal control environment including:

- Compliance with the requirements of the UK Corporate Governance Code;
- Appropriateness of the risk frameworks and governance structures of each customer-facing business and support function to help ensure RBS operates within risk appetite;
- Adequacy of reporting on the material risks for the business against appetite; and
- Action plans to mitigate those risks outside of appetite.

CEC outcomes are reported to the Board, the Group Audit Committee and the Board Risk Committee, and are shared with external auditors.

### Risk appetite

The objective of operational risk management is not to remove operational risk altogether, but to manage it to an acceptable level, taking into account the customer journey and the cost of minimising the risk against the resultant reduction in exposure. Strategies to manage operational risk include avoiding undertaking a particular type of activity or operating in a particular market; transferring the risk to a third party; accepting the risk as a cost of doing business; or mitigating the risk by implementing controls.

Operational risk appetite measures and frameworks are reviewed annually by the Executive Risk Forum (ERF). The operational risk appetite statement comprises a number of specific measures of risk, including operational risk capital adequacy and earnings volatility based on the relationship between operational risk losses and the bank's estimated gross income. It also includes metrics covering control environment performance. To confirm that RBS operates within the set risk appetite, the high-level statement is aligned with strategic risk objectives.

Operational risk appetite measures will be further refined in 2015, with particular focus on developing an integrated operational risk appetite framework which will be used to translate high-level objectives into achievable risk appetite measures across RBS.

### Risk identification and assessment

Risk assessments are used to identify and assess material operational risks and key controls across all business areas. To provide a consistent categorisation of risks and controls across RBS and to support identification of risk concentrations, all risks and controls are mapped to the risk taxonomy and the control catalogue. Risk assessments are refreshed at least annually to ensure they remain relevant and capture any emerging risks.

The process is designed to confirm that risks are effectively managed and prioritised in line with the stated risk appetite. Controls are tested frequently to verify that they remain fit for purpose and operate effectively. Risk assessments are typically commenced in a workshop, bringing together subject matter experts and key stakeholders from across the bank. Financial and non-financial risk impacts are captured and a risk appetite decision is made.

In 2014 there was a continued focus on implementing and embedding risk assessments across the bank. This included the strengthening of links between risk assessments and other elements of the operational risk framework. In 2015, the risk framework will be further enhanced by the introduction of end-to-end risk assessments which will help provide a fuller understanding of the risk profile of the bank's key services and products.

The New Product Risk Assessment (NPRA) process aims to ensure that the risks represented by new products (and material variations to existing products) are identified and assessed before launch. There is now a requirement to demonstrate that all products provide fair outcomes to customers. Further enhancements to the NPRA process are under review and are expected to be introduced in 2015.

### Risk mitigation

Risks are mitigated by a suite of regularly assessed controls but, where the residual exposure is outside of risk appetite, the relevant customer business must decide how to reduce it. This is carried out in accordance with the operational risk management process, the objective of which is the adoption of a consistent approach to the management of issues and actions to mitigate risks outside appetite. The process continues to be enhanced, with analysis of common issues on an aggregated basis across the bank, to identify emerging trends and to make improvements to the quality of data.

RBS purchases insurance to provide the business with financial protection against specific losses and to comply with statutory or contractual requirements.

### Risk monitoring

Monitoring and reporting are part of RBS's operational risk management processes, which aim to ensure that risks and issues are identified, escalated and managed quickly. Emerging risks, and actions taken to mitigate them, are discussed at OREC. These are reported to the Board and the ERF. Exposures specific to each business are communicated through monthly risk and control reports that are discussed at business risk committees.

### Risk measurement

Scenario analysis is used to assess the impact of extreme but plausible operational risks and is a key input to the capital model. It provides a forward-looking basis for managing risk exposures, with a structured and consistent approach to scenario scoping and measurement. Coupled with internal and external loss data, it has a major impact on the estimated capital requirements. Scenarios, along with internal and external loss data, are a key input into the capital model and influence the capital required significantly.

### Operational risk\* continued

Scenarios are run in their own dedicated workshops, bringing business and risk and control experts together, thereby providing management with a deeper understanding of risk exposures.

RBS further refined its approach to assessing the impact of the economic cycle on its operational risk losses by assessing the impact of the Prudential Regulation Authority's published Anchor 6 scenario. This describes the impact of a series of country-specific shocks on levels of operational risk losses, and also capital adequacy requirements for operational risk.

The impact of the Prudential Regulation Authority's Anchor 6 scenario on operational risk capital, as calculated under the standardised approach, was also projected based on the outputs of the bank's stress-testing exercises. Operational risk impacts are also assessed based on additional economic stress scenarios developed internally. This is used as part of the overall stress input to capital planning and internal capital adequacy assessment process (ICAAP).

Operational risk is measured utilising an economic Capital model. This model is also included within the ICAAP assessment to ensure that capital requirements are appropriately calculated using internal loss, external loss and scenario data.

As a true risk sensitive measurement, this model is being rolled out across RBS to ensure better information is available to businesses to help manage their risk profile.

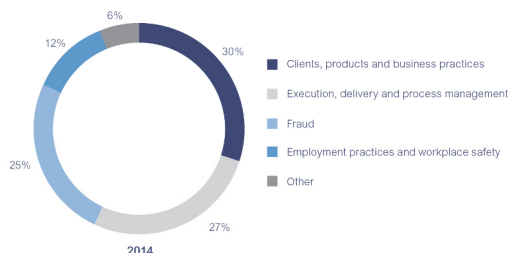
### Event and loss data management

The event and loss data management process aims to ensure compliance with standard requirements for the management of operational risk events and the capture of loss data. It also entails reporting operational risk events that meet defined threshold criteria to RBS senior management. RBS has continued to focus on the timely and accurate capture of operational risk losses; the use of a single RBS-wide repository of operational risk events; and the escalation of material operational risk events.

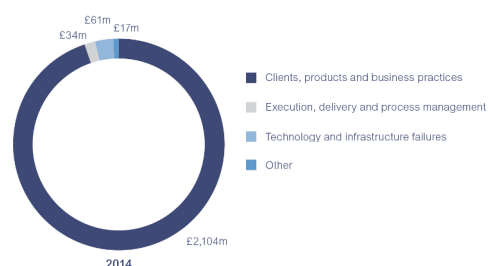
All losses and recoveries associated with an operational risk event are reported against their financial accounting date. A single event can result in multiple losses (or recoveries) that may take time to crystallise. Losses and recoveries with a financial accounting date in 2014 may relate to events that occurred, or were identified in, prior years.

### Number and value of events

At 31 December 2014, four categories accounted for around 94% of all operational risk events. These were: (i) clients, products and business practices; (ii) execution, delivery and process management; (iii) fraud; and (iv) employment practices and workplace safety. This proportion was broadly in line with that of 2013

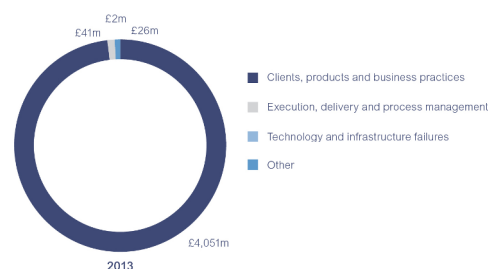
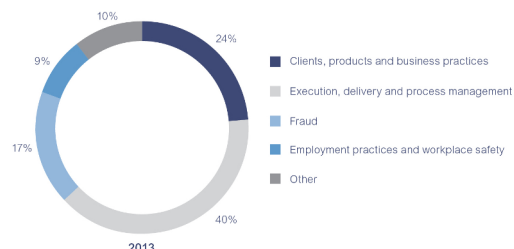


### Value of events



At 31 December 2014, events aligned with clients, products and business practices accounted for 95% of the losses (compared to 98% in 2013). The losses in this category resulted from new conduct-related provisions, and further increased provisions relating to Payment Protection Insurance and Interest Rate Hedging Products, together with regulatory settlements.

\*unaudited



A small number of operational risk events contribute a high percentage of the total losses. In 2014, around 1% of the events contributed 96% of the losses. This was in line with that of 2013.

### Capital

RBS calculates the Pillar 1 capital requirement for operational risk using the standardised approach. For 2014, RBS's minimum Pillar 1 capital requirement was £2.9 billion (2013 - £3.4 billion).



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### Regulatory risk\*

#### Definition

Regulatory risk is the risk of material loss or liability, legal or regulatory sanctions, or reputational damage, resulting from the failure to comply with (or adequately plan for changes to) relevant official sector policy, laws, regulations, or major industry standards, in any location in which RBS operates.

#### Sources of risk

Regulatory risk arises from the regulatory, business or operating environment and from RBS's response to it.

#### Key developments in 2014

The level of regulatory risk remained high during 2014, as policymakers and regulators continued to strengthen regulation and supervision in response to the events of 2007 and 2008. This resulted in high levels of interaction between RBS and supervisory authorities through meetings, requests for information, visits and investigations, as well as in policy developments and proposals for new rules.

#### Governance

C&RA maintains well-established policies and supporting processes to ensure timely identification of, and effective responses to, changes in official requirements affecting the bank. C&RA also maintains a structured and open engagement with regulators. That engagement underpins a range of other policies and processes that address on-going compliance with regulatory obligations (refer to the section on Conduct risk on page 184 for further information).

To help manage the risks, the Mandatory Change Advisory Committee (MCAC), chaired by C&RA, was established. The MCAC reports to the Bank-Wide Investment Committee, and comprises representatives of the bank's customer businesses and functions. The MCAC acts as the 'reception committee' for reviewing externally mandated changes that may affect RBS and recommending appropriate responses, including the timely mobilisation of change implementation activities. In doing so, it agrees business or function owners of individual risks; and commissions and reviews impact assessments from customer businesses and functions.

Board and Executive Committee oversight of changes to regulatory requirements is supported by the MCAC.

C&RA's Regulatory Developments team maintains and develops RBS Political, Legislative and Regulatory Environment Policy and supporting documents, together with associated processes, tools and governance. It also oversees the regulatory developments operating framework, to ensure it meets the needs of all businesses and functions, and maintains the Relationships with Regulators Policy.

#### Risk appetite

RBS believes that maintaining a strong regulatory risk framework is fundamental to ensuring sustainable growth, rebuilding its reputation and maintaining stakeholder confidence. Accordingly, its stated regulatory risk and compliance risk appetite is for no material or widespread breaches of rules, expectations, regulations or laws, individually or in aggregate. However, it also recognises that genuine errors occur, and so it accepts limited, non-material regulatory risk and subsequent loss.

#### Risk monitoring and measurement

C&RA ensures appropriate reporting of all material regulatory reviews and other regulatory developments worldwide to the appropriate bank-wide committees, including the Board, the Group Audit Committee, and the Board Risk Committee. Half-yearly reporting to the Group Audit Committee also captures all material investigations and tracks the status of, and trends in, key regulatory relationships.

The level of regulatory risk remained high during 2014, as policymakers and regulators continued to strengthen regulation and supervision in response to the events of 2007 and 2008. This resulted in high levels of interaction between RBS and supervisory authorities through meetings, requests for information, visits and investigations, as well as in policy developments and proposals for new rules.

#### Risk mitigation

C&RA also communicates information on regulatory developments and follow-up engagement with customer-facing businesses and functions, helping them identify and execute any required mitigating changes to strategy or business models. The key regulatory policies are reviewed annually.

Early identification and effective management of changes in legislation and regulation, as well as other requirements, is critical to the successful mitigation of regulatory risk. All regulatory and compliance changes are managed to ensure timely compliance readiness. Those changes assessed as having a 'high' or 'medium-high' impact are managed especially closely, with the aim of mitigating the impact through, for instance, changes to strategy or business activities, or external engagement.

\*unaudited

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### Reputational risk\*

#### Definition

Reputational risk is the risk to RBS's public image owing to a failure to meet stakeholders' expectations in relation to performance, conduct and business profile. Stakeholders include customers, investors, employees, suppliers, government, regulators, special interest and consumer groups, media and the general public.

#### Sources of risk

Reputational risk can arise from the conduct of either RBS as a whole or that of the individuals it employs; from the activities of customers and the countries in which they operate; from the products RBS offers and the transactions it supports; and from its operations and infrastructure.

#### Key developments in 2014

The importance of reputational risk was reinforced with the appointment of a Head of Reputational Risk, together with improvements to governance frameworks to manage this risk in business franchises. A senior RBS-wide Reputational Risk Forum (RRF) and fora in all business franchises were established. These bodies consider customers, transactions, products or issues that present material reputational risks to the organisation, and have the power to decline business or to set conditions.

A high-level Reputational Risk Policy was also developed to help employees, businesses and functions effectively identify, assess and manage issues that present reputational risks.

The most material threats to RBS's reputation continued to originate from historical and more recent conduct deficiencies. As a result, RBS has been the subject of investigations and reviews by a number of its regulators, some of which have resulted in fines and public censure. Refer to the Litigation, investigations and reviews section on page 430.

#### Governance

Managing reputational risk is taken very seriously, with Board-level oversight reinforced by a Reputational Risk Policy, and by governance frameworks across business franchises.

The Board and the Executive Committee have the ultimate responsibility for managing RBS's reputation although all staff have some responsibility. The Board has set RBS's Purpose, Vision and Values, which outline the objective, which is "to be trusted, respected and valued by our customers, shareholders and communities". Refer to the Risk governance section on page 176.

The Sustainable Banking Committee is responsible for overseeing and challenging how management is addressing sustainable banking and reputation issues including risk appetite for environmental, social and ethical (ESE) issues.

The Board's oversight of reputational issues is supported by the senior RBS-wide RRF which opines on cases that represent a material reputational risk to the whole organisation. The RRF, which has delegated authority from the Executive Risk Forum, also acts as a central forum to review thematic issues and risk appetite positions. Business franchises also have in place reputational risk approval fora to deliberate on customers, transactions, products or issues that may present a reputational risk for their businesses. An example is the Global Reputational Risk Committee in CIB.

\*unaudited

### Risk appetite

The Reputational and ESE Risk management team assists business franchises, as well as other control functions, to articulate risk appetite to manage reputational risk. Risk appetite positions for certain issues or markets, for example tax or money remitters, are developed through conducting research on legislation, regulation and potential reputational risk factors, undertaking peer analysis and engaging with internal and external stakeholders to discuss the issues. The risk appetite positions classify risks associated with a particular area into Normal, Sensitive and Prohibited. Customers or transactions designated Sensitive require enhanced due diligence and escalation to a reputational risk forum or individual while those rated Normal can be approved by the business without additional escalation. The team also helps set risk appetite to manage reputational risk related to business engagements and customer relationships in some sensitive industry sectors, such as mining and defence, through the ESE policy framework.

A Reputational Risk Policy has also been developed to help employees, businesses and functions effectively identify, assess and manage issues that potentially represent a reputational risk. In addition, other policies, such as those related to conduct, address key sources of reputational risk. These policies are implemented in accordance with the Policy Framework through business and functional policy standard owners. The effectiveness of these policies within each franchise is reported on through the Control Environment Certification process (Refer to the Operational risk section on page 187). Reputational aspects also form a core part of the RBS conduct risk framework, with a series of enhanced policies developed in line with conduct risk appetite.

### Risk monitoring and measurement

Emerging reputational issues are identified by the business and relevant teams, including RBS Sustainability and Enterprise Wide Risk, which assess new and emerging business, sector and country risks. The Risk Management Monthly Report, provided to the Executive Committee and BRC, may also discuss reputational risks facing RBS, and the annual Sustainability Report covers progress on sustainability principles.

ESE ratings of customers and transactions are captured and analysed centrally by the Reputational and ESE Risk Team.

### Risk mitigation

Reputational risk is mitigated through governance frameworks and training of staff to ensure early identification, assessment and escalation of customers, transactions or products with potential reputational risk, if appropriate. This includes creating appropriate fora, for example reputational risk committees or individual reputational risk approvers.

Also important is the setting of clear reputational risk appetite criteria, ensuring higher risk cases are escalated for senior level approval. Effective communication channels and incident response planning also ensure that cases that result in reputational impact are appropriately managed, for example by declining or exiting business or by ensuring incident management plans are implemented to manage the impact of negative media coverage.

### Capital management

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### Capital management\*

#### Definition

RBS aims to maintain an appropriate level of capital to meet its business needs and regulatory requirements, and operates within an agreed risk appetite. The appropriate level of capital is determined based on the dual aims of: (i) meeting minimum regulatory capital requirements; and (ii) ensuring RBS maintains sufficient capital to uphold customer, investor and rating agency confidence in the organisation, thereby supporting its business franchises and funding capacity.

#### Capital strategy

RBS has set out its strategy to be truly customer-centric, built upon high levels of customer service and trust, delivering attractive and consistent returns and underpinned by unquestioned safety and soundness. It includes key risk metrics aligned to the strategic objectives (for example a target Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio).

RBS has devised a risk appetite framework aligned to the above. This framework establishes appetite targets on quantitative and qualitative measures which are set by the Board and aligned with its key strategic risk objectives including maintaining sufficient capital resources to meet regulatory requirements and cover the potential for unexpected losses

#### Overview and key developments

- RBS's CET1 ratio was 11.2% at 31 December 2014, an improvement of 260 basis points compared with 8.6% as at 31 December 2013.
- The leverage ratio under 2014 Basel III framework improved from 3.4% to 4.2% at 31 December 2014.
- Key milestones achieved in 2014 include:
  - partial IPO of CFG;
  - run down of RCR and CIB assets; and
  - disposal of €9 billion of higher risk legacy available-for-sale securities, thereby reducing stressed capital and RWAs.
- Going forward, RBS is focused on delivering a capital plan in-line with its strategic objectives which includes the divestment of CFG by the end of 2016 and further run down of RCR and CIB assets.
- From 2015 RBS will target a c.13% CET1 ratio during the period of CIB restructuring and expects to achieve this by the end of 2016.
- RBS plans to issue around £2 billion of CRR-compliant Additional Tier 1 (AT1) capital instruments in 2015.

RBS's current Pillar 2A requirement is 3.5% of RWAs at 31 December 2014. From 1 January 2015, 56% of the total Pillar 2A or 2.0% of RWAs is required to be met from CET1 capital. Pillar 2A is a point in time assessment of the amount of capital that is required to be held to meet the overall financial adequacy rules. The Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) assessment may change over time, including as a result of at least an annual assessment and supervisory review of RBS's internal capital adequacy assessment process.

RBS's capital risk appetite framework, which informs its capital targets, includes consideration of the maximum distributable amount (MDA) requirements. These requirements are expected to be phased in from 2016, with full implementation by 2019 but this is subject to ongoing review to accommodate regulatory and other changes.

Based on current capital requirements, including holding current estimates of Pillar 2A constant for illustrative purposes, RBS estimates that its 'fully phased' CET1 MDA requirement would be 10.5% in 2019, assuming RBS's current risk profile. It should be noted that this estimate does not reflect the anticipated impact of RBS's planned restructuring and balance sheet risk reduction programmes, changes in the regulatory framework or other factors that could impact target CET1 ratios. The estimated MDA requirement comprises:

- 4.5% Pillar 1 minimum CET1 ratio;
- 2.0% Pillar 2A CET1 ratio;
- 2.5% Capital conservation buffer; and
- 1.5% Global-Systemically Important Institution buffer.

Based on the assumptions above, assuming a 13% steady state CET1 capital ratio is achieved, RBS currently estimates that it would have headroom of 2.5% to fully phased MDA trigger in 2019. This headroom will be subject to ongoing review to accommodate regulatory and other changes.

#### Regulatory capital requirements

The European Union has implemented the Basel III proposals through the Capital Requirement Regulation (CRR) and the Capital Requirements Directive (CRD), collectively known as CRD IV. CRD IV was implemented on 1 January 2014. The European Banking Authority's technical standards which will provide clarification of the CRD IV, are either in progress to be finalised through adoption by the European Commission and implemented within the UK, or delegated regulation now adopted.

CRD IV imposes the following minimum requirements to be met by 2019:

- Pillar 1 requirement of: CET1 of 4.5% of RWAs; Tier 1 of 6%; and total capital of 8%;
- Capital buffers: capital conservation buffer of 2.5% of RWAs; countercyclical capital buffer of up to 2.5%; Global-Systemically Important Bank (G-SIB) surcharge of 1.5%; and
- Minimum Tier 1 leverage ratio of 3%.

\*unaudited



## Business review Capital and risk management

In December 2013 the PRA issued its policy statement (PS7/13) outlining changes to its Rulebook as a result of CRD IV, and finalising requirements for the minimum level of CET1 capital as follows:

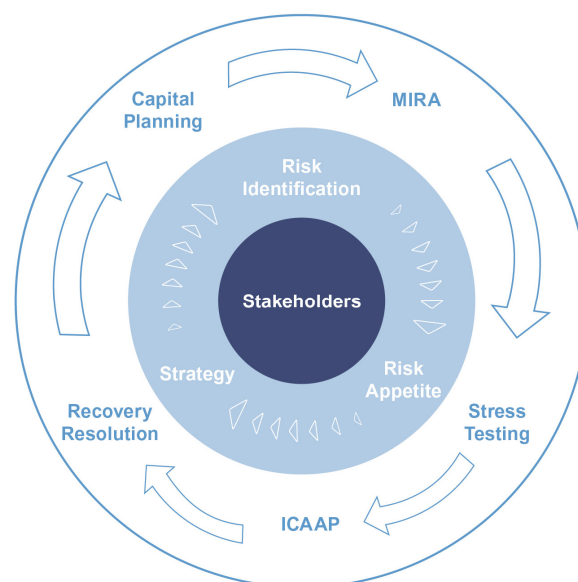
- Firms must meet a 4% Pillar 1 CET1 requirement in 2014, rising to 4.5% from 1 January 2015. Similarly, the Tier 1 capital ratio will be 5.5%, rising to 6% from 1 January 2015 onwards. Total capital remains at 8%.
- All Pillar 2A risks, including pension risk, must be met with at least 56% CET1 capital from 1 January 2015 onwards. This matches the proportion of CET1 capital required for Pillar 1. The remaining (44%) allocation of Pillar 2A is restricted to 19% Tier 1 and 25% Tier 2.
- All regulatory deductions from capital must align CET1 with the end-point definition from January 2014, effectively making fully loaded Basel III the regulatory definition, a stricter approach than the CRR transitional arrangements.

On 31 October 2014 the Financial Policy Committee (FPC) published its recommendation on the overall leverage ratio framework for the UK banking system as follows:

- Minimum Tier 1 leverage ratio of 3%. To be met 75% by CET1 and a maximum 25% AT1;
- A supplementary leverage buffer applying to G-SIBS equal to 35% of the corresponding risk-weighted systemic risk buffer rates to be met with CET1; and
- A countercyclical leverage ratio buffer equal to 35% of the risk-weighted countercyclical capital buffer rate to be met from CET1. The countercyclical buffer is currently set at 0%.

### Capital and stress testing management framework

This section covers a number of tools and processes which taken together contributed to an integrated view of capital management and is best presented by the diagram below.



MIRA: material integrated risk assessment

ICAAP: internal capital adequacy assessment process

### Governance

The Board is the main decision making forum at RBS. It sets the strategic direction and ensures RBS manages risk effectively by approving and monitoring RBS's strategic risk appetite, considering RBS-wide stress scenarios and agreed mitigants, as well as identifying longer-term strategic threats to the business operations. The Board approves the ICAAP.

The Board Risk Committee (BRC) is responsible for providing oversight and advice to the Board in relation to current and potential future risk exposures of RBS and future risk strategy, including determination of risk appetite and tolerance. The BRC will review the performance of RBS relative to risk appetite, provide oversight of the effectiveness of key RBS-wide policies and provide risk input to remuneration decisions. The BRC has responsibility for promoting a risk awareness within RBS. Authority is delegated to the BRC by the Board and the BRC reports and makes recommendations to the Board as required.

\*unaudited

### Capital management\* continued

The Executive Committee is responsible for managing strategic, financial, capital, risk and operational issues affecting RBS. It reviews and debates relevant items before they are submitted to the Board and relevant board committees. It also considers recommendations from the Executive Risk Forum (ERF) in relation to risk management matters, including recommendations on risk appetite, risk policies and risk management strategies. ERF oversees stress testing approach, processes and results.

RBS Asset and Liability Committee (ALCo) is a sub-committee of ERF. RBS ALCo is responsible for identifying, managing and controlling balance sheet risks in executing its business strategy. RBS Treasury is responsible for managing the RBS balance sheet in accordance with RBS ALCo policy and direction. RBS ALCo is the body with responsibility in determining that financial balance sheet risk limits and for ensuring the asset and liability management functions manage their balance sheets within the limits set by RBS ALCo.

Stress Testing Committee (STC) takes its delegated authority from ERF and makes recommendations to the ERF on asset quality reviews and stress testing, including the key vulnerabilities and scenario themes identified, the results from the generated scenarios and expanded metrics to be used in both internal and regulatory enterprise-wide stress tests. STC ensures these are relevant and reflect RBS business model vulnerabilities, and the results of both internal stress, reverse stress and regulatory enterprise-wide stress tests (including mitigants).

### Assessing, monitoring and maintaining adequate capital

It is RBS's policy to build and sustain a strong capital base and to use it efficiently throughout its activities to support strategic objectives and ultimately optimise shareholder returns while maintaining a prudent relationship between its capital base and the underlying risks of the business. In carrying out this policy, RBS follows the regulatory requirements of the "twin peaks" regulatory structure in the UK under the supervision of the FCA and the PRA, also having regard to other regulators, rating agencies, its peer group and market expectations.

Each business in RBS is subject to performance metrics respecting regulatory capital requirements to ensure that relevant Individual Capital Guidance or minimum CET1 levels are met. RBS has a control framework in place to guard against accidental breaches in capital ratios.

### Monitoring

RBS continually reviews the potential impact on capital adequacy of emerging regulatory developments and actively assesses headroom against a range of stress scenarios. Recovery plans are dynamically maintained and contingency or remediation options are calibrated to determine scope to address potential capital shortfalls. All authorised institutions in RBS are required to ensure adequate capital is maintained at all times; they must also monitor and report regulatory capital and RWAs on a regular basis. The level and appropriateness of internal capital buffers at CET1, Tier 1, Tier 2 and total capital levels, is reviewed by RBS ALCo and reset as considered appropriate, at least annually.

### Capital allocation

Capital resources are allocated to businesses based on key performance parameters agreed by the Board in the annual strategic planning process. Principal among these is a profitability metric, which assesses the effective use of the capital allocated to the business. Projected and actual return on equity is assessed against strategic objectives. The allocations also reflect strategic priorities, the intensity of regulatory capital use and the usage of other key resources such as balance sheet liquidity and funding.

Economic profit is also planned and measured for each business annually. It is calculated by deducting the cost of equity utilised in the particular business from its operating profit after tax and measures the value added over and above the cost of equity.

RBS aims to deliver sustainable returns across the portfolio of businesses with projected business returns stressed to test key vulnerabilities.

The franchises use return on capital metrics when making pricing decisions on products and transactions, to ensure customer activity is appropriately aligned with RBS and segmental targets.

\*unaudited

### Risk identification and material integrated risk assessment (MIRA)

- MIRAs are annual 'top down' processes to:
  - help identify material risks;
  - understand the nature and magnitude of these risks clearly; and
  - appraise associated risk management frameworks robustly.
- MIRAs provide a process to assess the size and nature of exposure to all risk types in the risk taxonomy, which is an exhaustive, structured list of the types of risk that RBS can and could face.
- MIRAs consider whether capital should be set aside against each risk type and, if so, under which pillar, how much and of what type. If capital is not appropriate, MIRAs outline how risk types are otherwise managed. In so doing, MIRAs form a key input to the ICAAP.
- To focus risk management on areas of greatest benefit, MIRAs consider in depth risks whose potential impact is 'material', that is exceeding appropriately chosen financial or non-financial thresholds. The key framework elements used to manage material risks (owners, governing committees, limit or tolerance frameworks including risk appetites, control policies and key reports) are specified clearly and assessed for appropriateness and effectiveness.

### Stress testing

Stress testing is used to evaluate the capital position under severe but plausible stress scenarios. Stress testing also refers to the broader framework under which these tests are developed, evaluated and used within the bank's decision-making process in the context of the wider economic environment.

RBS stress testing framework is designed to embed stress testing as a key risk management technique into mainstream risk reporting, capital planning and business processes at business, legal entity and RBS-wide levels.

### Stress test process and techniques

Stress testing is part of the financial and capital planning process and results are presented to senior management (and BRC/Board) at least semi-annually. It is now an integral part of enterprise risk management and used to assess the impact of business decisions on the bank's capital position. The stress testing process has four key stages:

- Define stress scenario:
  - RBS-specific vulnerabilities are identified and linked to development of relevant stresses;
  - Scenario is defined, severity calibrated and full parameterisation completed; and
  - Governance is put in place for stress theme approval and scenario validation.
- Stress test execution and governance:
  - Impacts of stress scenario is translated via relevant risk drivers such as RWAs, impairments;
  - Profit and loss impacts of stress scenario are also assessed; and
  - Review of stress output by the business as well as risk treasury and finance teams.
- Consolidation and capital planning:
  - Segmental results are consolidated to provide the total view of stress impact;
  - Stressed profit and loss and RWA assessment contribute towards arriving at a stressed capital plan;
  - Additional capital impacts under stress are considered such as pension deficit, foreign exchange reserves; and
  - Final stressed CET1 ratios are produced for each year of the scenario.
- Management actions and governance:
  - Internal subject matter experts determine a 'menu' of possible management actions under stress conditions such as capital raising, de-risking and sale of assets, cost reduction;
  - Review by senior risk management and executives; and
  - ERF and Board review and approval.

Risk-type specific stress testing is also conducted. For example, within the market risk management framework, a comprehensive programme of stress tests covers a variety of historical and hypothetical scenarios.

Portfolio-specific stress tests assess the reaction of key portfolios to systemic shocks and identify potential vulnerabilities, including risks that have not yet matured or are not yet visible. They assess the potential for outsized losses and the impact of rebalancing portfolios.

### Capital management\* continued

RBS conducts reverse stress testing within the ICCAP for the specific purpose of identifying and assessing scenarios most likely to render RBS's business model unviable. For example, RBS's most recent reverse stress test, which applied a pure macroeconomic stress only, indicated that an instantaneous global shock of a similar scale as the 2008 financial crisis which lasted for a full year could potentially render RBS's business model unviable. However, the successful execution of RBS's transformation plan, including the proposed restructuring of CIB, balance sheet reduction and the implementation of the ring-fencing requirements, would mitigate this risk.

### Regulatory stress test exercises

RBS also takes part in a number of external stress tests as part of wider stress testing frameworks implemented by regulatory authorities to test industry-wide vulnerabilities under crystallising global systemic risks. In 2014, RBS participated in two regulatory scenarios designed by the European Banking Authority (EBA) and the Bank of England (BOE).

The EBA adverse scenario assumed an increase in global investor risk aversion that triggers financial market turmoil and has subsequent adverse impacts on economic activity worldwide. The scenario envisaged sharply rising long-term interest rates and yields in developed economies alongside a souring of market sentiment globally, resulting in financial markets distress and recessions in a range of countries, including the UK. The stress test was conducted on a static balance sheet basis and thus did not permit key strategic initiatives, such as, the wind down of higher risk and capital intensive assets as part of RCR.

From an 8.6% CET1 capital under full CRR rules as at 31 December 2013, RBS achieved a CET1 ratio of 5.7% after the adverse scenario, marginally above the minimum 5.5% required, an indication of the level of stressed risk in RBS's exposures at the time. RBS strengthened its capital throughout 2014 and had a CET1 ratio of 10.8% at 30 September 2014, prior to disclosure of the EBA stress test results in October 2014.

Unfortunately, in November 2014 an error was identified in the calculation of the modelled CET1 ratio in the EBA stress test results which led to RBS's published CET1 stress test ratios being overstated. Independent assurance was sought and the error was corrected. The BRC will continue to closely monitor the actions being taken to avoid a repeat of this error.

The second regulatory stress test, designed by the BoE in cooperation with the EBA, tested the combined impact of the global macroeconomic and market elements of the EBA adverse scenario, and UK-specific stress assumptions under the guidance of the FPC. In particular, the UK variant scenario examined the resilience of UK banks to a housing market shock and a snap-back in interest rates, triggered by sharp sterling depreciation and inflationary pressures. Under the scenario, the UK suffers a severe recession with economic uncertainty damaging confidence and causing both business investment contraction and a significant rise in unemployment.

RBS achieved a CET1 ratio of 5.2% after the impact of regulatory agreed management actions, just above the minimum 4.5% required. RBS strengthened its capital throughout 2014 and had a CET1 ratio of 10.8% at 30 September 2014 prior to the publication of the BOE concurrent stress test results in December 2014.

As the RBS risk profile improves as a result of deleveraging and rundown of higher risk and capital intensive assets, RBS is well placed to withstand extreme stress scenarios.

In March 2014, the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) completed its review of CFG's 2014 capital plan. The Comprehensive Capital Analysis and Review (CCAR) results follow the Federal Reserve's publication of Dodd-Frank Act Stress Test results. In that test, across every category, CFG's projected capital ratios ranked in the top quartile of the 30 largest bank holding companies under the hypothetical supervisory severely adverse stress scenario. However the FRB objected on qualitative grounds to the capital plan submitted as part of the CCAR capital plan. FRB cited significant deficiencies in capital planning processes, including inadequate governance, weak internal controls and deficiencies in practices for estimating revenues and losses under a stress scenario and for ensuring the appropriateness of loss estimates across business lines in a specific stress scenario. Although the FRB acknowledged that bank holding companies such as CFG that are new to the CCAR process are subject to different expectations, CFG's weaknesses were considered serious enough to warrant FRB's objection. As a result, CFG are not permitted to increase its capital distributions above 2013 levels until a new capital plan is approved by the Federal Reserve Board.

In 2014, Ulster Bank Ireland Limited (UBIL) and RBS N.V. participated in a comprehensive assessment performed by the European Central Bank (ECB). The comprehensive assessment considered both a stress test and an asset quality review (AQR). The assessment was conducted to increase transparency in bank exposures, and to increase confidence in the European banking sector by identifying whether institutions held sufficient capital under a stress scenario. The AQR and stress test were the first assessments carried out by the ECB under the single supervisory mechanism.

The outcome of the AQR did not require an adjustment to the balance sheets of either UBIL or RBS N.V. In the stress test, both UBIL and RBS N.V. maintained capital ratios above the minimum 5.5% under the adverse scenario.

\*unaudited

Stress testing use

In addition to informing the ICAAP, stress testing within RBS has matured into business as usual process embedded across our risk management framework. It has become a key risk management tool and is used to support strategic financial planning, risk appetite, risk identification and risk mitigation as illustrated below.



Stress test usage across RBS

1	Strategic financial & capital planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assess impact of plausible downside scenarios on financial position.</li><li>Assessment of strategic plans against market concerns and headwinds.</li></ul>
2	Risk appetite <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Better understanding of underlying risks to inform the setting of risk appetite (e.g. sector reviews, earnings volatility, reverse stress test).</li><li>Assess impact of current business strategies on risk appetite.</li><li>Identify drivers of risk appetite triggers.</li></ul>
3	Risk identification <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Manage business through improved understanding of the underlying risk. Examples:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tail risk assessment: identification of risky portfolios that breach series of pre-determined triggers.</li><li>Business vulnerabilities analysis: assessment of business model weaknesses through cross-functional discussions.</li></ul></li><li>Identify high-risk portfolios to be investigated further.</li></ul>
4	Risk mitigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Inform mitigating actions within RBS and segmental strategic plans.</li><li>Inform macro-hedge strategies.</li><li>Determine a schedule of potential management actions to be executed in the event of stress.</li></ul>

\*unaudited

Capital management\* continued

Internal capital adequacy assessment process (ICAAP)

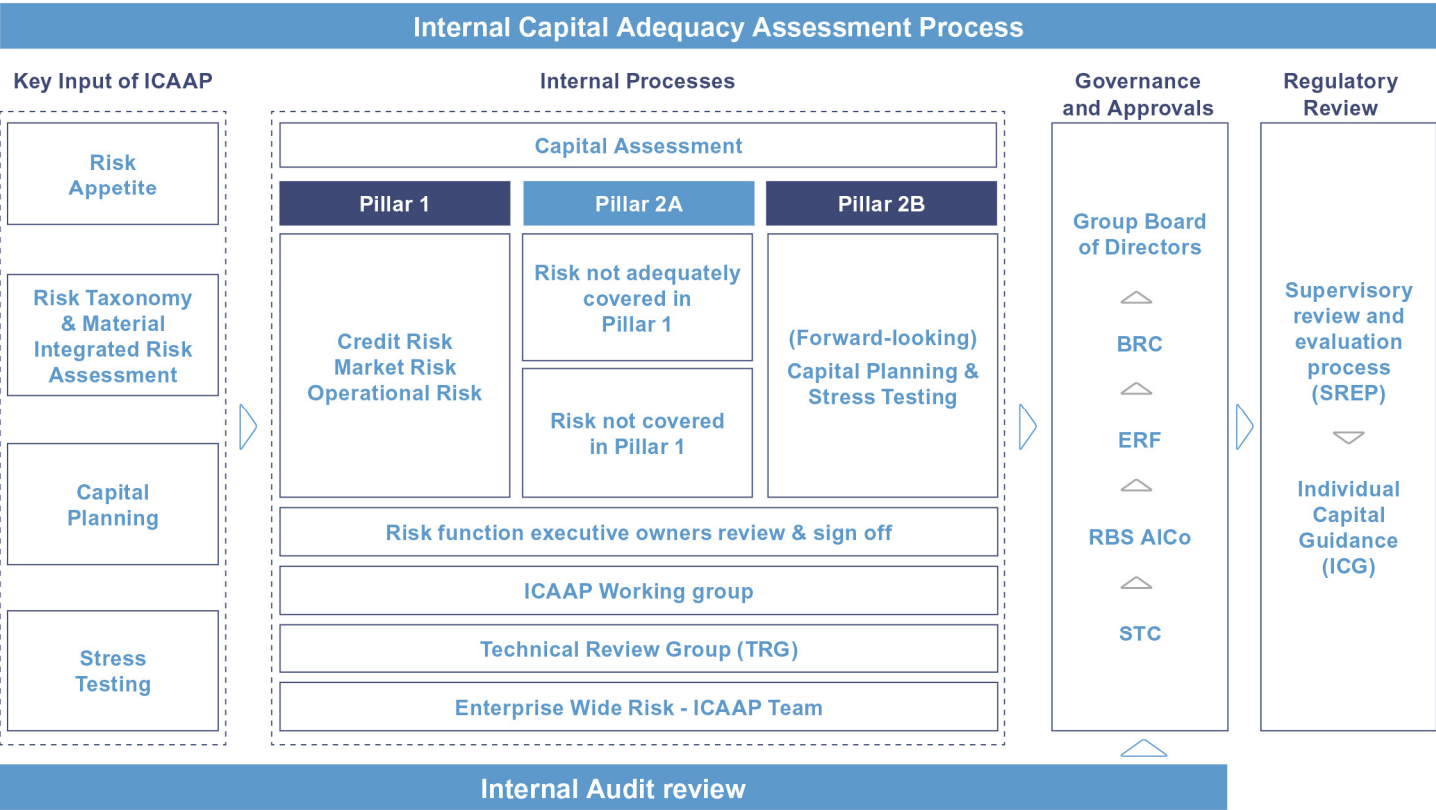
The ICAAP assesses RBS’s material risks and determines how much capital is required to cover these risks.

The ICAAP consists of two types of internal capital assessment:

- Point-in-time capital assessment as at the financial year end:
  - Pillar 1 - CET1 4.5% of credit, market and operational RWAs at the financial year end.
  - Pillar 2A - additional capital requirements for risks not captured or not adequately captured in Pillar 1. A MIRA is performed to ensure that all material risks are identified, appropriately managed and adequately capitalised where appropriate.
- Forward-looking stress capital assessment:
  - Pillar 2B - Capital planning buffer is set to ensure RBS maintains adequate capital resources in stress to allow it to continue to meet the minimum capital requirements. Current capital planning buffer will be replaced by the PRA buffer from 1 January 2016.

The final ICAAP is approved by the Board prior to submission to the PRA.

Component parts of the ICAAP are set out in the diagram below.



\*unaudited



### Capital planning

RBS aims to maintain an appropriate level of capital to meet its business needs and regulatory requirements, and operates within an agreed risk appetite.

RBS uses the budgeting cycle to forecast the future levels of capital required at CET1, Tier 1, Tier 2 and total capital levels including bail-in or gone-concern capital at both RBS level and for each of the major operating entities. Those forecasts are then measured against minimum regulatory requirements as well as specific regulatory guidance such as the Individual Capital Guidance. Operating entities such as UBIL, RBS N.V. and CFG also go through a similar planning process to ensure that they are compliant with local regulatory rules. These plans are reviewed and challenged to ensure that they are consistent with RBS risk appetite, policies and strategic targets.

Stress testing is an integral part of capital planning. Stress testing results are produced through the same capital planning models used for the budget. Models will be adjusted to reflect the specific parameters of a particular stress test.

The capital plan outputs are subject to executive and Board review and approval. The capital plan and performance against capital metrics are reviewed each month at ALCo.

Total loss absorbing capital (TLAC) is a new requirement announced by the Financial Stability Board (FSB) at its meeting in October 2014. TLAC is intended to ensure that a bank group maintains sufficient consolidated resources not only to reduce the likelihood of insolvency but also to allow for orderly resolution and recapitalisation of insolvent operating subsidiaries in the event of a banking group's insolvency.

### Impacts for capital planning

Strategic considerations in the medium-term capital plan will be driven by key impacts such as a more restrictive approach to the capital base, higher capital ratio targets and enhanced risk coverage:

- Absolute capital levels will need to be higher earlier;
- Higher relative risk-weighted assets will exacerbate the absolute capital required and the stress impact; and
- Inclusion of PRA (and/or firm) stress buffers making stress a key driver of bank target CET1 ratios.

### Recovery and resolution planning

In line with regulatory requirements, RBS prepares regular recovery plans, which include a framework of indicators identifying the points at which appropriate actions may be taken in the event of unexpected weaknesses in its capital or liquidity resulting from either idiosyncratic or systemic stress, as well as a menu of options for addressing such weaknesses.

RBS's 2014 Recovery Plan was prepared in line with PRA policy Statement PS8/13, requiring firms to prepare, maintain and review recovery plans. These rules were supplemented by a supervisory statement (SS18/13), (2), which sets out in more detail what the PRA expects firms to consider in their recovery planning. Previous Recovery Plans were submitted to the Financial Services Authority (the PRA's predecessor body) in December 2011 and June 2012, and to the PRA in June 2013.

Recovery Plans are required to be updated annually; it is anticipated that RBS's 2015 Recovery Plan will be prepared in line with revised rules taking into account the European Union Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive of 2014 and the European Banking Authority's regulatory technical standards on recovery planning. These rules would require a bank to notify the PRA, without delay, if it decides to take action under the recovery plan or refrains from taking action.

### Capital management\* continued

#### Economic capital

Economic capital is an internal measure of the risks to which RBS is exposed and is used as a supplement to other risk and capital management tools, such as stress testing and regulatory capital. The measure includes risk exposures for credit, market, business, operational, pension, fixed asset and interest rate risk in the banking book. These models capture risks not fully addressed within the Pillar 1 regulatory framework e.g. concentration, pension, interest rate, business and diversification.

The characteristics of the models are consistent across risks, business lines and throughout the economic cycle, but are also flexible to allow outcomes to be employed for a number of purposes e.g. severity level/confidence interval, time horizon and correlations. Models have been developed internally but are subject to rigorous governance including external benchmarking, independent validation and extensive internal review and challenge. Models are regularly reviewed and continue to be updated for new data sources and improvements in risk modelling methodology.

The ability to change severity levels supports management of earnings volatility and capital risk. Economic models are used in the ICAAP assessing risk profiles within the risk appetite framework, functional risk management e.g. credit exposures at both RBS and business levels, assessing business line profitability on a risk adjusted basis and the management and allocation of capital.

#### Future regulatory developments

##### Resolution and recovery directive

In addition to the capital requirements under CRD IV, the resolution and recovery directive (RRD) introduces requirements for banks to maintain at all times a sufficient aggregate amount of own funds and eligible liabilities (that is, liabilities that may be bailed in using the bail-in tool), known as the minimum requirements for eligible liabilities (MREL). The aim is that the minimum amount should be proportionate and adapted for each category of bank on the basis of their risk or the composition of their sources of funding.

The UK government has transposed the RRD's provisions into law with a requirement that the Bank of England adopt further secondary legislation to implement MREL requirements by 2016 which will take into account the regulatory technical standards to be developed by the EBA specifying the assessment criteria that resolution authorities should use to determine the minimum requirement for own funds and eligible liabilities for individual firms.

The EBA noted that the technical standards would be compatible with the proposed term sheet published by the FSB on TLAC requirements for G-SIBs, but there remains a degree of uncertainty as to the extent to which MREL and TLAC requirements may differ.

As the implementation of the capital requirements under RRD is the subject to the adoption of secondary legislation and implementation in the UK and overall capital requirements will be subject to the exercise of certain discretion by the PRA, RBS is currently unable to predict the impact such rules will have on the overall capital requirements or how they will affect compliance with applicable capital and loss absorbency requirements.

\*unaudited

#### Pillar 2

The PRA launched a consultation paper in January 2015 on the Pillar 2 capital requirements for UK banks. Proposed changes are intended to support a more risk sensitive and consistent approach to setting Pillar 2A (P2A) capital and to provide greater transparency of the PRA capital setting process by allowing firms to manage present and future regulatory capital demands. Proposed changes are as follows:

- The variable element of P2A to be expressed as a percentage of RWAs plus fixed add-ons instead of the current method where P2A is a formula comprising both a variable and a fixed element;
- The PRA buffer will replace the current Capital Planning Buffer (CPB). Use of the buffer will not be a breach in capital requirements and will not result in capital distribution restrictions however, failure to meet Pillar 2B (P2B) buffer may result in enhanced supervisory action;
- The P2B buffer will be calculated as a percentage of RWAs rather than absolute terms and is to be met with CET1;
- Firms already subject to a CPB will be required to meet P2B with CET1 in full immediately;
- Firms considered to have weak risk management and governance will be required to hold additional PRA buffer applied on a scalar ranging from 10-40% of a firms CET1 Pillar 1 plus P2A capital requirements; and
- Firms will have the discretion to publicly disclose their aggregate P2A charge from 1 January 2016. Component parts of P2A and the PRA buffer will remain confidential.

The PRA estimates that the total impact of proposals will increase overall P2A requirements by 0.23% of RWAs. Implementation will be from 1 January 2016 in line with the CRD IV capital conservation and systemic buffers and the EBA's Supervisory Review and Evaluation Process guidelines.

#### Domestically Systemically Important Banks

Regulatory proposals relating to domestically systemically important banks (DSIBs) continue to be progressed and could impact the level of CET1 that is required to be held by RBS and specific legal entities including NatWest and the Royal Bank. The EBA published in December 2014 a quantitative methodology as to how European regulators could quantify which firms would qualify as DSIBs. In addition the FPC intends to consult with firms in the UK on the UK framework during 2015.

#### Systemic risk buffer

In January 2015, HM Treasury issued an explanatory memorandum on the systemic risk buffer for banks, building societies and investment firms. The regulation implements Articles 133 and 134 of Directive 2013/36/EU and addresses the outstanding capital buffer element of the ring-fencing policy recommended by the Independent Commission on Banking (ICB) and agreed by the UK Government.

The purpose of the systemic risk buffer is to prevent and mitigate long term non-cyclical systemic or macro prudential risks not covered by existing regulation where there is potential for serious negative consequences for the financial system and real economy.

The systemic risk buffer will apply to large banks with core (ring fenced entity) deposits of more than £25 billion and large building societies with deposits of more than £25 billion. Implementation will occur from 1 January 2019 and capital buffers will range from 0-3% of a firm's RWAs.

The FPC will set out the framework for determining which institutions fall into scope and the size of the buffer to be held. A consultation paper will be published in 2015 and methodology by 31 May 2016. The PRA will be responsible for applying the framework and will have ultimate discretion over which firms must hold the buffer and its specific size.

### Total loss absorbing capital (TLAC) and maximum distributable amounts (MDA)

The FSB has issued policy proposals for public consultation on TLAC. The new proposal is intended to replace the gone-concern loss absorbing capital concept previously expected to be the template within the G-SIB's resolution strategies.

The proposed minimum TLAC requirements are as follows:

- Between 16% and 20% of RWAs and at least double the Basel III Tier 1 leverage ratio requirements - 16% represents roughly twice the minimum capital requirement (8%) under Basel III;
- A certain minimum (currently undefined) amount of the TLAC requirement will need to be met with non-equity instruments - AT1, Tier 2 or even Tier 3 or bail-in able debt;
- Minimum TLAC requirements will sit below the combined buffer requirements which may lead to consequences on MDA restrictions;
- The loss absorption should be legally enforceable and should not give rise to systemic risk or disruption to the provision of critical functions. Therefore, to prevent a G-SIB resolution to spread contagion into the banking system, internationally active banks will be prevented from holding TLAC issued by other G-SIBs;

- TLAC will be distributed by resolution entities to material subsidiaries which are themselves not resolution entities. Sufficient internal TLAC will be prepositioned on the balance sheet of material subsidiaries; and
- Under the policy proposal TLAC is now defined as an additional rather than a parallel capital requirement to the Basel III framework and a breach of the minimum TLAC could trigger the same restrictions set out in the Basel III framework for MDA. However, this would technically be the consequence of a direct breach of the CRD IV buffer rather than the TLAC due to the no double counting principle.

The FSB is currently working on draft principles with the rule expected to be in force by 1 January 2019.

### Other developments

The following developments will also impact RBS's capital:

- The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision:
  - Has proposed a recalibration of the credit risk standardised approach with implementation in 2017 with initial view of the new rules due in 2015.
  - Are reviewing the calibration of the operational risk calculation, with revised rules due in 2015 and applicable from 2017.
  - Has instigated a fundamental review of the trading book which will impact how the risk of trading book activity is measured. Initial consultation papers on this are due in 2015.
- The PRA and FPC are looking at placing a floor on the risk-weight applied to mortgages in calculating the risk-weight. The level of the floor is currently being debated and current expectations are application in 2015.
- The Financial Services (Banking Reform) Act passed into UK law in December 2013 implementing recommendations of the ICB; and
- The US Federal Reserve Board's final rule issued in February 2014, establishing enhanced prudential standards for foreign banking organisations.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Capital management\* continued

#### Measurement

##### Capital and leverage ratios

Capital, RWAs and risk asset ratios, on the basis of transitional rules and end-point CRR, calculated in accordance with PRA definitions, are set out below.

	2014		2013		2012	
	End-point CRR basis (1)	PRA transitional basis	Estimated end-point CRR basis (1)	PRA transitional basis (2)	Basel 2.5 basis	Basel 2.5 basis
	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn
<b>Capital</b>						
CET1 (3)	39.9	39.6	36.8	36.8	42.2	47.3
Tier 1	39.9	47.1	36.8	44.3	50.6	57.1
Total	48.6	60.7	45.5	58.2	63.7	66.8

#### RWAs

Credit risk						
- non-counterparty	264.7	264.7	317.9	317.9	291.1	323.2
- counterparty	30.4	30.4	39.1	39.1	22.3	48.0
Market risk	24.0	24.0	30.3	30.3	30.3	42.6
Operational risk	36.8	36.8	41.8	41.8	41.8	45.8
	355.9	355.9	429.1	429.1	385.5	459.6

#### Risk asset ratios

	%	%	%	%	%	%
CET1 (3)	11.2	11.1	8.6	8.6	10.9	10.3
Tier 1	11.2	13.2	8.6	10.3	13.1	12.4
Total	13.7	17.1	10.6	13.6	16.5	14.5

#### Leverage ratio

	2014	2013 (2)	2012 (2)
Tier 1 capital	£39.9bn	£36.8bn	£37.9bn
Exposure	£939.5bn	£1,082.0bn	£1,236.9bn
Leverage ratio (4)	4.2%	3.4%	3.1%

#### Notes:

- (1) Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) as implemented by the Prudential Regulation Authority in the UK, with effect from 1 January 2014.
- (2) Estimated.
- (3) Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio with effect from 1 January 2014.
- (4) Based on end-point CRR Tier 1 capital and revised 2014 Basel III leverage ratio framework.

#### General:

In accordance with the PRA's Policy Statement PS7/2013 issued in December 2013 on the implementation of CRD IV, all regulatory adjustments and deduction to CET1 have been applied in full (end-point CRR) with the exception of unrealised gains on AFS securities which will be included from 2015 (PRA transitional basis).

CRD IV and Basel III impose a minimum CET1 ratio of 4.5%. Further, CET1 requirements will be imposed through buffers in the CRD. There are three buffers that will affect RBS: the capital conservation buffer set at 2.5% of RWAs; the counter-cyclical capital buffer (up to 2.5% of RWAs), which will be calculated as the weighted average of the countercyclical capital buffer rates applied in the countries where RBS has relevant credit exposures; and the highest of Global-Systemically Important Institution (G-SII), Other-Systemically Important Institution or systemic risk buffers set by the supervisory authorities. RBS has been provisionally allocated a G-SII buffer of 1.5%. The regulatory target capital requirements will be phased in through CRR, and are expected to apply in full from 1 January 2019. Until then, using national discretion the PRA can apply a top-up. As set out in the PRA's Supervisory Statement SS3/13, RBS and other major UK banks and building societies are required to maintain a CET1 ratio of 7%, after taking into account certain adjustments set by the PRA.

From 1 January 2015, RBS must meet at least 56% of its Pillar 2A capital requirement with CET1 capital and the balance with Additional Tier 1 and/or Tier 2 capital. The Pillar 2A capital requirement is the additional capital that RBS must hold, in addition to meeting its Pillar 1 requirements in order to comply with the PRA's overall financial adequacy rule.

Measures in relation to end-point CRR basis, including RWAs, are based on the current interpretation, expectations, and understanding, of the CRR requirements, as well as further regulatory clarity and implementation guidance from the UK and EU authorities (end-point CRR basis). The actual end-point CRR impact may differ when the final technical standards are interpreted and adopted.

#### Capital base:

- (1) Own funds are based on shareholders' equity.
- (2) Includes the nominal value of B shares (£0.5 billion) on the assumption that RBS will be privatised in the future and that they will count as permanent equity in some form by the end of 2017.
- (3) The adjustment arising from the application of the prudent valuation requirements to all assets measured at fair value, has been included in full. The prudent valuation adjustment relating to assets under advanced internal ratings approach has been included in impairment provisions in the determination of the deduction from expected losses.
- (4) Where the deductions from AT1 capital exceed AT1 capital, the excess is deducted from CET1 capital. The excess of AT1 deductions over AT1 capital in year one of transition is due to the application of the current rules to the transitional amounts.
- (5) Insignificant investments in equities of other financial entities (net): long cash equity positions are considered to have matched maturity with synthetic short positions if the long position is held for hedging purposes and sufficient liquidity exists in the relevant market. All the trades are managed and monitored together within the equities business.
- (6) Based on our current interpretations of the Commission Delegated Regulation issued in December 2013 on credit risk adjustments, RBS's standardised latent provision has been reclassified to specific provision and is not included in Tier 2 capital.

#### Risk-weighted assets (RWAs):

- (1) Current securitisation positions are shown as risk-weighted at 1,250%.
- (2) RWA uplifts include the impact of credit valuation adjustments and asset valuation correlation on banks and central counterparties.
- (3) RWAs reflect implementation of the full internal model method suite, and include methodology changes that took effect immediately on CRR implementation.
- (4) Non-financial counterparties and sovereigns that meet the eligibility criteria under CRR are exempt from the credit valuation adjustments volatility charges.
- (5) The CRR final text includes a reduction in the risk-weight relating to small and medium-sized enterprises.

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Capital resources

	2014		2013		2012	
	End-point CRR basis £m	PRA transitional basis £m	Estimated end-point CRR basis £m	PRA transitional basis £m	Basel 2.5 basis £m	Basel 2.5 basis £m
<b>Shareholders' equity (excluding non-controlling interests)</b>						
Shareholders' equity	57,246	57,246	58,742	58,742	58,742	68,678
Preference shares - equity	(4,313)	(4,313)	(4,313)	(4,313)	(4,313)	(4,313)
Other equity instruments	(784)	(784)	(979)	(979)	(979)	(979)
	52,149	52,149	53,450	53,450	53,450	63,386
<b>Non-controlling interests</b>	—	—	—	—	473	403
<b>Regulatory adjustments and deductions</b>						
Own credit	500	500	601	601	726	691
Defined benefit pension fund adjustment	(238)	(238)	(172)	(172)	362	913
Net unrealised available-for-sale (AFS) losses	—	—	—	—	308	346
Cash flow hedging reserve	(1,029)	(1,029)	84	84	84	(1,666)
Deferred tax assets	(1,222)	(1,222)	(2,260)	(2,260)	—	—
Prudential valuation adjustments	(384)	(384)	(781)	(781)	—	—
Goodwill and other intangible assets	(7,781)	(7,781)	(12,368)	(12,368)	(12,368)	(13,545)
Expected losses less impairments	(1,491)	(1,491)	(1,731)	(1,731)	(19)	(1,904)
50% of securitisation positions	—	—	—	—	(748)	(1,107)
Other regulatory adjustments	(585)	(855)	(55)	(55)	(103)	(197)
	(12,230)	(12,500)	(16,682)	(16,682)	(11,758)	(16,469)
<b>CET1 capital</b>	39,919	39,649	36,768	36,768	42,165	47,320
<b>Additional Tier 1 (AT1) capital</b>						
Preference shares - equity	—	—	—	—	4,313	4,313
Preference shares - debt	—	—	—	—	911	1,054
Innovative/hybrid Tier 1 securities	—	—	—	—	4,207	4,125
Qualifying instruments and related share premium subject to phase out	—	5,820	—	5,831	—	—
Qualifying instruments issued by subsidiaries and held by third parties	—	1,648	—	1,749	—	—
<b>AT1 capital</b>	—	7,468	—	7,580	9,431	9,492
<b>Tier 1 deductions</b>						
50% of material holdings	—	—	—	—	(976)	(295)
Tax on expected losses less impairments	—	—	—	—	6	618
	—	—	—	—	(970)	323
<b>Tier 1 capital</b>	39,919	47,117	36,768	44,348	50,626	57,135

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Capital management\* continued

	2014		2013		2012	
	End-point CRR basis £m	PRA transitional basis £m	Estimated end-point CRR basis £m	PRA transitional basis £m	Basel 2.5 basis £m	Basel 2.5 basis £m
<b>Qualifying Tier 2 capital</b>						
Undated subordinated debt	—	—	—	—	2,109	2,194
Dated subordinated debt - net of amortisation	—	—	—	—	12,436	13,420
Qualifying instruments and related share premium	5,542	6,136	3,582	4,431	—	—
Qualifying instruments issued by subsidiaries and held by third parties	3,175	7,490	5,151	9,374	—	—
Unrealised gains on AFS equity shares	—	—	—	—	114	63
Collectively assessed impairment provisions	—	—	—	—	395	399
	8,717	13,626	8,733	13,805	15,054	16,076
<b>Tier 2 deductions</b>						
50% of securitisation positions	—	—	—	—	(748)	(1,107)
Expected losses less impairments	—	—	—	—	(25)	(2,522)
50% of material holdings	—	—	—	—	(976)	(295)
	—	—	—	—	(1,749)	(3,924)
<b>Tier 2 capital</b>	<b>8,717</b>	<b>13,626</b>	<b>8,733</b>	<b>13,805</b>	<b>13,305</b>	<b>12,152</b>
<b>Supervisory deductions</b>						
Unconsolidated investments	—	—	—	—	(36)	(2,243)
Other deductions	—	—	—	—	(236)	(244)
	—	—	—	—	(272)	(2,487)
<b>Total regulatory capital</b>	<b>48,636</b>	<b>60,743</b>	<b>45,501</b>	<b>58,153</b>	<b>63,659</b>	<b>66,800</b>

The table below analyses the movement in end-point CRR CET1 and Tier 2 capital for the year.

	CET1 £m	Tier 2 £m	Total £m
<b>At 1 January 2014</b>	<b>36,768</b>	<b>8,733</b>	<b>45,501</b>
Loss for the year including reclassification of CFG, net of movements in fair value of own credit	(3,571)	—	(3,571)
Share capital and reserve movements in respect of employee share schemes	205	—	205
Ordinary shares issued	300	—	300
Foreign exchange reserve	(208)	—	(208)
AFS reserves	607	—	607
Decrease in goodwill and intangibles deduction	4,032	—	4,032
Deferred tax assets (DTA)	1,038	—	1,038
Prudential valuation adjustments	397	—	397
Excess of expected loss over impairment provisions	240	—	240
Dated subordinated debt issues	—	2,159	2,159
Net dated subordinated debt/grandfathered instruments	—	(1,537)	(1,537)
Foreign exchange movements	—	(638)	(638)
Other movements	111	—	111
<b>At 31 December 2014</b>	<b>39,919</b>	<b>8,717</b>	<b>48,636</b>

### Key points

- On the reclassification of CFG to disposal groups at 31 December 2014, the carrying value exceeded its fair value less costs to sell by £4 billion. The consequential write down has been ascribed to goodwill relating to CFG.
- The lower regulatory capital deduction for DTA is due to the reduction in the net DTA balance reflecting the write down of deferred tax assets during the year.
- Tier 2 issuances of £2.2 billion comprised €1 billion 3.625% subordinated notes and \$2.25 billion 5.125% subordinated notes, both maturing in 2024.

\*unaudited



## Business review Capital and risk management

### Leverage exposure

The leverage exposure is based on the revised 2014 Basel III leverage ratio framework. The leverage ratio as originally included in the CRR is aligned with the internationally agreed ratio from January 2015.

Leverage (1)	End-point CRR basis (2)	
	2014 £bn	2013 (3) £bn
Derivatives	354.0	288.0
Loans and advances	419.6	418.4
Reverse repos	64.7	76.4
Other assets	212.5	245.1
Total assets	1,050.8	1,027.9
Derivatives		
- netting	(330.9)	(227.3)
- potential future exposures	98.8	128.0
Securities financing transactions gross up	25.0	59.8
Weighted undrawn commitments	96.4	100.2
Regulatory deductions and other adjustments	(0.6)	(6.6)
Leverage exposure	939.5	1,082.0

Notes:

- (1) Based on end-point CRR Tier 1 capital and revised 2014 Basel III leverage ratio framework.  
(2) Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) as implemented by the Prudential Regulation Authority in the UK, with effect from 1 January 2014.  
(3) Estimated.

Additional analysis of derivative notionals and undrawn commitments, two of the major components included in the balance sheet contributing to the leverage exposure, is set out below.

### Derivative notionals

Derivative potential future exposures (PFE) are calculated based on the notional value of the contracts and is dependent on the type of contract. For contracts other than credit derivatives the PFE is based on the type and maturity of the contract after the effect of netting arrangements.

The PFE on credit derivatives is based on add-on factors determined by the asset quality of the referenced instrument. Qualifying credit derivatives attract a PFE add-on of 5% and have reference securities issued by public sector entities, multilateral development banks or other investment grade issuers. Non-qualifying credit derivatives attract a PFE add-on of 10%.

The table below analyses the derivative notionals by maturity for contracts other than credit derivatives and credit derivatives by qualifying and not.

	Derivative other than credit derivative			Credit derivative		Total £bn
	<1 year £bn	1-5 years £bn	>5 years £bn	Qualifying £bn	Non-qualifying £bn	
2014						
Interest rate	11,069	10,423	5,839			27,331
Exchange rate	3,649	720	306			4,675
Equity	42	33	2			77
Commodities	1	—	—			1
Credit				99	26	125
Total	14,761	11,176	6,147	99	26	32,209
2013						
Interest rate	10,582	16,212	8,795			35,589
Exchange rate	3,261	814	480			4,555
Equity	43	35	1			79
Commodities	—	1	1			2
Credit				189	64	253
Total	13,886	17,062	9,277	189	64	40,478
2012						
Interest rate	12,515	12,980	7,988			33,483
Exchange rate	3,411	795	492			4,698
Equity	51	52	4			107
Commodities	2	—	2			4
Credit				470	83	553
Total	15,979	13,827	8,486	470	83	38,845

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Capital management\* continued

#### Weighted undrawn commitments

	UK Personal & Business Banking £bn	Ulster Bank £bn	Commercial Banking £bn	Private Banking £bn	Corporate & Institutional Banking £bn	Central items £bn	Citizens Financial Group £bn	RCR £bn	Total £bn
2014									
Unconditionally cancellable items (1)	3.1	0.1	1.0	0.2	2.4	—	1.8	—	8.6
Items with a 20% CCF	0.4	—	0.7	0.1	3.2	—	0.4	—	4.8
Items with a 50% CCF	4.8	1.0	9.8	1.4	36.8	1.6	7.8	0.5	63.7
Items with a 100% CCF	0.1	0.3	2.2	0.8	10.2	3.9	1.5	0.3	19.3
	8.4	1.4	13.7	2.5	52.6	5.5	11.5	0.8	96.4
2013									
							Non-Core		
Unconditionally cancellable items (1)	3.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.7	—	1.7	—	6.2
Items with a 20% CCF	0.4	—	0.6	0.6	1.5	—	0.2	—	3.3
Items with a 50% CCF	5.8	1.0	12.5	1.0	41.9	2.7	7.1	0.7	72.7
Items with a 100% CCF	0.1	0.3	2.4	1.4	12.0	—	1.6	0.2	18.0
	9.4	1.5	15.9	3.1	56.1	2.7	10.6	0.9	100.2

Note:

(1) Based on a 10% credit conversion factor.

### Risk-weighted assets

The table below analyses the movement in credit risk RWAs by key drivers during the year.

	Credit risk		Total £bn
	Non-counterparty £bn	Counterparty £bn	
At 1 January 2014 (Basel 2.5 basis)	291.1	22.3	313.4
CRR impact (1)	26.8	16.8	43.6
At 1 January 2014 (CRR basis)	317.9	39.1	357.0
Foreign exchange movement	1.5	—	1.5
Business movements	(21.6)	(13.9)	(35.5)
Risk parameter changes	(11.7)	—	(11.7)
Methodology changes	(17.9)	5.2	(12.7)
Model updates	(2.7)	—	(2.7)
Other changes	(0.8)	—	(0.8)
At 31 December 2014 (CRR basis)	264.7	30.4	295.1
Modelled (1)	163.2	26.6	189.8
Non-modelled	101.5	3.8	105.3
	264.7	30.4	295.1

Note:

(1) Refer to RWA notes on page 206 for further information.

The table below analyses movements in market and operational risk RWAs during the year.

	Market risk			Operational risk £bn	Total £bn
	CIB £bn	Other £bn	Total £bn		
At 1 January 2014 (Basel 2.5 and CRR bases)	22.4	7.9	30.3	41.8	72.1
Business and market movements	(15.4)	(2.8)	(18.2)	(5.0)	(23.2)
Methodology changes	11.9	—	11.9	—	11.9
At 31 December 2014 (CRR basis)	18.9	5.1	24.0	36.8	60.8
Modelled (1)	14.9	3.3	18.2	—	18.2
Non-modelled	4.0	1.8	5.8	36.8	42.6
	18.9	5.1	24.0	36.8	60.8

Note:

(1) Modelled refers to advanced internal ratings basis for non-counterparty credit risk, internal model method for counterparty credit risk, and value-at-risk and related models for market risk. These principally relate to CIB (£83 billion) and Commercial Banking (£48 billion).

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

The table below analyses RWA movements by segment during the year.

Total RWAs	UK Personal & Business Banking £bn	Ulster Bank £bn	Commercial Banking £bn	Private Banking £bn	Corporate & Institutional Banking £bn	Central items £bn	Citizens Financial Group £bn	RCR £bn	Non-Core £bn	Total £bn
<b>At 31 December 2013 (Basel 2.5 basis)</b>	51.2	30.7	65.8	12.0	120.4	20.1	56.1	—	29.2	385.5
Impact of dissolution of Non-Core and creation of RCR	—	(1.9)	(2.7)	—	(10.0)	0.1	2.0	41.7	(29.2)	—
CRR impact	(1.5)	(0.6)	(1.6)	—	36.7	3.1	2.5	5.0	—	43.6
<b>At 1 January 2014 (CRR basis)</b>	49.7	28.2	61.5	12.0	147.1	23.3	60.6	46.7	—	429.1
Foreign exchange movement	—	(1.1)	—	—	(1.0)	—	3.6	—	—	1.5
Business movements	(0.3)	0.3	—	—	(36.8)	(6.1)	4.2	(20.0)	—	(58.7)
Risk parameter changes <sup>(1)</sup>	(5.0)	(3.6)	0.2	—	—	—	—	(3.3)	—	(11.7)
Methodology changes <sup>(2)</sup>	—	—	1.7	(0.2)	(2.0)	—	—	(0.3)	—	(0.8)
Model updates <sup>(3)</sup>	(1.6)	—	0.6	—	(0.2)	(0.4)	—	(1.1)	—	(2.7)
Other changes	—	—	—	(0.3)	—	(0.5)	—	—	—	(0.8)
<b>At 31 December 2014 (CRR basis)</b>	42.8	23.8	64.0	11.5	107.1	16.3	68.4	22.0	—	355.9

### Notes:

- (1) Risk parameter changes relate to changes in credit quality metrics of customers and counterparties such as probability of default (PD) and loss given default (LGD). They comprise:
- UK PBB and Ulster Bank: primarily reflects recalibration of PD and LGD models reflecting improvements to the UK economy.
  - RCR: decrease in defaulted assets (£1.0 billion) and internal rating upgrades for certain counterparties (£0.8 billion).
- (2) Methodology changes included:
- Commercial Banking: revisions to both currency netting and maturity dates for securitisation liquidity facilities.
  - CIB: £2.0 billion primarily represents inclusion of hedges in the credit valuation adjustments calculation. In addition there were offsetting movements of £11.4 billion reflecting transition of trading book securitisations from credit risk to market risk; and £7.5 billion reflecting reclassification of new CRR related charges, primarily asset value correlation and certain exchange traded derivatives from non-counterparty credit risk to counterparty credit risk.
- (3) The following models were updated during the year:
- UK PBB: revised retail LGD model.
  - Commercial Banking and RCR: new large corporate PD model.
  - CIB: reduction due to the impact of exposure at default model £2.6 billion was offset by the new large corporate PD model.

### Key points

- RBS RWAs increased from £385 billion on a Basel 2.5 basis to £429 billion on a CRR basis principally reflecting:
  - 1,250% risk weighting of securitisation positions; previously capital deductions;
  - Impact of credit valuation adjustment and asset valuation correlation relating to banks and central counterparty;
  - Implementation of CRR model suite; and
  - Reduction in risk weighting for small and medium sized enterprises (SME).
- UK PBB RWAs reduced due to improvements in credit quality, recovery in the UK economy and lower balances.
- In Commercial Banking, credit risk RWAs increased by £5 billion due to growth in loans (£2 billion) and methodology changes (£2 billion) and model changes (£1 billion), offset by a £2 billion decrease in operational risk RWAs.
- CIB managed down RWAs by £40 billion, through both balance sheet and risk reductions. The reduction included £15 billion of market risk RWAs due to the wind down of the US asset-backed products business, £6 billion credit risk RWAs in GTS and Portfolio and £10 billion in Rates reflecting counterparty reviews as well as exits, novations and mitigation. Operational risk RWAs decreased by £3 billion.
- The RCR disposal strategy and run-off resulted in a £25 billion reduction in RWAs, £9 billion each in real estate finance and corporate, and a further £5 billion and £2 billion in Markets and Ulster Bank respectively.

### In relation to RWA density:

- The increase in RWA density of exposures reflected the impact of credit valuation adjustments and asset valuation correlation and those on structured entities related to revised RWA treatments, both relating to the implementations of CRD IV.
- Non-modelled standardised credit risk RWAs principally comprised CFG (£63 billion), and Private Banking (£10 billion); repo transactions undertaken by RBSSI, the broker-dealer and certain securitisation exposures.
- Total shipping portfolio exposure at default (EAD) was £10.9 billion and RWAs of £8.4 billion of which £2.3 billion and £1.7 billion were in RCR.
- Oil and gas RWAs were £8.5 billion at a density of 49%. Mining and metals RWAs were £3.3 billion with a density of 74%.

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Capital management\* continued

#### EAD and RWA density

The tables below analyse exposure at default (EAD) after credit risk mitigation (CRM), RWAs and related RWA density (RWAs as a percentage of EAD) by sector cluster. RWAs at 31 December 2014 are under current rules and 31 December 2013 are on a Basel 2.5 basis. Refer to page 215 for a bridge between balance sheet and EAD.

2014	EAD post CRM (1)			RWAs			RWA density		
	AIRB £m	STD £m	Total £m	AIRB £m	STD £m	Total £m	AIRB %	STD %	Total %
<b>Sector cluster</b>									
<b>Sovereign</b>									
Central banks	44,007	50,539	94,546	1,632	78	1,710	4	—	2
Central government	16,373	9,944	26,317	1,775	61	1,836	11	1	7
Other sovereign	4,936	6,548	11,484	1,250	386	1,636	25	6	14
Total sovereign	65,316	67,031	132,347	4,657	525	5,182	7	1	4
<b>Financial institutions (FI)</b>									
Banks	32,777	2,081	34,858	15,089	488	15,577	46	23	45
Other FI (2)	41,420	22,535	63,955	15,585	9,960	25,545	38	44	40
SSPEs (3)	17,504	2,634	20,138	6,216	4,410	10,626	36	167	53
Total FI	91,701	27,250	118,951	36,890	14,858	51,748	40	55	44
<b>Corporates</b>									
<b>Property</b>									
- UK	48,081	3,463	51,544	23,736	3,390	27,126	49	98	53
- Ireland	7,541	31	7,572	1,283	33	1,316	17	106	17
- Other Western Europe	4,625	431	5,056	2,321	445	2,766	50	103	55
- US	1,334	7,481	8,815	722	7,551	8,273	54	101	94
- RoW	2,048	284	2,332	1,296	249	1,545	63	88	66
Total property	63,629	11,690	75,319	29,358	11,668	41,026	46	100	54
<b>Natural resources</b>									
- Oil and gas	15,704	1,876	17,580	6,864	1,665	8,529	44	89	49
- Mining and metals	3,744	635	4,379	2,602	660	3,262	69	104	74
- Other	16,173	1,070	17,243	6,367	861	7,228	39	80	42
<b>Transport</b>									
- Shipping	8,332	2,571	10,903	5,790	2,575	8,365	69	100	77
- Other	21,268	3,297	24,565	9,176	2,865	12,041	43	87	49
Manufacturing	29,450	8,430	37,880	12,673	8,257	20,930	43	98	55
Retail and leisure	24,564	8,262	32,826	14,940	8,027	22,967	61	97	70
Services	23,489	8,426	31,915	13,327	8,350	21,677	57	99	68
TMT (4)	13,555	2,790	16,345	7,079	2,806	9,885	52	101	60
Total corporates	219,908	49,047	268,955	108,176	47,734	155,910	49	97	58
<b>Personal</b>									
<b>Mortgages</b>									
- UK	113,884	7,794	121,678	10,651	3,121	13,772	9	40	11
- Ireland	15,544	37	15,581	13,137	18	13,155	85	49	84
- Other Western Europe	193	311	504	16	124	140	8	40	28
- US	131	21,088	21,219	10	10,352	10,362	8	49	49
- RoW	407	589	996	39	232	271	10	39	27
Total mortgages	130,159	29,819	159,978	23,853	13,847	37,700	18	46	24
Other personal	31,628	15,971	47,599	13,233	11,805	25,038	42	74	53
Total personal	161,787	45,790	207,577	37,086	25,652	62,738	23	56	30
Other items	4,465	18,363	22,828	3,012	16,580	19,592	67	90	86
Total	543,177	207,481	750,658	189,821	105,349	295,170	35	51	39

#### Pillar 3

Additional analysis of exposure at default and credit risk measures such as credit risk mitigation, counterparty credit risk and provisions and their associated RWAs under the approaches according to the PRA permissions in force provided in RBS's Pillar 3 Report 2014.

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### EAD and RWA density

2013	EAD post CRM (1)			RWAs			RWA density		
	AIRB £m	STD £m	Total £m	AIRB £m	STD £m	Total £m	AIRB %	STD %	Total %
<b>Sector cluster</b>									
<i>Sovereign</i>									
Central banks	34,809	59,351	94,160	1,289	180	1,469	4	—	2
Central government	17,940	8,401	26,341	2,418	30	2,448	13	—	9
Other sovereign	5,323	5,525	10,848	1,451	149	1,600	27	3	15
<b>Total sovereign</b>	<b>58,072</b>	<b>73,277</b>	<b>131,349</b>	<b>5,158</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>5,517</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Financial institutions (FI)</i>									
Banks	37,718	2,769	40,487	11,922	689	12,611	32	25	31
Other FI (2)	43,460	14,033	57,493	16,391	7,940	24,331	38	57	42
SSPEs (3)	21,564	2,523	24,087	5,827	2,189	8,016	27	87	33
<b>Total FI</b>	<b>102,742</b>	<b>19,325</b>	<b>122,067</b>	<b>34,140</b>	<b>10,818</b>	<b>44,958</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>37</b>
<i>Corporates</i>									
<b>Property</b>									
- UK	50,250	2,771	53,021	27,904	2,461	30,365	56	89	57
- Ireland	10,338	107	10,445	3,087	136	3,223	30	127	31
- Other Western Europe	8,764	143	8,907	4,937	130	5,067	56	91	57
- US	1,126	6,527	7,653	600	6,272	6,872	53	96	90
- RoW	3,579	317	3,896	2,817	253	3,070	79	80	79
<b>Total property</b>	<b>74,057</b>	<b>9,865</b>	<b>83,922</b>	<b>39,345</b>	<b>9,252</b>	<b>48,597</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>58</b>
Natural resources	29,403	2,826	32,229	15,586	2,435	18,021	53	86	56
Transport	31,677	3,024	34,701	21,678	2,709	24,387	68	90	70
Manufacturing	24,649	7,775	32,424	13,607	7,599	21,206	55	98	65
Retail and leisure	23,974	7,744	31,718	18,302	7,591	25,893	76	98	82
Services	22,716	8,757	31,473	15,972	8,382	24,354	70	96	77
TMT (4)	13,550	2,222	15,772	8,470	2,198	10,668	63	99	68
<b>Total corporates</b>	<b>220,026</b>	<b>42,213</b>	<b>262,239</b>	<b>132,960</b>	<b>40,166</b>	<b>173,126</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>66</b>
<i>Personal</i>									
<b>Mortgages</b>									
- UK	110,470	7,841	118,311	14,412	3,267	17,679	13	42	15
- Ireland	17,148	33	17,181	16,108	12	16,120	94	36	94
- Other Western Europe	202	507	709	25	202	227	12	40	32
- US	121	19,717	19,838	15	9,756	9,771	12	49	49
- RoW	396	242	638	50	107	157	13	44	25
<b>Total mortgages</b>	<b>128,337</b>	<b>28,340</b>	<b>156,677</b>	<b>30,610</b>	<b>13,344</b>	<b>43,954</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>28</b>
Other personal	33,358	14,521	47,879	15,286	10,703	25,989	46	74	54
<b>Total personal</b>	<b>161,695</b>	<b>42,861</b>	<b>204,556</b>	<b>45,896</b>	<b>24,047</b>	<b>69,943</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>34</b>
Other items	4,756	19,189	23,945	4,061	15,798	19,859	85	82	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>547,291</b>	<b>196,865</b>	<b>744,156</b>	<b>222,215</b>	<b>91,188</b>	<b>313,403</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>

#### Notes:

- (1) Exposure at default post credit risk mitigation reflects an estimate of the extent to which a bank will be exposed under a specific facility, in the event of the default of a counterparty; AIRB: advanced internal ratings based; STD: standardised.
- (2) Non-bank financial institutions, such as US agencies, insurance companies, pension funds, hedge and leverage funds, broker-dealers and non-bank subsidiaries of banks.
- (3) Securitisation structured purpose entities primarily relate to securitisation related vehicles.
- (4) Telecommunications, media and technology.

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Capital management\* continued

#### Accounting to regulatory consolidation bridge

The table below provides a reconciliation between accounting and regulatory consolidation.

	2014				2013			
	Accounting balance sheet £m	Deconsolidation of insurance and other entities (1) £m	Consolidation of banking associates/ other entities (2) £m	Regulatory consolidation £m	Accounting balance sheet £m	Deconsolidation of insurance and other entities (1) £m	Consolidation of banking associates/ other entities (2) £m	Regulatory consolidation £m
<b>Assets</b>								
Cash and balances at central banks	74,872	(13)	650	75,509	82,659	—	430	83,089
Loans and advances	421,973	1,900	4,565	428,438	494,793	1,191	3,572	499,556
Debt securities	86,649	(290)	1,258	87,617	113,599	(7)	1,086	114,678
Equity shares	5,635	(30)	93	5,698	8,811	(3)	—	8,808
Settlement balances	4,667	—	—	4,667	5,591	—	—	5,591
Derivatives	353,590	355	24	353,969	288,039	—	—	288,039
Intangible assets	7,781	—	4	7,785	12,368	—	—	12,368
Property, plant and equipment	6,167	(457)	86	5,796	7,909	(948)	32	6,993
Deferred tax	1,540	—	—	1,540	3,478	—	—	3,478
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	5,878	(38)	(508)	5,332	7,614	(488)	(533)	6,593
Assets of disposal groups	82,011	—	—	82,011	3,017	—	—	3,017
	1,050,763	1,427	6,172	1,058,362	1,027,878	(255)	4,587	1,032,210
<b>Liabilities</b>								
Deposits by banks and customer accounts	452,304	893	5,452	458,649	534,859	(5)	4,150	539,004
Debt securities in issue	50,280	796	305	51,381	67,819	—	—	67,819
Settlement balances	4,503	—	—	4,503	5,313	—	—	5,313
Short positions	23,029	—	—	23,029	28,022	—	—	28,022
Derivatives	349,805	—	17	349,822	285,526	(208)	—	285,318
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	13,346	(241)	398	13,503	16,017	(33)	139	16,123
Retirement benefit liabilities	2,579	—	—	2,579	3,210	—	—	3,210
Deferred tax	500	—	—	500	507	(9)	—	498
Subordinated liabilities	22,905	—	—	22,905	24,012	—	298	24,310
Liabilities of disposal groups	71,320	—	—	71,320	3,378	—	—	3,378
	990,571	1,448	6,172	998,191	968,663	(255)	4,587	972,995
Non-controlling interests	2,946	(21)	—	2,925	473	—	—	473
Owners' equity	57,246	—	—	57,246	58,742	—	—	58,742
Total equity	60,192	(21)	—	60,171	59,215	—	—	59,215
	1,050,763	1,427	6,172	1,058,362	1,027,878	(255)	4,587	1,032,210

#### Notes:

(1) RBS can only include particular types of subsidiary undertaking in the regulatory consolidation. Insurance undertakings and non-financial undertakings are excluded from the regulatory consolidation, although they are included in the consolidation for financial reporting.

(2) RBS must proportionally consolidate its associates for regulatory purposes where they are classified as credit institutions or financial institutions. These will generally have been equity accounted for financial reporting purposes.

\*unaudited



## Business review Capital and risk management

### Balance sheet to EAD bridge

The table below provides a bridge between the balance sheet and credit EAD by balance sheet caption.

	Other regulatory adjustments												Total EAD £bn	Undrawn and off-balance sheet EAD £bn	Total EAD £bn
	Balance sheet £bn	Consolidation differences (1) £bn	Regulatory consolidation £bn	Within the scope of market risk (2) £bn	Credit provisions (3) £bn	Netting and collateral (4) £bn	Capital deduction (5) £bn	Disposal groups (6) £bn	Methodology differences and reclassifications (7) £bn	Total drawn EAD £bn					
2014															
Cash and balances at central banks	74.9	0.6	75.5	—	—	—	—	0.6	—	76.1	—	76.1			
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	64.7	—	64.7	—	—	(37.8)	—	—	—	26.9	—	26.9			
Loans and advances	357.3	6.5	363.8	—	17.5	(33.4)	—	62.2	(11.2)	398.9	100.6	499.5			
Debt securities	86.6	1.0	87.6	(49.3)	0.3	—	—	15.3	(0.2)	53.7	—	53.7			
Equity shares	5.6	—	5.6	(4.9)	0.1	—	—	0.6	0.3	1.7	—	1.7			
Settlement balances	4.7	—	4.7	(4.7)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Derivatives	353.6	0.4	354.0	—	1.4	(295.3)	—	0.4	(9.1)	51.4	—	51.4			
Intangible assets	7.8	—	7.8	—	—	—	(8.4)	0.6	—	—	—	—			
Property, plant and equipment	6.2	(0.4)	5.8	—	—	—	—	0.5	0.5	6.8	—	6.8			
Deferred tax	1.5	—	1.5	—	—	—	(1.2)	—	(0.2)	0.1	—	0.1			
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	5.9	(0.5)	5.4	—	—	—	—	1.8	(0.1)	7.1	—	7.1			
Assets of disposal groups	82.0	—	82.0	—	—	—	—	(82.0)	—	—	—	—			
Total assets	1,050.8	7.6	1,058.4	(58.9)	19.3	(366.5)	(9.6)	—	(20.0)	622.7	100.6	723.3			
Contingent obligations												27.4	27.4		
												128.0	750.7		
2013															
Cash and balances at central banks	82.7	0.4	83.1	—	—	—	—	—	1.7	84.8	—	84.8			
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	76.4	—	76.4	—	—	(51.3)	—	—	—	25.1	—	25.1			
Loans and advances	418.4	4.7	423.1	—	25.2	(28.4)	(0.4)	1.8	(9.7)	411.6	75.6	487.2			
Debt securities	113.6	1.1	114.7	(56.7)	0.3	—	(1.5)	—	2.0	58.8	0.1	58.9			
Equity shares	8.8	—	8.8	(7.2)	0.1	—	—	—	(0.1)	1.6	—	1.6			
Settlement balances	5.6	—	5.6	(5.6)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Derivatives	288.0	—	288.0	—	1.8	(242.8)	—	—	(2.1)	44.9	—	44.9			
Intangible assets	12.4	—	12.4	—	—	—	(12.4)	—	—	—	—	—			
Property, plant and equipment	7.9	(0.9)	7.0	—	—	—	—	—	0.7	7.7	—	7.7			
Deferred tax	3.5	—	3.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.5	—	3.5			
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	7.6	(1.0)	6.6	—	—	—	(1.1)	0.9	(6.4)	—	—	—			
Assets of disposal groups	3.0	—	3.0	—	—	—	—	(2.7)	(0.3)	—	—	—			
Total assets	1,027.9	4.3	1,032.2	(69.5)	27.4	(322.5)	(15.4)	—	(14.2)	638.0	75.7	713.7			
Contingent obligations												30.5	30.5		
												106.2	744.2		

#### Notes:

- (1) Represents proportional consolidation of associates and deconsolidation of certain subsidiaries, as required by regulatory rules. Refer to previous page for additional details.
- (2) The exposures in regulatory trading book businesses are subject to market risk and are therefore excluded from EAD. Refer to the Market risk section on page 298.
- (3) Impairment loss provisions on loans and advances and securities, and credit valuation adjustment on derivatives.
- (4) Includes:
  - Reverse repos: reflects regulatory approach for securities financing transactions including netting of collateral and cash legs.
  - Loans and advances: cash collateral pledged with counterparties in relation to net derivative liability positions.
  - Derivatives: impact of master netting arrangements.
- (5) Capital deductions are excluded as EAD only captures exposures for credit RWAs.
- (6) Amounts reclassified to balance sheet lines for EAD.
- (7) Primarily includes:
  - Loans and advances: offset related to cash management pooling arrangements not allowed under IFRS and standardised approach credit risk mitigation.
  - Derivatives: EAD valuation adjustments offset by difference between netting arrangements and netting within regulatory model sets.
  - Property, plant and equipment: includes residual value of operating leases.

\*unaudited

### Liquidity and funding risk

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### Liquidity and funding risk

#### Definition

Liquidity and funding risk is the risk that RBS is unable to meet its financial obligations, including financing wholesale maturities or customer deposit withdrawals, as and when they fall due.

The risk arises through the maturity transformation role that banks perform. It is dependent on RBS specific factors such as maturity profile, composition of sources and uses of funding, the quality and size of the liquidity portfolio as well as broader market factors, such as wholesale market conditions alongside depositor and investor behaviour.

#### Overview and key developments

- The liquidity position strengthened with the liquidity portfolio of £150.7 billion at 31 December 2014 covering short-term wholesale funding (STWF) more than five times. STWF decreased by £4.6 billion to £27.8 billion mainly due to the buy-back and maturity of medium-term notes in CIB.
- The liquidity portfolio increased by £4.6 billion in the year, primarily reflecting the proceeds from the Citizens IPO and the sale of €9 billion securities from the RBS N.V. bond portfolio. It includes £57 billion of secondary liquidity being assets eligible for discounting at central banks. The costs associated with maintaining the secondary liquidity portfolio are minimal being largely administrative and operational costs.
- The liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) was 112% at 31 December 2014, based on RBS's interpretation of the EU guidelines. The improvement in LCR from 102% at year end 2013 reflects reductions in wholesale funding due to CIB balance sheet and risk reduction and an increase in retail deposits. With effect from 1 October 2015, LCR will replace the PRA's current regime, with an initial minimum requirement of 80% rising to 100% by 2018.
- The net stable funding ratio (NSFR) based on RBS's interpretation of the Basel framework was stable at 121% at 31 December 2014.
- Liquidity risk appetite is measured by reference to the liquidity portfolio as a proportion of net stressed outflows and ratio was 186% (2013 - 145%) under the worst case stress scenario. The improvement in 2014 reflected lower stress outflows due to balance sheet reductions in CIB.
- During 2014 RBS successfully issued £2.2 billion of Tier 2 subordinated debt, compared with £1.8 billion in 2013. RBSG plc had senior unsecured debt outstanding of £6.9 billion, excluding commercial paper and certificates of deposit, at 31 December 2014. Based on its assessment of the Financial Stability Board's proposals, RBS may issue between £3 - 5 billion per annum during 2015 - 2019 to meet total loss absorbing capital requirements.
- The customer loan:deposit ratio remained broadly stable at 95% compared with 94% at the end of 2013 with an increase in the funding surplus in PBB of £4.4 billion (UK PPB - £1.4 billion; Ulster Bank - £3.0 billion) being offset by a decrease in the funding surplus in CPB of £6.6 billion (Commercial Banking - £5.7 billion; Private Banking - £0.9 billion).

\*unaudited

### Liquidity risk

#### Policy, framework and governance

Internal liquidity policies are designed to ensure that RBS:

- *Has a clearly stated liquidity risk tolerance:* appetite for liquidity risk is set by the Board as a percentage of the Individual Liquidity Adequacy Assessment (ILAA) stressed outflows, and is managed on a daily basis by legal entity, country, region and business. In setting risk limits the Board takes into account the nature of RBS various activities, the overall risk appetite, market best practice and regulatory compliance.
- *Has in place strategies, policies and practices to ensure that RBS maintains sufficient liquidity:* the risk management framework determines the sources of liquidity risk and the steps that can be taken when these risks exceed certain actively monitored limits. These actions include when and how to use the liquid asset portfolio, and what other adjustments to the balance sheet should be undertaken to manage these risks within the bank's risk appetite. RBS maintains an adequate liquid asset portfolio appropriate to the business activities of RBS and its risk profile.
- *Incorporates liquidity costs, benefits and risks in product pricing and performance management:* RBS uses internal funds transfer pricing to ensure that these costs are reflected in the measurement of business performance, and to correctly incentivise businesses to source the most appropriate mix of funding.

The Asset and Liability Management Committee (ALCo) sets and reviews the liquidity risk management framework and limits within the risk appetite set by the Board. ALCo, and by delegation the Liquidity Committee, oversees the implementation of liquidity management across RBS. RBS Treasury conducts the review, challenge and reporting of RBS's liquidity performance, while the Liquidity Committee's management of liquidity risk is overseen by ALCo, the Executive Risk Forum, Executive Committee and the Board.

#### Regulatory oversight and liquidity framework\*

RBS operates across multiple jurisdictions and is subject to a number of regulatory regimes.

The principal regulator, the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA), has a comprehensive set of liquidity regulations, the cornerstone of which is Prudential sourcebook for Banks, Building Societies and Investment Firms (BIPRU) 12 (until 30 September 2015). To comply with the PRA regulatory process, RBS undertakes the following:

- An annual exercise to complete the ILAA; and
- An annual Focused Liquidity Review (FLR) process with the PRA - a comprehensive review of the RBS ILAA, liquidity policies and risk management framework. This results in the settings of the Individual Liquidity Guidance, which influences the size and overall composition of RBS liquid asset portfolio.

### Liquidity risk continued

In addition, RBS's US operations meet liquidity requirements set out by the Federal Reserve Board, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. In Europe, Ulster Bank Ireland Limited and RBS N.V. are both subject to oversight by the European Central Bank with effect from 1 November 2014.

The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) has introduced a new liquidity regime for banks, Basel III, which includes two liquidity metrics, the LCR and NSFR, to be used by banks to monitor their liquidity risk.

In January 2013, the BCBS published its final guidance for calculating the LCR. This will be implemented in law across the EU by the European Commission (EC), who published a final Delegated Act for the LCR in the EU Journal in January 2015. The Delegated Act will introduce the LCR as a regulatory minimum standard from 1 October 2015 on a phased basis, such that banks are required to meet a 100% LCR ratio by 1 January 2018. In November 2014, the PRA confirmed in a consultation paper that the current BIPRU 12 regime will be revoked on 1 October 2015 in favour of the LCR, and that UK banks will be required to maintain a minimum ratio of 80% from this point. The LCR will be a Pillar 1 metric, meaning that the PRA will apply firm-specific Pillar 2 liquidity add-ons above and beyond the minimum LCR requirement. The PRA has invited feedback from UK banks on the consultation paper, but has not released any guidance on the detailed calculation of LCR. Pending PRA reporting guidelines, RBS monitors the LCR using its own internal interpretations of existing guidance.

BCBS published its final recommendations for implementation of the NSFR in October 2014, proposing an implementation date of 1 January 2018, by which time banks are expected to meet an NSFR ratio of 100%. The EC has stated that it shall, if appropriate, submit a legislative proposal to the European Parliament by the end of 2016 for implementing NSFR in the EU. In the meantime, RBS uses the definitions and proposals from the BCBS paper, and internal interpretations, to calculate NSFR.

Several regulatory regimes outside the EU where RBS operates, including the Joint Banking Supervisors of the US, have also published consultation papers with guidance for their local implementation of the LCR. RBS anticipates further guidance for LCR to be published across other jurisdictions during the course of 2015.

### Measurement, monitoring and contingency planning

In implementing the liquidity risk management framework, a suite of tools are used to monitor, limit and stress test the risks within the balance sheet. The limits control the amount and composition of funding sources, asset and liability mismatches and funding concentrations, in addition to the level of liquidity risk.

Liquidity risks are reviewed at a significant legal entity level daily, and at a business level monthly, with performance reported to Asset and Liability Management Committees at least monthly. Any breach of internal metric limits will set in motion a series of actions and escalations that could lead to activation of the Contingency Funding Plan (CFP).

RBS actively monitors a range of market-wide and firm-specific early warning indicators of emerging liquidity stresses. Indicators include such areas as customer deposit outflows, market funding costs and movements in the bank's credit default swap premiums and debt spreads. Early warning indicators and regulatory metrics are reported daily to senior management, including the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer.

RBS maintains a CFP, which forms the basis of analysis and management actions to be undertaken in a liquidity stress. The CFP is linked to stress test results and forms the foundation for liquidity risk limits. The CFP sets out the circumstances under which the plan would be invoked; this includes material worsening of early warning indicators. It also prescribes a communications plan, roles and responsibilities, as well as potential management actions to take in response to various levels of liquidity stress. On invocation of the CFP, the Contingency Liquidity Team would be convened to identify the likely impact of the stress event and determine the appropriate management response.

### Stress testing\*

Under the liquidity risk management framework RBS maintains the ILAA, a component of which is an assessment of net stressed liquidity outflows. These liquidity stress tests apply scenario-based behavioural and contractual assumptions to cash inflows and outflows under the worst of three severe stress scenarios, as prescribed by the PRA. These are a market-wide stress, an idiosyncratic stress and a combination of both.

A stress event can occur when either firm-specific or market-wide factors or a combination of both lead to depositors and investors withdrawing or not renewing funding on maturity. This could be caused by many factors including fears over the viability of the firm. Additionally, liquidity stress can be brought on by customers choosing to draw down on loan agreements and facilities.

Simulated liquidity stress testing is performed at least monthly for each business as well as the major operating subsidiaries in order to evaluate the strength RBS's liquidity risk management. The stressed outflows are measured over certain time periods which extend from two weeks to three months. RBS is expected to be able to withstand the stressed outflows through its own resources (primarily through the use of the liquidity portfolio) without having to resort to extraordinary central bank or governmental assistance.

Stress tests are designed to examine the impact of a variety of firm-specific and market-wide scenarios on the future adequacy of the liquidity reserves. Stress test scenarios are designed to take into account RBS's experiences during the financial crisis, recent market conditions and events. These scenarios can be run at any time in response to the emergence of firm-specific or market-wide risks that could have a material impact on RBS's liquidity position. In the past these have included credit rating changes and political and economic conditions changing in particular countries.

RBS's liquidity risk appetite is measured by reference to the liquidity portfolio as a percentage of net stressed ILAA outflows.

\*unaudited

### Key liquidity risk stress testing assumptions

- **Net wholesale funding** - Outflows at contractual maturity of wholesale funding, with no rollover/new issuance, prime brokerage, 100% loss of excess client derivative margin and 100% loss of excess client cash.
- **Secured financing and increased haircuts** - Loss of secured funding capacity at contractual maturity date and incremental haircut widening, depending upon collateral type.
- **Retail and commercial bank deposits** - Substantial outflows as RBS could be seen as a greater credit risk than competitors.
- **Intra-day cash flows** - Liquid collateral held against intra-day requirement at clearing and payment systems is regarded as encumbered with no liquidity value assumed. Liquid collateral is held against withdrawal of unsecured intra-day lines provided by third parties.
- **Intra-group commitments and support** - Risk of cash within subsidiaries becoming unavailable to the wider bank and contingent calls for funding on RBS Treasury from subsidiaries and affiliates.
- **Funding concentrations** - Additional outflows recognised against concentration of providers of wholesale secured financing.
- **Off-balance sheet activities** - Collateral outflows due to market movements, and all collateral owed by RBS to counterparties but not yet called; anticipated increase in firm's derivative initial margin requirement in stress scenarios; collateral outflows contingent upon a multi-notch credit rating downgrade of RBS entities; drawdown on committed facilities provided to corporates, based on counterparty type, creditworthiness and facility type; and drawdown on retail commitments.
- **Franchise viability** - Liquidity stress testing includes additional liquidity in order to meet outflows that are non-contractual in nature, but are necessary in order to support valuable franchise businesses.
- **Management action** - Unencumbered marketable assets that are held outside of the central liquidity portfolio and are of verifiable liquidity value to the firm, are assumed to be monetised (subject to haircut/valuation adjustment).

### Liquidity portfolio

Liquidity risks are mitigated by a centrally managed liquidity portfolio. The size of the portfolio is determined under the liquidity risk management framework with reference to the RBS's risk appetite.

The majority of the portfolio is centrally managed by RBS Treasury, ring-fenced from the CIB trading book, and is the ultimate responsibility of the RBS Treasurer. This portfolio is held in the PRA regulated UK Defined Liquidity Group (UK DLG) comprising RBS's five UK banks: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, National Westminster Bank Plc, Ulster Bank Limited, Coutts & Co and Adam & Company.

Certain of RBS's significant operating subsidiaries - RBS N.V., Citizens Financial Group Inc, and Ulster Bank Ireland Limited - hold locally managed portfolios of liquid assets that comply with local regulations that differ from PRA rules. These portfolios are the responsibility of the local Treasurer who reports to the RBS Treasurer.

The UK DLG liquidity portfolio accounted for 88% of the total liquidity portfolio, this portion is available to meet liquidity needs as they arise across RBS. The remaining liquidity reserves are held locally within non-UK bank subsidiaries, the majority of this portion (12%) is restricted by regulatory requirements and therefore assumed to only be available for use locally.

Separately from the liquidity portfolio, RBS holds high quality assets to meet payment systems collateral requirements, these are managed by RBS Treasury but are not freely available to other areas of RBS.

RBS categorises its liquidity portfolio, including its locally managed liquidity portfolios, into primary and secondary liquid assets.

- Primary liquid assets that are eligible liquid assets, such as cash and balances at central banks, treasury bills and other high quality government and US agency bonds.
- Secondary liquid assets that are eligible as collateral for local central bank liquidity facilities but do not meet the core local regulatory definition. These assets include own-issued securitisations or whole loans that are retained on balance sheet and pre-positioned with a central bank so that they may be converted into additional sources of liquidity at very short notice.

The composition of the liquidity portfolio is subject to policies and limits set by the Board, ALCo and the Liquidity Committee, it is influenced by quality of counterparty, maturity mix and currency mix. The liquidity value of the portfolio is determined with reference to current market prices and the haircuts necessary to generate cash from the asset.

RBS efficiently manages the liquidity portfolio to optimise the risk and rewards whilst not compromising its liquidity position. This optimisation can lead to changes in the composition of the portfolio.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Liquidity risk continued

#### Liquidity metrics\*

The table below sets out the key liquidity and related metrics monitored by RBS.

	2014	2013	2012
Liquidity portfolio	£151bn	£146bn	£147bn
Stressed outflow coverage (1)	186%	145%	128%
Liquidity coverage ratio (2)	112%	102%	>100%
Net stable funding ratio (3)	121%	120%	115%

#### Notes:

- (1) RBS's liquidity risk appetite is measured by reference to the liquidity portfolio as a percentage of stressed contractual and behavioural outflows under the worst of three severe stress scenarios of a market-wide stress, an idiosyncratic stress and a combination of both in RBS's ILAA. This assessment is performed in accordance with PRA guidance.
- (2) In January 2013, the BCBS issued its revised final guidance for calculating liquidity coverage ratio with a proposed implementation date of 1 January 2015. Within the EU, the LCR is currently expected to come into effect from the later date of 1 October 2015 on a phased basis, subject to the finalisation of the EU Delegated Act. Pending guidance from the PRA, RBS monitors the LCR based on the EU Delegated Act and its internal interpretations of the expected final rules. Consequently RBS's ratio may change over time and may not be comparable with those of other financial institutions.
- (3) BCBS issued its final recommendations for the implementation of the net stable funding ratio in October 2014, proposing an implementation date of 1 January 2018. Pending further guidelines from the EU and the PRA, RBS uses the definitions and proposals from the BCBS paper and internal interpretations, to calculate the NSFR. Consequently RBS's ratio may change over time and may not be comparable with those of other financial institutions.

### Liquidity portfolio

The table below shows RBS's liquidity portfolio by product, liquidity value and by carrying value. Liquidity value is lower than carrying value as it is stated after discounts applied by the Bank of England and other central banks to instruments, within the secondary liquidity portfolio, eligible for discounting.

	Liquidity value								
	UK DLG (1) £m	CFG £m	Other £m	Total £m	Average £m	2013		2012	
2014						Total £m	Average £m	Total £m	Average £m
Cash and balances at central banks	66,409	1,368	633	68,410	61,956	74,362	80,933	70,109	81,768
Central and local government bonds									
AAA rated governments	5,609	—	2,289	7,898	5,935	3,320	5,149	9,885	18,832
AA- to AA+ rated governments and US agencies	6,902	9,281	1,448	17,631	12,792	12,287	12,423	9,621	9,300
Below rated AA governments	—	—	100	100	—	—	151	206	596
Local government	—	—	82	82	21	—	148	979	2,244
	12,511	9,281	3,919	25,711	18,748	15,607	17,871	20,691	30,972
Treasury bills	—	—	—	—	—	—	395	750	202
Primary liquidity	78,920	10,649	4,552	94,121	80,704	89,969	99,199	91,550	112,942
Secondary liquidity (2)	53,055	2,290	1,189	56,534	56,017	56,097	56,589	55,619	41,978
Total liquidity value	131,975	12,939	5,741	150,655	136,721	146,066	155,788	147,169	154,920
Total carrying value	167,016	13,914	6,055	186,985		184,233		187,942	

The table below shows the liquidity value of the liquidity portfolio by currency.

Total liquidity portfolio	GBP £m	USD £m	EUR £m	Other £m	Total £m
2014	93,861	40,556	16,238	—	150,655
2013	100,849	33,365	10,364	1,488	146,066
2012	84,570	35,106	26,662	831	147,169

#### Notes:

- (1) The PRA regulated UK Defined Liquidity Group (UK DLG) comprises RBS's five licensed deposit taking UK banks: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, National Westminster Bank Plc, Ulster Bank Limited, Coutts & Co and Adam & Company. In addition, certain of RBS's significant operating subsidiaries - RBS N.V., Citizens Financial Group Inc. and Ulster Bank Ireland Limited - hold liquidity portfolios of liquid assets that comply with local regulations that may differ from PRA rules.
- (2) Comprises assets eligible for discounting at the Bank of England and other central banks.

\*unaudited



## Business review Capital and risk management

### Net stable funding ratio (NSFR)\*

The table below shows the composition of RBS's NSFR, based on RBS's interpretation of the rules published by BCBS in October 2014. RBS's NSFR may change over time in line with regulatory developments and related interpretations.

	2014		2013		2012		Weighting %
	£bn	ASF/RSF (1) £bn	£bn	ASF/RSF (1) £bn	£bn	ASF/RSF (1) £bn	
Equity							
- regulatory capital	49	49	46	46	67	67	100
- other equity	11	—	13	—	3	—	—
Wholesale funding > 1 year	63	63	76	76	109	109	100
Wholesale funding < 1 year	53	—	51	—	70	—	—
Derivative liabilities	350	—	286	—	434	—	—
Repurchase agreements	65	—	85	—	132	—	—
Deposits							
- retail and SME - more stable	206	196	196	186	203	193	95
- retail and SME - less stable	62	56	66	59	66	59	90
- other	147	74	156	78	164	82	50
Other (2)	45	—	53	—	64	—	—
Total liabilities and equity	1,051	438	1,028	445	1,312	510	
Cash	75	—	83	—	79	—	—
Inter-bank lending	25	4	28	4	29	4	15
Debt securities > 1 year							
- governments AAA to AA-	46	2	47	2	64	3	5
- other eligible bonds	22	3	31	5	48	7	15
- other bonds	9	9	16	16	19	19	100
Debt securities < 1 year	25	13	20	10	26	13	50
Derivative assets							
- assets equal to derivative liabilities	350	—	286	—	434	—	—
- excess over derivative liabilities	4	4	2	2	8	8	100
Reverse repurchase agreements	65	7	76	8	105	11	10
Customer loans and advances > 1 year							
- residential mortgages	138	90	135	88	145	94	65
- other	123	105	114	97	136	116	85
Customer loans and advances < 1 year	134	67	144	72	149	75	50
Other (3)	35	35	46	46	70	70	100
Total assets	1,051	339	1,028	350	1,312	420	
Derivative liabilities after mtm netting arrangements	55	11	44	9	60	12	20
Undrawn commitments	215	11	213	11	216	11	5
Total assets and undrawn commitments	1,321	361	1,285	370	1,588	443	
Net stable funding ratio		121%		120%		115%	

Notes:

(1) Available stable funding and required stable funding.

(2) Deferred tax and other liabilities.

(3) Prepayments, accrued income, deferred tax, settlement balances and other assets.

As the NSFR calculation has been refined during 2014, some of the weightings on available stable funding and required stable funding have been changed and prior periods restated (on the previously reported basis: 2013 - 122%; 2012 - 117%).

\*unaudited

### Funding risk

#### Funding markets

RBS's primary funding source is its customer deposit base, primarily built through its retail and commercial franchises in the UK, Ireland and the US. These deposits form a stable base which fully funds RBS's customer lending activities.

Complementary to its deposit funding, RBS maintains access to various wholesale markets for funding, on both a public and private basis, across a range of currencies, geographies and maturities. These include long-term secured and unsecured debt, short-term money markets and repurchase agreements. RBS has set policies for the prudent use of wholesale funding, as part of its wider liquidity policies.

RBS accesses the wholesale funding markets directly or through its main operating subsidiaries via established funding programmes. The use of different entities to access the market from time to time allows RBS to further diversify its funding mix and in certain limited circumstances demonstrate to regulators that specific operating subsidiaries enjoy market access in their own right.

RBS may access various funding facilities offered by central banks from time to time. The use of such facilities can be both part of a wider strategic objective to support initiatives to help stimulate economic growth or as part of the broader liquidity management and funding strategy. Overall usage and repayment of available central bank facilities will fit within the overall liquidity risk appetite and concentration limits.

At 31 December 2014, RBS's participation in central bank financing operations amounted to £0.8 billion under European Central Bank's Targeted Long Term Refinancing Operations. RBS remains committed to supporting the objectives of the Funding for Lending scheme.

### Analysis

#### Sources and uses of funding

The composition of RBS's balance sheet is a function of the broad array of product offerings and diverse markets served by its core businesses. The structural composition of the balance sheet is augmented as needed through active management of both asset and liability portfolios. The objective of these activities is to optimise the liquidity profile, while ensuring adequate coverage of all cash requirements under extreme stress conditions.

As set out below, RBS's asset and liability types broadly match. Customer deposits provide more funding than customer loans utilise; repurchase agreements are largely covered by reverse repurchase agreements; interbank lending and funding largely nets off and this gap has narrowed over the past 5 years; and derivative assets are largely netted against derivative liabilities.

The table below shows the sources and uses of funding.

	Liabilities		Assets		
	2014 £bn	2013 £bn	2014 £bn	2013 £bn	
Customer deposits (1)	400	407	372	373	Customer loans and advances (1)
Bank deposits (short-term only) (1)	13	14	13	18	Loan and advances to banks (1)
Trading liabilities (2)	71	67	89	93	Trading assets (2)
Other liabilities and equity (3)	95	100	64	90	Other assets (3)
Repurchase agreements	65	85	65	76	Reverse repurchase agreements
Term wholesale funding (1)	57	69	94	90	Primary liquidity portfolio
Funded balance sheet	701	742	697	740	Funded balance sheet
Derivatives	350	286	354	288	Derivatives
	1,051	1,028	1,051	1,028	

Notes:

- (1) Excludes held for trading.
- (2) Financial instruments classified as held-for-trading (HFT) excluding security financing transactions and derivatives.
- (3) Includes non-HFT financial instruments and non financial assets/liabilities.

### Key funding metrics

The table below summarises the key funding metrics.

	Short-term wholesale funding (1)		Total wholesale funding		Net inter-bank funding (2)		
	Excluding derivative collateral £bn	Including derivative collateral £bn	Excluding derivative collateral £bn	Including derivative collateral £bn	Deposits £bn	Loans (3) £bn	Net inter-bank funding £bn
2014	27.8	53.3	90.5	116.0	15.4	(13.3)	2.1
2013	32.4	51.5	108.1	127.2	16.2	(17.3)	(1.1)
2012	41.6	70.2	150.4	179.0	28.5	(18.6)	9.9

Notes:

- (1) Short-term wholesale funding is funding with a residual maturity of less than one year.
- (2) Excludes derivative cash collateral.
- (3) Primarily short-term balances.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Funding sources

The table below shows RBS's principal funding sources excluding repurchase agreements (repos).

	2014			2013			2012		
	Short-term less than 1 year £m	Long-term more than 1 year £m	Total £m	Short-term less than 1 year £m	Long-term more than 1 year £m	Total £m	Short-term less than 1 year £m	Long-term more than 1 year £m	Total £m
<b>By product</b>									
Deposits by banks									
derivative cash collateral	25,503	—	25,503	19,086	—	19,086	28,585	—	28,585
other deposits	13,137	2,294	15,431	14,553	1,690	16,243	18,938	9,551	28,489
	38,640	2,294	40,934	33,639	1,690	35,329	47,523	9,551	57,074
Debt securities in issue									
commercial paper (CP)	625	—	625	1,583	—	1,583	2,873	—	2,873
certificates of deposit (CDs)	1,695	149	1,844	2,212	65	2,277	2,605	391	2,996
medium-term notes (MTNs)	7,741	29,007	36,748	10,385	36,779	47,164	13,019	53,584	66,603
covered bonds	1,284	5,830	7,114	1,853	7,188	9,041	1,038	9,101	10,139
securitisations	10	5,564	5,574	514	7,240	7,754	761	11,220	11,981
	11,355	40,550	51,905	16,547	51,272	67,819	20,296	74,296	94,592
Subordinated liabilities	3,274	19,857	23,131	1,350	22,662	24,012	2,351	24,951	27,302
Notes issued	14,629	60,407	75,036	17,897	73,934	91,831	22,647	99,247	121,894
Wholesale funding	53,269	62,701	115,970	51,536	75,624	127,160	70,170	108,798	178,968
Customer deposits									
derivative cash collateral <sup>(1)</sup>	13,003	—	13,003	7,082	—	7,082	7,949	—	7,949
financial institution deposits	46,359	1,422	47,781	44,621	2,265	46,886	54,793	2,253	57,046
personal deposits	185,781	6,121	191,902	183,799	8,115	191,914	165,137	14,335	179,472
corporate deposits	159,782	2,403	162,185	167,100	4,687	171,787	180,082	9,443	189,525
Total customer deposits	404,925	9,946	414,871	402,602	15,067	417,669	407,961	26,031	433,992
Total funding excluding repos	458,194	72,647	530,841	454,138	90,691	544,829	478,131	134,829	612,960

Note:

(1) Cash collateral includes £12,036 million (2013 - £6,720 million; 2012 - £7,191 million) from financial institutions.

	2014					2013				
	GBP £m	USD £m	EUR £m	Other £m	Total £m	GBP £m	USD £m	EUR £m	Other £m	Total £m
Deposits by banks	6,501	10,869	20,715	2,849	40,934	7,418	8,337	17,004	2,570	35,329
Debt securities in issue										
commercial paper	—	73	525	27	625	4	897	682	—	1,583
certificates of deposit	910	747	185	2	1,844	336	1,411	476	54	2,277
medium-term notes	4,592	11,292	16,672	4,192	36,748	6,353	11,068	23,218	6,525	47,164
covered bonds	1,090	—	6,024	—	7,114	984	—	8,057	—	9,041
securitisations	1,245	1,895	2,434	—	5,574	1,897	2,748	3,109	—	7,754
	7,837	14,007	25,840	4,221	51,905	9,574	16,124	35,542	6,579	67,819
Subordinated liabilities	1,718	13,360	6,372	1,681	23,131	1,857	10,502	8,984	2,669	24,012
Wholesale funding	16,056	38,236	52,927	8,751	115,970	18,849	34,963	61,530	11,818	127,160
% of wholesale funding	14%	33%	46%	7%	100%	15%	28%	48%	9%	100%
Customer deposits	276,039	89,068	39,526	10,238	414,871	272,304	86,727	49,116	9,522	417,669
Total funding excluding repos	292,095	127,304	92,453	18,989	530,841	291,153	121,690	110,646	21,340	544,829
% of total funding	55%	24%	17%	4%	100%	54%	22%	20%	4%	100%

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Funding risk continued

#### Notes issued

The table below shows RBS's debt securities in issue and subordinated liabilities by residual maturity.

	Debt securities in issue					Subordinated liabilities £m	Total notes in issue £m	Total notes in issue %
	Other CP and CDs £m	MTNs £m	Covered bonds £m	Securitisations £m	Total £m			
2014								
Less than 1 year	2,320	7,741	1,284	10	11,355	3,274	14,629	20
1-3 years	144	11,954	2,229	—	14,327	906	15,233	20
3-5 years	—	7,103	812	3	7,918	2,663	10,581	14
More than 5 years	5	9,950	2,789	5,561	18,305	16,288	34,593	46
	2,469	36,748	7,114	5,574	51,905	23,131	75,036	100
2013								
Less than 1 year	3,795	10,385	1,853	514	16,547	1,350	17,897	19
1-3 years	61	14,920	3,621	—	18,602	3,944	22,546	25
3-5 years	—	6,497	867	—	7,364	4,209	11,573	13
More than 5 years	4	15,362	2,700	7,240	25,306	14,509	39,815	43
	3,860	47,164	9,041	7,754	67,819	24,012	91,831	100
2012								
Less than 1 year	5,478	13,019	1,038	761	20,296	2,351	22,647	18
1-3 years	385	20,267	2,948	540	24,140	7,252	31,392	26
3-5 years	1	13,374	2,380	—	15,755	756	16,511	14
More than 5 years	5	19,943	3,773	10,680	34,401	16,943	51,344	42
	5,869	66,603	10,139	11,981	94,592	27,302	121,894	100

#### Loan:deposit ratios and funding surplus/(gap)

The table below shows customer loans, deposits, loan:deposit ratios and funding surplus/(gap) by segment.

	2014				2013		2012	
	Loans (1) £m	Deposits (2) £m	Loan:deposit ratio %	Funding surplus/(gap) £m	Loan:deposit ratio %	Funding surplus/(gap) £m	Loan:deposit ratio %	Funding surplus/(gap) £m
UK Personal & Business Banking	127,244	148,658	86	21,414	86	20,013	93	9,261
Ulster Bank	22,008	20,561	107	(1,447)	120	(4,417)	130	(6,683)
Personal & Business Banking	149,252	169,219	88	19,967	91	15,596	98	2,578
Commercial Banking	85,053	86,830	98	1,777	92	7,429	91	8,232
Private Banking	16,523	36,105	46	19,582	45	20,529	44	21,945
Commercial & Private Banking	101,576	122,935	83	21,359	78	27,958	77	30,177
Corporate & Institutional Banking	72,751	59,402	122	(13,349)	105	(3,414)	96	3,058
Conduits (3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(2,458)
Central items	613	1,583	39	970	27	792	3	3,235
Citizens Financial Group	59,606	60,550	98	944	91	4,839	86	8,178
RCR	11,003	1,182	nm	(9,821)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	nm	(20,692)	nm	(41,846)
Direct Line Group	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	(881)
	394,801	414,871	95	20,070	94	25,079	100	2,041
Of which: Personal	176,621	191,902	92	15,281	90	18,929	94	10,897

nm = not meaningful

#### Notes:

(1) Excludes reverse repo agreements and net of impairment provisions.

(2) Excludes repo agreements.

(3) All conduits relate to CIB and have been extracted and shown separately as they were funded by commercial paper issuance until the end of the third quarter of 2012.

Customer deposits insured through deposit guarantee schemes totalled £160 billion (2013 - £161 billion) the more material of them being Financial Services Compensation Scheme £112 billion; US Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation £37 billion and Republic of Ireland's Deposit Guarantee Scheme £7 billion.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Repos

The table below analyses RBS's repos by counterparty type.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Financial institutions			
- central and other banks	26,525	28,650	44,332
- other financial institutions	28,703	52,945	86,968
Other corporate	9,354	3,539	1,072
	64,582	85,134	132,372

RBS has access to the short-term money markets to supplement deposit and wholesale funding. RBS's reverse repos mainly within CIB are generally used to fund repos or to cover short positions. In addition, repos are used to fund a small proportion of CIB's trading assets and by RBS Treasury as part of the liquidity portfolio management.

The liquidity risk RBS is exposed to through security financing transactions is significantly lower than in relation to unsecured funding. RBS limits any exposure by setting limits and monitoring any mismatch of quality, maturity or currency. The exposure is also monitored in the context of the available liquid assets.

### Firm financing\*

The following table shows repos gross of IFRS offset arrangements (refer to Balance sheet analysis - Financial assets summary on page 275) by asset quality and maturity.

	Less than 1 month £bn	More than 1 month £bn	Total £bn
2014			
AA- and above	67.2	11.6	78.8
Other	12.2	4.4	16.6
Total	79.4	16.0	95.4
2013			
AA- and above	69.5	21.6	91.1
Other	27.6	7.1	34.7
Total	97.1	28.7	125.8

### Maturity analysis

The contractual maturity of balance sheet assets and liabilities reflects the maturity transformation role banks perform, lending long-term but obtaining funding predominantly through short-term liabilities such as customer deposits. In practice, the behavioural profiles of many liabilities exhibit greater stability and longer maturity than the contractual maturity. This is particularly true of many types of retail and corporate deposits which, despite being repayable on demand or at short notice, have demonstrated very stable characteristics even in periods of acute stress. In analysis to assess and manage asset and liability maturity gaps RBS determines the expected customer behaviour through qualitative and quantitative techniques, incorporating observed customer behaviours over long periods of time. This analysis is subject to governance through Asset and Liability Management Committees down to a segment level.

### Behavioural analysis\*

Contractual maturity analysis and net behavioural funding surplus/(gap) are set out below.

	Behavioural maturity				Contractual maturity											
	Net surplus/(gap)				Net surplus/(gap)				Loans to customers				Customer accounts			
	Less than 1 year	1-5 years	Greater than 5 years	Total	Less than 1 year	1-5 years	Greater than 5 years	Total	Less than 1 year	1-5 years	Greater than 5 years	Total	Less than 1 year	1-5 years	Greater than 5 years	Total
	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn
2014																
PBB	14	2	4	20	148	(32)	(96)	20	16	37	96	149	164	5	—	169
CPB	11	20	(10)	21	80	(35)	(24)	21	42	36	24	102	122	1	—	123
CIB	(7)	(3)	(4)	(14)	13	(21)	(6)	(14)	45	22	6	73	58	1	—	59
CFG	7	(13)	7	1	48	(29)	(18)	1	10	31	19	60	58	2	1	61
Other	(3)	(4)	(1)	(8)	1	(6)	(3)	(8)	2	6	3	11	3	—	—	3
	22	2	(4)	20	290	(123)	(147)	20	115	132	148	395	405	9	1	415

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Funding risk continued

#### Contractual maturity

The following table shows the residual maturity of financial instruments, based on contractual date of maturity. Held-for-trading (HFT) assets and liabilities have been excluded from the maturity analysis in view of their short-term nature and are shown in total in the table below. Hedging derivatives are included within the relevant maturity bands.

	Other than held-for-trading (HFT)											
	Less than 1 month £m	1-3 months £m	3-6 months £m	6 months -1 year £m	Subtotal £m	1-3 years £m	3-5 years £m	More than 5 years £m	Total excluding HFT £m	HFT £m	Total £m	
2014												
Cash and balances at central banks	75,494	—	—	—	75,494	—	—	—	75,494	—	75,494	
Bank reverse repos	1,801	778	—	—	2,579	—	—	—	2,579	18,129	20,708	
Customer reverse repos	969	—	—	—	969	—	—	—	969	43,018	43,987	
Loans to banks	10,084	1,146	576	913	12,719	221	50	9	12,999	11,773	24,772	
Loans to customers	35,841	14,945	15,697	27,582	94,065	69,209	61,714	146,611	371,599	23,202	394,801	
Personal	7,130	3,201	4,188	7,372	21,891	25,408	20,418	108,647	176,364	257	176,621	
Corporate	23,256	10,649	9,324	16,191	59,420	37,782	39,163	35,351	171,716	7,087	178,803	
Financial institutions	5,455	1,095	2,185	4,019	12,754	6,019	2,133	2,613	23,519	15,858	39,377	
Debt securities	2,578	2,695	2,233	2,749	10,255	5,282	6,115	31,064	52,716	49,226	101,942	
Equity shares	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,386	1,386	4,821	6,207	
Settlement balances	4,667	—	—	—	4,667	—	—	—	4,667	—	4,667	
Derivatives	622	—	—	1,491	2,113	2,291	701	336	5,441	348,551	353,992	
Total financial assets	132,056	19,564	18,506	32,735	202,861	77,003	68,580	179,406	527,850	498,720	1,026,570	
Bank repos	565	304	—	—	869	—	—	—	869	25,656	26,525	
Customer repos	1,003	1,069	—	—	2,072	—	—	—	2,072	35,985	38,057	
Deposits by banks	6,825	1,872	616	3,333	12,646	1,312	22	836	14,816	26,118	40,934	
Customer accounts	365,679	9,676	6,736	8,858	390,949	6,952	1,450	212	399,563	15,308	414,871	
Personal	169,334	6,210	3,730	6,507	185,781	5,555	544	22	191,902	—	191,902	
Corporate	153,075	2,670	2,474	1,464	159,683	914	702	178	161,477	1,675	163,152	
Financial institutions	43,270	796	532	887	45,485	483	204	12	46,184	13,633	59,817	
Debt securities in issue	1,101	2,000	1,593	5,465	10,159	11,976	7,408	15,872	45,415	6,490	51,905	
Settlement balances	4,503	—	—	—	4,503	—	—	—	4,503	—	4,503	
Short positions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23,029	23,029	
Derivatives	—	140	348	—	488	789	543	1,801	3,621	346,328	349,949	
Subordinated liabilities	682	488	1,192	912	3,274	900	2,539	16,418	23,131	—	23,131	
Other liabilities	1,801	—	—	—	1,801	8	5	2	1,816	—	1,816	
Total financial liabilities	382,159	15,549	10,485	18,568	426,761	21,937	11,967	35,141	495,806	478,914	974,720	



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	Other than held-for-trading (HFT)									HFT	Total
	Less than 1 month £m	1-3 months £m	3-6 months £m	6 months -1 year £m	Subtotal £m	1-3 years £m	3-5 years £m	More than 5 years £m	Total excluding HFT £m		
2013											
Cash and balances at central banks	82,661	—	—	—	82,661	—	—	—	82,661	—	82,661
Bank reverse repos	652	110	—	—	762	—	—	—	762	25,795	26,557
Customer reverse repos	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	49,897	49,897
Loans to banks	11,831	3,171	1,552	443	16,997	69	13	546	17,625	9,952	27,577
Loans to customers	34,158	22,118	19,580	26,424	102,280	72,388	56,249	142,503	373,420	19,170	392,590
Personal	7,776	8,942	4,141	7,108	27,967	24,008	20,107	100,664	172,746	239	172,985
Corporate	20,310	11,741	13,175	16,970	62,196	43,207	34,227	38,746	178,376	5,561	183,937
Financial Institutions	6,072	1,435	2,264	2,346	12,117	5,173	1,915	3,093	22,298	13,370	35,668
Debt securities	1,608	954	1,787	2,324	6,673	7,425	8,782	34,161	57,041	56,582	113,623
Equity shares	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,612	1,612	7,199	8,811
Settlement balances	5,591	—	—	—	5,591	—	—	—	5,591	—	5,591
Derivatives	546	—	—	1,282	1,828	2,148	427	129	4,532	283,508	288,040
Total financial assets	137,047	26,353	22,919	30,473	216,792	82,030	65,471	178,951	543,244	452,103	995,347
Bank repos	3,045	1,297	—	—	4,342	1,181	—	—	5,523	23,127	28,650
Customer repos	3,059	1,125	—	—	4,184	—	—	—	4,184	52,300	56,484
Deposits by banks	10,676	1,882	1,382	125	14,065	82	109	1,309	15,565	19,764	35,329
Customer accounts	360,031	16,093	8,567	9,236	393,927	10,140	2,627	739	407,433	10,236	417,669
Personal	160,261	10,370	5,562	7,262	183,455	6,789	1,449	20	191,713	—	191,713
Corporate	158,138	4,458	2,369	1,476	166,441	2,690	728	681	170,540	1,809	172,349
Financial Institutions	41,632	1,265	636	498	44,031	661	450	38	45,180	8,427	53,607
Debt securities in issue	2,383	3,221	2,667	6,844	15,115	15,729	6,388	22,027	59,259	8,560	67,819
Settlement balances	5,313	—	—	—	5,313	—	—	—	5,313	—	5,313
Short positions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28,022	28,022
Derivatives	1	130	271	—	402	933	1,190	1,703	4,228	281,299	285,527
Subordinated liabilities	16	124	150	1,060	1,350	3,944	4,078	14,640	24,012	—	24,012
Other liabilities	1,764	—	—	—	1,764	2	16	1	1,783	—	1,783
Total financial liabilities	386,288	23,872	13,037	17,265	440,462	32,011	14,408	40,419	527,300	423,308	950,608

### Funding risk continued

#### Encumbrance

RBS reviews all assets against the criteria of being able to finance them in a secured form (encumbrance) but certain asset types lend themselves more readily to encumbrance. The typical characteristics that support encumbrance are an ability to pledge those assets to another counterparty or entity through operation of law without necessarily requiring prior notification, homogeneity, predictable and measurable cash flows, and a consistent and uniform underwriting and collection process. Retail assets including residential mortgages, credit card receivables and personal loans display many of these features.

From time to time RBS encumbers assets to serve as collateral to support certain wholesale funding initiatives. The three principal forms of encumbrance are own asset securitisations, covered bonds and securities repurchase agreements.

RBS categorises its assets into three broad groups; assets that are:

- Already encumbered and used to support funding currently in place via own asset securitisations, covered bonds and securities repurchase agreements.
- Not currently encumbered but can for instance be used to access funding from market counterparties or central bank facilities as part of RBS's contingency funding.
- Not currently encumbered. In this category, RBS has in place an enablement programme which seeks to identify assets which are capable of being encumbered and to identify the actions to facilitate such encumbrance whilst not impacting customer relationships or servicing.

RBS's balance sheet encumbrance ratios are set out below.

Encumbrance ratios	2014 %	2013 %	2012 %
Total	13	17	18
Excluding balances relating to derivative transactions	14	19	22
Excluding balances relating to derivative and securities financing transactions	11	11	13

Refer to the following page for further analysis.

#### Collateral (on and off-balance sheet)\*

The table below summarises total on and off-balance sheet assets that are available to support funding and collateral requirements.

	2014 £bn	2013 £bn
Total on-balance sheet assets	1,050.8	1,027.9
Less:		
- Reverse repos and derivatives	(418.7)	(364.5)
- Other assets not available to be pledged	(99.7)	(40.5)
Total on-balance sheet assets available	532.4	622.9
Add:		
- Fair value of securities received as collateral	100.9	124.2
Total assets available	633.3	747.1
Less:		
- On-balance sheet assets pledged	(136.7)	(171.5)
- Securities collateral received that have been rehypothicated	(96.4)	(111.5)
Assets available to be pledged	400.2	464.1

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Balance sheet encumbrance

2014	Encumbered assets relating to:					Total encumbered assets (2) £bn	Encumbered assets as a % of related assets %	Unencumbered					Total £bn
	Debt securities in issue		Other secured liabilities					Readily realisable (3)					
	Securitisations and conduits £bn	Covered bonds £bn	Derivatives £bn	Repos £bn	Secured balances (1) £bn			Liquidity portfolio £bn	Other £bn	(4) realisable £bn	(5) encumbered £bn		
Cash and balances at central banks	—	—	—	—	2.4	2.4	3	66.7	6.4	—	—	75.5	
Loans and advances to banks	4.6	0.3	11.5	—	0.5	16.9	68	1.7	2.1	4.1	—	24.8	
Loans and advances to customers													
- UK residential mortgages	12.0	13.4	—	—	—	25.4	22	69.9	10.2	7.7	0.1	113.3	
- Irish residential mortgages	8.6	—	—	—	—	8.6	62	0.9	4.3	—	0.1	13.9	
- US residential mortgages	—	—	—	—	11.2	11.2	53	2.2	—	0.7	7.0	21.1	
- UK credit cards	2.7	—	—	—	—	2.7	52	—	2.3	0.2	—	5.2	
- UK personal loans	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.4	2.9	—	9.3	
- other	6.0	—	21.9	—	1.3	29.2	13	8.0	17.2	110.3	67.3	232.0	
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	64.7	64.7	
Debt securities	—	—	5.9	25.4	5.7	37.0	36	24.0	39.7	1.2	—	101.9	
Equity shares	—	—	0.3	2.6	—	2.9	47	—	2.2	0.2	0.9	6.2	
Settlement balances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.7	4.7	
Derivatives	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	354.0	354.0	
Intangible assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8.4	8.4	
Property, plant and equipment	—	—	—	—	0.4	0.4	6	—	—	4.2	2.1	6.7	
Deferred tax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.5	1.5	
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.6	7.6	
	33.9	13.7	39.6	28.0	21.5	136.7		173.4	90.8	131.5	518.4	1,050.8	
Securities retained								13.6					
Total liquidity portfolio								187.0					
Liabilities secured													
Intra-Group - secondary liquidity	(13.1)	—	—	—	—	(13.1)							
Intra-Group - other	(11.6)	—	—	—	—	(11.6)							
Third-party (6)	(5.6)	(7.1)	(39.6)	(64.6)	(10.5)	(127.4)							
	(30.3)	(7.1)	(39.6)	(64.6)	(10.5)	(152.1)							

For the notes to this table refer to the following page.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Funding risk continued

#### Balance sheet encumbrance

2013	Encumbered assets relating to:						Total encumbered assets (2) £bn	Encumbered assets as a % of related assets %	Unencumbered				Total £bn
	Debt securities in issue		Other secured liabilities			Readily realisable (3)			Liquidity portfolio £bn	Other £bn	Other (4) realisable £bn	Cannot be encumbered (5) £bn	
	Securitisations and conduits £bn	Covered bonds £bn	Derivatives £bn	Repos £bn	Secured balances £bn								
Cash and balances at central banks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	74.3	8.4	—	—	82.7	
Loans and advances to banks	5.8	0.5	10.3	—	—	16.6	60	0.1	10.9	—	—	27.6	
Loans and advances to customers													
- UK residential mortgages	14.6	16.2	—	—	—	30.8	28	60.8	18.6	—	—	110.2	
- Irish residential mortgages	9.3	—	—	—	1.2	10.5	70	0.7	3.8	—	0.1	15.1	
- US residential mortgages	—	—	—	—	3.5	3.5	18	9.5	6.7	—	—	19.7	
- UK credit cards	3.4	—	—	—	—	3.4	52	—	3.1	—	—	6.5	
- UK personal loans	3.4	—	—	—	—	3.4	38	—	5.5	—	—	8.9	
- other	13.5	—	18.1	—	0.8	32.4	14	4.4	9.6	175.6	10.2	232.2	
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	76.5	76.5	
Debt securities	0.9	—	5.5	55.6	2.7	64.7	57	17.0	31.9	—	—	113.6	
Equity shares	—	—	0.5	5.3	—	5.8	66	—	3.0	—	—	8.8	
Settlement balances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.5	5.5	
Derivatives	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	288.0	288.0	
Intangible assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12.4	12.4	
Property, plant and equipment	—	—	—	—	0.4	0.4	5	—	—	7.5	—	7.9	
Deferred tax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.5	3.5	
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8.6	8.6	
Assets of disposal groups	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.2	0.2	
	50.9	16.7	34.4	60.9	8.6	171.5		166.8	101.5	183.1	405.0	1,027.9	
Securities retained								17.4					
Total liquidity portfolio								184.2					
Liabilities secured													
Intra-Group - secondary liquidity	(19.1)	—	—	—	—	(19.1)							
Intra-Group - other	(18.4)	—	—	—	—	(18.4)							
Third-party (6)	(7.8)	(9.0)	(42.7)	(85.1)	(6.0)	(150.6)							
	(45.3)	(9.0)	(42.7)	(85.1)	(6.0)	(188.1)							

#### Notes:

- (1) Includes cash, coin and nostro balance held with the Bank of England as collateral against deposits and notes in circulation.
- (2) Encumbered assets are those that have been pledged to provide security for the liability shown above and are therefore not available to secure funding or to meet other collateral needs.
- (3) Unencumbered readily realisable assets are those assets on the balance sheet that can be readily used to meet funding or collateral requirements and comprise:
  - (a) Liquidity portfolio: cash balances at central banks, high quality debt securities and loans that have been pre-positioned with central banks. In addition, the liquidity portfolio includes securitisations of own assets which has reduced over the years and has been replaced by loans.
  - (b) Other readily realisable assets: including assets that have been enabled for use with central banks; and unencumbered debt securities.
- (4) Unencumbered other realisable assets are those assets on the balance sheet that are available for funding and collateral purposes but are not readily realisable in their current form. These assets include loans that could be pre-positioned with central banks but have not been subject to internal and external documentation review and diligence work.
- (5) Assets that cannot be encumbered include:
  - (a) Derivatives, reverse repurchase agreements and trading related settlement balances.
  - (b) Non-financial assets such as intangibles, prepayments and deferred tax.
  - (c) Loans that cannot be pre-positioned with central banks based on criteria set by the central banks, including those relating to date of origination and level of documentation.
  - (d) Non-recourse invoice financing balances and certain shipping loans whose terms and structure prohibit their use as collateral.
- (6) In accordance with market practice, RBS employs securities recognised on the balance sheet, and securities received under reverse repo transactions as collateral for repos. Secured derivative liabilities reflect net positions that are collateralised by balance sheet assets.

### Credit risk

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### Credit risk

#### Definition

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss due to the failure of a customer or counterparty to meet its obligation to settle outstanding amounts.

#### Sources of credit risk

RBS is exposed to credit risk as a result of a wide range of business activities. The most significant source of credit risk is lending. RBS offers a number of lending products where it has an obligation to provide credit facilities to a customer. To mitigate the risk of loss, security may be obtained in the form of physical collateral such as commercial real estate assets and residential property, or financial collateral such as cash or bonds. Exposures arising from leasing activities are also included in lending.

The second most significant source of credit risk arises from activities in the derivatives and securities financing transaction markets. These result in counterparty credit risk, which is the risk of financial loss arising from the failure of a counterparty to meet obligations that vary in value by reference to a market factor. To mitigate the risk of loss, collateral and netting are used along with the additional legal rights provided under the terms of over-the-counter contracts.

RBS holds some debt securities generally for liquidity management purposes, and is exposed to credit risk as a result.

RBS is also exposed to credit risk from off-balance sheet products such as trade finance activities and guarantees as well as through committed but undrawn lending facilities.

Through its global activities in foreign exchange, trade finance and payments, RBS is exposed to settlement risk.

#### Key developments

**Credit quality and impairment** - RBS's credit risk portfolio continued to improve with an overall reduction in exposure, an improvement in credit quality and a material provision release in 2014. These improvements were driven by supportive economic and market conditions in the UK and Ireland, better liquidity and increased collateral values, and also reflected improvements in credit risk measurement. Through the credit risk appetite frameworks the credit risk management function maintained a continued focus on key portfolios and concentrations.

**UK personal lending** - The growth in UK PBB gross mortgage lending was within credit risk appetite and against a backdrop of house price increases over most of the year. Due to the withdrawal of products with promotional rates in line with strategy, credit card exposure declined during the year. Refer to Key portfolios - UK PBB on page 261.

**Ulster Bank** - Following the creation of RCR, exposure to personal customers now represents 68% of the total Ulster Bank exposure. In the personal portfolio, Ulster Bank's proactive offers of forbearance to help customers through financial difficulties saw significant uptake in the Republic of Ireland with an increasing trend towards customers opting for longer-term solutions (though mortgage recoveries stock remains high). The quality of the Ulster Bank wholesale portfolio improved following the transfer of commercial real estate (CRE) assets to RCR, with an associated material decrease in impairments. Refer to Segment performance - Ulster Bank on page 133.

**CFG** - 2014 was a year of growth in both the personal and wholesale CFG portfolios. This was in line with business strategy to expand personal mortgage lending and auto finance organically as well as through acquisition. The growth in wholesale exposures has been across a broad range of industry sectors and customer types, reflecting improving economic conditions in the US and specific focus on areas such as asset finance, CRE and franchise finance. Changes to strategy or the risk appetite framework are subject to review in accordance with CFG's and RBS's risk governance frameworks, so that risks are understood and accepted. Refer to Segment performance - Citizens Financial Group on page 147.

**Oil prices** - In the second half of 2014, oil prices reduced significantly, driven by the growth in supply from non-OPEC producers, the return of supply from Libya, Iran and Iraq and reduced demand expectations from Europe and China. Exposures to this sector continue to be closely managed through the sector concentration framework as well as ongoing customer and sub-sector reviews, with stress testing highlighting specific sub-sectors or customers particularly vulnerable to sustained low oil prices. Risk appetite to the overall oil and gas sector was reduced during the year, and action continues to mitigate exposure where possible. For further information, refer to the Key credit portfolios section on page 255.

**Russia/Ukraine** - Ongoing tensions in Russia and Ukraine as well as the imposition of sanctions, particularly in the oil and gas, defence, and financial sectors, have adversely affected the credit risk profile of customers who have exposure to or dealings with Russian or Ukrainian entities. Accordingly, RBS reduced limits to customers affected by those developments, including tightening transactional controls to mitigate credit risk while ensuring sanctions compliance. For further information regarding exposure to Russia, refer to the Country risk section on page 323.

**Credit risk appetite** - Credit risk appetite is continuously reviewed to ensure that it remains relevant in light of changing economic conditions and strategic objectives. Revisions were made to the sector credit risk appetite framework to reflect the altered composition of the credit portfolio following the creation of RCR. The asset and product class framework was also revised to reflect changes in the portfolio together with market developments. These included a revision of the credit risk appetite framework relating to sponsor owned corporate transactions in order to maintain portfolio credit quality following a weakening in terms and conditions within the leverage market.



### Risk governance

A strong credit risk management function is vital to support ongoing profitability. The potential for loss is mitigated through a robust credit risk culture and a focus on sustainable lending practices.

### Operating model

The RBS credit risk management function, which is led by the Group Chief Credit Officer (GCCO), acts as the ultimate authority for the approval of credit and is responsible for ensuring that credit risk is within the risk appetite set by the Board. The function is also responsible for managing concentration risk and credit risk control frameworks as well as developing and ensuring compliance with credit risk policies. In addition, the function conducts RBS-wide assessments of provision adequacy.

The Executive Risk Forum (ERF) has delegated approval authority to the Credit Risk Committee (CRC) to act on credit risk matters. These include, but are not limited to, credit risk appetite and limits (within the overall risk appetite set by the Board and the ERF), credit risk strategy and frameworks, credit risk policy and the oversight of the credit profile across RBS. There are separate CRCs for the wholesale and personal portfolios. These are chaired by the GCCO or delegate.

The ERF has delegated approval authority to the RBS Provisions Committee to manage provisions adequacy, both individual and collective. The RBS Provisions Committee, which is chaired by either the Chief Risk Officer or the GCCO, approves recommendations from lower-level provisions committees, which in turn have delegated approval thresholds for certain provision adequacy decisions.

Key trends in the credit risk profile of RBS's performance against limits and emerging risks are set out in the RBS Risk Management Monthly Report provided to the Executive Committee, the Board Risk Committee and the Board.

The Risk Infrastructure function provides a variety of services that enable the credit risk management function to operate. These include reporting of credit risk data, risk assurance, provision of credit risk models, systems strategy and change management.

### Controls and assurance

The RBS credit control and assurance framework has three key components: credit policy; policy compliance assessment; and independent assurance. These apply to both wholesale and personal credit risk at both portfolio and individual customer level.

The first component is the RBS Credit Policy Standard, which is part of the RBS Policy Framework. It sets out the rules that must be followed to ensure that credit risks are identified and effectively managed through the credit lifecycle.

The second component is a policy compliance assessment activity that credit risk undertakes to provide the GCCO with evidence of the effectiveness of credit risk management controls in place across RBS. The results of these reviews support the self-certification that credit risk must complete every six months.

The third component of RBS credit assurance framework is the credit quality assurance activity carried out independently by Risk Assurance, which is part of the Risk Infrastructure function. Risk Assurance independently reviews lending activities to identify control breaches, assess portfolio quality and recommend process improvements. These findings are escalated to senior management and plans to address shortcomings are recorded and tracked in RBS's operational risk system. Risk Assurance's credit quality assurance activities are overseen by the Audit Committee and the results of its reviews are regularly shared with the regulators.

In addition, controls and processes are regularly reviewed by RBS's Internal Audit (IA) function. IA provides assurance to the Audit Committee and senior executive that the main business risks have been identified and that effective controls are in place to manage these risks.

### Risk management\*

RBS credit risk management is split into wholesale and personal, reflecting the distinction between business types and the different risk management approaches, metrics and issues these involve. Wholesale focuses on activities with corporate and SME customers as well as banks and financial institutions (these customers tend to be grouped by sector and geography as well as by product/asset class). Personal covers personal customers across UK PBB, Ulster Bank and CFG as well as personal lending activities in Private Banking.

### Risk appetite

Risk appetite across all risk types is set using specific quantitative targets under stress, including earnings volatility and capital adequacy. The credit risk appetite framework has been designed to reflect the factors that influence the ability to meet those targets. These include product and asset class, industry sector, single name and country concentrations. Any of these factors could generate higher earnings volatility under stress and, if not adequately controlled, they could undermine capital adequacy. Tools such as stress testing and economic capital are used to measure credit risk volatility and develop links between risk appetite targets and the credit risk appetite framework. The frameworks are supported by a suite of policies that set out the risk parameters within which franchises must operate. Impairments, and associated key metrics such as loan loss rates and provision coverage, are an integral part of standard credit risk portfolio reviews and are presented to CRC monthly. These metrics are also fully considered as part of the sector and product class appetite reviews. RBS also manages its exposures to counterparty credit risk closely, using portfolio limits and specific tools to control more volatile or capital-intensive business areas.

For further information refer to the Wholesale credit risk management and Personal credit risk management sub-sections.

\*unaudited

### Credit risk continued

#### Risk monitoring and problem debt management

A key aspect of credit risk management relates to problem debt management, from early problem identification through to litigation and recovery of cash when there is no realistic potential for rehabilitation. Various tools and techniques are deployed during this part of the credit cycle including the offering of forbearance. Practices differ across the wholesale and personal portfolios. For further information refer to the Wholesale credit risk management and Personal credit risk management sub-sections.

#### Impairments and write-offs

Internal measures of credit risk are stated gross of impairments. However, impairments and write-offs are used as key indicators of credit quality as part of the overall assessment of credit risk incurred by RBS. These are estimated as follows:

#### Impaired definition

A financial asset is impaired if there is objective evidence that an event or events since initial recognition of the asset has adversely affected the amount or timing of future cash flows from it. The loss is measured as the difference between the carrying value of the asset and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the original effective interest rate.

For both wholesale and personal exposures, days-past-due measures are typically used to identify evidence of impairment. In both corporate and personal portfolios, a period of 90 days past due is used. In sovereign portfolios, the period used is 180 days past due. Other factors are considered including: the borrower's financial condition; a forbearance event; a loan restructuring; the probability of bankruptcy; or any evidence of diminished cash flows.

#### Provisioning

If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset carrying amount and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate. The current net realisable value of the collateral will be taken into account in determining the need for a provision. This includes cash flows that may result from foreclosure less the costs of obtaining and selling the collateral, whether or not foreclosure is probable. No impairment provision is recognised in cases where amounts due are expected to be settled in full on realisation of the security. RBS uses one of the following three different methods to assess the amount of provision required: individual; collective; and latent.

#### Individually-assessed provisions

Loans and securities above a defined threshold deemed to be individually significant are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Assessments of future cash flows take into account the impact of any guarantees or collateral held. Estimating the amount and timing of future cash flows involves judgement based on the facts available at the time and assumptions related to the future financial performance of the customer or counterparty and any guarantors as well as future economic conditions and the value of collateral. Projected cash flows are reviewed on subsequent assessment dates as new information becomes available.

#### Collectively-assessed provisions

Provisions on impaired credits below an agreed threshold are assessed on a portfolio basis, reflecting the homogeneous nature of the assets. Such portfolios may be either wholesale or retail.

RBS segments them according to product type, such as credit cards, personal loans and mortgages. The approach taken to assess impaired assets in collections differs from the approach taken to assess those in recoveries. For further details on the collections and recoveries functions refer to the Problem debt management sub-section on page 258.

Provisions are determined based on a quantitative review of the relevant portfolio. They take account of the level of arrears, the value of any security, and historical and projected cash recovery trends over the recovery period. The provisions also incorporate any adjustments that may be deemed appropriate given current economic conditions. Such adjustments may be determined based on a review of the latest cash collections profile and operational processes used in managing exposures.

#### Latent loss provisions

In the performing portfolio, latent loss provisions are held against losses incurred but not identified before the balance sheet date. Latent loss provisions reflect probability of default (PD) and loss given default (LGD) as well as emergence periods. The emergence period is the period between the occurrence of the impairment event and the identification and reporting of a loan as impaired.

Emergence periods are estimated at a portfolio level and reflect the portfolio product characteristics such as coupon period and repayment terms, and the duration of the administrative process required to report and identify an impaired loan as such. Emergence periods vary across different portfolios from 120 to 270 days (365 days for forborne exposures). They are based on actual experience within the particular portfolio and are reviewed regularly.

RBS's personal businesses segment their performing loan books into homogeneous portfolios such as mortgages, credit cards or unsecured loans, to reflect their different credit characteristics. Latent provisions are computed by applying portfolio-level LGDs, PDs and emergence periods. The wholesale calculation is based on similar principles but there is no segmentation into portfolios. PDs and LGDs are calculated individually.

Refer to pages 288 to 296 for analysis of impaired loans, related provisions and impairments and 353 to 354 for details of accounting policies.

### Available-for-sale portfolios

RBS reviews its portfolios of available-for-sale financial assets for evidence of impairment, which includes: default or delinquency in interest or principal payments; significant financial difficulty of the issuer or obligor; and increased likelihood that the issuer will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation. However, the disappearance of an active market because an entity's financial instruments are no longer publicly traded is not evidence of impairment. Furthermore, a downgrade of an entity's credit rating is not, in itself, evidence of impairment, although it may be evidence of impairment when considered with other available information. A decline in the fair value of a financial asset below its cost or amortised cost is not necessarily evidence of impairment. Determining whether evidence of impairment exists requires the exercise of management judgement. Unrecognised losses on RBS's available-for-sale debt securities are concentrated in its portfolios of asset-backed securities. Such losses reflect the widening of credit spreads as a result of the reduced market liquidity in these securities and the current uncertain macroeconomic outlook in the US and Europe. The underlying securities remain unimpaired.

### Sensitivity of impairments to assumptions

Key assumptions relating to impairment levels of secured lending relate to the valuation of the security and collateral held, the timing of asset disposals based on the underlying market depth and liquidity and customer cooperation. Assumptions on timing also include an assessment of the ease and timing of the enforceability of loan agreements in varying legal jurisdictions. Assumptions are made on a case by case basis in the case of individually assessed provisions and are often based on judgement.

Key assumptions relating to impairment levels of unsecured lending relate to economic conditions and the interest rate environment, which have a direct impact on customers' debt servicing capabilities. For individual impairments greater than £1 million, oversight is provided by the Provisions Committee.

### Write-offs

Impaired loans and receivables are written-off, that is, the impairment provision is applied in writing down the loan's carrying value partially or in full, when there is no longer any realistic prospect of recovery of part or all of the loan. For loans that are individually assessed for impairment, the timing of write-off is determined on a case-by-case basis. Such loans are reviewed regularly and write-offs may be prompted by bankruptcy, insolvency, forbearance and similar events.

Except for US personal portfolios, where the write-off of the irrecoverable amount takes place within 60-180 days, the typical time frames from initial impairment to write-off for collectively-assessed portfolios are:

- Personal mortgages: Write-off usually occurs within five years of default and is accelerated where accounts are closed earlier.
- Credit cards: Write-off of the irrecoverable amount usually occurs at 12 months in arrears; the rest is expected to be recovered over a further three years following which any remaining amounts outstanding are written off.
- Overdrafts and other unsecured loans: Write-off usually occurs within six years of default.

- Business loans: Write-off usually occurs within five years.
- Commercial loans: Write-off generally occurs within five years but is determined in the light of individual circumstances.

Amounts recovered after a loan has been written-off are credited to the loan impairment charge for the period in which they are received.

### Risk measurement\*

#### Risk exposure measurement

RBS uses a range of measures for credit risk exposures. The internal measure used, unless otherwise stated, is credit risk assets (CRA) consisting of:

- Lending exposure - measured using drawn balances and includes cash balances at central banks and loans and advances to banks and customers (including overdraft facilities, instalment credit and finance leases).
- Counterparty exposures - measured using the marked-to-market value of derivatives after the effect of enforceable netting agreements and regulator-approved models but before the effect of collateral. Counterparty exposures include rate risk management, which includes those arising from foreign exchange transactions, interest rate swaps, credit default swaps and options.
- Contingent obligations - measured using the value of the committed amount and including primarily letters of credit and guarantees.

CRA exclude issuer risk (primarily debt securities) and securities financing transactions. CRA take account of regulatory netting although, in practice, obligations are settled under legal netting arrangements that provide a right of legal set-off but do not meet the offset criteria under IFRS.

#### Risk models

RBS uses the output of credit risk models in the credit approval process, as well as for ongoing credit risk assessment, monitoring and reporting, to inform credit risk appetite decisions. These models may be divided into three categories:

#### Probability of default (PD)

PD models assess the probability of a customer failing its credit obligations over a one-year period.

- **Wholesale models** - A number of credit grading models consider risk characteristics relevant to different customer types. These models use a combination of quantitative inputs, such as recent financial performance, and qualitative inputs such as management performance or sector outlook. As part of the credit assessment process, RBS assigns each customer an internal credit grade based on its PD.
- **Personal models** - Each customer account is scored and models are used to assign a PD. Inputs vary across portfolios and include both internal account and customer level data, as well as data from credit bureaus. This score is used to support automated credit decision-making through the use of a statistically-derived scorecard.

\*unaudited

### Credit risk continued

#### Exposure at default (EAD)

EAD models provide estimates of credit facility utilisation at the time of a customer default, recognising that customers may make further drawings on unused credit facilities prior to default or that exposures may increase due to market movements. Regulatory requirements stipulate that EAD must always be equal to, or higher, than current utilisation. Exposure can be reduced by a legally enforceable netting agreement.

#### Loss given default (LGD)

LGD models estimate the amount that cannot be recovered in the event of customer default. When estimating LGD, RBS's models assess both borrower and facility characteristics, as well as any credit risk mitigants. The cost of collections and a time-discount factor for the delay in cash recovery are also incorporated.

#### Changes to credit models

RBS reviews and updates models on an ongoing basis, reflecting the impact of more recent data, changes to products and portfolios, and new regulatory requirements. Extensive changes were made to wholesale models in 2012 and 2013. This continued in 2014 with further changes, notably in the corporate exposure class.

New PD models are being implemented for large corporate customers. The roll-out will be completed by mid-2015. The updated calibrations associated with these new models, which reference over 20 years of rating agency default experience, may result in downwards rating migrations across internal asset quality bands. For further information regarding the impact of this change refer to the Asset quality section on page 240.

Model changes affect year-on-year comparisons of risk measures in certain disclosures. Where meaningful, in its commentary RBS has differentiated between instances where movements in risk measures reflect the impact of model changes, and those where such movements reflect changes in the size of underlying credit portfolios or their credit quality.

#### Economic capital

The credit economic capital model is a framework that allows for the calculation of portfolio credit loss distributions and associated metrics over a given risk horizon for a variety of business purposes.

The model takes into account migration risk (the risk that credit assets will deteriorate in credit quality across multiple years), factor correlation (the assumption that groups of obligors share a common factor) and contagion risk (for example, the risk that the weakening of the sovereign's credit worthiness has a significant impact on the creditworthiness of a business operating in that country).

### Risk mitigation

Risk mitigation techniques are used in the management of credit portfolios across RBS, typically to mitigate credit concentrations in relation to an individual customer, a borrower group or a collection of related borrowers. Where possible, customer credit balances are netted against obligations.

Mitigation tools applied can include: structuring a security interest in a physical or financial asset; use of credit derivatives, including credit default swaps, credit-linked debt instruments and securitisation structures; and use of guarantees and similar instruments (for example, credit insurance) from related and third parties.

When seeking to mitigate risk, at a minimum RBS considers the following:

- The suitability of the proposed risk mitigation, particularly if restrictions apply;
- The means by which legal certainty is to be established, including required documentation, supportive legal opinions and the steps needed to establish legal rights;
- The acceptability of the methodologies to be used for initial and subsequent valuation of collateral, the frequency of valuations and the advance rates given;
- The actions which can be taken if the value of collateral or other mitigants is less than needed;
- The risk that the value of mitigants and counterparty credit quality may deteriorate simultaneously;
- The need to manage concentration risks arising from collateral types; and
- The need to ensure that any risk mitigation remains legally effective and enforceable.

The RBS business and credit teams are supported by specialist in-house documentation teams. RBS uses industry-standard loan and security documentation wherever possible. However, when non-standard documentation is used, external lawyers are employed to review it on a case-by-case basis. For further information refer to the Wholesale credit risk management and Personal credit risk management sub-sections.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Credit risk assets\*

#### Balance sheet to CRA bridge

The table below provides a bridge between balance sheet captions and the related components of credit risk assets (CRA).

	Balance sheet £bn	Within the scope of market risk (1) £bn	Not within the scope of CRA (2) £bn	Credit adjustments (3) £bn	Netting and collateral (4) £bn	Disposal groups (5) £bn	Methodology differences and reclassifications (6) £bn	CRA £bn
<b>2014</b>								
Cash and balances at central banks	74.9	—	(3.8)	—	—	0.6	—	71.7
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	64.7	—	(64.7)	—	—	—	—	—
Loans and advances	357.3	—	—	18.0	(33.4)	62.2	(10.3)	393.8
Debt securities	86.6	(49.3)	(52.6)	—	—	15.3	—	—
Equity shares	5.6	(4.9)	(1.3)	—	—	0.6	—	—
Settlement balances	4.7	(4.7)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derivatives	353.6	—	—	1.4	(295.3)	0.4	8.2	68.3
Other assets (7)	103.4	—	(18.5)	—	—	(79.1)	(3.5)	2.3
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,050.8</b>	<b>(58.9)</b>	<b>(140.9)</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>(328.7)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(5.6)</b>	<b>536.1</b>
Contingent obligations								26.0
								<b>562.1</b>
<b>2013</b>								
Cash and balances at central banks	82.7	—	(3.9)	—	—	—	1.7	80.5
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	76.4	—	(76.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Loans and advances	418.4	—	(3.0)	25.2	(28.4)	1.8	(9.3)	404.7
Debt securities	113.6	(56.7)	(56.9)	—	—	—	—	—
Equity shares	8.8	(7.2)	(1.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Settlement balances	5.6	(5.6)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derivatives	288.0	—	—	1.8	(242.8)	—	9.9	56.9
Other assets (7)	34.4	—	(25.6)	—	—	(1.8)	(6.0)	1.0
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,027.9</b>	<b>(69.5)</b>	<b>(167.4)</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>(271.2)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(3.7)</b>	<b>543.1</b>
Contingent obligations								29.9
								<b>573.0</b>

#### Notes:

- (1) The exposures in regulatory trading book businesses are subject to market risk and are hence excluded from CRA. Refer to the Market risk section on page 298.
- (2) Includes cash in ATMs and branches, reverse repurchase agreements, securities and other assets (refer to note below).
- (3) Includes impairment loss provisions related to loans and advances and credit valuation adjustment on derivatives.
- (4) Comprises:
  - Loans and advances: cash collateral pledged with counterparties in relation to net derivative liability positions.
  - Derivatives: impact of master netting arrangements.
- (5) Amounts reclassified to balance sheet lines.
- (6) Primarily includes:
  - Loans and advances: cash management pooling arrangements not allowed under IFRS.
  - Derivatives: differences between netting arrangements and regulatory model sets and balances with central counterparties after netting but before variation margin presented net on the balance sheet.
- (7) Includes intangible assets, property, plant and equipment, deferred tax, prepayments and accrued income and assets of disposal groups.

\*unaudited

## Credit risk continued

### Portfolio overview

	2014				2013				2012			
	Personal £m	Wholesale £m	Total £m	Total %	Personal £m	Wholesale £m	Total £m	Total %	Personal £m	Wholesale £m	Total £m	Total %
UK Personal & Business Banking	115,570	13,952	129,522	23	113,319	14,267	127,586	22	114,253	15,082	129,335	21
Ulster Bank	18,364	8,501	26,865	5	20,123	13,006	33,129	6	20,455	13,777	34,232	5
Personal & Business Banking	133,934	22,453	156,387	28	133,442	27,273	160,715	28	134,708	28,859	163,567	26
Commercial Banking	1,420	81,576	82,996	15	1,609	79,533	81,142	14	1,710	79,283	80,993	13
Private Banking	12,921	5,584	18,505	3	13,332	6,487	19,819	3	13,099	6,814	19,913	3
Commercial & Private Banking	14,341	87,160	101,501	18	14,941	86,020	100,961	17	14,809	86,097	100,906	16
Corporate & Institutional Banking	103	147,368	147,471	26	3	147,781	147,784	26	7	177,810	177,817	29
Central items	—	62,858	62,858	11	—	66,745	66,745	12	883	62,280	63,163	10
Citizens Financial Group	32,167	32,031	64,198	12	26,412	26,999	53,411	9	27,473	27,563	55,036	9
RCR	203	29,447	29,650	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,324	41,016	43,340	8	3,787	61,433	65,220	10
	180,748	381,317	562,065	100	177,122	395,834	572,956	100	181,667	444,042	625,709	100

### Key points

- Overall, CRA fell by 2% during 2014 (compared with an 8% fall in 2013). This is in line with the continued focus on reducing exposure concentrations, improving overall portfolio credit quality and running down assets in RCR.
- RCR was established on 1 January 2014 and the most capital intensive, highest-risk assets from across RBS were transferred into it. As part of this process, certain assets which were previously managed as Non-Core were returned to the non-RCR businesses. Non-Core and RCR are therefore not directly comparable year on year.
- Excluding RCR, CRA in PBB and CPB represented 48% of exposures while CIB represented 28% and CFG 12%. CPB exposures have remained stable with a 2% increase in Commercial Banking partially offset by a 7% reduction in Private Banking, where the largest reduction in exposure in wholesale was in the banking sector and the remainder of the reduction predominantly driven by personal lending
- Personal exposure grew by 2% during 2014. This was driven predominantly by growth in UK PBB's mortgage book as well as a rise in CFG's mortgage and auto finance exposures. For further analysis of the personal portfolios refer to pages 258 to 273.
- There has been a significant increase in CFG exposure in both the personal and wholesale portfolios, as well as across a broad range of industry sectors, in line with business strategy and risk appetite. Growth in personal CRA was driven by increases in auto finance and residential mortgages, following portfolio acquisitions during the year, partially offset by a reduction in home equity exposures, including continued run-off in the non-performing portfolio. In addition foreign exchange movements also affected the CFG exposure, with 30% of the increase in CFG exposure driven by foreign exchange movements.
- The creation of RCR and run-down of assets within it has contributed significantly to the reduction in wholesale exposure during the year. In particular there has been a significant decrease in wholesale exposures in Ulster Bank. Ulster Bank's portfolio now comprises 68% personal exposure, up from 61% at 2013, with the majority of wholesale exposure to SME customers.
- Central items predominantly represent RBS Treasury's exposures to central banks in the UK and US. Central items exposure fell 6% during the year, predominantly in the UK and Western Europe, driven by RBS's liquidity requirements and cash positions.
- At the year end, RCR accounted for 5% of total CRA (2013 Non-Core - 8%) as asset disposals and run-offs continued. 50% of RCR exposure was in the property sector as RBS continued to reduce its concentration in this sector, in particular relating to CRE. For further analysis of exposures in the wholesale portfolio refer to pages 242 to 257.

\*unaudited



## Business review Capital and risk management

### Sector and geographical regional analyses

The table below details CRA by business type and geographical region. Geographical region is based on the location of the customer's operations (or, in the case of individuals, location of residence).

	UK £m	Western Europe (excl. UK) £m	North America £m	Asia Pacific £m	Latin America £m	Other (1) £m	Total £m	RBS excluding RCR £m	RCR £m
2014									
Personal	129,091	16,802	32,449	1,523	111	772	180,748	180,545	203
Wholesale	180,832	76,282	81,823	21,702	4,104	16,574	381,317	351,870	29,447
<i>of which: RCR</i>	<i>11,531</i>	<i>12,003</i>	<i>851</i>	<i>1,178</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>3,744</i>	<i>29,447</i>	—	—
	309,923	93,084	114,272	23,225	4,215	17,346	562,065	532,415	29,650

								RBS excluding Non-Core	Non-Core
2013									
Personal	127,620	18,751	28,616	1,418	61	656	177,122	174,798	2,324
Wholesale	192,360	85,539	67,493	27,271	4,685	18,486	395,834	354,818	41,016
<i>of which: Non-Core</i>	<i>15,895</i>	<i>18,152</i>	<i>1,832</i>	<i>1,793</i>	<i>197</i>	<i>3,147</i>	<i>41,016</i>	—	—
	319,980	104,290	96,109	28,689	4,746	19,142	572,956	529,616	43,340

								RBS excluding Non-Core	Non-Core
2012									
Personal	129,431	19,256	30,664	1,351	39	926	181,667	177,880	3,787
Wholesale	186,883	128,040	69,837	30,783	13,855	14,644	444,042	382,609	61,433
<i>of which: Non-Core</i>	<i>24,399</i>	<i>23,247</i>	<i>3,949</i>	<i>3,806</i>	<i>3,991</i>	<i>2,041</i>	<i>61,433</i>	—	—
	316,314	147,296	100,501	32,134	13,894	15,570	625,709	560,489	65,220

Note:

(1) Comprises Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa, and supranationals such as the World Bank.

### Key points

- CRA fell in all geographic regions except North America. The increase in North America resulted from increased exposures to sovereigns and banks as well as increased exposure in both the wholesale and personal portfolios in CFG. Foreign exchange movements also contributed to the increased exposure in North America.
- The main driver behind the wholesale reduction in the UK was reduced exposure in central bank and CRE (down 22% and 18% respectively).
- There was no material change in wholesale sector distribution during the year, with proportionate reductions observed throughout the portfolio.
- For the wholesale portfolio, sector analysis on a geographic basis can be found on page 246. Information on personal portfolios can be found on pages 258 to 273.

\*unaudited

### Credit risk continued

#### Asset quality (AQ)

Credit grades play a key role in the internal reporting and oversight of CRA. Customers are assigned credit grades based on various credit grading models that reflect the key drivers of default for each customer type. All credit grades map to both a RBS level asset quality scale, used for external financial reporting, and a master grading scale for wholesale exposures, used for internal management reporting across portfolios. Accordingly, measures of risk exposure may be aggregated and reported at differing levels of detail depending on stakeholder or business requirements. Performing loans are defined as AQ1-AQ9 (where the PD is less than 100%) and non-performing loans as AQ10 (where the PD is 100%).

Exposures are allocated to asset quality bands on the basis of statistically driven models, which produce estimates of default rates. The variables included in the models vary by product and geography. For portfolios secured on residential property, these models typically include measures of delinquency and loan-to-value as well as other differentiating characteristics such as product features or account performance information.

The table below shows CRA by asset quality band.

AQ band	Probability of default range	Personal £m	Wholesale		Total £m	Total %	Wholesale excluding RCR %
			£m	Of which RCR £m			
2014							
AQ1	0% - 0.034%	5,369	115,755	1,415	121,124	22	32
AQ2	0.034% - 0.048%	760	23,337	345	24,097	4	6
AQ3	0.048% - 0.095%	5,502	35,059	1,344	40,561	7	10
AQ4	0.095% - 0.381%	84,613	67,569	3,200	152,182	27	18
AQ5	0.381% - 1.076%	34,644	49,393	1,123	84,037	15	14
AQ6	1.076% - 2.153%	13,607	27,015	2,089	40,622	7	7
AQ7	2.153% - 6.089%	6,174	18,527	1,822	24,701	4	5
AQ8	6.089% - 17.222%	3,799	4,785	1,397	8,584	2	1
AQ9	17.222% - 100%	3,660	1,729	566	5,389	1	—
AQ10	100%	8,424	21,636	15,917	30,060	5	2
Other <sup>(1)</sup>		14,196	16,512	229	30,708	6	5
		180,748	381,317	29,447	562,065	100	100

AQ band	Probability of default range	Personal £m	Wholesale £m	Of which Non-Core £m	Total £m	Total %	Total excluding Non-Core %
2013							
AQ1	0% - 0.034%	5,714	126,802	3,315	132,516	23	24
AQ2	0.034% - 0.048%	2,583	21,844	1,414	24,427	4	4
AQ3	0.048% - 0.095%	3,324	38,701	627	42,025	7	8
AQ4	0.095% - 0.381%	63,197	56,798	4,481	119,995	21	22
AQ5	0.381% - 1.076%	39,409	40,852	2,306	80,261	14	15
AQ6	1.076% - 2.153%	16,417	31,197	2,972	47,614	8	8
AQ7	2.153% - 6.089%	13,687	19,877	1,937	33,564	6	6
AQ8	6.089% - 17.222%	4,440	5,951	846	10,391	2	2
AQ9	17.222% - 100%	4,001	3,511	720	7,512	1	1
AQ10	100%	8,966	33,591	20,513	42,557	8	4
Other <sup>(1)</sup>		15,384	16,710	1,885	32,094	6	6
		177,122	395,834	41,016	572,956	100	100

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

		2012					Total excluding Non-Core %
		Wholesale			Total £m	Total %	
		Personal £m	£m	Of which Non-Core £m			
AQ band	Probability of default range						
AQ1	0% - 0.034%	8,126	131,074	7,069	139,200	22	24
AQ2	0.034% - 0.048%	1,568	26,007	2,238	27,575	5	4
AQ3	0.048% - 0.095%	3,382	42,582	1,875	45,964	7	8
AQ4	0.095% - 0.381%	57,672	61,355	5,499	119,027	19	20
AQ5	0.381% - 1.076%	44,907	54,811	6,785	99,718	16	16
AQ6	1.076% - 2.153%	14,888	36,445	5,129	51,333	8	8
AQ7	2.153% - 6.089%	14,271	23,993	5,284	38,264	6	6
AQ8	6.089% - 17.222%	6,134	8,113	1,052	14,247	2	2
AQ9	17.222% - 100%	4,810	6,112	1,989	10,922	2	2
AQ10	100%	9,419	34,988	22,603	44,407	7	4
Other (1)		16,490	18,562	1,910	35,052	6	6
		181,667	444,042	61,433	625,709	100	100

Note:

(1) Largely comprises assets covered by the standardised approach, for which a probability of default equivalent to those assigned to assets covered by the internal ratings based approach is not available.

### Key points

- The proportion of exposure in the AQ10 band fell to 5% of the total portfolio, driven by the disposal strategy in RCR and the improving economic climate which also drove lower impairments during the year.
- Overall asset quality for performing assets improved year-on-year with AQ1-AQ4 increasing overall by 6%. AQ1-AQ4 represented 60% of the portfolio at the year end (2013 - 55%).
- In addition to driving provision releases on individual cases, the improvement in credit quality had a positive impact on the underlying risk metrics (PD and LGD) used in collective and latent provisioning.
- The reduction in the proportion of non-RCR exposures in the AQ1 band reflected the reduction in exposure to sovereigns, as well as changes to the large corporate grading models. The updated calibrations associated with these new models resulted in rating migrations from higher to lower quality AQ bands, mostly in bands AQ1-AQ5 (those associated with lower risk exposures). At 31 December 2014, 14% of RBS's exposure was graded using these models and 64% had been re-rated using the revised models. Approximately 40% of re-rated large corporate customers retained their existing AQ band, with 40% moving down one AQ band and 15% moving down two AQ bands.
- The increase in AQ4 was caused by the recalibration of models for UK personal mortgages to reflect continued improvements in observed default rates and the implementation of the large corporate grading model.

\*unaudited

### Credit risk *continued*

#### Wholesale credit risk management

Wholesale credit risk management focuses on the credit risks arising from activities with corporate and SME clients as well as banks, other financial institutions and sovereigns.

#### Risk appetite frameworks\*

Four formal frameworks are used to manage wholesale credit concentration risk. RBS continually reassesses its frameworks to ensure they remain appropriate for its varied business franchises and current economic conditions as well as to reflect further refinements in RBS's risk measurement models.

#### Single name concentration

A single name concentration (SNC) framework addresses the risk of outsized loss arising from a concentration of credit risk to a single borrower or borrower group. The framework includes elevated approval authority, additional reporting and monitoring, and the requirement for plans to address exposures in excess of appetite.

SNC excesses are reviewed on a gross basis as well as on a net basis after taking mitigation into account. All net excesses are managed through an approved, customer specific, exposure management plan. To reduce its SNC exposures, RBS may decide to sell excess amounts or rely on mitigation. To be considered effective under the framework, mitigation must be "eligible". Examples of eligible credit risk mitigants include cash collateral, government or bank guarantees, credit default swaps or trade insurance. Eligible credit risk mitigants must also be structurally effective, legally certain, enforceable and characterised by an appropriate maturity profile.

Aggregate SNC exposures remain outside of RBS's longer-term appetite. However, material reductions have been achieved since the framework was introduced. This trend continued during the year, with a 52% decrease in the number of excesses. The top ten SNC excesses comprise 95% of RBS's total SNC excesses. Total SNC exposure was reduced by 43%.

#### Sector concentration

Sector concentration risk is the risk of an outsized loss arising from a concentration of credit risk to customers in the same sector or across sectors that are susceptible to similar stress events. The sector concentration framework enables RBS to manage this risk and acts as one of the primary mechanisms for cascading the board-approved risk appetite to business franchises. It also details the controls for managing and reporting credit exposure to industry sectors.

The sector concentration framework was revised in 2014. Previously, sectors were classified according to size. Under the revised sector framework, sectors are classified according to their risk (based on EC and various qualitative factors) as well as size. This classification drives the level of oversight and frequency of sector reviews. Reviews may include an assessment of business strategy, credit risk profile, key risks and mitigants, the current and expected future external environment, vulnerability to stress events, regulatory developments and economic capital usage to derive a proposed risk appetite along with transaction acceptance standards.

As a result of the reviews carried out in 2014, RBS further reduced its risk appetite in its most material corporate sector, CRE, as well as a number of other corporate sectors such as retail, leisure and oil and gas. This was in addition to the reduction of RCR exposures. For further details on sector-specific strategies, exposure reduction and key credit risks, refer to pages 251 to 273.

#### Product and asset class concentration framework

Product and asset class concentration risk is the risk of an outsized loss arising from a concentration in certain products or asset classes. The product and asset class framework monitors specific credit risk types such as settlement or wrong-way risk and products such as long-dated derivatives or securitisations. These product and asset classes may require specific policies and expertise as well as tailored monitoring and reporting measures. In some cases specific limits and thresholds are deployed to ensure that the credit risk inherent in these lines of business and products is adequately controlled. Exposures are reviewed regularly in accordance with the product and asset class concentration framework. The reviews consider the risks inherent in each product or asset class, the risk controls applied, monitoring and reporting of the risk, the client base, and any emerging risks to ensure risk appetite remains appropriate.

#### Country concentration

The country concentration framework is described in the Country risk section on pages 323 to 329.

#### Risk assessment

The credit risk function assesses, approves and manages the credit risk associated with a borrower or group of related borrowers.

The Group Chief Credit Officer has established a framework of individual delegated authorities, which are set out in the RBS Credit Risk Policy. The framework requires at least two individuals to approve each credit decision, one from the business and one from the credit risk function. Both must hold appropriate delegated authority, which is dependent on their experience and expertise. Only a small number of senior executives hold the highest authority provided under the framework. While both parties are accountable for the quality of each decision taken, the credit risk approver holds ultimate sanctioning authority.

\*unaudited

Assessments of credit risk must, at a minimum, specifically address the following elements:

- The amount, terms, tenor, structure, conditions, purpose and appropriateness of all credit facilities;
- Compliance with applicable RBS-wide and/or franchise-level credit policies;
- The customer's ability to meet obligations, based on an analysis of financial information and a review of payment and covenant compliance history;
- The source of repayment and the customer's risk profile, including its sector and sensitivity to economic and market developments, and any credit risk mitigation;
- Refinancing risk - the risk of loss arising from the failure of a customer to settle an obligation on expiry of a facility through the drawdown of another credit facility provided by RBS or by another lender;
- Consideration of other risks such as environmental, social and ethical, regulatory and reputational risks; and
- The portfolio impact of the transaction, including the impact on any credit risk concentration limits or agreed business franchise risk appetite.

At a minimum, credit relationships are reviewed and re-approved annually. The renewal process addresses borrower performance, including reconfirmation or adjustment of risk parameter estimates; the adequacy of security; compliance with terms and conditions; and refinancing risk.

### Risk mitigation

RBS mitigates credit risk through the use of netting, collateral and the use of market standard documentation.

The types of collateral RBS takes to mitigate the credit risk arising from wholesale lending varies according to the nature of the counterparty and its assets. The most common types are:

- Commercial real estate - Refer to CRE section on page 251.
- Other physical assets - These may include stock, plant, equipment, machinery, vehicles, ships and aircraft. Such assets are suitable collateral only if RBS can identify, locate, and segregate them from other assets on which it does not have a claim. RBS values physical assets in a variety of different ways, depending on the type of asset concerned and may rely on balance sheet valuations in certain cases.
- Receivables - These are amounts owed to RBS's counterparties by their own customers. RBS values them after taking into account the quality of its counterparty's receivable management processes and excluding any that are past due.
- Financial collateral - Refer to Counterparty credit risk section on page 257.

All collateral is assessed case-by-case to ensure that it will retain its value independently of the provider. RBS monitors the value of the collateral and, if there is a shortfall, will seek additional collateral.

### Problem debt management

#### Early problem identification

Each segment has defined early warning indicators (EWIs) to identify customers experiencing financial difficulty, and to increase monitoring if needed. EWIs may be internal, such as a customer's bank account activity, or external, such as a publicly-listed customer's share price. If EWIs show a customer is experiencing potential or actual difficulty, credit officers within the business franchise may decide to place the customer on the Watchlist.

#### Watchlist\*

For customers not managed in RCR, there are three Watch classifications - Amber, Red and Black - reflecting progressively deteriorating conditions. Watch Amber customers are performing customers who show early signs of potential financial difficulty, or have other characteristics that warrant closer monitoring. Watch Red customers are performing customers who show signs of declining creditworthiness and so require active management usually by Restructuring (formerly known as Global Restructuring Group). The Watch Black portfolio includes AQ10 exposures.

Once on the Watchlist, depending on the severity of the financial difficulty and the size of the exposure, the customer relationship strategy is reassessed by credit officers, by specialist credit risk or relationship management units in the relevant business or by Restructuring. In accordance with RBS-wide policies, a number of mandatory actions are taken, including a review of the customer's credit grade and facility and security documentation.

In more material cases, a forum of experienced credit, portfolio management and remedial management specialists in either the relevant business or Restructuring may reassess the customer relationship strategy.

Appropriate corrective action is taken when circumstances emerge that may affect the customer's ability to service its debt. Such circumstances include deteriorating trading performance, imminent breach of covenant, challenging macroeconomic conditions, a late payment or the expectation of a missed payment.

For all Watch Red cases, credit specialists in the relevant business are required to consult with their counterparts in Restructuring on whether the relationship should be transferred to Restructuring (for more information on Restructuring, refer to the section below). Watch Red customers that continue to be managed by the business tend to be those requiring subject matter expertise that is available in the business rather than in Restructuring.

\*unaudited

### Credit risk continued

Remediation strategies available in the business include granting a customer various types of concessions. Any decision to approve a concession will be a function of specific country and sector appetite, the credit quality of the customer, the market environment and the loan structure and security. For further information, refer to the Forbearance section below.

Other potential outcomes of the relationship review are to: take the customer off the Watchlist; offer additional lending and continue monitoring; transfer the relationship to Restructuring if appropriate; or exit the relationship altogether.

Customers managed in RCR are by their nature subject to heightened scrutiny and regular review against specific disposal plans. RCR customers are separately identified in RBS's internal Watchlist reporting, with their Watchlist classification based on asset quality.

### Restructuring

Separately to the Credit Risk management function, the Restructuring team manages RBS's wholesale problem debt portfolio in cases where its exposure to the customer exceeds £1 million. In addition, Restructuring has a specialist credit function, the Strategy Management Unit, for distressed bilateral lending where the exposure is between £250,000 and £1 million.

The factor common to all customers managed by Restructuring is that RBS's exposure is outside risk appetite. The primary function of Restructuring is to restore customers to an acceptable credit profile, minimise losses to RBS and protect RBS's capital.

Specialists in Restructuring work with customers experiencing financial difficulties, and showing signs of financial stress, with the aim of restoring their business to financial health whenever possible. The objective is to find a mutually acceptable solution, including repayment, refinancing or transfer to another bank if that is the customer's preferred option.

The specialists conduct a detailed assessment of the viability of the business, as well as the ability of management to deal with the causes of financial difficulty, focusing on both financial and operational issues. Following the assessment, various options are discussed with the customer (which may involve debt restructuring or forbearance or both) and bespoke solutions are developed.

If the customer's finances are not viable and a mutually agreed exit is not possible, insolvency may be considered as a last resort. However, helping the customer return to financial health and restoring a normal banking relationship is always the desired goal.

### Forbearance

#### Definition

Forbearance takes place when a concession is made on the contractual terms of a loan in response to a customer's financial difficulties.

Concessions granted where there is no evidence of financial difficulty, or where any changes to terms and conditions are within usual risk appetite (for a new customer), or reflect improving credit market conditions for the customer, are not considered forbearance.

A number of options are available. These are tailored to the customer's individual circumstances. The aim is to restore the customer to financial health and to minimise risk to RBS. To ensure that forbearance is appropriate for the needs and financial profile of the customer, RBS applies minimum standards when assessing, recording, monitoring and reporting forbearance.

#### Types of wholesale forbearance

Wholesale forbearance may involve the following types of concessions:

Payment concessions and loan rescheduling, including extensions in contractual maturity, may be granted to improve the customer's liquidity. Concessions may also be granted on the expectation that the customer's liquidity will recover when market conditions improve. In addition, they may be granted if the customer will benefit from access to alternative sources of liquidity, such as an issue of equity capital. These options have been used in CRE transactions, particularly during periods where a shortage of market liquidity has ruled out immediate refinancing and made short-term collateral sales unattractive.

Debt may be forgiven, or exchanged for equity, where the customer's business condition or economic environment is such that it cannot meet obligations and where other forms of forbearance are unlikely to succeed. Debt forgiveness can be used for stressed corporate transactions and are typically structured on the basis of projected cash flows from operational activities, rather than underlying tangible asset values. Provided that the underlying business model, strategy and debt level are viable, maintaining the business as a going concern is the preferred option, rather than realising the value of the underlying assets.

The contractual margin may be amended to bolster the customer's day-to-day liquidity to help sustain its business as a going concern. This would normally be a short-term solution. As set out above, RBS would seek to obtain a return commensurate to the risk that it is required to take and this can be structured as set out above.

A temporary covenant waiver, a recalibration of covenants or a covenant amendment may be used to cure a potential or actual covenant breach. In return for this relief, RBS would seek to obtain a return commensurate with the risk that it is required to take. The increased return for the increased risk can be structured flexibly to take into account the customer's circumstances. For example it may be structured as either increased margin on a cash or payment in kind basis, deferred return instruments or both. While RBS considers these types of concessions qualitatively different from other forms of forbearance, they constitute a significant proportion of wholesale forbearance loans and are therefore included in these forbearance disclosures.



Loans may be forbore more than once, generally where a temporary concession has been granted and circumstances warrant another temporary or permanent revision of the loan's terms. All customers are assigned a PD and related facilities a LGD. These are re-assessed prior to finalising any forbearance arrangement in light of the loan's amended terms and any revised grading is incorporated in the calculation of the impairment loss provisions for RBS's wholesale exposures. Where forbearance is no longer viable, RBS will consider other options such as the enforcement of security, insolvency proceedings or both.

The ultimate outcome of a forbearance strategy is unknown at the time of execution. It is highly dependent on the cooperation of the borrower and the continued existence of a viable business. The following are generally considered to be options of last resort:

- Enforcement of security or otherwise taking control of assets - Where RBS holds collateral or other security interest and is entitled to enforce its rights, it may enforce its security or otherwise take control of the assets. The preferred strategy is to consider other possible options prior to exercising these rights.
- Insolvency - Where there is no suitable forbearance option or the business is no longer sustainable, insolvency will be considered. Insolvency may be the only option that ensures that the assets of the business are properly and efficiently distributed to relevant creditors.

### *Impairments for forbearance*

Wholesale loans granted forbearance are individually assessed in most cases and are not therefore segregated into a separate risk pool.

Forbearance may result in the value of the outstanding debt exceeding the present value of the estimated future cash flows. This may result in the recognition of an impairment loss or a write-off.

Provisions for forbore wholesale loans are assessed in accordance with normal provisioning policies. The customer's financial position and prospects as well as the likely effect of the forbearance, including any concessions granted, are considered in order to establish whether an impairment provision is required.

All wholesale customers are assigned a PD and related facilities a LGD. These are re-assessed prior to finalising any forbearance arrangement in light of the loan's amended terms and any revised grading incorporated in the calculation of the impairment loss provisions for RBS's wholesale exposures.

For performing loans, credit metrics are an integral part of the latent provision methodology and therefore the impact of covenant concessions will be reflected in the latent provision. For non-performing loans, covenant concessions will be considered in determining the overall provision for these loans.

In the case of non-performing forbore loans, the loan impairment provision assessment almost invariably takes place prior to forbearance being granted. The amount of the loan impairment provision may change once the terms of the forbearance are known, resulting in an additional provision charge or a release of the provision in the period the forbearance is granted.

The transfer of wholesale loans subject to forbearance from impaired to performing status follows assessment by relationship managers and the Credit Risk function in Restructuring. When no further losses are anticipated and the customer is expected to meet the loan's revised terms, any provision is written-off and the balance of the loan returned to performing status. This course of action is not dependent on a specified time period and follows the credit risk manager's assessment that it is appropriate.

### *Impairments*

Impairments in the wholesale portfolio decreased compared with 2013. This reflected a better economic environment as well as improvements in asset values in core markets.

There was a significant amount of credit impairment release during 2014, in particular in RCR where the favourable environment and efficient deal execution supported the disposal strategy. Improved market appetite and greater liquidity was demonstrated, particularly in Ireland, where assets have been realised more quickly and at better prices, than previously anticipated.

Lower customer defaults in the business and commercial elements of PBB and CPB resulted in modest new impairments in the wholesale portfolio. The majority of provisions in the wholesale portfolio relate to CRE. For further analysis of the provisions in the CRE portfolio refer to page 251.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Credit risk continued

#### Sector and geographical regional analyses\*

The table below details CRA by sector and geographical region for the wholesale portfolio. Sectors are based on RBS's sector concentration framework. Geographical region is based on the location of the customer's operations (or, in the case of individuals, location of residence).

2014	UK £m	Western Europe (excl. UK) £m	North America £m	Asia Pacific £m	Latin America £m	Other (1) £m	Total £m	RBS excluding RCR £m	RCR £m
Banks	3,131	26,520	4,106	5,599	700	1,511	41,567	39,687	1,880
Other financial institutions	24,430	10,635	9,261	3,312	1,329	955	49,922	48,216	1,706
Sovereign (2)	45,308	6,854	27,162	2,049	22	969	82,364	81,828	536
Property	44,401	11,858	6,846	1,035	254	587	64,981	50,160	14,821
Natural resources	7,825	4,030	7,070	3,322	228	2,135	24,610	21,700	2,910
Manufacturing	10,094	4,812	7,216	2,332	62	922	25,438	24,893	545
Transport (3)	10,750	4,206	4,251	1,583	233	8,471	29,494	25,590	3,904
Retail and leisure	15,539	3,221	5,736	694	47	447	25,684	23,856	1,828
Telecoms, media and technology	3,099	1,964	3,923	1,245	5	273	10,509	10,219	290
Business services	16,255	2,182	6,252	531	1,224	304	26,748	25,721	1,027
	180,832	76,282	81,823	21,702	4,104	16,574	381,317	351,870	29,447

2013								RBS excluding Non-Core	Non-Core
Banks	2,506	25,085	3,133	9,670	1,192	1,771	43,357	43,010	347
Other financial institutions	23,080	10,363	9,164	2,633	1,320	1,100	47,660	43,849	3,811
Sovereign (2)	55,041	8,685	18,203	3,394	37	687	86,047	84,726	1,321
Property	49,639	18,673	6,206	929	286	795	76,528	53,569	22,959
Natural resources	6,698	4,587	6,189	3,669	214	2,087	23,444	21,412	2,032
Manufacturing	8,843	4,962	6,208	2,278	120	1,397	23,808	23,276	532
Transport (3)	10,332	3,936	3,959	1,800	163	9,435	29,625	24,086	5,539
Retail and leisure	16,338	3,924	4,977	738	91	517	26,585	24,562	2,023
Telecoms, media and technology	3,356	2,591	3,401	1,403	29	491	11,271	9,810	1,461
Business services	16,527	2,733	6,053	757	1,233	206	27,509	26,518	991
	192,360	85,539	67,493	27,271	4,685	18,486	395,834	354,818	41,016

2012								RBS excluding Non-Core	Non-Core
Banks	5,023	36,573	6,421	8,837	1,435	2,711	61,000	60,609	391
Other financial institutions	20,997	13,398	10,189	2,924	4,660	789	52,957	47,425	5,532
Sovereign (2)	38,870	26,002	14,265	2,887	64	1,195	83,283	81,636	1,647
Property	54,831	23,220	7,051	1,149	2,979	1,280	90,510	56,566	33,944
Natural resources	6,103	5,911	6,758	4,129	690	1,500	25,091	21,877	3,214
Manufacturing	9,656	5,587	6,246	2,369	572	1,213	25,643	24,315	1,328
Transport (3)	12,298	5,394	4,722	5,065	2,278	4,798	34,555	26,973	7,582
Retail and leisure	17,229	5,200	4,998	1,103	270	658	29,458	26,203	3,255
Telecoms, media and technology	4,787	3,572	3,188	1,739	127	346	13,759	10,815	2,944
Business services	17,089	3,183	5,999	581	780	154	27,786	26,190	1,596
	186,883	128,040	69,837	30,783	13,855	14,644	444,042	382,609	61,433

#### Notes:

(1) Comprises Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa, and supnationals such as the World Bank.

(2) Includes cash held at central banks.

(3) Excludes net investment in operating leases in shipping and aviation portfolios as they are accounted for as property, plant and equipment. However, operating leases are included in the monitoring and management of these portfolios.

\*unaudited

### Key points\*

The revised RBS strategy and the creation of RCR as well as the general economic environment had a direct impact on the portfolios during the year, with the following key trends observed:

### Financial institutions

- The banking sector was one of the largest in the portfolio with exposure totalling £41.6 billion. Exposures were well diversified geographically and limits are controlled through a combination of the single name concentration framework, credit policies and country limits. Overall exposure did not change materially, with the decrease in Asia Pacific (largely driven by a reduction in lending in China) partially offset by increases in North America, Western Europe and the UK. Derivatives continued to generate the largest exposure for banks (70% of credit risk assets in the banks sector).
- Exposures to a range of financial companies, the largest of which were funds (26% - 25% in 2013), securitisation vehicles (19% - 22% in 2013), finance companies (17% - 14% in 2013) and financial intermediaries (16% - unchanged from 2013) including broker dealers and central counterparties (CCPs). The non-RCR other financial institutions exposure increased by 10% in 2014 driven by increased exposures to securitisation vehicles and finance companies. Product-based sub-limits were in place to ensure that exposure remained within appetite.
- At the year end, the total exposure to CCPs was £5.4 billion (2013 - £4.1 billion) as regulatory initiatives encouraged the wider use of CCPs for clearing over-the-counter derivatives.
- The sovereign portfolio comprised exposures to central banks, central governments and sub-sovereigns such as local authorities, primarily in the UK, US and Western Europe. Exposures to central banks were £75.3 billion at the year end, a reduction of 6% from 2013 driven by fluctuations in RBS Treasury activities.

### Property

- The majority of property exposure was CRE related in Ireland and the UK (refer to the CRE section on page 251 for further details). The remainder comprised lending to construction companies and building materials groups, which decreased by 5% (following a 15% reduction in 2013), and housing associations, which increased by 14% (2013 - 12%) and contributed to an improvement in the credit quality of the property portfolio. 23% of total property exposure was in RCR and the run-down of RCR property exposure contributed significantly to the improvement of portfolio asset quality. The CIB and CPB franchises accounted for 75% of total non-RCR property exposure. Property exposures in Ireland (including RCR) represented 12% of property CRA (down from 15% in 2013).

### Shipping

- RBS's exposure to the shipping sector, which is mostly within RCR and CIB, declined 9% during the year, from £11.4 billion to £10.4 billion. The reduction was a result of scheduled loan repayments, secondary sales (RCR) and prepayments.
- Of the total exposure to the shipping sector, £7.9 billion (2013 - £8.6 billion) related to asset-backed ocean-going vessels. £5.7 billion of the asset-backed ocean-going vessel exposures were in CIB.
- The main concentration risks were the bulk sector which represented 38% of the portfolio; tankers at 29% and containers at 17%. The remaining exposures comprised gas, including liquid petroleum gas (10%) and others (6%).
- Conditions remained generally subdued during 2014. There has been a recent upturn in rates for tankers due to the fall in oil prices but difficulties remained for containers due to over supply. The majority of RBS's exposure is extended against security in vessels of recent build (average age across the portfolio of 6.4 years including RCR) with less than 3% of the CIB book being above 15 years of age. 87% of the portfolio was below 10 years.
- A key protection for RBS is the minimum security covenant. The overall loan-to-value (LTV) on the portfolio was 77%. The LTV for the RCR portfolio was 92% and for the remaining portfolio was 73%. In the CIB portfolio, approximately 20% of the portfolio had LTVs above 100%.

### Oil and gas

- Within natural resources, RBS had £10.7 billion of CRA in exposure to the oil and gas sector. CRA increased by 5% (£528 million) during 2014. Further disclosures regarding exposure to this sector are detailed on page 256.

### Other corporate sectors

- Exposure to the manufacturing sector increased by 7% driven predominantly by increases in the industrials and agriculture sub-sectors which increased by 10% and 9% respectively during the year.
- The reduction in exposure to the retail and leisure sector was in line with selective risk appetite. The reductions were predominantly in relation to Ulster Bank and CIB exposure, partially offset by modest growth in CFG in line with business strategy. The CPB retail and leisure portfolio was stable compared to last year.
- Exposure in the telecoms, media and technology sector fell by 7% during the year mostly driven by a 22% reduction in telecoms.
- Exposure in healthcare was £8.9 billion at the year end (2013 - £9.5 billion) with the exposure heavily biased towards the UK, which represented 69% of the exposure (70% in 2013).

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Credit risk continued AQ10 or non-performing\*

AQ10 CRA by sector	2014				2013				2012			
	AQ10				AQ10				AQ10			
	RBS excluding RCR £m	RCR £m	Total £m	Sector assets %	RBS excluding Non-Core £m	Non-Core £m	Total £m	Sector assets %	RBS excluding Non-Core £m	Non-Core £m	Total £m	Sector assets %
Banks	41	87	128	0.3	76	—	76	0.2	146	—	146	0.2
Other financial institutions	173	336	509	1.0	339	203	542	1.1	402	472	874	1.7
Sovereign (1)	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	2	—
Property	2,860	11,885	14,745	22.7	6,908	17,438	24,346	31.8	6,424	19,325	25,749	28.4
Natural resources	151	112	263	1.1	329	81	410	1.7	115	134	249	1.0
Manufacturing	366	330	696	2.7	697	156	853	3.6	706	326	1,032	4.0
Transport (2)	268	1,139	1,407	4.8	1,261	553	1,814	6.1	1,082	572	1,654	4.8
Retail and leisure	973	1,355	2,328	9.1	1,820	1,166	2,986	11.2	1,983	986	2,969	10.1
Telecoms, media and technology	123	81	204	1.9	226	618	844	7.5	199	447	646	4.7
Business services	763	592	1,355	5.1	1,421	298	1,719	6.2	1,326	341	1,667	6.0
	5,719	15,917	21,636	5.7	13,078	20,513	33,591	8.5	12,385	22,603	34,988	8.0

#### Notes:

(1) Includes cash held at central banks.

(2) Excludes net investment in operating leases in shipping and aviation portfolios as they are accounted for as property, plant and equipment. However, operating leases are included in the monitoring and management of these portfolios.

#### Key points

- The proportion of the wholesale portfolio rated AQ10 fell significantly during the year. This was driven by asset disposals as well as write-offs.
- Trends in the wholesale non-performing credit risk exposures in 2014 were predominantly driven by the RCR portfolio which accounted for 74% of the AQ10 CRA.
- Excluding RCR less than 2% of wholesale exposure was rated AQ10.
- Property and in particular CRE continued to be the largest sector in wholesale non-performing assets - 68% of total AQ10 exposure (2013 - 73%).
- Shipping represented 3.7% of wholesale non-performing assets, largely unchanged from 2013.
- Wholesale non-performing assets originated in Ulster Bank (including RCR) decreased by 32%, representing 56% of total Wholesale non-performing assets (2013 - 53%).

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Watchlist\*

At 31 December 2014, exposures to customers reported as Watchlist Red and managed by Restructuring were £2.9 billion (2013 - £12.7 billion) and those managed in the business were £1.1 billion (2013 - £3.2 billion).

The following table shows a sector breakdown of Watchlist Red customers managed by Restructuring.

	2014 Total excluding RCR £m	2013			2012		
		RBS excluding Non-Core £m	Non-Core £m	Total £m	RBS excluding Non-Core £m	Non-Core £m	Total £m
<i>Watchlist Red CRA by current exposure</i>							
Property	917	3,178	1,841	5,019	5,605	4,377	9,982
Transport	327	1,791	456	2,247	2,238	478	2,716
Retail and leisure	386	1,092	237	1,329	1,542	432	1,974
Services	511	955	40	995	870	84	954
Other	758	2,312	804	3,116	3,087	1,177	4,264
Total	2,899	9,328	3,378	12,706	13,342	6,548	19,890

### Key points

- The number of Watchlist Red customers decreased significantly in 2014 as a result of the transfer of exposures to RCR. Customers managed in RCR are subject to heightened scrutiny and regular review against specific disposal plans. A breakdown of the asset quality of the RCR portfolio is provided on page 240.
- The remaining Restructuring population decreased during the year both in number and value. This reflects a reduced flow of cases into Restructuring, repayments and cases improving from Watchlist Red.

### Forbearance

The table below shows the value of loans (excluding loans where RBS has initiated recovery procedures) where forbearance was completed during the year, by sector and type.

	2014				2013				2012			
	Performing £m	Non- performing £m	Total £m	Provision coverage (1) %	Performing £m	Non- performing £m	Total £m	Provision coverage (1) %	Performing £m	Non- performing £m	Total £m	Provision coverage (1) %
<i>Wholesale forbearance during the year by sector</i>												
Property	1,052	4,363	5,415	66	1,759	4,802	6,561	60	3,365	3,899	7,264	16
Transport	265	233	498	32	1,016	229	1,245	34	1,174	130	1,304	23
Retail and leisure	431	553	984	51	455	390	845	37	732	113	845	34
Services	475	352	827	53	405	234	639	77	324	51	375	30
Other	817	252	1,069	56	670	510	1,180	27	1,575	550	2,125	40
	3,040	5,753	8,793	62	4,305	6,165	10,470	55	7,170	4,743	11,913	20

Note:

(1) Provision coverage reflects impairment provision as a percentage of non-performing loans.

\*unaudited

### Credit risk continued

#### Forbearance arrangements

The table below shows the incidence of the main types of wholesale forbearance arrangements by loan value.

<i>Wholesale forbearance during the year by arrangement type (1)</i>	2014 %	2013 %	2012 %
Payment concessions and loan rescheduling	73	78	49
Covenant-only concessions	20	16	30
Forgiveness of all or part of the outstanding debt	4	9	21
Variation in margin	4	2	6
Other (2)	7	31	14

Notes:

(1) Total exceeds 100% as an individual case can involve more than one type of forbearance.

(2) The main types of 'other' concessions include formal 'standstill' agreements and release of security.

### Key points

- Forbearance completed on loans decreased during 2014 compared with 2013. This was in line both with improving market conditions and the RCR disposal strategy.
- Year-on-year analysis of forborne loans may be skewed by individual material cases during a given year. This is particularly relevant when comparing the value of forbearance completed in the property and transport sectors in 2014 with previous years.
- Loans totalling £4.3 billion were granted credit approval for forbearance but had not yet reached legal completion at 31 December 2014 (2013 - £9.4 billion). These loans are referred to as "in process" and are not included in the tables above. 84% of these were non-performing loans, with associated provision coverage of 48%; and 16% were performing loans. The principal types of arrangements offered were payment concessions and loan rescheduling.
- Forbearance in the transport sector was historically driven by exposure to shipping. There has been lower forbearance in the shipping portfolio in 2014 as asset values have improved, reducing the instances of minimum security covenant breaches.
- The value of loans forborne during 2013 and 2014 and still outstanding at 31 December 2014 was £12.2 billion (2013 - £18.4 billion; 2012 - £17.7 billion), of which £3.4 billion related to arrangements completed during 2013 (2012 - £8.0 billion; 2011 - £9.3 billion).
- Additional provisions charged in 2014 relating to loans forborne during 2013 totalled £0.6 billion, predominantly driven by RCR and Restructuring cases. Provision coverage of these loans at 31 December 2014 was 77%.
- Non-RCR customers managed by Restructuring were granted forbearance on loan facilities totalling £1.3 billion during 2014. This equates to 34.1% of loans managed by Restructuring (excluding loans to customers where recovery procedures have commenced).
- Of the loans granted forbearance by Restructuring (excluding those transferred to RCR) in 2013, 24% returned to performing portfolios managed by the originating businesses by 31 December 2014. Some non-forborne loans were also returned from Restructuring to performing portfolios managed by the originating businesses.
- £4.8 billion of completed forbearance granted during the year was to customers managed by RCR. RCR uses forbearance as a tool to assist with the orderly realisation of assets. By value, 94% of the performing non-RCR loans granted forbearance in 2013 remained performing at 31 December 2014.
- Provisions for the non-performing loans disclosed above are individually assessed and therefore not directly comparable across periods. Provision coverage increased in 2014, driven by the provision coverage level in Ulster Bank (including Ulster Bank RCR cases).
- The data presented in the tables above include loans forborne during 2012 and 2013 which individually exceeded thresholds set at franchise or reportable segment level. RBS continues to refine its reporting processes for forborne loans. During 2012 the reporting threshold ranged from nil to £10 million and from 2013 until April 2014 thresholds ranged from nil to £3 million. From April 2014 no threshold were in use.



## Business review Capital and risk management

### Key credit portfolios

#### Commercial real estate\*

The commercial real estate (CRE) sector comprised exposures to entities involved in the development of, or investment in, commercial and residential properties (including house builders). The analysis of lending utilisations below is gross of impairment provisions and excludes rate risk management and contingent obligations.

During 2014, an RBS-wide centre of excellence was created to develop, implement and oversee risk management strategy for this portfolio. The centre of excellence is responsible for the management of CRE credit risk, including setting CRE-specific credit risk appetite, credit policies and portfolio controls as well as oversight of valuations, environmental and flood appraisals. This sector is reviewed regularly at the Credit Risk Committee (CRC) and Executive Risk Forum (ERF) due to its relative size and riskiness. Both CRC and ERF monitor the performance of the portfolio to ensure it remains in line with expectations relative to credit quality, capital consumption and control framework compliance.

Ongoing credit risk management is supported by dedicated credit teams covering the CPB and CIB portfolios, a team specialising in commercial and residential property developments, and senior underwriters sanctioning the most sizeable and complex CRE exposures.

	2014			2013			2012			
By segment	Investment £m	Development £m	Total £m	Investment £m	Development £m	Total £m	Investment £m	Development £m	Total £m	
UK PBB	3,757	501	4,258	3,931	510	4,441	4,793	618	5,411	
Ulster Bank	952	336	1,288	3,419	718	4,137	3,575	729	4,304	
Personal & Business Banking	4,709	837	5,546	7,350	1,228	8,578	8,368	1,347	9,715	
Commercial Banking	15,145	2,775	17,920	16,616	2,957	19,573	17,711	3,473	21,184	
Private Banking	1,051	244	1,295	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Commercial & Private Banking	16,196	3,019	19,215	16,616	2,957	19,573	17,711	3,473	21,184	
Corporate & Institutional Banking	721	255	976	898	183	1,081	1,479	372	1,851	
Citizens Financial Group	5,017	—	5,017	4,018	—	4,018	3,857	3	3,860	
RCR	6,169	6,394	12,563	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Non-Core	n/a	n/a	n/a	11,624	7,704	19,328	17,686	8,744	26,430	
	32,812	10,505	43,317	40,506	12,072	52,578	49,101	13,939	63,040	
	Investment		Development			Investment		Development		
By geography (1)	Commercial £m	Residential £m	Commercial £m	Residential £m	Total £m	RBS excluding RCR £m	RCR £m	RBS excluding RCR £m	RCR £m	Total £m
2014										
UK (excluding NI (2))	17,327	4,757	600	3,446	26,130	19,882	2,203	3,506	539	26,130
Ireland (ROI and NI (2))	2,864	740	1,499	4,469	9,572	770	2,834	329	5,639	9,572
Western Europe (other)	1,222	53	189	24	1,488	232	1,042	4	210	1,488
US	4,063	1,358	—	59	5,480	5,376	45	53	6	5,480
RoW (2)	406	22	34	185	647	383	45	219	—	647
	25,882	6,930	2,322	8,183	43,317	26,643	6,169	4,111	6,394	43,317
2013						RBS excluding Non-Core	Non-Core	RBS excluding Non-Core	Non-Core	
UK (excluding NI (2))	20,861	5,008	678	3,733	30,280	21,297	4,572	3,500	911	30,280
Ireland (ROI and NI (2))	4,405	1,028	1,919	5,532	12,884	2,763	2,670	686	6,765	12,884
Western Europe (other)	4,068	183	22	17	4,290	223	4,028	11	28	4,290
US	3,563	1,076	—	8	4,647	4,313	326	8	—	4,647
RoW (2)	314	—	30	133	477	286	28	163	—	477
	33,211	7,295	2,649	9,423	52,578	28,882	11,624	4,368	7,704	52,578
2012						RBS excluding Non-Core	Non-Core	RBS excluding Non-Core	Non-Core	
UK (excluding NI (2))	25,864	5,567	839	4,777	37,047	23,312	8,119	4,184	1,432	37,047
Ireland (ROI and NI (2))	4,651	989	2,234	5,712	13,586	2,877	2,763	665	7,281	13,586
Western Europe (other)	5,995	370	22	33	6,420	403	5,962	24	31	6,420
US	4,230	981	—	15	5,226	4,629	582	15	—	5,226
RoW (2)	454	—	65	242	761	194	260	307	—	761
	41,194	7,907	3,160	10,779	63,040	31,415	17,686	5,195	8,744	63,040

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Credit risk continued

#### By sub-sector (1)

	UK (excl NI (2)) £m	Ireland (ROI and NI (2)) £m	Western Europe (other) £m	US £m	RoW (2) £m	Total £m
<b>2014</b>						
Residential	8,203	5,209	78	1,417	206	15,113
Office	3,297	504	609	81	137	4,628
Retail	4,909	809	173	157	91	6,139
Industrial	2,588	367	32	2	29	3,018
Mixed/other	7,133	2,683	596	3,823	184	14,419
	<b>26,130</b>	<b>9,572</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>5,480</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>43,317</b>
<b>2013</b>						
Residential	8,740	6,560	200	1,085	133	16,718
Office	4,557	813	1,439	32	121	6,962
Retail	6,979	1,501	967	84	73	9,604
Industrial	3,078	454	43	30	13	3,618
Mixed/other	6,926	3,556	1,641	3,416	137	15,676
	<b>30,280</b>	<b>12,884</b>	<b>4,290</b>	<b>4,647</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>52,578</b>
<b>2012</b>						
Residential	10,344	6,701	403	996	242	18,686
Office	6,112	1,132	1,851	99	176	9,370
Retail	7,529	1,492	1,450	117	129	10,717
Industrial	3,550	476	143	4	39	4,212
Mixed/other	9,512	3,785	2,573	4,010	175	20,055
	<b>37,047</b>	<b>13,586</b>	<b>6,420</b>	<b>5,226</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>63,040</b>

#### Notes:

(1) Data at 31 December 2014 includes CRE lending from Private Banking in CPB of £1.3 billion that was excluded from 2013 and 2012 data. At 31 December 2013 CRE lending in Private Banking totalled £1.4 billion (2012 - £1.4 billion).

(2) ROI: Republic of Ireland; NI: Northern Ireland; RoW: Rest of World.

### Key points

- The overall gross lending exposure to CRE fell by £9.3 billion (18%) to £43.3 billion. Most of the decrease occurred in RCR exposure originated by Ulster Bank, CPB and CIB and was due to repayments, asset sales and write-offs.
- The RCR portfolio of £12.6 billion represented 29% of the RBS CRE portfolio. Geographically, 67% of the RCR portfolio was held in Ireland, 22% in the UK, 10% in Western Europe and 1% in the US and the rest of world.
- The increase in US exposure was predominantly driven by improved economic conditions, which contributed to increased business volumes in CFG, in line with risk appetite and business strategy.

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

	UK PBB £m	Ulster Bank £m	Commercial Banking £m	Private Banking £m	Corporate & Institutional Banking £m	Citizens Financial Group £m	RCR £m	Total £m
<b>Maturity profile of portfolio</b>								
<b>2014</b>								
1 year <sup>(1)</sup>	808	493	4,297	495	122	857	9,318	16,390
1-2 years	299	63	2,730	228	140	988	1,629	6,077
2-3 years	575	58	2,516	181	80	940	463	4,813
> 3 years	2,552	627	8,081	391	623	2,232	858	15,364
Not classified <sup>(2)</sup>	24	47	296	—	11	—	295	673
	4,258	1,288	17,920	1,295	976	5,017	12,563	43,317
<b>2013</b>								
							Non-Core	
1 year <sup>(1)</sup>	821	2,740	5,995	n/a	469	602	14,860	25,487
1-2 years	427	360	3,009	n/a	203	669	1,891	6,559
2-3 years	490	177	4,231	n/a	123	739	474	6,234
> 3 years	2,680	860	5,941	n/a	286	2,008	1,968	13,743
Not classified <sup>(2)</sup>	23	—	397	n/a	—	—	135	555
	4,441	4,137	19,573	n/a	1,081	4,018	19,328	52,578
<b>2012</b>								
							Non-Core	
1 year <sup>(1)</sup>	1,501	3,000	7,138	n/a	275	797	16,335	29,046
1-2 years	449	284	3,550	n/a	413	801	5,225	10,722
2-3 years	410	215	3,407	n/a	505	667	1,317	6,521
> 3 years	2,861	805	6,736	n/a	658	1,595	3,339	15,994
Not classified <sup>(2)</sup>	190	—	353	n/a	—	—	214	757
	5,411	4,304	21,184	n/a	1,851	3,860	26,430	63,040

### Notes:

(1) Includes on-demand and past-due assets.

(2) Predominantly comprises overdrafts for which there is no single maturity date.

(3) The UK PBB portfolio comprises Business Banking and Williams & Glyn CRE exposure. Williams & Glyn accounts for £3.3 billion (79%).

### Key points

- The overall maturity profile has changed, with the proportion of short-term (1 year) maturities reducing in favour of more medium term (> 3 years) maturities. This reflected the reductions in RCR as well as new lending activity in Commercial Banking and CFG.
- Reductions in the Ulster Bank less than one year band between 2013 and 2014 are predominantly the result of transfers to RCR.

	AQ1-AQ2 £m	AQ3-AQ4 £m	AQ5-AQ6 £m	AQ7-AQ8 £m	AQ9 £m	AQ10 £m	Total £m
<b>By asset quality band</b>							
<b>2014</b>							
RBS excluding RCR	758	9,431	13,857	3,873	215	2,620	30,754
RCR	—	228	556	502	87	11,190	12,563
	758	9,659	14,413	4,375	302	13,810	43,317
<b>2013</b>							
RBS excluding Non-Core	441	7,801	13,396	5,199	665	5,748	33,250
Non-Core	—	376	1,433	1,341	176	16,002	19,328
	441	8,177	14,829	6,540	841	21,750	52,578
<b>2012</b>							
RBS excluding Non-Core	767	6,011	16,592	6,575	1,283	5,382	36,610
Non-Core	177	578	3,680	3,200	1,029	17,766	26,430
	944	6,589	20,272	9,775	2,312	23,148	63,040

### Key points

- The overall asset quality of the portfolio has improved, including a significant reduction in the proportion rated AQ10. This was a result of reductions in RCR, improving general market conditions and the quality of new lending activity which is subject to the policies and controls put in place in recent years.
- The increase in AQ3-AQ4 exposure was predominantly driven by new lending in CFG and Commercial Banking.

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Credit risk continued

#### Credit risk mitigation for commercial real estate

The market value of the collateral typically exceeds the loan amount at origination date. The market value is defined as the estimated amount for which the asset could be sold in an arm's length transaction by a willing seller to a willing buyer. External valuations for CRE lending are required at the inception of the loan. In addition to external valuations at inception, RBS uses a range of other types of information to value such collateral, including expert judgement and indices. External valuations may be sought should an adverse credit event occur - this requirement is assessed as part of the Watchlist process. The table below shows CRE (Non-RCR and RCR) lending split by loan-to-value ratio, which represents loan value before provisions relative to the value of the property financed.

Commercial real estate loan-to-value ratio	RCR			RBS excluding RCR			Total		
	Performing £m	Non-performing £m	Total £m	Performing £m	Non-performing £m	Total £m	Performing £m	Non-performing £m	Total £m
2014									
<= 50%	300	45	345	9,833	220	10,053	10,133	265	10,398
> 50% and <= 70%	602	173	775	8,750	301	9,051	9,352	474	9,826
> 70% and <= 90%	220	554	774	2,285	409	2,694	2,505	963	3,468
> 90% and <= 100%	41	116	157	343	134	477	384	250	634
> 100% and <= 110%	56	211	267	168	148	316	224	359	583
> 110% and <= 130%	49	438	487	326	201	527	375	639	1,014
> 130% and <= 150%	6	404	410	135	128	263	141	532	673
> 150%	65	4,160	4,225	305	495	800	370	4,655	5,025
Total with LTVs	1,339	6,101	7,440	22,145	2,036	24,181	23,484	8,137	31,621
Minimal security (1)	—	3,168	3,168	33	38	71	33	3,206	3,239
Other	34	1,921	1,955	5,956	546	6,502	5,990	2,467	8,457
Total	1,373	11,190	12,563	28,134	2,620	30,754	29,507	13,810	43,317
Total portfolio average LTV (2)	75%	338%	291%	56%	133%	62%	57%	287%	116%

2013	Non-Core			RBS excluding Non-Core			Total		
	Performing £m	Non-performing £m	Total £m	Performing £m	Non-performing £m	Total £m	Performing £m	Non-performing £m	Total £m
<= 50%	419	142	561	7,589	143	7,732	8,008	285	8,293
> 50% and <= 70%	867	299	1,166	9,366	338	9,704	10,233	637	10,870
> 70% and <= 90%	1,349	956	2,305	2,632	405	3,037	3,981	1,361	5,342
> 90% and <= 100%	155	227	382	796	295	1,091	951	522	1,473
> 100% and <= 110%	168	512	680	643	327	970	811	839	1,650
> 110% and <= 130%	127	1,195	1,322	444	505	949	571	1,700	2,271
> 130% and <= 150%	13	703	716	356	896	1,252	369	1,599	1,968
> 150%	69	7,503	7,572	400	1,864	2,264	469	9,367	9,836
Total with LTVs	3,167	11,537	14,704	22,226	4,773	26,999	25,393	16,310	41,703
Minimal security (1)	51	3,069	3,120	9	88	97	60	3,157	3,217
Other	108	1,396	1,504	5,266	888	6,154	5,374	2,284	7,658
Total	3,326	16,002	19,328	27,501	5,749	33,250	30,827	21,751	52,578
Total portfolio average LTV (2)	75%	292%	245%	64%	187%	85%	65%	261%	142%

2012	Non-Core			RBS excluding Non-Core			Total		
	Performing £m	Non-performing £m	Total £m	Performing £m	Non-performing £m	Total £m	Performing £m	Non-performing £m	Total £m
<= 50%	727	142	869	6,624	157	6,781	7,351	299	7,650
> 50% and <= 70%	2,231	708	2,939	10,239	346	10,585	12,470	1,054	13,524
> 70% and <= 90%	3,038	750	3,788	3,802	456	4,258	6,840	1,206	8,046
> 90% and <= 100%	711	1,570	2,281	1,235	712	1,947	1,946	2,282	4,228
> 100% and <= 110%	295	1,635	1,930	835	357	1,192	1,130	1,992	3,122
> 110% and <= 130%	599	1,078	1,677	642	610	1,252	1,241	1,688	2,929
> 130% and <= 150%	263	1,261	1,524	412	426	838	675	1,687	2,362
> 150%	569	7,841	8,410	1,026	1,471	2,497	1,595	9,312	10,907
Total with LTVs	8,433	14,985	23,418	24,815	4,535	29,350	33,248	19,520	52,768
Minimal security (1)	7	1,573	1,580	4	55	59	11	1,628	1,639
Other	225	1,207	1,432	6,406	795	7,201	6,631	2,002	8,633
Total	8,665	17,765	26,430	31,225	5,385	36,610	39,890	23,150	63,040
Total portfolio average LTV (2)	84%	223%	173%	67%	148%	80%	71%	206%	122%

#### Notes:

- (1) Total portfolio average LTV is quoted net of loans with minimal security given that the anticipated recovery rate is less than 10%. Provisions are marked against these loans where required to reflect the relevant asset quality and recovery profile.
- (2) Weighted average by exposure.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Key points

- The average LTV for the performing book improved from 65% to 57% over the past year. The LTV for the performing portfolio in the UK was 56%. The reductions in the higher LTV bands occurred mainly in the RCR book originated by Ulster Bank and CIB, reflecting reductions through repayments, asset sales and write-offs.
- Interest on performing investment property secured loans was covered 1.6x and 2.9x within RCR and RBS excluding RCR, respectively. Performing loans include general corporate loans, typically unsecured, to CRE companies (including real estate investment trusts), and major UK house builders, in addition to facilities supported by guarantees. The credit quality of these exposures was consistent with that of the performing portfolio overall. Non-performing loans are subject to standard provisioning policies.

### Credit quality

Credit quality metrics relating to CRE lending were as follows:

	Total			RCR	Non-Core	
	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012
Lending (gross)	£43,317m	£52,578m	£63,040m	£12,563m	£19,328m	£26,430m
Of which REIL	£13,345m	£20,129m	£22,108m	£11,112m	£14,305m	£17,052m
Provisions	£9,027m	£13,209m	£10,077m	£8,067m	£10,639m	£8,349m
REIL as a % of gross loans to customers	30.8%	38.3%	35.1%	88.5%	74.0%	64.5%
Provisions as a % of REIL	68%	66%	46%	73%	74%	49%

#### Notes:

- Excludes property related lending to customers in other sectors managed by Real Estate Finance.
- Data at 31 December 2014 includes CRE lending from Private Banking in CPB of £1.3 billion that was excluded from 2013 and 2012 data. At 31 December 2013 CRE lending in Private Banking totalled £1.4 billion (2012 - £1.4 billion).

### Corporate risk elements in lending and potential problem loans (excluding CRE)

	2014		2013		2012	
	Loans £m	Provisions £m	Loans £m	Provisions £m	Loans £m	Provisions £m
Secured	5,082	3,109	7,686	4,347	9,936	4,704
Unsecured	1,953	1,365	2,496	1,685	1,894	1,170

### Oil and gas\*

RBS has £10.7 billion of credit risk assets (CRA) to the oil and gas sector. Including committed but undrawn facilities, the exposure to the sector is £24.1 billion.

The price of crude oil is subject to global demand and supply factors and therefore determined globally. It has fallen by more than 50% since June 2014. This steep decline has been driven by excess supply fears resulting from a combination of factors. These include the growth in US shale production and OPEC maintaining current production levels, as well as weaker demand in Europe and slower growth in China.

The price of natural gas is determined regionally. US natural gas prices have been relatively stable compared with the recent price of crude oil. The price of natural gas is not highly correlated to oil prices.

Exposures to this sector continue to be closely managed through the sector concentration framework and through ongoing customer and sub-sector reviews including stress testing. Risk appetite to the overall oil and gas sector was reduced during 2014. Further action is ongoing to mitigate exposure where possible.

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Credit risk continued

The table below provides a breakdown of oil and gas sector exposure on both a CRA basis and total exposure (including committed but undrawn exposure and contingent obligations) basis by business segment.

	2014				2013			
	CRA £m	%	Total £m	%	CRA £m	%	Total £m	%
Commercial Banking	671	6	1,035	4	772	8	1,203	5
Corporate & Institutional Banking	8,297	78	20,278	84	8,264	82	20,924	88
Citizens Financial Group	1,251	12	2,134	9	819	8	1,284	5
Others	101	1	243	1	144	1	276	1
RCR	352	3	457	2	145	1	147	1
	10,672	100	24,147	100	10,144	100	23,834	100
Of which: lending exposure	7,744	73	17,695	73	6,996	69	16,693	70

During 2014, CFG's exposure to this sector increased, partly due to the transfer of £0.4 billion (total exposure) of oil and gas exposures from CIB.

The committed lending exposure included legal commitments to syndicated bank facilities, with tenors up to five years. These committed facilities are for general corporate purposes including funding of operating needs and capital expenditures. These facilities are available as long as counterparties remain compliant with the terms of the credit agreement. Contingent obligations relate to guarantees, letters of credit and suretyships provided to customers.

RBS had no high-yield bond underwriting positions as at 31 December 2014; it had a simple sub investment grade loan underwriting of \$86 million in the Americas which, subsequent to year end, had been syndicated.

At the year end, RBS's exposure to commodities financing was £1.0 billion, predominantly in relation to oil (£0.7 billion), metals (£0.2 billion) and coal (£0.1 billion).

### CIB oil and gas\* Sub-sector and geography

The tables below provide a breakdown of CIB's oil and gas sector exposure - which represents 84% of RBS's exposure to this sector (including committed but undrawn exposure) - split by sub-sector and geography. The analysis is based on RBS's sector concentration framework.

2014	UK £m	Western Europe (excl. UK) £m	North America £m	Asia Pacific £m	Latin America £m	CEEMA(1) £m	Total £m
Producers (incl. integrated oil companies)	833	1,101	4,822	263	115	848	7,982
Oilfield service providers	153	675	1,007	742	—	535	3,112
Other wholesale and trading activities	295	794	683	907	—	122	2,801
Refineries	1	177	2,700	591	141	67	3,677
Pipelines	96	48	2,359	49	33	121	2,706
	1,378	2,795	11,571	2,552	289	1,693	20,278

### Including committed undrawn exposures

Of which: exploration and production	145	3	3,118	115	150	37	3,568
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2013	UK £m	Western Europe (excl. UK) £m	North America £m	Asia Pacific £m	Latin America £m	CEEMA(1) £m	Total £m
Producers (incl. integrated oil companies)	748	1,065	5,333	459	5	748	8,358
Oilfield service providers	180	835	1,078	507	61	323	2,984
Other wholesale and trading activities	297	915	553	893	—	147	2,805
Refineries	1	135	2,203	993	131	231	3,694
Pipelines	188	95	2,563	41	—	196	3,083
	1,414	3,045	11,730	2,893	197	1,645	20,924

Note:

(1) Includes exposures to Central and Eastern Europe as well as the Middle East and Africa.

\*unaudited



The sub-sector within which a customer operates is a primary consideration for assessing the credit risk of a customer. Current areas of focus are towards customers involved in exploration and production principally in producers (E&P) and oilfield service providers (OFS). E&P customers represent approximately 18% of CIB's exposure to the oil and gas sector and OFS customers represent 15%.

E&P is most immediately exposed to the oil price decline and E&P companies are the primary customers for the service providers and are experiencing an adverse impact on their financial performance from a reduced level of contracts and lower contract rates as well as pressure to re-price existing services.

### Asset quality - AQ band

	2014	
	£m	%
AQ1	3,948	20
AQ2	1,999	10
AQ3	3,455	17
AQ4	7,521	37
AQ5	2,035	10
AQ6	1,025	5
AQ7	293	1
Other	2	—
	20,278	100

At the year end 83%, of the portfolio exposure was investment grade (AQ1-AQ4).

The impact of continuing low oil prices on the credit quality of the portfolio is subject to ongoing review, including stress testing. RBS is in regular contact with customers to understand the impacts on them of a sustained low oil price. This activity is backed up by a suite of early warning indicators used to identify customers who may be experiencing financial difficulty.

At the year end, the proportion of RBS's total oil and gas portfolio, excluding RCR, designated as Watchlist Red (performing customers who show signs of declining creditworthiness and so require active management) was 0.4%, of which 0.02% was managed by Restructuring.

### Counterparty credit risk

RBS mitigates counterparty credit risk arising from both derivatives and repurchase agreements through the use of netting, collateral and market standard documentation.

The other principal components of RBS's exposure to producers are Integrated Oil Companies (IOC) and National Oil Companies (NOC). IOC and NOC are less vulnerable to the oil price decline due to scale, diversification and in the case of NOC, explicit support from governments.

### Asset quality

The table below provides a breakdown of the asset quality of CIB's oil and gas sector portfolios.

Amounts owed by RBS to a counterparty are netted against amounts the same counterparty owes it, in accordance with relevant regulatory and internal policies. However, generally, this is only done if a netting and collateral agreement is in place as well as a legal opinion to the effect that the agreement is enforceable in the relevant jurisdictions.

Collateral may consist of either cash or securities. In the case of derivatives, collateral generally takes the form of cash. In the case of securities financing transactions, collateral usually takes the form of debt and, to a much lesser extent, equity securities at the outset. However, if the value of collateral falls relative to that of the obligation, RBS may require additional collateral in the form of cash (variation margin). The vast majority of agreements are subject to daily collateral calls with collateral valued using RBS's internal valuation methodologies.

Industry standard documentation, such as master repurchase agreements and credit support annexes accompanied by legal opinion, is used for financial collateral taken as part of trading activities.

RBS limits counterparty credit exposures by setting limits which take into account the potential adverse movement of an exposure after adjusting for the impact of netting and collateral where applicable.

### Mitigation of counterparty credit risk

	2014 £bn	2013 £bn	2012 £bn
Reverse repurchase agreements	64.7	76.5	104.8
Securities received as collateral (1,2)	(64.7)	(76.4)	(104.7)
Derivative assets gross exposure	354.0	288.0	441.9
Counterparty netting	(295.3)	(241.3)	(374.9)
Cash collateral held (2)	(33.3)	(24.4)	(34.3)
Securities received as collateral (2)	(7.0)	(6.0)	(5.6)

#### Notes:

(1) In accordance with normal market practice, at 31 December 2014 £60.2 billion (2013 - £63.7 billion; 2012 - £100.7 billion) had been resold or re-pledged as collateral for RBS's own transactions.

(2) At fair value.

\*unaudited

### Credit risk *continued*

#### Personal credit risk management

Personal credit risk management focuses on RBS's personal customers in UK PBB, Ulster Bank and CFG as well as personal lending activities in Private Banking.

#### Risk appetite

RBS uses a product and asset class framework to control credit risk for its personal businesses. The framework sets limits that measure and control, for each relevant franchise or reportable segment, the quality of both existing and new business. The actual performance of each portfolio is tracked relative to these limits and action taken where necessary. These limits apply to a range of credit risk related measures including expected loss of the portfolio, the expected loss in a given stress scenario, projected credit default rates and the LTV of personal mortgage portfolios.

#### Risk assessment

Personal lending entails making a large number of small-value loans. To ensure that these lending decisions are made consistently, RBS analyses credit information, including the historical debt servicing behaviour of customers with respect to both RBS and their other lenders. RBS then sets its lending rules accordingly, developing different rules for different products. The process is then largely automated, with customers receiving a credit score that reflects a comparison of their credit profile with the rule set. However, for relatively high-value, complex personal loans, including some residential mortgage lending, specialist credit managers make the final lending decisions.

#### Risk mitigation

RBS takes collateral in the form of residential property to mitigate the credit risk arising from mortgages and home equity lending. RBS values residential property during the loan underwriting process by either appraising properties individually or valuing them collectively using statistically valid models. RBS updates residential property values quarterly using the relevant residential property index, namely the Halifax Quarterly Regional House Price Index in the UK, the Case-Shiller Home Price Index in the US, the Central Statistics Office Residential Property Price Index in the ROI, and the Nationwide House Price Index in Northern Ireland. For automobile lending in the US, new vehicles are valued at cost and used vehicles at the average trade-in value.

#### Problem debt management

##### Collections

Collections functions in each of RBS's personal businesses provide support to customers who cannot meet their obligations to RBS. Such customers may miss a payment on their loan, borrow more than their agreed limit, or ask for help. Dedicated support teams are also in place to identify and help customers who have not yet missed a payment but may be facing financial difficulty. The collections function may use a range of tools to initiate contact with such customers, establish the cause of their financial difficulty and support them where possible. In the process, they may consider granting the customer forbearance.

Additionally, in the UK and Ireland support is provided to customers with unsecured loans who establish a repayment plan with RBS through a debt advice agency or a self-help tool. Such "breathing space" suspends collections activity for a 30-day period to allow time for the repayment plan to be put in place. Arrears continue to accrue for customer loans granted breathing space.

If collections strategies are unsuccessful the relationship is transferred to the recoveries team. For further details on recoveries, refer to following page.

#### Forbearance

##### Definition

Forbearance takes place when a concession is made on the contractual terms of a loan in response to a customer's financial difficulties. It is granted either permanently or temporarily, following an assessment of the customer's circumstances.

##### Identification

Customers who contact RBS directly because of financial difficulties, or who are already in payment arrears, may be granted forbearance. In the course of assisting customers, more than one forbearance treatment may be granted.

##### Types of personal forbearance

Forbearance is granted principally to customers with mortgages and less frequently to customers with unsecured loans.

##### Mortgage portfolios

Forbearance options include, but are not limited:

- Payment concessions - A temporary reduction in, or elimination of, the periodic (usually monthly) loan repayment is agreed with the customer. At the end of the concessionary period, forborne principal and accrued interest outstanding is scheduled for repayment over an agreed period. Ulster Bank and CFG also offer payment concessions in the form of discounted interest rates that involve the forgiveness of some interest.
- Capitalisation of arrears - The customer repays the arrears over the remaining term of the mortgage and returns to an up-to-date position.
- Term extensions - The maturity date of the loan is extended.
- Interest only conversions - The loan converts from principal and interest repayment to interest only repayment on a permanent or, in Ulster Bank only, temporary basis.

### *Unsecured portfolios*

Types of forbearance offered in the unsecured portfolios vary by reportable segment.

### *Monitoring of forbearance*

Forborne loans may be either performing or impaired and are subject to the same impairment triggers as the rest of the portfolio (refer to impairment section). A loan is deemed impaired if the borrower has failed to make repayments of principal, payments of interest or both for 90 days or more, or in the case of forborne loans, the borrower has been granted a payment concession such as interest forgiveness.

The granting of forbearance does not generally change the delinquency status of the loan affected. An exception is a loan for which RBS has agreed to capitalise arrears. Capitalisation of principal and interest in arrears brings the loan up to date. If it remains up to date for six months and is deemed likely to continue to do so, it is transferred to the performing book. In Ulster Bank, if a customer makes payments that reduce loan arrears below 90 days, the loan is transferred to the performing book. In addition, a small portfolio of loans past due 90 days is managed by PBB's collections function. Loans in this portfolio may also be transferred to the performing book if the customer makes payments that reduce arrears below 90 days. In CFG, all forborne loans are included in the non-performing book regardless of whether or not RBS has agreed to capitalise interest past due for 90 days or more.

Mortgages granted forbearance are reviewed regularly to ensure that customers are meeting the agreed terms. Key metrics have been developed to record the proportion of loans that fail to meet the agreed terms over time, as well as the proportion of loans that return to performing with no arrears. Personal forbearance loans can be modified more than once.

### *Impairments for forbearance*

Performing loans in UK PBB and Ulster Bank are subject to a latent loss provision but form a separate risk pool (for 24 months in UK PBB and for the period of forbearance in Ulster Bank). The higher of the observed default rates, or PD, is used in UK PBB in the latent provisioning calculations for these loans to ensure that appropriate provision is held. In Ulster Bank, the PD model used in latent provision calculations is calibrated separately for forborne loans, using information on the historic performance of loans subject to similar arrangements. Furthermore, for these portfolios the latent provision incorporates extended emergence periods. Once such loans are no longer separately identified, the use of account level PDs, refreshed monthly in the latent provision methodology, captures the underlying credit risk without a material time lag. There is no reassessment of the PD at the time forbearance is granted but the loan is subject to the latent provisioning methodology described above.

Provisions for all non-performing personal loans are collectively assessed. The loans are grouped by asset type. Characteristics such as LTVs, arrears status and default vintage are also considered when assessing recoverable amount and calculating the related provision requirement. Ulster Bank personal non-performing loans in the Republic of Ireland form a separate risk pool where specific LGDs are allocated using observed performance of these loans. While non-performing forbearance personal loans in the UK (10% of portfolio) do not form a separate risk pool, the LGD models used to calculate the collective impairment provision are affected by forbearance agreements.

In CFG, personal loans subject to forbearance are assessed individually, taking into account the value of any collateral, for impairment loss throughout their lives until repaid or fully written off. If there is no collateral the impairment amount considers the excess of the loans' carrying amount over the present value of expected future cash flows. Any confirmed losses are charged off immediately.

### *Recoveries*

Once a loan has been identified as impaired it is managed by recoveries teams in the relevant businesses. They seek to reduce RBS's loss by maximising cash recovery while treating customers fairly. Where an acceptable repayment arrangement cannot be agreed with the customer litigation may be considered. In the UK and Northern Ireland, no repossession procedures are initiated until at least six months following the emergence of arrears (in the Republic of Ireland, regulations prohibit taking legal action for an extended period). Additionally, certain forbearance options are made available to customers managed by the recoveries function.

### *Impairments*

Impairments in the personal portfolios decreased compared with 2013. Ulster Bank was a significant driver of this decrease as a result of the better economic environment and higher asset prices, which led to the release of credit impairments during the year. Outside of Ulster Bank, impairments in the UK portfolio decreased which also saw provision releases owing to rising asset prices and strong recoveries. The level of new impairments in the UK portfolio decreased by 26% compared to 2013.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Credit risk continued

#### Key portfolios

Overview of personal portfolios split by product type and segment\*

	2014					2013				
	UK PBB £m	Ulster Bank £m	Private Banking £m	CFG £m	Total £m	UK PBB £m	Ulster Bank £m	Private Banking £m	CFG £m	Total £m
Mortgages (1)	103,235	17,506	8,889	21,122	150,752	99,338	19,034	8,701	19,584	146,657
of which: interest only	24,287	1,263	6,357	9,929	41,836	25,439	2,069	5,968	9,272	42,748
buy-to-let	11,602	2,091	1,388	147	15,228	9,073	2,242	1,024	241	12,580
forbearance	4,873	3,880	100	409	9,262	5,446	2,782	127	373	8,728
Other lending (2)	12,335	591	5,186	10,924	29,036	13,760	740	5,353	8,302	28,155
of which: credit cards	4,951	192	124	952	6,219	5,766	212	129	945	7,052
loans	5,020	322	4,298	1,933	11,573	5,357	421	4,656	1,712	12,146
overdrafts	2,364	77	365	91	2,897	2,637	107	355	100	3,199
auto loans	—	—	—	7,947	7,947	—	—	—	5,545	5,545
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,570</b>	<b>18,097</b>	<b>14,075</b>	<b>32,046</b>	<b>179,788</b>	<b>113,098</b>	<b>19,774</b>	<b>14,054</b>	<b>27,886</b>	<b>174,812</b>
<b>Non-performing %</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>

Notes:

(1) It is possible for a mortgage loan to appear in more than one category.

(2) There are other less material categories of personal lending not listed.

#### Overview of impairments and REIL

	2014				2013			
	UK PBB	Ulster Bank	Private Banking	CFG	UK PBB	Ulster Bank	Private Banking	CFG
<b>Loan impairment charge as a % of gross customer loans and advances</b>								
Mortgages	—	(1.0%)	0.1%	0.2%	—	1.2%	—	0.5%
Other lending	2.0%	2.9%	(0.1%)	0.8%	1.8%	2.2%	0.6%	1.0%
<b>Loan impairment provisions (£m)</b>								
Mortgages	217	1,413	27	146	259	1,726	33	123
Other lending	1,515	104	35	49	1,671	187	50	33
<b>Risk elements in lending (£m)</b>								
Mortgages	1,218	3,362	95	949	1,702	3,235	116	761
Other lending	1,520	110	80	195	1,863	193	80	148

\*unaudited

## UK PBB

### Overview

The majority of the UK PBB personal portfolio consists of mortgages. Total gross personal lending of £115.6 billion comprised 64% of RBS's gross personal lending of £179.8 billion. £103.2 billion related to mortgage lending and £12.3 billion to other lending (loans, credit cards and overdrafts).

## Mortgages

### Risk mitigation

The table below shows LTVs for the UK PBB residential mortgage portfolio split between performing (AQ1-AQ9) and non-performing (AQ10), with the average LTV calculated on a weighted-value basis. Loan balances are shown as at the end of the year whereas property values are calculated using property index movements since the last formal valuation.

Loan-to-value ratio by value	2014				2013				2012			
	Performing £m	Non- performing £m	Total £m	Of which: IOL (1) £m	Performing £m	Non- performing £m	Total £m	Of which: IOL (1) £m	Performing £m	Non- performing £m	Total £m	Of which: IOL (1) £m
<= 50%	34,889	430	35,319	7,802	26,392	313	26,705	5,977	22,306	327	22,633	5,702
> 50% and <= 70%	38,355	783	39,138	9,935	34,699	591	35,290	9,280	27,408	457	27,865	7,921
> 70% and <= 90%	23,660	705	24,365	4,978	28,920	854	29,774	6,909	34,002	767	34,769	9,267
> 90% and <= 100%	2,837	187	3,024	1,071	4,057	315	4,372	1,846	7,073	366	7,439	2,370
> 100% and <= 110%	609	73	682	413	1,790	182	1,972	1,039	3,301	290	3,591	1,666
> 110% and <= 130%	143	29	172	104	552	100	652	382	1,919	239	2,158	1,091
> 130% and <= 150%	27	2	29	4	37	5	42	6	83	26	109	45
Total with LTVs	100,520	2,209	102,729	24,307	96,447	2,360	98,807	25,439	96,092	2,472	98,564	28,062
Other (2)	486	20	506	(20)	511	20	531	—	486	12	498	7
Total	101,006	2,229	103,235	24,287	96,958	2,380	99,338	25,439	96,578	2,484	99,062	28,069
Total portfolio average LTV (3)	57%	67%	57%		62%	75%	62%		66%	80%	67%	
Average LTV on new originations during the year (3)			71%				67%				65%	

### Notes:

(1) Interest only loans.

(2) Where no indexed LTV is held.

(3) Average LTV weighted by value is calculated using the LTV on each individual mortgage and applying a weighting based on the value of each mortgage.

## Key points

- The UK personal mortgage portfolio increased by 4% to £103.2 billion, of which £91.6 billion (2013 - £90.3 billion) was owner-occupied and £11.6 billion (2013 - £9.0 billion) buy-to-let.
- Based on the Halifax Price Index at September 2014, the portfolio average indexed LTV by volume was 50.4% (2013 - 54.1%) and 57.3% by weighted value of debt outstanding (2013 - 62.0%). The ratio of total outstanding balances to total indexed property valuations was 41.5% (2013 - 45.1%).
- Fixed interest rate products of varying time durations accounted for approximately 56%, with 3% a combination of fixed and variable rates and the remainder variable rate. Approximately 19% of owner-occupied mortgages were on interest only terms with a bullet repayment and 7% were on a combination of interest only and capital and interest.
- During 2014 buy-to-let balances increased by £2.6 billion (28.2%) in support of UK PBB's growth strategy with new business subject to rental cover and loan-to-value risk appetite requirements. Approximately 63% of buy-to-let mortgages were on interest only lending terms with a bullet repayment, 34% repayable by regular capital and interest repayments and the remaining 3% a combination of interest only and capital and interest. Buy-to-let lending includes lending to customers who were originally owner occupiers who subsequently, with the agreement of RBS, let out the property to a third party, this represents 26.5% of buy-to-let mortgages.
- The portfolio average indexed LTV improved from 62.0% to 57.3%. Within owner-occupied, the average LTV by weighted value improved from 61.6% to 57.0% and within buy-to-let from 66.0% to 59.6%.

### Credit risk continued

- Gross new mortgage lending of £19.7 billion (2013 - £14.4 billion) had an average LTV by weighted value of 70.5%, which was higher than 2013 (66.6%), reflecting growth in the market and RBS's strong support for the Help To Buy scheme. Within this: owner-occupier lending was £16.6 billion (2013 - £13.2 billion) and had an average LTV by weighted value of 71.7% (2013 - 66.9%). Buy-to-let lending was £3.1 billion (2013 - £1.3 billion) with an average LTV by weighted value of 63.9% (2013 - 63.0%).
- All new mortgage business is subject to a comprehensive assessment which includes: i) an affordability test; ii) credit scoring; iii) a maximum loan-to-value of 90% (75% on buy-to-let), with the exception of government-backed schemes, for example Help to Buy and New Buy, where lending of up to 95% is provided; and iv) a range of policy rules that restrict the availability of credit to riskier borrowers.
- The arrears rate (more than three payments in arrears, excluding repossessions and shortfalls after property sale), fell from 1.3% to 1.0%. The number of repossessions was also lower (1,129 compared with 1,532 in 2013). The arrears rate for buy-to-let mortgages was 0.6% (2013 - 0.9%).
- There was an overall release of impairment provision of £26 million. This compares to a charge of £31 million in 2013 and reflects improvements in underlying asset quality, including house price increases.

### Arrears status and provisions

The mortgage arrears information for accounts in forbearance and related provision are shown in the tables below.

	No missed payments		1-3 months in arrears		>3 months in arrears		Total		Forborne balances (1) %
	Balance £m	Provision £m	Balance £m	Provision £m	Balance £m	Provision £m	Balance £m	Provision £m	
2014	4,158	15	364	16	351	26	4,873	57	4.7
2013	4,596	17	426	23	424	51	5,446	91	5.5
2012	4,006	20	388	16	450	64	4,844	100	4.9

#### Notes:

- As a percentage of mortgage loans.
- Until June 2014, forbearance in UK PBB included all changes to the contractual payment terms, including those where the customer was up-to-date on payments and there was no obvious evidence of financial difficulty. From July 2014, only customers exhibiting signs of financial stress are reported in forbearance disclosures.
- Includes the current stock position of forbearance deals agreed since early 2008 for UK PBB.

The incidence of the main types of personal forbearance on the balance sheet are analysed below.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Interest only conversions - temporary and permanent	1,632	1,784	1,220
Term extensions - capital repayment and interest only	2,308	2,478	2,271
Payment concessions	228	241	215
Capitalisation of arrears	876	907	932
Other	223	366	452
Total (1)	5,267	5,776	5,090

#### Note:

- As an individual case can include more than one type of arrangement, the analysis above exceeds the total value of cases subject to forbearance.



The table below shows forbearance agreed during the year analysed between performing and non-performing.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Performing forbearance	785	1,332	1,809
Non-performing forbearance	148	186	184
Total forbearance <sup>(1,2)</sup>	933	1,518	1,993

Notes:

(1) An individual case can include more than one type of arrangement.

(2) Includes all arrangements agreed during the year (new customers and renewals) including those deals that have expired at the year end. Balances are as at the year end.

### Key points

- At 31 December 2014, forbearance balances where the forbearance treatment was provided in the last 24 months amounted to £1.2 billion, representing 1.2% of total mortgage stock.
- The flow of new forbearance was £367 million in the second half of 2014. This compared to £748 million in the first half 2014, which included changes in contractual terms for both financially stressed and non-financially stressed customers. The underlying flow of new forbearance continued on a downward trend and, on a like-for-like basis, was 18% lower in 2014 compared to 2013.
- Since January 2008, 4.7% of total mortgage assets (£4.9 billion) have been subject to a forbearance arrangement with stock levels decreasing by 10.5% since the end of 2013. The year-on-year reduction partly reflects the change in definition to report only financially stressed customers from July 2014 onwards. On a like-for-like basis underlying stock was down by 5.3%.
- The majority (91%) of UK PBB forbearance is permanent in nature (term extensions, capitalisation of arrears, historic conversions to interest only). Temporary forbearance comprises payment concessions such as reduced or deferred payments with such arrangements typically agreed for a period of three to six months.
- The most frequently granted forbearance types were term extensions (44% of forbearance loans at 31 December 2014), interest only conversions (31%) and capitalisations of arrears (17%).
- Conversions to interest only have only been permitted on a very exceptional basis since the fourth quarter of 2012 and have not been permitted for customers in financial difficulty since 2009.
- Approximately 85% of forbearance loans (2013 - 85%) were up to date with payments compared with approximately 98% of assets not subject to forbearance activity. The impairment provision cover on forbearance loans remained significantly higher than that on assets not subject to forbearance as a result of a bespoke provisioning methodology.

### Interest only\*

UK PBB stopped offering interest only terms for owner-occupier mortgages from 1 December 2012. This policy is reviewed periodically. Interest only repayment remains an option for buy-to-let mortgages. Exposure to interest only reduced by 5% during 2014.

	2014 Mortgages £m	2013 Mortgages £m
Variable rate	15,165	18,400
Fixed rate	9,122	7,039
Interest only loans	24,287	25,439
Mixed repayment <sup>(1)</sup>	6,820	7,665
Total	31,107	33,104

Note:

(1) Mortgages with partial interest only and partial capital repayments.

\*unaudited

## Credit risk continued

The tables below show interest only mortgage portfolios (excluding mixed repayment mortgages) split by type and by contractual year of maturity.

2014	2015 (1) £m	2016-17 £m	2018-22 £m	2023-27 £m	2028-32 £m	2033-42 £m	After 2042 £m	Total £m
Bullet principal repayment (2)	503	1,086	3,853	5,300	6,965	6,277	303	24,287

2013	2014 (3) £m	2015-16 £m	2017-21 £m	2022-26 £m	2027-31 £m	2032-41 £m	After 2041 £m	Total £m
Bullet principal repayment (2)	460	1,006	4,045	5,255	7,194	7,109	370	25,439

Notes:

(1) 2015 includes pre-2015 maturity exposure.

(2) Includes £1.6 billion (2013 - £1.8 billion) of repayment mortgages that have been granted interest only concessions (forbearance).

(3) 2014 includes pre-2014 maturity exposure.

The table below shows the arrears status of the personal mortgage portfolio by mortgage type.

	2014			2013		
	Interest only Bullet principal repayment £m	Other £m	Total £m	Interest only Bullet principal repayment £m	Other £m	Total £m
Arrears status						
Current	23,445	77,056	100,501	24,395	71,629	96,024
1 to 90 days in arrears	514	1,214	1,727	612	1,390	2,002
90+ days in arrears	328	678	1,007	432	880	1,312
Total	24,287	78,948	103,235	25,439	73,899	99,338

## Key points

- UK PBB's interest only mortgages require full principal repayment (also known as a bullet payment) at the time of maturity. Typically such loans have remaining terms of between 10 and 20 years. Customers are reminded of the need to have an adequate repayment vehicle in place during the mortgage term.
- Of the £24.3 billion interest only mortgages, £17.0 billion (70.0%) were residential owner occupied mortgages (2013 - £19.9 billion) and £7.3 billion (30.0%) related to buy-to-let lending (2013 - £5.6 billion).
- Of the bullet loans that matured in the six months to 30 June 2014, 60.3% had been fully repaid by 31 December 2014. The unpaid balance totalled £58.8 million, of which 94.4% continued to meet agreed payment arrangements (including balances with a term extension agreed on either a capital and interest or interest only basis). Of the £58.8 million unpaid balance, 84.1% of the loans had an indexed LTV of 70% or less with 2.6% above 90%.
- Customers may be offered an extension to the term of an interest only mortgage or a conversion of an interest only mortgage to one featuring repayment of both capital and interest, subject to affordability and characteristics such as the customers' income and ultimate repayment vehicle. These term extensions are considered forbearance and are subject to a bespoke provision methodology resulting in a higher provision rate.

- UK PBB personal recognises impairment provisions in respect of interest-only mortgages that are due to mature within five years. The impairment calculation is based on historical analysis coupled with data obtained from a sample of customers who were asked about how they intended to repay their borrowing at the end of term. The impairment provision held recognises that a proportion of customers may not be able to fulfil their contractual obligation to repay the debt. The analysis is updated as new trends and data become available.

## Personal lending

The UK PBB personal lending portfolio comprised credit cards, unsecured loans and overdrafts, and totalled £12.3 billion at 31 December 2014 (2013 - £13.8 billion). Credit card balances fell by 14.1 % reflecting RBS's withdrawal from the 0% interest rate balance transfer market. Unsecured loans fell by 6.3% and overdrafts fell by 10.3%.

The impairment charge on unsecured lending was £241 million for the year, down 17.6% on 2013. The reduction reflects continued strong underlying credit quality together with fortuitous recoveries from aged defaulted debt.

Forbearance levels are low and comprise reduced or deferred payments. Arrangements for the repayment of overdraft excesses or loan arrears can be agreed dependent on affordability. Where repayment arrangements are not affordable debt consolidation loans can be provided to customers in collections. £100 million of balances (0.83% of the total unsecured balances) were subject to forbearance at the 2014 year end.

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Ulster Bank

#### Overview

The majority (97%) of the Ulster Bank personal portfolio related to mortgage lending. Total gross lending of £18.1 billion comprised 10.1% of RBS's gross lending of £179.8 billion. £17.5 billion related to mortgage lending and £0.6 billion to other lending (loans and overdrafts).

### Mortgages

#### Risk mitigation

The table below shows LTVs for the Ulster Bank residential mortgage portfolio split between performing (AQ1-AQ9) and non-performing (AQ10), with the average LTV calculated on a weighted value basis. Loan balances are shown as at the end of the year whereas property values are calculated using property index movements since the last formal valuation.

Loan-to-value ratio by value	2014				2013				2012			
	Performing £m	Non-performing £m	Total £m	Of which: IOL (1) £m	Performing £m	Non-performing £m	Total £m	Of which: IOL (1) £m	Performing £m	Non-performing £m	Total £m	Of which: IOL (1) £m
<= 50%	2,529	188	2,717	100	2,025	170	2,195	113	2,182	274	2,456	166
> 50% and <= 70%	2,316	203	2,519	118	1,837	195	2,032	118	1,635	197	1,832	170
> 70% and <= 90%	2,856	276	3,132	184	2,326	288	2,614	206	2,019	294	2,313	271
> 90% and <= 100%	1,406	174	1,580	101	1,214	162	1,376	122	1,119	156	1,275	169
> 100% and <= 110%	1,404	203	1,607	127	1,302	182	1,484	129	1,239	174	1,413	181
> 110% and <= 130%	2,382	512	2,894	295	2,509	461	2,970	332	2,412	397	2,809	457
> 130% and <= 150%	1,554	547	2,101	218	2,202	549	2,751	425	2,144	474	2,618	613
> 150%	481	475	956	120	2,385	1,227	3,612	624	3,156	1,290	4,446	1,110
Total	14,928	2,578	17,506	1,263	15,800	3,234	19,034	2,069	15,906	3,256	19,162	3,137
Total portfolio average LTV (2)	88%	115%	92%		103%	130%	108%		108%	132%	112%	
Average LTV on new originations during the year (2)			75%				73%				74%	

#### Notes:

(1) Interest only loans.

(2) Average LTV weighted by value is calculated using the LTV on each individual mortgage and applying a weighting based on the value of each mortgage.

### Key points

- Of Ulster Bank's portfolio of £17.5 billion, 86% was in the Republic of Ireland and 14% in Northern Ireland. At constant exchange rates, the portfolio decreased 2.4% during the year as a result of amortisation.
- The assets included £2.1 billion (12%) of residential buy-to-let loans.
- The interest rate product mix was approximately 64% on tracker rate products, 23% on variable rate products and 13% on fixed rate.
- Interest only represented 7% of the total portfolio.
- Ulster Bank stopped offering interest only loans as a standard mortgage offering for new lending in the Republic of Ireland in 2010 and in Northern Ireland in 2012.
- The average individual LTV on new originations was 75% in 2014, (2013 - 73%); the volume of new business increased from £438 million in 2013 to £618 million in 2014. The maximum LTV available to Ulster Bank customers was 90%.
- Based on updated house price indices as at October 2014, the portfolio average indexed LTV improved from 108% to 92% during 2014, reflecting positive house price index trends over the last 12 months. In particular, the Republic of Ireland house price index increased by 16% during 2014, with the Irish market being led by the Dublin area, where the index increased by 22% during the year. The Republic of Ireland house price index is 38% below its peak, which was in September 2007.
- The average LTV of new business for owner occupier mortgages was 75%, compared to 69% for buy-to-let.
- Indexed loan to value, excluding 2014 new business, was 93% as at 31 December 2014.
- Repossessions increased to 497 in 2014 from 262 in 2013.
- Ulster Bank provisioning methodology used a point-in-time provision rate based on the latest available house price index prepared by the Central Statistics Office. This is used to create an indexed valuation at property level, which also takes into account costs of realisation and a discount for forced sales, and is one of the primary factors used in the determination of the likely size of the loss upon crystallisation. Loss likelihood rates are also determined and (amongst other considerations) assess whether an active forbearance arrangement is in place. The provision rate is then a combination of these measures and is updated as required depending on the movement of the drivers applied as part of the methodology.
- REIL increased from £3.2 billion to £3.4 billion primarily reflecting higher forbearance arrangements. Provision coverage was lower at 41% (2013 - 53%) reflecting an increase in collateral values.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Credit risk continued

#### Arrears status and provisions

The mortgage arrears information for accounts in forbearance and related provision are shown in the tables below.

	No missed payments		1-3 months in arrears		>3 months in arrears		Total		Forborne balances (1)
	Balance £m	Provision £m	Balance £m	Provision £m	Balance £m	Provision £m	Balance £m	Provision £m	%
2014	2,231	299	689	110	960	267	3,880	676	22.2
2013	1,362	166	631	76	789	323	2,782	565	14.6
2012	915	100	546	60	527	194	1,988	354	10.4

Notes:

(1) As a percentage of mortgage loans.

(2) Forbearance in Ulster Bank includes all changes to the contractual payment terms, including those where the customer is up-to-date on payments and there is no obvious evidence of financial difficulty.

(3) Includes the current stock position of forbearance deals agreed since early 2009 for Ulster Bank.

The incidence of the main types of personal forbearance on the balance sheet are analysed below.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Interest only conversions - temporary and permanent	346	512	924
Term extensions - capital repayment and interest only	501	325	183
Payment concessions (1)	2,305	1,567	762
Capitalisation of arrears	1,364	494	119
Total (2)	4,516	2,898	1,988

Notes:

(1) Includes £77 million of loans (2013 - £365 million; 2012 - £10 million) where an interest rate discount has been agreed resulting in a reduction of contractual cash flows through forgiveness of interest.

(2) As an individual case can include more than one type of arrangement, the analysis above exceeds the total value of cases subject to forbearance.

The table below shows forbearance agreed during the year split between performing and non-performing.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Performing forbearance	2,177	2,223	2,111
Non-performing forbearance	1,053	1,213	1,009
Total forbearance (1,2)	3,230	3,436	3,120

Notes:

(1) An individual case can include more than one type of arrangement.

(2) Includes all arrangements agreed during the year (new customers and renewals) including those deals that have expired at the year end. Balances are as at the year end.

### Key points

- At 31 December 2014, 22.2% of total mortgage assets (£3.9 billion) were subject to a forbearance arrangement, an increase of 40% (£2.8 billion) from 31 December 2013. This reflects Ulster Bank's proactive strategies to contact customers in financial difficulty to offer assistance.
- Although the forbearance stock increased by 40% during the year, the number of customers approaching Ulster Bank for assistance for the first time has declined through 2014. This can be attributed to a greater number of mortgages being moved to longer-term arrangements, and therefore not exiting forbearance.
- The majority of loans subject to forbearance arrangements (75%) were less than 90 days in arrears.
- The mix of forbearance treatments in Ulster Bank changed, with an increase in longer-term solutions. A total of 61% of forbearance loans were subject to a long-term arrangement at 31 December 2014 (2013 - 41%). These long-term arrangements were comprised of: i) Capitalisations which represented 30% of forbearance stock at 31 December 2014 (2013 - 17%); ii) Term extensions - 11% (unchanged from 2013); and iii) economic concessions - 20% (2013 - 13%). Economic concessions are offered for periods up to eight years and incorporate different levels of repayment based on customer circumstances.
- The remaining forbearance loans were short-term arrangements accounting for 39% of the forbearance portfolio.
- Temporary interest only arrangements decreased during 2014 to 8% of forbearance loans at 31 December 2014 (2013 - 18%). This reflects Ulster Bank's strategy to transition customers in financial difficulty to long-term arrangements.
- Payment concessions represented the remaining 31%, comprising: arrangements where payments amortised the outstanding balance (26%); a diminishing portfolio of arrangements that negatively amortised (4%); and payment holidays (1%).
- The impairment provision cover on forbearance loans remained significantly higher than that on assets not subject to forbearance.

### Interest only\*

Ulster Bank stopped offering interest only loans as a standard mortgage offering for new lending in the Republic of Ireland in 2010 and in Northern Ireland in 2012. Interest only mortgages are now granted only to high net worth customers or customers in need of forbearance.

	2014 Mortgages £m	2013 Mortgages £m
Variable rate	1,238	2,031
Fixed rate	25	38
Interest only loans	1,263	2,069
Mixed repayment <sup>(1)</sup>	204	277
Total	1,467	2,346

Note:

(1) Mortgages with partial interest only and partial capital repayments.

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Credit risk continued

The tables below show interest only mortgage portfolios (excluding mixed repayment mortgages) by type and by contractual year of maturity.

2014	2015 (1) £m	2016-17 £m	2018-22 £m	2023-27 £m	2028-32 £m	2033-42 £m	After 2042 £m	Total £m
Bullet principal repayment (2)	9	30	80	109	250	152	26	656
Conversion to amortising (2,3)	366	206	29	2	4	—	—	607
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1,263</b>

2013	2014 (4) £m	2015-16 £m	2017-21 £m	2022-26 £m	2027-31 £m	2032-41 £m	After 2041 £m	Total £m
Bullet principal repayment (2)	10	25	85	106	224	200	28	678
Conversion to amortising (2,3)	864	350	120	9	13	27	8	1,391
<b>Total</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2,069</b>

Notes:

(1) 2015 includes pre-2015 maturity exposure.

(2) Includes £0.3 billion (2013 - £0.5 billion) of repayment mortgages that have been granted interest only concessions (forbearance).

(3) Maturity date relates to the expiry of the interest only period.

(4) 2014 includes pre-2014 maturity exposure.

The table below shows the arrears status of the personal mortgage portfolio by mortgage type.

Arrears status	2014				2013			
	Interest only		Other £m	Total £m	Interest only		Other £m	Total £m
	Bullet principal repayment £m	Conversion to amortising £m			Bullet principal repayment £m	Conversion to amortising £m		
Current	561	474	12,756	13,791	565	1,053	12,642	14,260
1 to 90 days in arrears	25	54	1,058	1,137	35	152	1,352	1,539
90+ days in arrears	70	79	2,429	2,578	78	186	2,971	3,235
<b>Total</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>16,243</b>	<b>17,506</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>1,391</b>	<b>16,965</b>	<b>19,034</b>

### Key points

- Ulster Bank's interest only mortgages require full principal repayment (bullet) at the time of maturity; or payment of both capital and interest from the end of the interest only period, typically seven years, so that customers meet their contractual repayment obligations. For bullet customers, contact strategies are in place to remind them of the need to repay principal at the end of the mortgage term.
- Typically interest only mortgages have a remaining term of 16 years.
- Of the bullet mortgages that matured in the six months to 30 June 2014 (£3.3 million), 37% had been fully repaid by 31 December 2014 leaving residual balances of £2.1 million, 81% of which were meeting the terms of a revised repayment schedule. Of the amortising loans that matured in the six months to 30 June 2014 (£232.6 million), 66% were either fully repaid or meeting the terms of a revised repayment schedule.

- Of the £1.3 billion interest only mortgages £0.9 billion related to owner-occupier mortgages and £0.3 billion related to buy-to-let mortgages.

### Personal lending

The Ulster Bank personal lending portfolio comprised credit cards, unsecured loans and overdrafts, and totalled £591 million at 31 December 2014 (2013 - £740 million). Loans decreased by 24%.

The impairment charge on unsecured lending was £19.9 million for the year, down 12% on 2013.

Unsecured retail forbearance was £4m in 2014 (out of £591m unsecured loans).

\*unaudited



## Business review Capital and risk management

### Private Banking

#### Overview

The majority of the Private Banking personal lending portfolio relates to mortgage lending. Total gross lending of £14.1 billion comprised 7.8% of RBS's gross personal lending of £179.8 billion. £8.9 billion related to mortgage lending and £5.2 billion to other lending (loans, overdrafts and current accounts).

### Mortgages

#### Risk mitigation

The table below shows LTVs for the Private Banking residential mortgage portfolio split between performing (AQ1-AQ9) and non-performing (AQ10), with the average LTV calculated on a weighted value basis. Loan balances are shown as at the end of the year whereas property values are calculated using property index movements since the last formal valuation.

	2014				2013				2012			
	Performing £m	Non- performing £m	Of Which: Total £m	IOL (1) £m	Performing £m	Non- performing £m	Of Which: Total £m	IOL (1) £m	Performing £m	Non- performing £m	Of Which: Total £m	IOL (1) £m
<b>Loan-to-value ratio by value</b>												
<= 50%	3,493	14	3,507	2,727	3,400	16	3,416	2,561	3,905	9	3,914	2,982
> 50% and <= 70%	3,667	14	3,681	2,711	3,397	20	3,417	2,332	2,790	12	2,802	1,897
> 70% and <= 90%	1,379	24	1,403	679	1,337	44	1,381	660	1,080	27	1,107	474
> 90% and <= 100%	64	9	73	44	87	7	94	65	93	7	100	74
> 100% and <= 110%	33	5	38	35	87	15	102	96	69	13	82	75
> 110% and <= 130%	15	9	24	22	27	6	33	30	49	7	56	50
> 130% and <= 150%	12	1	13	12	4	4	8	7	16	3	19	19
> 150%	22	3	25	22	24	6	30	26	29	3	32	22
Total with LTVs	8,685	79	8,764	6,252	8,363	118	8,481	5,777	8,031	81	8,112	5,593
Other (2)	124	1	125	105	215	5	220	191	674	—	674	245
Total	8,809	80	8,889	6,357	8,578	123	8,701	5,968	8,705	81	8,786	5,838
Total portfolio average LTV (3)	51%	80%	51%		51%	77%	51%		51%	78%	51%	
Average LTV on new originations during the year (3)			48%				52%					

Notes:

(1) Interest only loans.

(2) Where no indexed LTV is held.

(3) Average LTV weighted by value is calculated using the LTV on each individual mortgage and applying a weighting based on the value of each mortgage.

### Forbearance

Forbearance is offered to private banking customers on a limited basis and represents less than 1.1% of the total mortgage portfolio. The main types of forbearance offered are in the form of term extensions.

### Arrears status and provisions

The mortgage arrears information for accounts in forbearance and related provision are shown in the tables below.

	No missed payments		1-3 months in arrears	>3 months in arrears		Total		
	Balance £m	Provision £m	Balance £m	Balance £m	Provision £m	Balance £m	Provision £m	Forborne balances (1) %
2014	91	1	3	6	1	100	2	1.1
2013	112	3	6	9	—	127	3	1.5
2012	38	—	—	7	—	45	—	0.5

Note:

(1) As a percentage of mortgage loans.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Interest only conversions - temporary and permanent	1	—	6
Term extensions - capital repayment and interest only	46	29	27
Payment concessions	18	12	9
Other	35	86	3
Total (1)	100	127	45

Note:

(1) As an individual case can include more than one type of arrangement, the analysis above exceeds the total value of cases subject to forbearance.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Credit risk continued

The table below shows forbearance agreed during the year split between performing and non-performing.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Performing forbearance	89	41	18
Non-performing forbearance	22	22	2
Total forbearance (1,2)	111	63	20

Notes:

(1) An individual case can include more than one type of arrangement.

(2) Includes all arrangements agreed during the year (new customers and renewals) including those deals that have expired at the year end. Balances are as at the year end.

### Interest only\*

Private Banking portfolios offer interest only mortgages to high net worth customers.

The table below shows interest only mortgages by interest rate and repayment type.

	2014		2013	
	Mortgages £m	Other loans £m	Mortgages £m	Other loans £m
Variable rate	4,810	1,779	5,062	1,276
Fixed rate	1,547	99	906	71
Interest only loans	6,357	1,878	5,968	1,347
Mixed repayment (1)	—	11	375	6
Total	6,357	1,889	6,343	1,353

Note:

(1) Mortgages with partial interest only and partial capital repayments.

The tables below show interest only mortgage portfolios (excluding mixed repayment mortgages) by type and by contractual year of maturity.

2014	2015 (1) £m	2016-17 £m	2018-22 £m	2023-27 £m	2028-32 £m	2033-42 £m	After 2042 £m	Total £m
Bullet principal repayment	1,290	1,634	2,284	630	356	162	1	6,357

2013	2014 (2) £m	2015-16 £m	2017-21 £m	2022-26 £m	2027-31 £m	2032-41 £m	After 2041 £m	Total £m
Bullet principal repayment	239	911	1,853	2,250	492	159	48	5,952
Conversion to amortising (3)	1	—	—	2	4	9	—	16
Total	240	911	1,853	2,252	496	168	48	5,968

Notes:

(1) 2015 includes pre-2015 maturity exposure.

(2) 2014 includes pre-2014 maturity exposure.

(3) Maturity date relates to the expiry of the interest only period.

The table below shows the arrears status of Private Banking's personal mortgage portfolio by mortgage type.

	2014			2013			
	Interest only Bullet principal repayment £m	Other £m	Total £m	Interest only Bullet principal repayment £m	Conversion to amortising £m	Other £m	Total £m
Arrears status							
Current	6,311	2,497	8,808	5,839	16	2,694	8,549
1 to 90 days in arrears	13	19	32	33	—	17	50
90+ days in arrears	33	16	49	80	—	22	102
Total	6,357	2,532	8,889	5,952	16	2,733	8,701

\*unaudited

## CFG

### Overview

The majority of the CFG personal portfolio relates to mortgage lending. Total gross lending of £32.0 billion comprised 17.8% of RBS's gross personal lending of £179.8 billion. £21.1 billion related to mortgage lending and £10.9 billion to other lending (loans and overdrafts) and auto loans.

## Mortgages

### Risk mitigation

The table below shows LTVs for CFG, residential mortgages split between performing (AQ1-AQ9) and non-performing (AQ10), with the average LTV calculated on a weighted value basis. Loan balances are shown as at the end of the year whereas property values are calculated using property index movements since the last formal valuation.

	2014				2013				2012			
	Performing £m	Non- performing £m	Total £m	Of which: IOL (2) £m	Performing £m	Non- performing £m	Total £m	Of which: IOL (2) £m	Performing £m	Non- performing £m	Total £m	Of which: IOL (2) £m
<b>Loan-to-value ratio by value (1)</b>												
<= 50%	4,498	77	4,575	1,792	4,669	98	4,767	2,146	4,167	51	4,218	1,433
> 50% and <= 70%	6,601	105	6,706	3,436	5,529	89	5,618	2,929	4,806	76	4,882	2,363
> 70% and <= 90%	6,350	141	6,491	3,372	5,553	110	5,663	3,019	6,461	114	6,575	3,595
> 90% and <= 100%	1,256	48	1,304	624	1,309	39	1,348	525	2,011	57	2,068	959
> 100% and <= 110%	672	24	696	311	752	22	774	223	1,280	43	1,323	509
> 110% and <= 130%	516	17	533	191	637	17	654	144	1,263	42	1,305	431
> 130% and <= 150%	119	4	123	32	183	5	188	32	463	14	477	123
> 150%	64	3	67	14	102	4	106	20	365	14	379	98
<b>Total with LTVs</b>	<b>20,076</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>20,495</b>	<b>9,772</b>	<b>18,734</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>19,118</b>	<b>9,038</b>	<b>20,816</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>21,227</b>	<b>9,511</b>
<b>Other (3)</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,700</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>21,122</b>	<b>9,929</b>	<b>19,197</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>19,584</b>	<b>9,272</b>	<b>21,108</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>21,538</b>	<b>9,541</b>
<b>Total portfolio average LTV (4)</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>67%</b>		<b>67%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>67%</b>		<b>75%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>75%</b>	
<b>Average LTV on new originations during the year (4)</b>			<b>68%</b>				<b>68%</b>				<b>64%</b>	

### Notes:

(1) Includes residential mortgages and home equity loans and lines.

(2) Interest only loans.

(3) Where no indexed LTV is held.

(4) Average LTV weighted by value is calculated using the LTV on each individual mortgage and applying a weighting based on the value of each mortgage.

## Key points

- The mortgage portfolio consisted of £7.8 billion of residential mortgages (1% in second lien position) and £13.3 billion of home equity loans and lines of credit (HELOC) - first and second liens. Home equity consisted of 45% in first lien position. A Serviced By Others (SBO) portfolio, which is predominantly (95%) second lien, is included in the home equity book.
- CFG continued to focus on its 'footprint states' of New England, Mid-Atlantic and Mid-West regions. At 31 December 2014, the portfolio consisted of £17.1 billion (82% of the total portfolio) within footprint.
- The SBO portfolio, which was closed to new purchases in the third quarter of 2007, decreased from £1.4 billion to £1.3 billion.
- The overall mortgage portfolio credit characteristics are stable with a weighted average LTV of 67% at 31 December 2014. The weighted average LTV of the portfolio, excluding SBO, was 65%.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Credit risk continued

#### Arrears status and provisions

The mortgage arrears information for accounts in forbearance and related provision are shown in the tables below.

	No missed payments		1-3 months in arrears		>3 months in arrears		Total		Forborne balances (1) %
	Balance £m	Provision £m	Balance £m	Provision £m	Balance £m	Provision £m	Balance £m	Provision £m	
2014	310	25	34	4	65	—	409	29	1.9
2013	287	26	33	3	53	—	373	29	1.9
2012	—	—	179	25	160	10	339	35	1.6

Note:

(1) As a percentage of mortgage loans.

The incidence of the main types of personal forbearance on the balance sheet are shown below.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Term extensions - capital repayment and interest only	56	35	—
Payment concessions (1)	254	246	339
Other	99	92	—
Total (2)	409	373	339

Notes:

(1) Includes £18 million of loans (2013 - £62 million) where an interest rate discount has been agreed resulting in a reduction of contractual cash flows through forgiveness of interest.

(2) As an individual case can include more than one type of arrangement, the analysis above exceeds the total value of cases subject to forbearance.

The table below shows forbearance agreed during the year split between performing and non-performing.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Performing forbearance	—	—	88
Non-performing forbearance	76	101	71
Total forbearance (1,2)	76	101	159

Notes:

(1) An individual case can include more than one type of arrangement.

(2) Includes all arrangements agreed during the year (new customers and renewals) including those deals that have expired at the year end. Balances are as at the year end.

### Key point

- CFG participates in the US-government mandated Home Affordable Modification Program, as well as its own proprietary programme. Both feature a combination of term extensions, capitalisations of arrears, interest rate reductions and loan conversions from interest only to amortising. These tend to be permanent changes to contractual terms. In order to qualify for either of these programmes, customers must meet government-specified or internal criteria that provide evidence of financial difficulty and demonstrate a willingness to pay. The 12-month default rate, on a value basis, for forbearance was 15% in 2014.

### Interest only\*

The table below shows the interest only mortgage and HELOC portfolios by interest rate and repayment type.

	2014		2013	
	Mortgages £m	Other loans £m	Mortgages £m	Other loans £m
Variable rate	9,637	59	9,221	23
Fixed rate	292	34	51	40
Interest only loans	9,929	93	9,272	63
Mixed repayment	788	—	1,149	—
Total	10,717	93	10,421	63

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

The table below shows the interest only mortgage and HELOC portfolios (excluding mixed repayment mortgages) by type and contractual year of maturity.

	2015 (1) £m	2016-17 £m	2018-22 £m	2023-27 £m	2028-32 £m	2033-42 £m	After 2042 £m	Total £m
2014								
Bullet principal repayment (2)	93	70	9	—	—	—	—	172
Conversion to amortising (2,3)	1,156	1,879	4,432	2,147	19	9	115	9,757
Total	1,249	1,949	4,441	2,147	19	9	115	9,929
2013	2014 (3) £m	2015-16 £m	2017-21 £m	2022-26 £m	2027-31 £m	2032-41 £m	After 2041 £m	Total £m
Bullet principal repayment (2)	133	193	13	13	17	17	17	403
Conversion to amortising (2,3)	997	5,609	2,123	133	—	7	—	8,869
Total	1,130	5,802	2,136	146	17	24	17	9,272

Notes:

(1) 2015 includes pre-2015 maturity exposure.

(2) Maturity date relates to the expiry of the interest only period.

(3) 2014 includes pre-2014 maturity exposure.

The table below shows the arrears status of personal mortgages and HELOC loans by type.

	2014				2013			
	Interest only		Other £m	Total £m	Interest only		Other £m	Total £m
	Bullet principal repayment £m	Conversion to amortising £m			Bullet principal repayment £m	Conversion to amortising £m		
Arrears status								
Current	145	9,365	10,247	19,757	348	8,529	10,002	18,879
1 to 90 days in arrears	17	314	612	943	37	260	65	362
90+ days in arrears	10	78	334	422	18	80	245	343
Total	172	9,757	11,193	21,122	403	8,869	10,312	19,584

### Key points

- CFG has a portfolio of interest only bullet repayment HELOC loans (£0.2 billion at 31 December 2014) for which repayment of principal is due at maturity, and an interest only portfolio that comprises loans that convert to amortising after an interest only period (typically ten years). The majority of the bullet loans are due to mature in 2015.
- Of the bullet repayment loans that matured in the six months to 30 June 2014, 48.9% had been fully repaid by 31 December 2014. The unpaid balance totalled £103 million, 90.8% of which continued to meet agreed payment arrangements. Of the amortising loans that matured in the six months to 30 June 2014, 64.3% had been fully repaid by 31 December 2014. The unpaid balance totalled £15 million, 83.2% of which continued to meet agreed payment arrangements.

### Personal lending

CFG's credit card portfolio is comprised of good quality consumer loans originated in-footprint through the branch network and totalled £952 million at 31 December 2014 (2013 - £945 million). The product portfolio credit quality continued to improve with weighted average credit scores for new originations throughout 2014 higher than the portfolio average.

The auto portfolio totalled £7.9 billion at 31 December 2014 of which £6.9 billion has been originated through dealer networks and £1.0 billion of purchased pools of prime auto loans. CFG increased its exposure to auto loans during the year, within the risk appetite set as part of CFG's strategy.

For loans secured by vehicles and credit cards, CFG may offer temporary interest rate modifications, but no principal reductions. Forbearance may also be offered to student loan customers consistent with the policy guidelines of the US Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. £140 million (1.3% of the unsecured balances) were subject to forbearance at 31 December 2014 (includes auto and recreational vehicle marine portfolios and excludes small business loans as these are included as part of wholesale reporting).

\*unaudited

### Balance sheet analysis

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## Business review Capital and risk management

### Balance sheet analysis

Credit risk assets analysed on pages 237 to 241 are reported internally to senior risk management. However, they exclude certain exposures, primarily securities and reverse repurchase agreements and take account of legal netting agreements, that provide a right of legal set-off but do not meet the criteria for offset in IFRS. The tables that follow are therefore provided to supplement the credit risk assets analysis and other analysis to reconcile to the balance sheet. All the disclosures in this section are audited.

### Financial assets

#### Exposure summary and credit mitigation

The following table analyses financial assets exposures, both gross and net of offset arrangements as well as credit mitigation and enhancement.

	Gross exposure	IFRS offset (1)	Carrying value (2)	Balance sheet offset (3)	Collateral				Credit enhancement(7)	Exposure post credit mitigation and enhancement
	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	Cash (4)	Securities (5)	Real estate and other	Commercial (6)	£bn	£bn
					£bn	£bn	Residential (6)	£bn		
2014										
Cash and balances at central banks	75.5	—	75.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	75.5
Reverse repos	95.5	(30.8)	64.7	(5.0)	—	(59.7)	—	—	—	—
Lending	423.4	(3.8)	419.6	(40.2)	(1.6)	(4.1)	(149.5)	(57.7)	(5.8)	160.7
Debt securities	101.9	—	101.9	—	—	—	—	—	(0.2)	101.7
Equity shares	6.2	—	6.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.2
Derivatives	599.4	(245.4)	354.0	(295.3)	(33.3)	(7.0)	—	—	(14.3)	4.1
Settlement balances	6.7	(2.0)	4.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.7
Total	1,308.6	(282.0)	1,026.6	(340.5)	(34.9)	(70.8)	(149.5)	(57.7)	(20.3)	352.9
Short positions	(23.0)	—	(23.0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(23.0)
Net of short positions	1,285.6	(282.0)	1,003.6	(340.5)	(34.9)	(70.8)	(149.5)	(57.7)	(20.3)	329.9
2013										
Cash and balances at central banks	82.7	—	82.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	82.7
Reverse repos	117.2	(40.7)	76.5	(11.4)	—	(65.0)	—	—	—	0.1
Lending	423.6	(3.4)	420.2	(37.2)	(1.6)	(2.7)	(145.4)	(60.0)	(3.9)	169.4
Debt securities	113.6	—	113.6	—	—	—	—	—	(1.3)	112.3
Equity shares	8.8	—	8.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	8.8
Derivatives	553.7	(265.7)	288.0	(241.3)	(24.4)	(6.0)	—	—	(7.3)	9.0
Settlement balances	8.2	(2.7)	5.5	(0.3)	—	—	—	—	—	5.2
Total	1,307.8	(312.5)	995.3	(290.2)	(26.0)	(73.7)	(145.4)	(60.0)	(12.5)	387.5
Short positions	(28.0)	—	(28.0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(28.0)
Net of short positions	1,279.8	(312.5)	967.3	(290.2)	(26.0)	(73.7)	(145.4)	(60.0)	(12.5)	359.5

#### Notes:

- (1) Relates to offset arrangements that comply with IFRS criteria and transactions cleared through and novated to central clearing houses, primarily London Clearing House and US Government Securities Clearing Corporation.
- (2) The carrying value on the balance sheet represents the exposure to credit risk by class of financial instrument.
- (3) Balance sheet offset reflects the amounts by which RBS's credit risk is reduced through master netting and cash management pooling arrangements. Derivative master netting agreements include cash pledged with counterparties in respect of net derivative liability positions and are included in lending.
- (4) Includes cash collateral pledged by counterparties based on daily mark-to-market movements of net derivative positions with the counterparty.
- (5) Securities collateral represent the fair value of securities received from counterparties, mainly relating to reverse repo transactions as part of netting arrangements.
- (6) Property valuations are capped at the loan value and reflect the application of haircuts in line with regulatory rules to indexed valuations. Commercial collateral includes ships and plant and equipment collateral.
- (7) Credit enhancement comprises credit derivatives (bought protection) and guarantees and reflects notional amounts less fair value and notional amounts respectively.

### Balance sheet analysis continued

2012	Gross exposure £bn	IFRS offset (1) £bn	Carrying value £bn	Balance sheet offset (2) £bn	Exposure post offset £bn
Cash and balances at central banks	79.3	—	79.3	—	79.3
Reverse repos	143.2	(38.4)	104.8	(17.4)	87.4
Lending	464.7	(1.5)	463.2	(42.2)	421.0
Debt securities	164.6	—	164.6	—	164.6
Equity shares	15.2	—	15.2	—	15.2
Derivatives (3)	815.4	(373.5)	441.9	(409.2)	32.7
Settlement balances	8.1	(2.4)	5.7	(1.8)	3.9
Other financial assets	1.1	—	1.1	—	1.1
Total	1,691.6	(415.8)	1,275.8	(470.6)	805.2
Short positions	(27.6)	—	(27.6)	—	(27.6)
Net of short positions	1,664.0	(415.8)	1,248.2	(470.6)	777.6

#### Notes:

- (1) Relates to offset arrangements that comply with IFRS criteria and transactions cleared through and novated to central clearing houses, primarily London Clearing House and US Government Securities Clearing Corporation.
- (2) This reflects the amounts by which RBS's credit risk is reduced through master netting and cash management pooling arrangements. Derivative master netting agreements include cash pledged with counterparties in respect of net derivative liability positions and are included in lending.
- (3) Includes cash collateral required against derivative assets of £34.3 billion.

### Key points

- Financial assets after credit mitigation and enhancement fell by £35 billion or 9% principally reflecting lower funded assets (£35 billion) as both CIB and RCR implemented strategic balance sheet reductions through wind-down and disposals.
- The major components of net exposure are cash and balances at central banks, unsecured commercial, corporate and bank loans, debt securities and short-term settlement balances.
- Of the £102 billion of debt securities, £25 billion are asset-backed but underlying collateral is not reflected above as RBS only has access to cash flows from the collateral.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Sector concentration

The following tables analyse financial assets by industry sector.

	Reverse repos £m	Lending £m	Securities		Derivatives £m	Other financial assets £m	Balance sheet value £m	Offset (1) £m	Exposure post offset £m
2014			Debt £m	Equity £m					
Central and local government	10	9,079	69,842	—	4,857	251	84,039	(5,041)	78,998
Financial institutions - banks	20,708	24,812	5,090	693	240,415	75,494	367,212	(248,341)	118,871
- other (2)	43,682	39,611	24,735	1,842	92,851	4,284	207,005	(108,993)	98,012
Personal - mortgages	—	150,572	—	—	—	—	150,572	—	150,572
- unsecured	—	29,155	—	—	—	2	29,157	—	29,157
Property	—	51,546	165	137	2,360	8	54,216	(903)	53,313
Construction	—	5,657	11	53	389	—	6,110	(896)	5,214
Manufacturing	265	22,035	665	1,602	2,194	48	26,809	(2,032)	24,777
Finance leases and instalment credit	—	14,030	21	—	26	—	14,077	(1)	14,076
Retail, wholesale and repairs	—	18,498	252	438	735	13	19,936	(1,735)	18,201
Transport and storage	—	14,299	214	57	2,261	—	16,831	(1,027)	15,804
Health, education and leisure	—	15,932	59	25	670	—	16,686	(709)	15,977
Hotels and restaurants	—	7,969	4	37	180	—	8,190	(198)	7,992
Utilities	—	4,825	242	127	4,357	—	9,551	(1,150)	8,401
Other	30	29,593	919	1,263	2,697	61	34,563	(2,776)	31,787
Total gross of provisions	64,695	437,613	102,219	6,274	353,992	80,161	1,044,954	(373,802)	671,152
Provisions	—	(18,040)	(277)	(67)	—	—	(18,384)	n/a	(18,384)
Total	64,695	419,573	101,942	6,207	353,992	80,161	1,026,570	(373,802)	652,768

### 2013

Central and local government	247	8,643	70,267	—	4,049	578	83,784	(4,433)	79,351
Financial institutions - banks	26,557	27,640	7,869	688	200,091	82,661	345,506	(207,203)	138,303
- other (2)	49,156	35,948	33,219	2,538	69,851	4,859	195,571	(90,610)	104,961
Personal - mortgages	—	148,533	—	—	—	—	148,533	—	148,533
- unsecured	—	28,160	—	—	—	6	28,166	—	28,166
Property	—	62,292	225	326	2,794	—	65,637	(689)	64,948
Construction	—	6,331	24	117	451	7	6,930	(1,370)	5,560
Manufacturing	466	21,377	735	2,168	1,265	43	26,054	(2,525)	23,529
Finance leases and instalment credit	—	13,587	14	5	13	—	13,619	(17)	13,602
Retail, wholesale and repairs	—	19,574	244	446	882	11	21,157	(1,962)	19,195
Transport and storage	—	16,697	299	82	2,186	—	19,264	(866)	18,398
Health, education and leisure	—	16,084	103	86	661	14	16,948	(853)	16,095
Hotels and restaurants	—	6,942	5	57	218	—	7,222	(165)	7,057
Utilities	—	4,960	176	285	3,271	23	8,715	(1,064)	7,651
Other	28	28,624	762	2,112	2,308	50	33,884	(2,776)	31,108
Total gross of provisions	76,454	445,392	113,942	8,910	288,040	88,252	1,020,990	(314,533)	706,457
Provisions	—	(25,225)	(319)	(99)	—	—	(25,643)	n/a	(25,643)
Total	76,454	420,167	113,623	8,811	288,040	88,252	995,347	(314,533)	680,814

For the notes to this table refer to the following page.

## Balance sheet analysis continued

2012	Reverse repos £m	Lending £m	Securities		Derivatives £m	Other financial assets £m	Balance sheet value £m	Offset (1) £m	Exposure post offset £m
			Debt £m	Equity £m					
Central and local government	441	9,853	97,339	—	5,791	591	114,015	(5,151)	108,864
Financial institutions - banks	34,783	31,394	11,555	1,643	335,521	79,308	494,204	(341,103)	153,101
- other (2)	69,256	42,198	50,104	2,672	80,817	5,591	250,638	(106,021)	144,617
Personal - mortgages	—	149,625	—	—	—	—	149,625	—	149,625
- unsecured	—	32,212	—	—	—	4	32,216	—	32,216
Property	—	72,219	774	318	4,118	—	77,429	(1,333)	76,096
Construction	—	8,049	17	264	820	—	9,150	(1,687)	7,463
Manufacturing	326	23,787	836	1,639	1,759	144	28,491	(3,775)	24,716
Finance leases and instalment credit	—	13,609	82	1	13	—	13,705	—	13,705
Retail, wholesale and repairs	—	21,936	461	1,807	914	41	25,159	(1,785)	23,374
Transport and storage	—	18,341	659	382	3,397	2	22,781	(3,240)	19,541
Health, education and leisure	—	16,705	314	554	904	59	18,536	(964)	17,572
Hotels and restaurants	—	7,877	144	51	493	11	8,576	(348)	8,228
Utilities	—	6,631	1,311	638	3,170	50	11,800	(2,766)	9,034
Other	24	30,057	1,886	5,380	4,201	172	41,720	(2,403)	39,317
Total gross of provisions	104,830	484,493	165,482	15,349	441,918	85,973	1,298,045	(470,576)	827,469
Provisions	—	(21,262)	(858)	(112)	—	—	(22,232)	n/a	(22,232)
Total	104,830	463,231	164,624	15,237	441,918	85,973	1,275,813	(470,576)	805,237

### Notes:

- (1) This shows the amount by which credit risk exposure is reduced through arrangements, such as master netting agreements and cash management pooling, which give RBS a legal right to set off the financial asset against a financial liability due to the same counterparty. In addition, RBS holds collateral in respect of individual loans and advances to banks and customers. This collateral includes mortgages over property (both personal and commercial); charges over business assets such as plant, inventories and trade debtors; and guarantees of lending from parties other than the borrower. RBS obtains collateral in the form of securities in reverse repurchase agreements. Cash and securities are received as collateral in respect of derivative transactions.
- (2) Includes loans made by consolidated conduits to asset owning companies.

For geographic concentrations refer to:

- Lending: Loans and related credit metrics
- Debt securities: Issuer and IFRS measurement and Country risk
- Equity shares; and
- Derivatives: Summary and uncollateralised exposures

### Key points

- Overall exposure before impairment provision post offset fell by £35.3 billion or 5% in 2014 to £671.2 billion. This was in line with RBS's continued focus on reducing exposure concentrations, running down assets in RCR and winding down certain portfolios in CIB.
- Mortgage lending grew by £2.0 billion reflecting a £3.9 billion increase in UK PBB, partially offset by a £1.5 billion decrease in Ulster Bank where repayments outstripped new lending. CFG also saw an increase reflecting portfolio acquisition as well as through foreign currency movements
- Property and construction exposure fell by £12.0 billion, £9.3 billion of which was in commercial real estate lending (refer to Credit risk - Key credit portfolios - Commercial real estate on page 251).
- There has been a significant increase in CFG lending across a broad range of industry sectors reflecting in line with business strategy and risk appetite

## Asset quality

The asset quality analysis presented below is based on internal asset quality ratings which have ranges for the probability of default, as set out below. Customers are assigned credit grades, based on various credit grading models that reflect the key drivers of default for the customer type. All credit grades across RBS map to both an asset quality scale, used for external financial reporting, and a master grading scale for wholesale exposures used for internal management reporting across portfolios. Debt securities are analysed by external ratings and are therefore excluded from the following table and are set out on pages 281 to 283.

The table below details for illustrative purposes only, the relationship between internal asset quality (AQ) bands and external ratings published by S&P, for illustrative purposes only. This relationship is established by observing S&P's default study statistics, notably the one year default rates for each S&P rating grade. A degree of judgement is required to relate the probability of default (PD) ranges associated with the master grading scale to these default rates given that, for example, the S&P published default rates do not increase uniformly by grade and the historical default rate is nil for the highest rating categories.

Asset quality band	Probability of default range	Indicative S&P rating
AQ1	0% - 0.034%	AAA to AA
AQ2	0.034% - 0.048%	AA-
AQ3	0.048% - 0.095%	A+ to A
AQ4	0.095% - 0.381%	A- to BBB-
AQ5	0.381% - 1.076%	BB+ to BB
AQ6	1.076% - 2.153%	BB- to B+
AQ7	2.153% - 6.089%	B+ to B
AQ8	6.089% - 17.222%	B- to CCC+
AQ9	17.222% - 100%	CCC to C
AQ10	100%	D

The mapping to the S&P ratings is used by RBS as one of several benchmarks for its wholesale portfolios, depending on customer type and the purpose of the benchmark. The mapping is based on all issuer types rated by S&P. It should therefore be considered illustrative and does not, for instance, indicate that exposures reported against S&P ratings either have been or would be assigned those ratings if assessed by S&P. In addition, the relationship is not relevant for retail portfolios, smaller corporate exposures or specialist corporate segments given that S&P does not typically assign ratings to such issuers.

	Cash and balances at central banks £m	Loans and advances								Settlement balances and other financial assets £m	Derivatives £m	Commitments £m	Contingent liabilities £m	Total £m	Total %
		Banks (1)				Customers									
		Reverse repos £m	Derivative cash collateral £m	Bank loans £m	Total £m	Reverse repos £m	Derivative cash collateral £m	Customer loans £m	Total £m						
2014															
AQ1	73,871	2,479	3,765	5,463	11,707	27,007	12,526	33,913	73,446	1,610	65,632	53,246	6,364	285,876	24.7
AQ2	—	4,143	4,625	818	9,586	400	1,602	18,077	20,079	146	100,222	17,483	3,064	150,580	13.0
AQ3	1,433	2,538	1,348	3,047	6,933	8,664	4,335	29,093	42,092	460	123,882	29,768	5,946	210,514	18.1
AQ4	185	8,336	1,391	2,891	12,618	5,124	2,798	122,349	130,271	852	49,929	56,122	5,821	255,798	22.1
AQ5	—	2,076	225	572	2,873	1,902	520	72,994	75,416	438	10,872	35,622	2,505	127,726	11.0
AQ6	—	636	58	106	800	42	45	41,468	41,555	43	1,118	13,268	1,223	58,007	5.0
AQ7	—	500	90	292	882	848	34	26,203	27,085	26	1,146	6,991	930	37,060	3.2
AQ8	5	—	1	40	41	—	6	6,386	6,392	12	533	848	149	7,980	0.7
AQ9	—	—	6	32	38	—	9	4,727	4,736	—	173	404	245	5,596	0.5
AQ10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	984	984	31	485	1,132	55	2,687	0.2
Past due	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,196	8,196	1,049	—	—	—	9,245	0.8
Impaired	—	—	—	42	42	—	—	26,536	26,536	—	—	—	—	26,578	2.3
Impairment provision	—	—	—	(40)	(40)	—	—	(18,000)	(18,000)	—	—	—	—	(18,040)	(1.6)
	75,494	20,708	11,509	13,263	45,480	43,987	21,875	372,926	438,788	4,667	353,992	214,884	26,302	1,159,607	100

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Balance sheet analysis continued

	Loans and advances										Settlement balances and other financial assets						
	Banks (1)					Customers											
	Cash and balances at central banks £m	Reverse repos £m	Derivative cash collateral £m	Bank loans £m	Total £m	Reverse repos £m	Derivative cash collateral £m	Customer loans £m	Total £m	Derivatives £m	Commitments £m	Contingent liabilities £m	Total £m	Total %			
2013																	
AQ1	80,305	5,885	2,043	6,039	13,967	30,233	10,042	34,395	74,670	2,707	71,497	64,453	6,739	314,338	28.2		
AQ2	1	4,744	4,930	672	10,346	996	1,899	17,695	20,590	192	69,949	28,717	2,940	132,735	11.9		
AQ3	1,873	2,164	1,502	2,347	6,013	1,857	3,796	29,364	35,017	746	94,678	23,126	7,057	168,510	15.1		
AQ4	479	9,864	1,451	7,031	18,346	10,642	1,894	99,258	111,794	470	39,157	40,984	4,430	215,660	19.3		
AQ5	—	1,776	416	662	2,854	5,403	297	77,045	82,745	717	8,826	33,507	2,087	130,736	11.7		
AQ6	—	1,823	1	157	1,981	82	38	39,324	39,444	59	1,487	14,138	1,426	58,535	5.3		
AQ7	—	301	—	237	538	684	50	30,279	31,013	22	978	7,437	918	40,906	3.7		
AQ8	3	—	—	48	48	—	10	8,482	8,492	58	132	1,183	119	10,035	0.9		
AQ9	—	—	—	34	34	—	41	16,944	16,985	—	641	1,020	317	18,997	1.7		
AQ10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	730	730	—	695	1,274	137	2,836	0.3		
Past due	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,068	9,068	620	—	—	—	9,688	0.9		
Impaired	—	—	—	70	70	—	—	37,101	37,101	—	—	—	—	37,171	3.3		
Impairment provision	—	—	—	(63)	(63)	—	—	(25,162)	(25,162)	—	—	—	—	(25,225)	(2.3)		
	82,661	26,557	10,343	17,234	54,134	49,897	18,067	374,523	442,487	5,591	288,040	215,839	26,170	1,114,922	100		
2012																	
AQ1	78,039	17,806	3,713	10,913	32,432	42,963	15,022	39,734	97,719	2,671	100,652	63,785	8,113	383,411	28.5		
AQ2	12	3,556	4,566	526	8,648	710	704	13,101	14,515	185	108,733	20,333	2,810	155,236	11.6		
AQ3	1,156	5,703	2,241	2,757	10,701	2,886	3,917	25,252	32,055	539	152,810	23,727	7,431	228,419	17.0		
AQ4	100	6,251	1,761	2,734	10,746	14,079	2,144	104,060	120,283	1,202	58,705	40,196	5,736	236,968	17.6		
AQ5	—	1,183	469	787	2,439	8,163	679	92,147	100,989	659	13,244	28,165	2,598	148,094	11.0		
AQ6	—	282	39	357	678	86	50	40,096	40,232	73	2,175	13,854	1,380	58,392	4.4		
AQ7	—	2	—	236	238	1,133	12	36,223	37,368	191	3,205	19,219	1,275	61,496	4.6		
AQ8	—	—	—	68	68	4	2	12,812	12,818	8	262	5,688	185	19,029	1.4		
AQ9	1	—	—	93	93	23	7	17,431	17,461	137	1,360	1,363	95	20,510	1.5		
AQ10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	807	807	1	772	1,454	238	3,272	0.2		
Past due	—	—	—	—	—	—	249	10,285	10,534	999	—	—	—	11,533	0.9		
Impaired	—	—	—	134	134	—	—	38,365	38,365	—	—	—	—	38,499	2.9		
Impairment provision	—	—	—	(114)	(114)	—	—	(21,148)	(21,148)	—	—	—	—	(21,262)	(1.6)		
	79,308	34,783	12,789	18,491	66,063	70,047	22,786	409,165	501,998	6,665	441,918	217,784	29,861	1,343,597	100		

Note:

(1) Excludes items in the course of collection from other banks of £995 million (2013 - £1,454 million; 2012 - £1,531 million).

### Key points

- The improving economic climate and credit conditions and disposals strategy in RCR resulted in the proportion of investment-grade (AQ1-AQ4) increasing from 75% to 78%.
- Derivatives increased by £66.0 billion, primarily in AQ2-AQ4 bands.
- Reverse repos: AQ1 balances decreased by £6.6 billion reflecting reduced overall trading in line with balance sheet management strategies. Also, changes to the large corporate grading models resulted in migrations from higher to lower quality AQ bands; this contributed to the £7.2 billion increase in AQ3.
- Asset quality of customer lending in AQ1-AQ3 remained stable with higher cash collateral against increased fair value of derivatives, partially offset by a reduction in traded loans in CIB asset-backed products.
- The increase of £23 billion in AQ4 customer loans was primarily due to the recalibration of UK residential mortgage models following improvements in observed default rates and the implementation of the large corporate PD model.
- Changes to the residential mortgage model and large corporate PD model also resulted in increases of £6.6 billion and £15.1 billion in AQ3 and AQ4 commitments.
- Past due loans decreased by £0.9 billion including £0.5 billion in Ulster Bank reflecting increased work with customers in arrears and improving economic conditions. Past due loans comprise £1.6 billion (2013 - £2.2 billion) of accruing past due 90 days or more loans included within risk elements in lending and £6.6 billion (2013 - £6.8 billion) of loans that are past due less than 90 days. Of the total past due loans, £4.8 billion (2013 - £5.2 billion) relates to personal loans.



## Business review Capital and risk management

### Debt securities

#### Issuer and IFRS measurement classification

The table below analyses debt securities by issuer and IFRS measurement classifications. US central and local government includes US federal agencies. The other financial institutions category includes US government sponsored agencies and securitisation entities, the latter principally relating to asset-backed securities (ABS).

	Central and local government				Other financial			Of which
	UK £m	US £m	Other £m	Banks £m	institutions £m	Corporate £m	Total £m	ABS £m
2014								
Held-for-trading (HFT)	6,218	7,709	24,451	1,499	7,372	1,977	49,226	3,559
Designated as at fair value (DFV)	—	—	111	2	4	—	117	—
Available-for-sale (AFS)	4,747	11,011	11,058	3,404	14,585	161	44,966	18,884
Loans and receivables (LAR)	—	—	—	185	2,774	137	3,096	2,734
Held-to-maturity	4,537	—	—	—	—	—	4,537	—
Long positions	15,502	18,720	35,620	5,090	24,735	2,275	101,942	25,177
Of which US agencies	—	6,222	—	—	10,860	—	17,082	16,053
Short positions (HFT)	(4,167)	(6,413)	(10,276)	(557)	(674)	(731)	(22,818)	—
Available-for-sale								
Gross unrealised gains	451	210	541	8	361	6	1,577	389
Gross unrealised losses	(1)	(117)	(3)	(1)	(158)	(2)	(282)	(257)
2013								
Held-for-trading	6,764	10,951	22,818	1,720	12,406	1,947	56,606	10,674
Designated as at fair value	—	—	104	—	17	1	122	15
Available-for-sale	6,436	12,880	10,303	5,974	17,330	184	53,107	24,174
Loans and receivables	10	1	—	175	3,466	136	3,788	3,423
Long positions	13,210	23,832	33,225	7,869	33,219	2,268	113,623	38,286
Of which US agencies	—	5,599	—	—	13,132	—	18,731	18,048
Short positions (HFT)	(1,784)	(6,790)	(16,087)	(889)	(1,387)	(826)	(27,763)	(36)
Available-for-sale								
Gross unrealised gains	201	428	445	70	386	11	1,541	458
Gross unrealised losses	(69)	(86)	(32)	(205)	(493)	(2)	(887)	(753)
2012								
Held-for-trading	7,692	17,349	27,195	2,243	21,876	2,015	78,370	18,619
Designated as at fair value	—	—	123	86	610	54	873	516
Available-for-sale	9,774	19,046	16,155	8,861	23,890	3,167	80,893	30,743
Loans and receivables	5	—	—	365	3,728	390	4,488	3,707
Long positions	17,471	36,395	43,473	11,555	50,104	5,626	164,624	53,585
Of which US agencies	—	5,380	—	—	21,566	—	26,946	24,828
Short positions (HFT)	(1,538)	(10,658)	(11,355)	(1,036)	(1,595)	(798)	(26,980)	(17)
Available-for-sale								
Gross unrealised gains	1,007	1,092	1,187	110	660	120	4,176	764
Gross unrealised losses	—	(1)	(14)	(509)	(1,319)	(4)	(1,847)	(1,817)

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Balance sheet analysis continued

#### Key points

- **HFT** - Holdings of US government and ABS (primarily in the US) decreased reflecting sales and continued focus on balance sheet reduction and capital management in CIB. The increase in other government bonds reflected higher activity and timing of auctions. There was an increase in German, French and Austrian government bonds, partially offset by reductions in Italian, Spanish and Japanese bonds. The decrease in short positions reflects positions settled due to increased prices resulting from low yields due to economic volatility in the eurozone.
- **AFS** - Treasury took advantage of improved market conditions to reduce legacy banks and other financial institutions positions; consequently it no longer has any mortgage-backed covered bonds (2013 - £4.6 billion).
- Gross unrealised losses on AFS debt securities have declined significantly from £1.8 billion in 2012 and £0.9 billion in 2013 to £282 million at the end of 2014. £257 million of the £282 million was due to asset-backed securities, of which only £128 million related to those that had been in a loss position for more than a year primarily reflecting risk reduction in RCR compared with £0.6 billion and £1.8 billion in 2013 and 2012.

#### Ratings

The table below analyses debt securities by issuer and external ratings. Ratings are based on the lowest of Standard and Poor's, Moody's and Fitch.

	Central and local government			Other financial					Of which
	UK £m	US £m	Other £m	Banks £m	institutions £m	Corporate £m	Total £m	Total %	ABS £m
2014									
AAA	—	6	15,533	1,319	6,086	77	23,021	23	4,762
AA to AA+	15,502	18,714	9,879	283	12,215	117	56,710	56	16,956
A to AA-	—	—	4,958	2,670	2,534	340	10,502	10	688
BBB- to A-	—	—	4,822	277	1,184	772	7,055	7	853
Non-investment grade	—	—	331	61	1,247	603	2,242	2	1,060
Unrated	—	—	97	480	1,469	366	2,412	2	858
	15,502	18,720	35,620	5,090	24,735	2,275	101,942	100	25,177
2013									
AAA	—	18	13,106	1,434	8,155	162	22,875	20	6,796
AA to AA+	13,210	23,812	7,847	446	16,825	138	62,278	55	21,054
A to AA-	—	—	4,200	1,657	1,521	290	7,668	7	1,470
BBB- to A-	—	—	7,572	3,761	2,627	854	14,814	13	4,941
Non-investment grade	—	—	494	341	2,444	427	3,706	3	2,571
Unrated	—	2	6	230	1,647	397	2,282	2	1,454
	13,210	23,832	33,225	7,869	33,219	2,268	113,623	100	38,286
2012									
AAA	17,471	31	17,167	2,304	11,502	174	48,649	30	10,758
AA to AA+	—	36,357	7,424	1,144	26,403	750	72,078	44	28,775
A to AA-	—	6	11,707	2,930	3,338	1,976	19,957	12	2,897
BBB- to A-	—	—	6,245	4,430	4,217	1,643	16,535	10	7,394
Non-investment grade	—	—	928	439	3,103	614	5,084	3	2,674
Unrated	—	1	2	308	1,541	469	2,321	1	1,087
	17,471	36,395	43,473	11,555	50,104	5,626	164,624	100	53,585

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Asset-backed securities

The table below summarises the ratings of asset-backed securities on the balance sheet.

	RMBS (1)				MBS covered bond £m	CMBS (1) £m	CDOs £m	CLOs £m	Other ABS £m	Total £m
	Government sponsored or similar (2) £m	Prime £m	Non-conforming £m	Sub-prime £m						
2014										
AAA	—	2,417	775	14	—	30	29	4	1,493	4,762
AA to AA+	12,906	5	656	17	—	3,156	7	72	137	16,956
A to AA-	120	83	27	3	—	41	6	11	397	688
BBB- to A-	—	92	137	12	—	18	4	59	531	853
Non-investment grade (3)	—	211	261	135	—	65	240	52	96	1,060
Unrated (4)	—	22	—	24	—	474	9	31	298	858
	13,026	2,830	1,856	205	—	3,784	295	229	2,952	25,177
Of which:										
US	12,906	1,177	251	196	—	3,205	226	101	632	18,694
UK	—	879	1,605	7	—	507	—	6	975	3,979
Europe	120	770	—	2	—	72	69	122	1,320	2,475
RoW	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	29
	13,026	2,830	1,856	205	—	3,784	295	229	2,952	25,177
2013										
AAA	871	2,974	790	24	145	165	66	313	1,448	6,796
AA to AA+	16,226	192	634	28	216	3,224	—	309	225	21,054
A to AA-	158	151	227	34	48	60	60	167	565	1,470
BBB- to A-	13	126	162	95	3,806	102	25	165	447	4,941
Non-investment grade (3)	5	559	369	492	351	160	258	144	233	2,571
Unrated (4)	—	100	16	225	—	498	21	118	476	1,454
	17,273	4,102	2,198	898	4,566	4,209	430	1,216	3,394	38,286
Of which:										
US	14,870	1,532	379	775	48	3,523	314	823	1,349	23,613
UK	—	1,696	1,770	78	202	558	1	15	943	5,263
Europe	2,403	775	49	45	4,316	127	115	378	1,063	9,271
RoW	—	99	—	—	—	1	—	—	39	139
	17,273	4,102	2,198	898	4,566	4,209	430	1,216	3,394	38,286
2012										
AAA	2,454	2,854	1,487	11	639	396	92	1,181	1,644	10,758
AA to AA+	23,692	613	88	26	102	2,551	7	887	809	28,775
A to AA-	201	302	275	33	155	808	74	146	903	2,897
BBB- to A-	990	53	141	86	4,698	441	32	291	662	7,394
Non-investment grade (3)	20	641	454	330	136	304	421	133	235	2,674
Unrated (4)	—	108	8	298	—	23	94	388	168	1,087
	27,357	4,571	2,453	784	5,730	4,523	720	3,026	4,421	53,585
Of which:										
US	22,460	717	477	660	48	3,274	480	2,550	1,401	32,067
UK	—	2,552	1,918	73	204	821	22	12	1,400	7,002
Europe	4,879	912	58	46	5,478	425	218	464	1,309	13,789
RoW	18	390	—	5	—	3	—	—	311	727
	27,357	4,571	2,453	784	5,730	4,523	720	3,026	4,421	53,585

#### Notes:

(1) Residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) and commercial mortgaged-backed securities (CMBS) are securities that represent an interest in a portfolio of residential and commercial mortgages respectively. Repayments made on the underlying mortgages are used to make payments to holders of the mortgage-backed securities (MBS). The risk of the MBS will vary primarily depending on the quality and geographic region in which the underlying mortgage assets are located and the credit enhancement of the securitisation structure. Several tranches of notes are issued, each secured against the same portfolio of mortgages, but providing differing levels of seniority to match the risk appetite of investors. The most junior (or equity) notes will suffer early capital and interest losses experienced by the referenced mortgage collateral, with each more senior note benefiting from the protection provided by the subordinated notes below. Additional credit enhancements may be provided to the holder of senior MBS notes.

The main categories of mortgages that serve as collateral to RMBS held by RBS are set out below and described in the Glossary on pages 505 to 511. The US market has more established definitions of differing underlying mortgage quality and these are used as the basis for RBS's RMBS categorisation.

(2) Includes US agency and Dutch government guaranteed securities.

(3) Comprises HFT £387 million (2013 - £1,275 million; 2012 - £1,177 million), DFF nil (2013 - nil; 2012 - £7 million), AFS £645 million (2013 - £1,138 million; 2012 - £1,173 million) and LAR £28 million (2013 - £158 million; 2012 - £317 million).

(4) Comprises HFT £100 million (2013 - £504 million; 2012 - £808 million), AFS £30 million (2013 - £26 million; 2012 - £149 million) and LAR £728 million (2013 - £924 million; 2012 - £130 million).

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Balance sheet analysis continued

#### Equity shares

The table below analyses holdings of equity shares for eurozone countries and other countries with balances of more than £100 million by country, issuer and measurement classification. The HFT positions in CIB, primarily in run-off and recovery businesses, are used mainly for economic hedging of debt issuances and equity derivatives. The AFS portfolios include capital stock in the Federal Home Loan Bank (a government sponsored entity, included in other financial institutions) and the Federal Reserve Bank, which together amounted to £0.6 billion (2013 - £0.6 billion; 2012 - £0.7 billion) that CFG are required to hold. The remaining AFS balances are individually small holdings in unlisted companies, mainly acquired through debt for equity transactions in Restructuring.

Countries	2014									
	HFT				AFS/DFV (1)					
	Banks £m	Other financial institutions (2) £m	Corporate £m	Total £m	Banks £m	Other financial institutions (2) £m	Corporate £m	Total AFS/DFV £m	Total £m	AFS reserves £m
Spain	—	—	19	19	—	—	1	1	20	—
Ireland	—	20	16	36	—	6	20	26	62	—
Italy	—	—	3	3	—	5	4	9	12	—
Portugal	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Eurozone periphery	—	20	39	59	—	11	25	36	95	—
Luxembourg	—	150	5	155	—	—	—	—	155	—
Other	3	44	88	135	5	72	58	135	270	17
Total eurozone	3	214	132	349	5	83	83	171	520	17
US	1	164	123	288	305	392	4	701	989	26
UK	303	445	1,458	2,206	—	206	173	379	2,585	84
Japan	4	161	1,509	1,674	—	1	—	1	1,675	—
Australia	39	34	36	109	—	—	—	—	109	—
Other	33	33	129	195	—	109	25	134	329	52
Total	383	1,051	3,387	4,821	310	791	285	1,386	6,207	179
2013	515	1,645	5,039	7,199	173	893	546	1,612	8,811	149
2012	1,301	2,056	9,972	13,329	342	616	950	1,908	15,237	84

#### Notes:

(1) Designated as at fair value through profit or loss balances are £301 million (2013 - £400 million; 2012 - £533 million), of which £130 million are other financial institutions (2013 - £105 million; 2012 - £61 million) and £171 million are corporate (2013 - £295 million; 2012 - £472 million).

(2) Includes government sponsored entities.

(3) HFT short positions of £211 million (2013 - £259 million; 2012 - £611 million) included £15 million (2013 - £75 million; 2012 - £101 million) relating to non-periphery eurozone countries.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Derivatives

#### Summary and uncollateralised exposures

The table below analyses derivatives by type of contract. The master netting agreements and collateral shown below do not result in a net presentation on the balance sheet under IFRS.

	2014						2013			2012			
	Notional (1)					Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Notional (1) £bn	Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Notional (1) £bn	Assets £m	Liabilities £m
	GBP £bn	USD £bn	Euro £bn	Other £bn	Total £bn								
Interest rate (2)	5,335	9,829	7,822	4,345	27,331	269,912	259,971	35,589	218,041	208,698	33,483	363,454	345,565
Exchange rate	319	2,110	667	1,579	4,675	78,707	83,781	4,555	61,923	65,749	4,698	63,067	70,481
Credit	2	66	36	21	125	2,254	2,615	253	5,306	5,388	553	11,005	10,353
Equity and commodity	21	22	24	11	78	3,119	3,582	81	2,770	5,692	111	4,392	7,941
						353,992	349,949		288,040	285,527		441,918	434,340
Counterparty mark-to-market netting						(295,315)	(295,315)		(241,265)	(241,265)		(374,887)	(374,887)
Cash collateral						(33,272)	(30,203)		(24,423)	(25,302)		(34,291)	(31,863)
Securities collateral						(7,013)	(14,437)		(5,990)	(8,257)		(5,644)	(11,702)
Net exposure						18,392	9,994		16,362	10,703		27,096	15,888

#### Net exposure by sector

Banks	1,875	1,534	1,524	1,574
Other financial institutions	4,035	3,721	4,619	4,484
Corporate	11,186	4,382	9,351	4,217
Government	1,296	357	868	428
	18,392	9,994	16,362	10,703

#### Net exposure by region of counterparty

UK	9,037	3,233	8,937	3,681
Europe	5,628	3,521	4,497	3,717
US	1,544	1,280	1,441	1,806
RoW	2,183	1,960	1,487	1,499
	18,392	9,994	16,362	10,703

#### Asset quality of uncollateralised derivative assets

	£m	£m
AQ1	3,783	5,902
AQ2	1,623	271
AQ3	2,875	1,799
AQ4	6,266	2,115
AQ5	1,779	2,833
AQ6	673	1,635
AQ7	606	749
AQ8	151	857
AQ9	151	103
AQ10	485	98
	18,392	16,362

#### Notes:

(1) Includes exchange traded contracts of £2,436 billion (2013 - £2,298 billion; 2012 - £2,497 billion) principally interest rate. Trades are margined daily hence carrying values were insignificant: assets - £8 million (2013 - £69 million; 2012 - £41 million) and liabilities - £119 million (2013 - £299 million; 2012 - £255 million).

(2) Interest rate notional includes £18,452 billion (2013 - £22,563 billion; 2012 - £15,864 billion) in respect of contracts with central clearing counterparties to the extent related assets and liabilities are offset.

### Balance sheet analysis continued

#### Key points

- Interest rate contracts: notional balances were £8.3 trillion lower due to increased participation in trade compression cycles in 2014. The fair value increased due to significant downward shifts in major yields following further rate cuts by the European Central Bank, European instability including Germany as well as concerns over falling oil prices. This was partially offset by the impact of strengthening of sterling against the euro and participation in tear ups.
- Foreign exchange contracts: the increase in fair value is driven by the strengthening of the US dollar against the Japanese yen as the portfolio was materially positioned long US dollar and short Japanese yen.
- Credit derivatives: notional and fair value decreased reflecting participation in trade compression cycles and reduction in the US Agency business within CIB. Tightening of credit spreads in Europe and long dated spreads in the US also contributed to decrease in fair values.
- Uncollateralised derivatives predominantly comprise:
  - Corporates: predominantly large corporates with whom RBS may have netting arrangements in place, but operational capability does not support collateral posting. Transactions include foreign exchange hedges and interest rate swaps.
  - Banks: transactions with certain counterparties with whom RBS has netting arrangements but collateral is not posted on a daily basis; certain transactions with specific terms that may not fall within netting and collateral arrangements; derivative positions in certain jurisdictions for example China which are either uncollateralised or the collateral agreements are not deemed to be legally enforceable.
  - Other financial institutions: transactions with securitisation structured purpose entities and funds where collateral posting is contingent on RBS's external rating.
  - Government: sovereigns and supranational entities with one way collateral agreements in their favour.



## Business review Capital and risk management

### Settlement basis and central counterparties

The table below analyses the derivative notional and fair value by trading and settlement method.

	Notional				Asset		Liability	
	Traded over the counter			Total £bn	Traded on recognised exchanges £m	Traded over the counter £m	Traded on recognised exchanges £m	Traded over the counter £m
	Traded on recognised exchanges £bn	Settled by central counterparties £bn	Not settled by central counterparties £bn					
2014								
Interest rate	2,383	18,452	6,496	27,331	5	269,908	5	259,966
Exchange rate	53	—	4,622	4,675	—	78,706	—	83,781
Credit	—	22	103	125	—	2,254	—	2,615
Equity and commodity	—	—	78	78	3	3,116	114	3,468

### 2013

Interest rate	2,203	22,565	10,821	35,589	65	217,976	79	208,619
Exchange rate	94	2	4,459	4,555	—	61,923	—	65,749
Credit	—	30	223	253	—	5,306	—	5,388
Equity and commodity	—	1	80	81	4	2,766	220	5,472

### 2012

Interest rate	2,388	15,864	15,231	33,483	13	363,441	55	345,510
Exchange rate	108	—	4,590	4,698	—	63,067	—	70,481
Credit	—	—	553	553	—	11,005	—	10,353
Equity and commodity	1	—	110	111	28	4,364	200	7,741

### Credit derivatives

RBS trades credit derivatives to meet client needs and to mitigate its own credit risk. Credit derivative exposures relating to proprietary trading are minimal. The table below analyses bought and sold protection.

By type	2014				2013				2012			
	Notional		Fair value		Notional		Fair value		Notional		Fair value	
	Bought £bn	Sold £bn	Bought £bn	Sold £bn	Bought £bn	Sold £bn	Bought £bn	Sold £bn	Bought £bn	Sold £bn	Bought £bn	Sold £bn
Client-led trading/residual risk (1)	52.1	50.0	0.9	1.3	124.7	111.7	1.2	1.5	250.7	240.7	3.4	3.1
Credit hedging - banking book (2)	1.8	—	0.1	—	2.3	0.2	0.2	—	5.4	0.4	0.1	—
Credit hedging - trading book												
- rates	14.1	6.1	0.2	0.3	5.1	4.0	0.1	0.1	9.4	5.8	0.1	0.1
- credit and mortgage markets	0.4	—	0.2	—	2.2	1.3	0.5	0.3	22.4	16.0	0.9	0.7
- other	0.5	—	—	—	0.8	0.1	—	—	1.4	0.6	—	—
	68.9	56.1	1.4	1.6	135.1	117.3	2.0	1.9	289.3	263.5	4.5	3.9

	2014		2013		2012	
	Notional £bn	Net exposure £bn	Notional £bn	Net exposure £bn	Notional £bn	Net exposure £bn
of which:						
Monoline insurers (3)	0.1	1.6	0.1	4.6	0.4	
CDPCs (3)	15.2	18.8	0.1	21.0	0.2	

### Notes:

(1) Residual risk relates to legacy positions in RCR in 2014 and in Non-Core in 2013 and 2012.

(2) Credit hedging in the banking book principally relates to portfolio management in RCR and Non-Core.

(3) Credit valuation relating to monoline insurers and credit derivative product companies (CDPCs) were £47 million (2013 - £99 million; 2012 - £506 million).

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Balance sheet analysis continued REIL, provisions and AFS reserves

Risk elements in lending (REIL) comprises impaired loans and accruing loans past due 90 days or more as to principal or interest. Impaired loans are all loans (including loans subject to forbearance) for which an impairment provision has been established; for collectively assessed loans, impairment loss provisions are not allocated to individual loans and the entire portfolio is included in impaired loans. Accruing loans past due 90 days or more comprise loans past due 90 days where no impairment loss is expected.

#### Loans and related credit metrics

##### Segmental analysis

The tables below analyse gross loans and advances (excluding reverse repos) and the related credit metrics by reportable segment.

	Gross loans to		REIL £m	Provisions £m	Credit metrics			Impairment charge/ (release) £m	Amounts written-off £m
	Banks £m	Customers £m			REIL as a % of gross loans to customers %	Provisions as a % of REIL %	Provisions as a % of gross loans to customers %		
2014									
UK Personal & Business Banking	641	129,848	3,778	2,604	2.9	69	2.0	268	728
Ulster Bank	1,381	24,719	4,775	2,711	19.3	57	11.0	(365)	131
Personal & Business Banking	2,022	154,567	8,553	5,315	5.5	62	3.4	(97)	859
Commercial Banking	486	86,008	2,506	955	2.9	38	1.1	77	436
Private Banking	972	16,599	226	76	1.4	34	0.5	(5)	37
Commercial & Private Banking	1,458	102,607	2,732	1,031	2.7	38	1.0	72	473
Corporate & Institutional Banking	16,910	72,957	197	206	0.3	105	0.3	(7)	—
Central items	2,178	619	7	6	1.1	86	1.0	(12)	55
Citizens Financial Group	1,728	60,142	1,330	536	2.2	40	0.9	194	300
RCR	516	21,909	15,400	10,946	70.3	71	50.0	(1,320)	3,591
	24,812	412,801	28,219	18,040	6.8	64	4.4	(1,170)	5,278

2013									
UK Personal & Business Banking	760	127,781	4,663	2,957	3.6	63	2.3	497	967
Ulster Bank	591	31,446	8,466	5,378	26.9	64	17.1	1,774	277
Personal & Business Banking	1,351	159,227	13,129	8,335	8.2	63	5.2	2,271	1,244
Commercial Banking	701	85,071	4,276	1,617	5.0	38	1.9	652	587
Private Banking	1,531	16,764	277	120	1.7	43	0.7	29	15
Commercial & Private Banking	2,232	101,835	4,553	1,737	4.5	38	1.7	681	602
Corporate & Institutional Banking	20,550	69,080	1,661	976	2.4	59	1.4	598	360
Central items	2,670	341	1	66	0.3	nm	19.4	65	—
Citizens Financial Group	406	50,551	1,034	272	2.0	26	0.5	151	284
Non-Core	431	36,718	19,014	13,839	51.8	73	37.7	4,646	1,856
	27,640	417,752	39,392	25,225	9.4	64	6.0	8,412	4,346

2012									
UK Personal & Business Banking	695	129,193	5,735	3,467	4.4	60	2.7	740	745
Ulster Bank	632	32,652	7,533	3,910	23.1	52	12.0	1,364	72
Personal & Business Banking	1,327	161,845	13,268	7,377	8.2	56	4.6	2,104	817
Commercial Banking	746	85,243	4,007	1,547	4.7	39	1.8	543	358
Private Banking	1,545	17,074	248	109	1.5	44	0.6	46	15
Commercial & Private Banking	2,291	102,317	4,255	1,656	4.2	39	1.6	589	373
Corporate & Institutional Banking	21,632	80,335	1,097	743	1.4	68	0.9	218	564
Central items	3,196	107	—	1	—	nm	0.9	1	—
Citizens Financial Group	435	51,271	1,146	285	2.2	25	0.6	83	391
Non-Core	477	56,343	21,374	11,200	37.9	52	19.9	2,320	2,121
Direct Line Group	2,036	881	—	—	—	nm	—	—	—
	31,394	453,099	41,140	21,262	9.1	52	4.7	5,315	4,266

	Impairment losses/(releases) for year ended 31 December 2014								Impairment provision at 31 December 2014		
	Individual		Collective		Latent		Total		Individual £m	Collective £m	Latent £m
	Gross £m	Releases £m	Gross £m	Releases £m	Gross £m	Releases £m	Gross £m	Releases £m			
UK PBB	13	—	330	(133)	77	(19)	420	(152)	14	2,319	271
Ulster Bank	8	(18)	221	(251)	103	(428)	332	(697)	42	2,355	314
PBB	21	(18)	551	(384)	180	(447)	752	(849)	56	4,674	585
Commercial Banking	224	(85)	124	(103)	3	(86)	351	(274)	493	366	96
Private Banking	8	(10)	—	—	1	(4)	9	(14)	69	—	7
CPB	232	(95)	124	(103)	4	(90)	360	(288)	562	366	103
CIB	88	(63)	—	—	1	(33)	89	(96)	110	—	96
Central items	11	(23)	—	—	—	—	11	(23)	1	—	5
CFG	36	—	142	—	16	—	194	—	83	157	296
RCR	761	(1,759)	220	(235)	—	(307)	981	(2,301)	10,565	150	231
Total	1,149	(1,958)	1,037	(722)	201	(877)	2,387	(3,557)	11,377	5,347	1,316

## Key points

- Loans to banks decreased by £2.8 billion in the year to £24.8 billion. This reflected RWA focused reduction in trade finance (£5.4 billion) being partially offset by derivative collateral increase, both in CIB, as well as Ulster Bank's increased cash deposits with Central Bank of Ireland ahead of new regulatory liquidity requirements.
- Overall customer loans fell by £5.0 billion to £412.8 billion reflecting RCR disposal strategy being partly offset by increases in CFG and UK PBB.
- There has been a significant increase in CFG lending across a broad range of industry sectors, including residential mortgages, auto loans and commercial loans, in line with business strategy and risk appetite. Exchange rate movements also contributed to the increase.
- UK PBB's mortgage book grew strongly by £3.9 billion to £103.2 billion as advisor capacity increased (refer to Credit Risk Key credit portfolios on page 261 for more details). This was partially offset by lower unsecured lending.
- Property and construction lending fell by £11.4 billion, of which £9.3 billion related to commercial real estate lending. Refer to Credit Risk Key loan portfolios on page 251 for more details.
- REIL decreased by £11.2 billion to £28.2 billion, a 28% reduction in the year from £39.4 billion, across all segments except CFG. REIL as a proportion of gross loans improved to 6.8% from 9.4% in 2013 reflecting sales and repayments of £10.2 billion (£6.9 billion in RCR), write-offs of £5.3 billion (£3.6 billion in RCR), transfers to performing book of £1.5 billion, partially off set by new impaired loans of £7.1 billion (£3.0 billion in RCR). The execution of RCR strategy, resulted in a number of disposals of REIL in the year, primarily in the fourth quarter.
- Loan impairment provision coverage of REIL remained stable at 64% and now stands at £18.0 billion, a £7.2 billion reduction in the year. Provision coverage of gross loans has declined steadily during 2014 and is now 4.4% compared with 6.0% at the end of 2013, the latter reflecting the creation of RCR. The reduction in provision reflected write-off of £5.3 billion (£3.6 billion in RCR) and impairment releases of £3.5 billion (£2.3 billion in RCR) partially offset by new charges of £2.4 billion (£1.0 billion in RCR) and currency and other movements.
- Disposal of assets by RCR, primarily in the second half of the year, at higher than anticipated sale prices together with favourable market conditions in Ireland and the UK resulted in impairment releases. Overall, there was a net loan impairment release of £1.2 billion, £1.3 billion in RCR for 2014.
- Commercial real estate (CRE) gross lending reduced by £9.3 billion to £43.3 billion, related REIL is almost half of total RBS REIL and has a provision coverage of 68%. Of the total CRE REIL of £13.3 billion, £11.1 billion is in RCR.

## Within the business segments:

- RCR REIL decreased by £8.7 billion or 36% to £15.4 billion from £24.1 billion at 1 January 2014 primarily due to a mixture of asset disposals and write-offs. Provision coverage of REIL and REIL as a proportion of loans were both around 70%.
- In Ulster Bank, REIL as a proportion of loans decreased to 19% from 27% in 2013 and provision coverage of REIL reduced to 57% from 64% in 2013 mainly reflecting asset transfers to RCR on 1 January 2014 but also due to improved market conditions and higher collateral values also contributed.
- Commercial Banking REIL as a proportion of loans decreased to 2.9% from 5.0% in 2013, and REIL decreased by 41% (£1.8 billion) to £2.5 billion, with £0.6 billion of the reduction due to the creation of RCR. REIL reductions in the year were mainly due to lower individual cases, albeit some increases were seen in the fourth quarter and reductions in collectively assessed due to improved credit conditions.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Balance sheet analysis continued

#### Sector and geographical concentration

The tables below analyse gross loans and advances to banks and customers (excluding reverse repos) and related credit metrics by sector and geography based on the location of lending office.

	Gross loans £m	REIL £m	Provisions £m	Credit metrics			Impairment charge/ (release) £m	Amounts written-off £m
				REIL as a % of gross loans %	Provisions as a % of REIL %	Provisions as a % of gross loans %		
2014								
Central and local government	9,079	1	1	—	100	—	(1)	—
Finance	39,611	364	234	0.9	64	0.6	(5)	23
Personal - mortgages	150,572	5,634	1,521	3.7	27	1.0	36	236
- unsecured	29,155	1,964	1,585	6.7	81	5.4	401	737
Property	51,546	13,021	8,918	25.3	68	17.3	(1,083)	2,625
Construction	5,657	971	612	17.2	63	10.8	76	202
<i>of which: Commercial real estate</i>	<i>43,317</i>	<i>13,345</i>	<i>9,027</i>	<i>30.8</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>20.8</i>	<i>(1,067)</i>	<i>2,750</i>
Manufacturing	22,035	461	322	2.1	70	1.5	(26)	188
Finance leases (1)	14,030	156	113	1.1	72	0.8	—	75
Retail, wholesale and repairs	18,498	956	645	5.2	67	3.5	106	160
Transport and storage	14,299	1,146	500	8.0	44	3.5	37	211
Health, education and leisure	15,932	734	366	4.6	50	2.3	9	349
Hotels and restaurants	7,969	1,094	574	13.7	52	7.2	(40)	109
Utilities	4,825	156	85	3.2	54	1.8	16	5
Other	29,593	1,519	1,208	5.1	80	4.1	(10)	349
Latent	—	—	1,316	—	—	—	(676)	—
	412,801	28,177	18,000	6.8	64	4.4	(1,160)	5,269
Geographic regional analysis								
UK								
- residential mortgages	113,521	1,394	191	1.2	14	0.2	(23)	76
- personal lending	15,923	1,674	1,452	10.5	87	9.1	290	546
- property	37,547	6,026	3,676	16.0	61	9.8	(221)	1,917
- construction	4,098	676	361	16.5	53	8.8	(1)	175
- other	113,782	3,287	2,467	2.9	75	2.2	(146)	847
	284,871	13,057	8,147	4.6	62	2.9	(101)	3,561
Europe								
- residential mortgages	15,629	3,268	1,178	20.9	36	7.5	(10)	10
- personal lending	1,051	76	66	7.2	87	6.3	9	66
- property	8,021	6,907	5,197	86.1	75	64.8	(862)	699
- construction	1,055	289	245	27.4	85	23.2	78	24
- other	19,104	2,860	2,361	15.0	83	12.4	(440)	561
	44,860	13,400	9,047	29.9	68	20.2	(1,225)	1,360
US								
- residential mortgages	21,203	957	150	4.5	16	0.7	69	150
- personal lending	11,164	195	49	1.7	25	0.4	102	125
- property	5,332	64	19	1.2	30	0.4	2	7
- construction	413	1	1	0.2	100	0.2	—	1
- other	31,338	200	342	0.6	171	1.1	1	39
	69,450	1,417	561	2.0	40	0.8	174	322
RoW								
- residential mortgages	219	15	2	6.8	13	0.9	—	—
- personal lending	1,017	19	18	1.9	95	1.8	—	—
- property	646	24	26	3.7	108	4.0	(2)	2
- construction	91	5	5	5.5	100	5.5	(1)	2
- other	11,647	240	194	2.1	81	1.7	(5)	22
	13,620	303	245	2.2	81	1.8	(8)	26
Customers	412,801	28,177	18,000	6.8	64	4.4	(1,160)	5,269
Banks	24,812	42	40	0.2	95	0.2	(10)	9

For the note to this table refer to page 292.

## Business review Capital and risk management

	Gross loans £m	REIL £m	Provisions £m	Credit metrics			Impairment charge/ (release) £m	Amounts written-off £m
				REIL as a % of gross loans %	Provisions as a % of REIL %	Provisions as a % of gross loans %		
2013								
Central and local government	8,643	2	2	—	100	—	2	—
Finance	35,948	593	292	1.6	49	0.8	4	72
Personal - mortgages	148,533	6,025	1,799	4.1	30	1.2	392	441
- unsecured	28,160	2,417	1,909	8.6	79	6.8	415	861
Property	62,292	20,283	13,189	32.6	65	21.2	5,130	1,642
Construction	6,331	1,334	774	21.1	58	12.2	291	160
<i>of which: Commercial real estate</i>	<i>52,578</i>	<i>20,129</i>	<i>13,209</i>	<i>38.3</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>25.1</i>	<i>5,212</i>	<i>1,749</i>
Manufacturing	21,377	742	559	3.5	75	2.6	195	104
Finance leases (1)	13,587	263	190	1.9	72	1.4	16	121
Retail, wholesale and repairs	19,574	1,187	783	6.1	66	4.0	268	128
Transport and storage	16,697	1,491	635	8.9	43	3.8	487	229
Health, education and leisure	16,084	1,324	756	8.2	57	4.7	359	119
Hotels and restaurants	6,942	1,427	812	20.6	57	11.7	281	194
Utilities	4,960	131	80	2.6	61	1.6	54	23
Other	28,624	2,103	1,370	7.3	65	4.8	489	212
Latent	—	—	2,012	—	—	—	44	—
	417,752	39,322	25,162	9.4	64	6.0	8,427	4,306
Geographic regional analysis								
UK								
- residential mortgages	110,515	1,900	319	1.7	17	0.3	39	180
- personal lending	17,098	2,052	1,718	12.0	84	10.0	264	681
- property	44,252	9,797	5,190	22.1	53	11.7	2,014	950
- construction	4,691	941	515	20.1	55	11.0	194	159
- other	110,466	4,684	3,202	4.2	68	2.9	1,091	537
	287,022	19,374	10,944	6.8	56	3.8	3,602	2,507
Europe								
- residential mortgages	17,540	3,155	1,303	18.0	41	7.4	195	26
- personal lending	1,267	141	129	11.1	91	10.2	19	26
- property	13,177	10,372	7,951	78.7	77	60.3	3,131	659
- construction	979	351	227	35.9	65	23.2	72	—
- other	22,620	4,057	3,498	17.9	86	15.5	1,012	465
	55,583	18,076	13,108	32.5	73	23.6	4,429	1,176
US								
- residential mortgages	19,901	951	173	4.8	18	0.9	161	233
- personal lending	8,722	207	45	2.4	22	0.5	114	151
- property	4,279	85	19	2.0	22	0.4	(11)	25
- construction	313	34	24	10.9	71	7.7	25	1
- other	27,887	198	589	0.7	297	2.1	65	131
	61,102	1,475	850	2.4	58	1.4	354	541
RoW								
- residential mortgages	577	19	4	3.3	21	0.7	(3)	2
- personal lending	1,073	17	17	1.6	100	1.6	18	3
- property	584	29	29	5.0	100	5.0	(4)	8
- construction	348	8	8	2.3	100	2.3	—	—
- other	11,463	324	202	2.8	62	1.8	31	69
	14,045	397	260	2.8	65	1.9	42	82
Customers	417,752	39,322	25,162	9.4	64	6.0	8,427	4,306
Banks	27,640	70	63	0.3	90	0.2	(15)	40

For the note to this table refer to the following page.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Balance sheet analysis continued

	Gross loans £m	REIL £m	Provisions £m	Credit metrics			Impairment charge/ (release) £m	Amounts written-off £m
				REIL as a % of gross loans %	Provisions as a % of REIL %	Provisions as a % of gross loans %		
2012								
Central and local government	9,853	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finance	42,198	592	317	1.4	54	0.8	145	380
Personal - mortgages	149,625	6,549	1,824	4.4	28	1.2	948	461
- unsecured	32,212	2,903	2,409	9.0	83	7.5	631	793
Property	72,219	21,223	9,859	29.4	46	13.7	2,212	1,080
Construction	8,049	1,483	640	18.4	43	8.0	94	182
<i>of which: Commercial real estate</i>	<i>63,040</i>	<i>22,108</i>	<i>10,077</i>	<i>35.1</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>16.0</i>	<i>2,016</i>	<i>1,186</i>
Manufacturing	23,787	755	357	3.2	47	1.5	134	203
Finance leases <sup>(1)</sup>	13,609	442	294	3.2	67	2.2	44	263
Retail, wholesale and repairs	21,936	1,143	644	5.2	56	2.9	230	176
Transport and storage	18,341	834	336	4.5	40	1.8	289	102
Health, education and leisure	16,705	1,190	521	7.1	44	3.1	144	100
Hotels and restaurants	7,877	1,597	726	20.3	45	9.2	176	102
Utilities	6,631	118	21	1.8	18	0.3	(4)	—
Other	30,057	2,177	1,240	7.2	57	4.1	322	395
Latent	—	—	1,960	—	—	—	(73)	—
	453,099	41,006	21,148	9.1	52	4.7	5,292	4,237
Geographic regional analysis								
UK								
- residential mortgages	109,530	2,440	457	2.2	19	0.4	122	32
- personal lending	20,498	2,477	2,152	12.1	87	10.5	479	610
- property	53,730	10,521	3,944	19.6	37	7.3	964	490
- construction	6,507	1,165	483	17.9	41	7.4	100	158
- other	122,029	3,729	2,611	3.1	70	2.1	674	823
	312,294	20,332	9,647	6.5	47	3.1	2,339	2,113
Europe								
- residential mortgages	17,836	3,092	1,151	17.3	37	6.5	526	50
- personal lending	1,905	226	208	11.9	92	10.9	38	13
- property	14,634	10,347	5,766	70.7	56	39.4	1,264	441
- construction	1,132	289	146	25.5	51	12.9	(11)	12
- other	27,424	4,451	2,996	16.2	67	10.9	817	539
	62,931	18,405	10,267	29.2	56	16.3	2,634	1,055
US								
- residential mortgages	21,929	990	208	4.5	21	0.9	298	377
- personal lending	8,748	199	48	2.3	24	0.5	109	162
- property	3,343	170	29	5.1	17	0.9	(11)	83
- construction	388	8	1	2.1	13	0.3	—	12
- other	29,354	352	630	1.2	179	2.1	(86)	149
	63,762	1,719	916	2.7	53	1.4	310	783
RoW								
- residential mortgages	330	27	8	8.2	30	2.4	2	2
- personal lending	1,061	1	1	0.1	100	0.1	5	8
- property	512	185	120	36.1	65	23.4	(5)	66
- construction	22	21	10	95.5	48	45.5	5	—
- other	12,187	316	179	2.6	57	1.5	2	210
	14,112	550	318	3.9	58	2.3	9	286
Customers	453,099	41,006	21,148	9.1	52	4.7	5,292	4,237
Banks	31,394	134	114	0.4	85	0.4	23	29

Note:  
(1) Includes instalment credit.



## Business review Capital and risk management

### REILs and impairments

#### Risk elements in lending

The table below analyses REIL between UK and overseas, based on the location of the lending office.

	2014			2013			2012		
	RBS excluding RCR £m	RCR £m	Total £m	RBS excluding Non-Core £m	Non-Core £m	Total £m	RBS excluding Non-Core £m	Non-Core £m	Total £m
Impaired loans									
- UK	5,527	6,035	11,562	9,288	8,193	17,481	9,332	9,081	18,413
- overseas	5,844	9,173	15,017	9,145	10,545	19,690	8,219	11,867	20,086
	11,371	15,208	26,579	18,433	18,738	37,171	17,551	20,948	38,499
Accruing loans past due 90 days or more									
- UK	1,418	117	1,535	1,709	253	1,962	1,759	248	2,007
- overseas	30	75	105	236	23	259	456	178	634
	1,448	192	1,640	1,945	276	2,221	2,215	426	2,641
Total REIL	12,819	15,400	28,219	20,378	19,014	39,392	19,766	21,374	41,140
REIL as a % of gross loans and advances (1)	3.3%	70.3%	6.8%	5.3%	51.8%	9.4%	5.0%	37.9%	9.1%
Provisions as a % of REIL	55%	71%	64%	56%	73%	64%	51%	52%	52%

Note:

(1) Gross loans and advances to customers includes disposal groups but excludes reverse repos.

#### REIL flow statement

REIL are stated without giving effect to any security held that could reduce the eventual loss should it occur or to any provisions marked.

	UK PBB £m	Ulster Bank £m	Commercial Banking £m	Private Banking £m	CIB £m	Central items £m	CFG £m	RBS excluding RCR £m	RCR £m	Non-Core £m	Total £m
At 31 December 2013	4,663	8,466	4,276	277	1,661	1	1,034	20,378	—	19,014	39,392
Impact of dissolution of Non-Core and creation of RCR	137	(3,547)	(560)	—	(1,421)	—	289	(5,102)	24,116	(19,014)	—
At 1 January 2014	4,800	4,919	3,716	277	240	1	1,323	15,276	24,116	—	39,392
Currency translation and other adjustments	—	(250)	—	(3)	1	6	75	(171)	(879)	—	(1,050)
Disposal of subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(6)	—	(6)
Additions	1,353	555	1,716	58	100	—	335	4,117	2,951	—	7,068
Transfers (1)	(309)	—	31	(15)	4	—	—	(289)	29	—	(260)
Transfers to performing book	(326)	(120)	(582)	(3)	(92)	—	—	(1,123)	(337)	—	(1,460)
Repayments	(1,012)	(198)	(1,884)	(51)	(56)	—	(103)	(3,304)	(6,883)	—	(10,187)
Amounts written-off	(728)	(131)	(491)	(37)	—	—	(300)	(1,687)	(3,591)	—	(5,278)
At 31 December 2014	3,778	4,775	2,506	226	197	7	1,330	12,819	15,400	—	28,219

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Balance sheet analysis continued

	UK PBB £m	Ulster Bank £m	Commercial Banking £m	Private Banking £m	CIB £m	Central items £m	CFG £m	RBS excluding Non-Core £m	Non-Core £m	Total £m
At 1 January 2013	5,735	7,533	4,007	248	1,097	—	1,146	19,766	21,374	41,140
Currency translation and other adjustments	8	134	8	2	(15)	—	(21)	116	279	395
Disposal of subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(89)	(89)
Additions	1,638	2,479	3,597	132	1,337	1	282	9,466	3,397	12,863
Transfers <sup>(1)</sup>	(445)	—	355	—	196	—	—	106	(1)	105
Transfer to performing book and repayments	(1,306)	(1,403)	(3,104)	(90)	(594)	—	(89)	(6,586)	(4,090)	(10,676)
Amounts written-off	(967)	(277)	(587)	(15)	(360)	—	(284)	(2,490)	(1,856)	(4,346)
At 31 December 2013	4,663	8,466	4,276	277	1,661	1	1,034	20,378	19,014	39,392

Notes:

(1) Represents transfers between REIL and potential problem loans.

(2) For details on impairment methodology refer to Credit risk on page 231 and Accounting policy 15 Impairment of financial assets on page 353.

### Impairment provisions flow statement

RBS's consumer portfolios, which consist of high volume, small value credits, have highly efficient largely automated processes for identifying problem credits and very short timescales, typically three months, before resolution or adoption of various recovery methods. Corporate portfolios consist of higher value, lower volume credits, which tend to be structured to meet individual customer requirements.

Provisions are assessed on a case by case basis by experienced specialists with input from professional valuers and accountants. RBS operates a transparent provisions governance framework, setting thresholds to trigger enhanced oversight and challenge.

The movement in loan impairment provisions by segment is shown in the table below.

	UK PBB £m	Ulster Bank £m	Commercial Banking £m	Private Banking £m	CIB £m	Central items £m	CFG £m	RBS excluding RCR £m	RCR £m	Non-Core £m	Total £m
At 31 December 2013	2,957	5,378	1,617	120	976	66	272	11,386	—	13,839	25,225
Impact of dissolution of Non-Core and creation of RCR <sup>(1)</sup>	150	(1,985)	(306)	—	(766)	—	246	(2,661)	16,500	(13,839)	—
At 1 January 2014	3,107	3,393	1,311	120	210	66	518	8,725	16,500	—	25,225
Currency translation and other adjustments	—	(172)	10	(1)	1	7	21	(134)	(555)	—	(689)
Disposal of subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(6)	—	(6)
Amounts written-off	(728)	(131)	(436)	(37)	—	(55)	(300)	(1,687)	(3,591)	—	(5,278)
Recoveries of amounts previously written-off	24	23	12	2	2	—	103	166	39	—	205
Charged to income statement											
- continuing operations	268	(365)	77	(5)	(7)	(12)	—	(44)	(1,320)	—	(1,364)
- discontinued operations	—	—	—	—	—	—	194	194	—	—	194
Unwind of discount (recognised in interest income)	(67)	(37)	(19)	(3)	—	—	—	(126)	(121)	—	(247)
At 31 December 2014	2,604	2,711	955	76	206	6	536	7,094	10,946	—	18,040
Individually assessed											
- banks	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	39	—	40
- customers	14	42	493	69	109	1	83	811	10,526	—	11,337
Collectively assessed	2,319	2,355	366	—	—	—	157	5,197	150	—	5,347
Latent	271	314	96	7	96	5	296	1,085	231	—	1,316
	2,604	2,711	955	76	206	6	536	7,094	10,946	—	18,040

Note:

(1) Transfers in Non-Core dissolution and RCR creation includes amounts in relation to latent.

## Business review Capital and risk management

	UK PBB £m	Ulster Bank £m	Commercial Banking £m	Private Banking £m	CIB £m	Central Items £m	CFG £m	RBS excluding Non-Core £m	Non-Core £m	Total £m
<b>At 1 January 2013</b>	3,467	3,910	1,547	109	743	1	285	10,062	11,200	21,262
Currency translation and other adjustments	(2)	51	17	—	(16)	—	31	81	28	109
Disposal of subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(77)	(77)
Amounts written-off	(967)	(277)	(587)	(15)	(360)	—	(284)	(2,490)	(1,856)	(4,346)
Recoveries of amounts previously written-off	47	1	14	—	17	—	89	168	88	256
Charge to income statement										
- continuing operations	497	1,774	652	29	598	65	—	3,615	4,490	8,105
- discontinued operations	—	—	—	—	—	—	151	151	156	307
Unwind of discount (recognised in interest income)	(85)	(81)	(26)	(3)	(6)	—	—	(201)	(190)	(391)
<b>At 31 December 2013</b>	2,957	5,378	1,617	120	976	66	272	11,386	13,839	25,225
Individually assessed										
- banks	—	—	—	—	62	—	—	62	1	63
- customers	2	2,078	1,116	109	765	66	60	4,196	12,650	16,846
Collectively assessed	2,741	2,596	283	—	—	—	118	5,738	565	6,303
Latent	214	704	218	11	149	—	94	1,390	623	2,013
	2,957	5,378	1,617	120	976	66	272	11,386	13,839	25,225

### Past due analysis

The table below shows loans and advances to customers that were past due at the balance sheet date but are not considered impaired.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Past due 1-29 days	4,834	4,765	5,599
Past due 30-59 days	1,055	1,260	1,117
Past due 60-89 days	667	822	1,177
Past due 90 days or more	1,640	2,221	2,641
	8,196	9,068	10,534

### Past due analysis by sector

Personal	4,837	5,172	5,501
Property and construction	1,343	1,373	1,863
Financial institution	86	368	103
Other corporate	1,930	2,155	3,067
	8,196	9,068	10,534

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Balance sheet analysis continued

#### Impairment charge analysis

The table below analyses the impairment charge for loans and securities.

	UK PBB £m	Ulster Bank £m	Commercial Banking £m	Private Banking £m	CIB £m	Central items £m	Citizens Financial Group £m	RBS excluding RCR £m	RCR £m	Total £m
2014										
Individually assessed	13	(10)	139	(2)	25	(12)	36	189	(988)	(799)
Collectively assessed	197	(30)	21	—	—	—	142	330	(15)	315
Latent loss	58	(325)	(83)	(3)	(32)	—	16	(369)	(307)	(676)
Loans to customers	268	(365)	77	(5)	(7)	(12)	194	150	(1,310)	(1,160)
Loans to banks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(10)	(10)
Securities	—	—	—	—	(2)	—	3	1	14	15
Charge/(release) to income statement	268	(365)	77	(5)	(9)	(12)	197	151	(1,306)	(1,155)

								RBS excluding Non-Core	Non-Core	
2013										
Individually assessed	3	1,082	629	32	590	65	16	2,417	4,502	6,919
Collectively assessed	517	580	49	—	6	—	189	1,341	123	1,464
Latent loss	(23)	112	(26)	(3)	17	—	(54)	23	21	44
Loans to customers	497	1,774	652	29	613	65	151	3,781	4,646	8,427
Loans to banks	—	—	—	—	(15)	—	—	(15)	—	(15)
Securities	5	—	—	—	81	(1)	5	90	(70)	20
Charge to income statement	502	1,774	652	29	679	64	156	3,856	4,576	8,432

								RBS excluding Non-Core	Non-Core	
2012										
Individually assessed	8	457	514	42	196	1	15	1,233	1,936	3,169
Collectively assessed	767	787	47	—	46	—	237	1,884	312	2,196
Latent loss	(35)	120	(18)	4	(47)	—	(169)	(145)	72	(73)
Loans to customers	740	1,364	543	46	195	1	83	2,972	2,320	5,292
Loans to banks	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	23	—	23
Securities	—	—	2	—	12	39	8	61	(97)	(36)
Charge to income statement	740	1,364	545	46	230	40	91	3,056	2,223	5,279

## Business review Capital and risk management

### AFS reserves

#### By issuer

Available-for-sale financial assets are initially recognised at fair value plus directly related transaction costs and are subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value reported in owners' equity until disposal, at which stage the cumulative gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss. When there is objective evidence that an available-for-sale financial asset is impaired, any decline in its fair value below original cost is removed from equity and recognised in profit or loss.

The table below analyses available-for-sale debt securities and related reserves, gross of tax.

	2014				2013				2012			
	UK £m	US £m	Other £m	Total £m	UK £m	US £m	Other £m	Total £m	UK £m	US £m	Other £m	Total £m
Central and local government	4,747	11,011	11,058	26,816	6,436	12,880	10,303	29,619	9,774	19,046	16,155	44,975
Banks	508	—	2,896	3,404	492	92	5,390	5,974	1,085	357	7,419	8,861
Other financial institutions	1,505	9,912	3,168	14,585	2,335	8,327	6,668	17,330	2,861	10,613	10,416	23,890
Corporate	23	15	123	161	21	71	92	184	1,318	719	1,130	3,167
Total	6,783	20,938	17,245	44,966	9,284	21,370	22,453	53,107	15,038	30,735	35,120	80,893
Of which ABS	1,478	15,626	1,780	18,884	2,487	13,149	8,538	24,174	3,558	14,209	12,976	30,743
AFS reserves (gross)	27	363	17	407	77	(22)	(445)	(390)	667	763	(1,277)	153

### Gross unrealised losses

The table below shows the fair value of available-for-sale debt securities that were in an unrealised loss position at the end of the year and the related gross unrealised losses.

	Less than 12 months		More than 12 months		Total	
	Fair value £m	Gross unrealised losses £m	Fair value £m	Gross unrealised losses £m	Fair value £m	Gross unrealised losses £m
2014						
Central and local government						
- UK	1	1	—	—	1	1
- US	2,417	82	1,239	35	3,656	117
- other	607	3	154	—	761	3
Banks	36	1	—	—	36	1
Other financial institutions	684	49	1,130	109	1,814	158
Corporate	—	—	5	2	5	2
Total	3,745	136	2,528	146	6,273	282
Of which ABS	3,108	129	1,813	128	4,921	257

#### 2013

Central and local government						
- UK	6,987	69	—	—	6,987	69
- US	4,189	85	8	1	4,197	86
- other	2,605	18	852	14	3,457	32
Banks	726	1	3,319	204	4,045	205
Other financial institutions	6,063	65	4,842	428	10,905	493
Corporate	19	2	15	—	34	2
Total	20,589	240	9,036	647	29,625	887
Of which ABS	8,964	119	8,067	634	17,031	753

#### 2012

Central and local government						
- US	59	1	—	—	59	1
- other	1,625	2	145	12	1,770	14
Banks	398	2	3,466	507	3,864	509
Other financial institutions	248	19	7,686	1,300	7,934	1,319
Corporate	346	4	4	—	350	4
Total	2,676	28	11,301	1,819	13,977	1,847
Of which ABS	398	20	10,999	1,797	11,397	1,817

Market risk	
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### Market risk

#### Definition

Market risk is the risk of losses arising from fluctuations in interest rates, credit spreads, foreign currency rates, equity prices, commodity prices and other factors, such as market volatilities, that may lead to a reduction in earnings, economic value or both.

RBS is exposed to traded market risk through its trading activities and to non-traded market risk as a result of its banking activities. In many respects, it manages its traded and non-traded market risk exposures separately, as described in this section, largely in line with the regulatory definitions of the trading and non-trading books.

#### Key developments in 2014\*

##### Traded market risk

RBS's traded market risk profile decreased significantly, with market risk limits being reduced across all businesses, in some instances by 50-60%. These reductions resulted from:

- The creation of RCR and consequent accelerated wind-down of capital-intensive and potentially volatile exposures; and
- In relation to CIB:
  - the continuing run-down of non-strategic products and exposures in the run-off and recovery business set up towards the end of 2013; and
  - the decision to exit the US asset-backed product (ABP) trading business.

Technology and process improvements continued to be made to enhance the measurement and management of market risk exposures. This covered key systems spanning areas such as market data and information technology architectures.

Risk measurement improvements also continued. Notably, credit and funding valuation adjustments were included in the internal measure of RBS's value-at-risk (VaR) (refer to page 304 for more information). Previously, only associated hedges were included. The change in scope reflects a more comprehensive economic view of the risk.

##### Non-traded market risk

RBS continued to manage its non-traded market risk exposures within risk limits throughout the year. Although the restructure of customer facing businesses in 2014 did not affect underlying non-traded market risk exposures, the planned divestment of CFG is expected to reduce structural interest rate and foreign exchange risk exposures. However, at the year end RBS retained a majority stake in CFG and fully consolidated the position.

Longer-term interest rates remained at historically low levels during 2014. RBS maintained its structural hedge of invested equity and rate-insensitive customer deposit portfolios. The aim of the hedge is to stabilise interest earnings. During the year, the duration profile of the hedge did not change materially but action was taken to match the hedge's currency profile more closely to underlying balance sheet exposures.

The increased hedging of US dollar structural exposures was related to the planned disposal of CFG. This was balanced by the requirement to maintain RBS's current capital ratio sensitivity to foreign exchange rate movements within risk limits.

#### Sources of risk

##### Traded market risk

The majority of traded market risk exposure arises in CIB and RCR.

The primary objective of RBS's trading activities is to provide a range of financing, risk management and investment services to its customers - including major corporations and financial institutions around the world. From a market risk perspective, the trading activities are included within the following markets: currencies; emerging markets; rates; asset-backed products; and traded credit.

RBS undertakes transactions in financial instruments including debt securities, loans, deposits and equities, as well as securities financing and derivatives.

Some of these transactions involve trading or clearing financial instruments on an exchange, including interest rate swaps, futures and options. Holders of these instruments provide margin on a daily basis with cash or other security at the exchange.

Other products are not transacted on an exchange. Of these over-the-counter transactions, those with standard terms may be cleared through central counterparties, while those that are more complex are settled directly with the counterparty and may give rise to counterparty credit risk. For more information on the management of counterparty credit risk, refer to the Credit risk section on page 231.

##### Non-traded market risk

The majority of RBS's non-traded market risk exposure arises from retail and commercial banking activities in all franchises from assets and liabilities that are not classified as held for trading.

The management of non-traded market risk is largely organised in line with the following three key categories: non-traded interest rate risk; non-traded foreign exchange risk; and non-traded equity risk.

##### Interest rate risk

Non-traded interest rate risk (NTIRR) arises from the provision to customers of a range of banking products that have differing interest rate characteristics. Therefore, when aggregated, these products form portfolios of assets and liabilities with varying degrees of sensitivity to changes in market interest rates. Mismatches in these characteristics can give rise to volatility in net interest income as interest rates rise and fall.

NTIRR comprises four primary risk factors: repricing risk, yield curve risk, basis risk and optionality risk. For more information, refer to page 316.

\*unaudited

### Market risk continued

#### Foreign exchange risk

Non-traded foreign exchange risk exposures arise from two main sources:

- *Structural foreign exchange risk* - arising from the capital deployed in foreign subsidiaries, branches and associates and related currency funding where it differs from sterling; and
- *Transactional foreign exchange risk* - arising from customer transactions and profits and losses that are in a currency other than the functional currency of the transacting operation.

#### Equity risk

Non-traded equity risk is the potential variation in income and reserves arising from changes in the values of non-trading book equity positions. Equity exposures may arise through strategic acquisitions, venture capital investments and certain restructuring arrangements.

#### Pension risk

Pension-related activities also give rise to market risk. Refer to pages 331 and 332 for more information on risk related to pensions.

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Linkage to balance sheet\*

The table below analyses RBS's balance sheet by trading and non-trading business.

2014	Total £bn	Trading business (1) £bn	Non-trading business (2) £bn	Non-trading business primary risk factor
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and balances at central banks	75.5	—	75.5	Interest rate, foreign exchange
Net loans and advances to banks	24.8	11.2	13.6	Interest rate
Net loans and advances to customers	394.8	23.2	371.6	Interest rate
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	64.7	61.1	3.6	Interest rate
Debt securities	101.9	49.3	52.6	Interest rate
Equity shares	6.2	4.9	1.3	Equity
Derivatives	354.0	350.1	3.9	Interest rate, foreign exchange
Settlement balances	4.7	4.7	—	
Other assets	24.2	—	24.2	Interest rate
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,050.8</b>	<b>504.5</b>	<b>546.3</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Deposits by banks	40.9	25.5	15.4	Interest rate
Customer deposits	414.9	14.2	400.7	Interest rate
Repurchase agreements and stock lending	64.6	60.0	4.6	Interest rate
Debt securities in issue	51.9	12.4	39.5	Interest rate
Settlement balances	4.5	4.5	—	
Short positions	23.0	23.0	—	
Derivatives	350.0	346.9	3.1	Interest rate, foreign exchange
Subordinated liabilities	23.1	—	23.1	Interest rate
Other liabilities	17.7	—	17.7	Interest rate, credit spreads
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>990.6</b>	<b>486.5</b>	<b>504.1</b>	
<b>2013</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and balances at central banks	82.7	—	82.7	Interest rate, foreign exchange
Net loans and advances to banks	27.6	9.3	18.3	Interest rate
Net loans and advances to customers	390.8	19.4	371.4	Interest rate
Reverse repurchase agreements and stock borrowing	76.4	75.7	0.7	Interest rate
Debt securities	113.6	56.7	56.9	Interest rate
Equity shares	8.8	7.2	1.6	Equity
Derivatives	288.0	284.9	3.1	Interest rate, foreign exchange
Settlement balances	5.6	5.6	—	
Other assets	34.4	—	34.4	Interest rate
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,027.9</b>	<b>458.8</b>	<b>569.1</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Deposits by banks	35.3	19.2	16.1	Interest rate
Customer deposits	414.4	9.7	404.7	Interest rate
Repurchase agreements and stock lending	85.1	73.6	11.5	Interest rate
Debt securities in issue	67.8	19.7	48.1	Interest rate
Settlement balances	5.3	5.3	—	
Short positions	28.0	28.0	—	
Derivatives	285.5	283.4	2.1	Interest rate, foreign exchange
Subordinated liabilities	24.0	—	24.0	Interest rate
Other liabilities	23.3	—	23.3	Interest rate, credit spreads
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>968.7</b>	<b>438.9</b>	<b>529.8</b>	

#### Notes:

- (1) Trading businesses are entities that primarily have exposures that are classified as trading book under regulatory rules. For these exposures, the main methods used by RBS to measure market risk are detailed under Traded market risk measurement on page 304.
- (2) Non-trading businesses are entities that primarily have exposures that are not classified as trading book. For these exposures, with the exception of pension-related activities, the main measurement methods are sensitivity analysis of net interest income, internal non-traded VaR and fair value calculations. For more information refer to pages 316 to 322.

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Market risk continued

#### Trading balance sheet and VaR linkage

The table below shows the trading business balance sheet split by trading portfolios within CIB and the associated trading VaR for the period ended 31 December 2014.

Portfolio	Description of business	Assets £bn	Liabilities £bn	Standalone internal 99% 1-day VaR £m	Principal market risk exposure
Rates	Delivers interest rate services through research-based insight to corporates, central banks, financial institutions and hedge funds.	414.0	409.0	23.7	Interest rates
Currencies	Provides currency services to corporate, institutional and retail clients globally covering FX, emerging and short-term markets.	33.4	33.1	2.4	Foreign exchange and interest rates
Asset-backed products	Structures and distributes mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities and commercial mortgage-backed securities, covering both agency and non-agency segments of the market, from executing flow business to creating complex structured derivatives.	9.1	3.2	4.9	Interest rates and credit spreads.
Credit	Provides liquidity and capital to corporates and operates across investment-grade, high-yield and distressed credit. Offers a full-service credit-trading platform covering derivatives, bonds, bank loans and trade claims.	12.8	8.7	2.6	Credit spreads
Run-off & Recovery	Responsible for active divestment of all products identified for exit from RBS, through a combination of restructuring, asset sales or, where possible, business sales.	20.2	20.3	4.2	Equities, interest rates and credit spreads.
Centre	Primarily relates to the Counterparty Exposure Management desk which manages counterparty risk exposures arising from over-the-counter derivative contracts, primarily credit risk and funding risk.	—	—	10.4	Credit spreads, interest rates and foreign exchange,
VaR diversification		—	—	(26.9)	
Total CIB		489.5	474.3	21.3	
Total RCR	RCR is responsible for the accelerated rundown of assets that are capital intensive or have volatile outcomes under stress.	14.3	11.1	3.0	Equities, interest rates and credit spreads.

#### Notes:

- (1) The VaR amounts presented above represent the risk associated with external and internal transactions within each portfolio. VaR diversification represents the degree of correlation between portfolios within RBS. The diversification factor is the sum of the VaR on individual businesses less the total portfolio VaR.
- (2) Assets and liabilities presented above represent external transactions for each portfolio.
- (3) VaR in Centre relates primarily to market risks arising from credit valuation adjustment (CVA), funding valuation adjustment (FVA) and the related hedges which are booked and managed centrally. The corresponding assets and liabilities are reflected in the underlying portfolio amounts where the CVA and FVA risks arise.

### Risk governance

The Market Risk function is responsible for identifying, measuring, monitoring and controlling the market risk arising from both trading and non-trading activities.

For general information on risk governance, refer to the Risk governance section on page 176.

More specific information on the governance, management and measurement of traded and non-traded market risk is provided in each of the dedicated sections below.

### Traded market risk

#### Controls and assurance

The market risk control and assurance framework has three key components: market risk policy; assurance approach policy; and independent assurance.

The Group Market Risk Policy Standard is part of the Group Policy Framework. It sets out the rules that RBS's businesses must follow to ensure that market risks are identified, measured and effectively managed.

The assurance approach policy comprises various elements, including the Risk and Control Assurance Framework process. This process ensures that, on an ongoing basis, specifically designed controls are in place for the risks that RBS faces to ensure that its exposure does not exceed its appetite. The adequacy and effectiveness of these controls are tested according to their rating, at least annually. The results of this testing are shared regularly at the Market Risk Governance and Control Committee.

Market Risk Assurance forms part of Risk Assurance. This independent second line of defence function provides assurance on the robustness of the market risk framework within RBS, via centralised analysis of the control framework, complemented by the application of expert judgement through qualitative reviews. These findings are escalated to senior management and plans to address any shortcomings are recorded and tracked in the operational risk system. Market Risk Assurance activities are also reported directly and independently to the Group Audit Committee.

For information on valuation controls, independent price verification and model validation, refer to page 315.

### Risk appetite\*

Market risk appetite is the level of market risk that RBS accepts when pursuing its business objectives, taking into account stressed scenarios. A comprehensive structure and controls are in place aimed at ensuring that this appetite is not exceeded.

RBS's qualitative market risk appetite is set out in policy statements. These define the governance, responsibilities, control framework and requirements for the identification, measurement, analysis, management and reporting of market risk arising from trading and non-trading activities. These policies are also cascaded, as appropriate, to the legal entities, franchises and businesses to ensure there is a consistent control framework throughout.

The quantitative market risk appetite is expressed in terms of limits for the trading and non-trading activities. These limits, which establish a set of comprehensive boundaries within which business activities are conducted and monitored based on business plans, are proposed by the Director of Market Risk.

Once RBS-level limits are approved by the Executive Risk Forum (ERF), the Director of Market Risk may cascade the limits further down the organisation as required. For each trading business, a document known as a dealing authority compiles details of all applicable limits and trading restrictions.

The limit framework at RBS-level comprises VaR, stressed value-at-risk (SVaR) and sensitivity and stress limits (for more details on VaR and SVaR, refer to pages 304 to 309). The limit framework at the lower levels also comprises additional metrics that are specific to the market risk exposures within its scope. These additional metrics aim to control various risk dimensions such as product type, exposure size, aged inventory, currency and tenor.

The limits are reviewed to reflect changes in risk appetite, business plans, portfolio composition and the market and economic environments.

Limit breaches at RBS-level require escalation by the Director of Market Risk, as appropriate, to the ERF. Limit breaches at the lower levels require escalation by the head of the relevant market risk segment to the Director of Market Risk, as appropriate.

### Risk assessment

Identification and assessment of traded market risk is achieved through gathering, analysing, monitoring and reporting market risk information by business line or at a consolidated level. Industry expertise, continued system developments and techniques such as stress testing are also used to enhance the effectiveness of the identification and assessment of all material market risks.

This is complemented by the New Product Risk Assessment process, which requires market risk teams to assess and quantify the market risk associated with all proposed new products.

### Risk monitoring

Traded market risk exposures are monitored against limits and analysed daily by market risk reporting and control functions. A daily report that summarises market risk exposures against the limits set by the ERF is sent to the Chief Risk Officer and market risk managers across the franchises.

\*unaudited

### Traded market risk continued

The market risk functions also prepare daily risk reports that detail exposures against a more granular set of limits and triggers.

Limit reporting is supplemented with regulatory capital and stress testing information as well as ad hoc reporting.

A market risk update is also included in the RBS Risk Management Monthly Report provided to the Executive Committee, the Board Risk Committee and the Board. The update focuses on risk positions relative to risk appetite; it also covers the key risks and trends, together with a discussion of relevant issues and market topics.

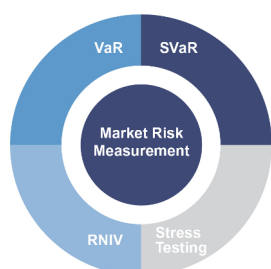
The reporting and updates facilitate frequent reviews and discussions of traded market risk exposures and related issues between the market risk functions, senior management and the front office.

### Risk control

To ensure approved limits are not breached and that RBS remains within its risk appetite, triggers at RBS and lower levels have been set such that if exposures exceed a specified level, action plans are developed by the front office, Market Risk and Finance.

### Risk measurement

RBS uses a comprehensive and complementary set of methodologies and techniques to measure traded market risk that collectively ensure a complete approach to the measurement of material market risks.



The main measurement methods are VaR and SVaR. Risks that are not adequately captured by these model methodologies are captured by the Risks Not in VaR (RNIV) framework to ensure that RBS is adequately capitalised for market risk. In addition, stress testing is used to identify any vulnerabilities and potential losses in excess of VaR and SVaR.

These methods have been designed to capture correlation effects and allow RBS to form an aggregated view of its traded market risk across risk types, markets and business lines while also taking into account the characteristics of each risk type.

### Value-at-risk

VaR is a statistical estimate of the potential change in the market value of a portfolio (and, thus, the impact on the income statement) over a specified time horizon at a given confidence level.

For internal risk management purposes, VaR assumes a time horizon of one trading day and a confidence level of 99%. The VaR model is based on a historical simulation, utilising data from the previous 500 days on an equally weighted basis.

The internal traded VaR model captures all trading book positions including those products approved by the regulator. As noted earlier, from February 2014, credit and funding valuation adjustments were included in the internal measure of VaR. For an explanation of the distinction between internal VaR and regulatory VaR, refer to page 311.

The internal VaR model captures the impact on the income statement of the following risk factors:

- Interest rate risk, which arises from the impact of changes in interest rates and volatilities on cash instruments and derivatives. This includes interest rate tenor basis risk and cross-currency basis risk.
- Credit spread risk, which arises from the impact of changes in the credit spreads of sovereign bonds, corporate bonds, securitised products and credit derivatives.
- Currency risk, which arises from the impact of changes in currency rates and volatilities.
- Equity risk, which arises from the impact of changes in equity prices, volatilities and dividend yields.
- Commodity risk, which arises from the impact of changes in commodity prices and volatilities.

The factors noted above are sufficient to define RBS's overall market risk exposures. Other types of risk which are components of the above-mentioned factors, are also monitored by individual businesses to identify and address any material concentrations.

Examples of such risk types include:

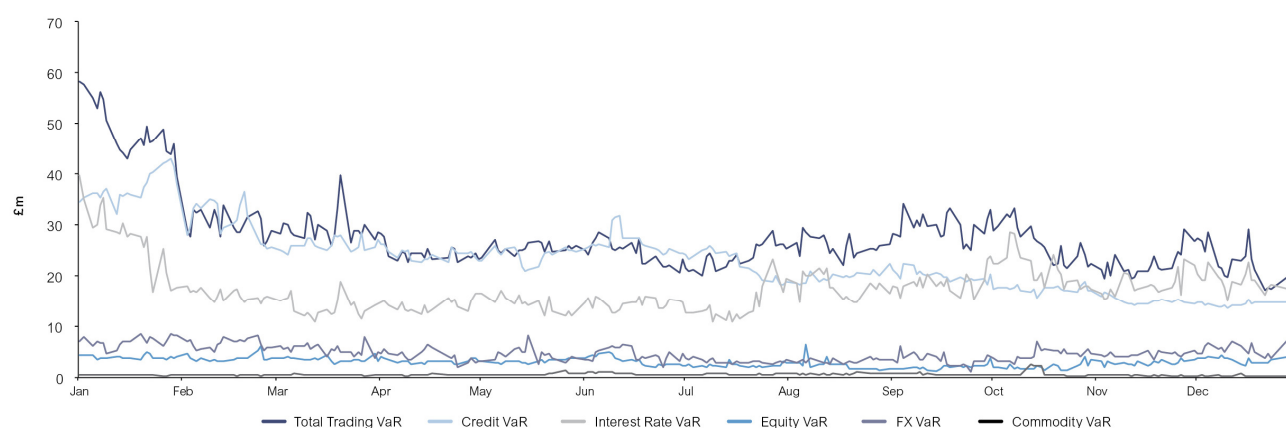
- Basis risk, which is the risk that imperfect correlation between two instruments in a hedging strategy creates the potential for excess gains or losses, thus adding risk to the position;
- Prepayment risk, which is the risk associated with early unscheduled return of principal on a fixed rate security; and
- Inflation risk, which is the risk of a decrease in the value of instruments as a result of changes in inflation rates and associated volatilities.



### VaR limitations\*

- Historical VaR and RBS's implementation of this risk measurement methodology have a number of known limitations, as summarised below, and VaR should be interpreted in light of these. RBS's approach is to supplement VaR with other risk metrics that address these limitations to ensure appropriate coverage of all material market risks.
- Historical simulation VaR may not provide the best estimate of future market movements. It can only provide a forecast of portfolio losses based on events that occurred in the past. The RBS model uses the previous two years of data; this period represents a balance between model responsiveness to recent shocks and risk factor data coverage.
- The use of a 99% confidence level VaR statistic does not provide information about losses beyond this level, usually referred to as 'tail' risks. These risks are more appropriately assessed using measures such as Stressed VaR and stress testing.
- The use of a one-day time horizon does not fully capture the profit and loss implications of positions that cannot be liquidated or hedged within one day. This may not fully reflect market risk at times of severe illiquidity in the market when a one-day period may be insufficient to liquidate or hedge positions fully. Thus, the regulatory VaR that is used for modelled market risk capital uses a ten-day time horizon.
- When RBS uses ten-day risk factor changes in the calculation of the regulatory VaR, the ten-day periods overlap, which can introduce an autocorrelation bias in the 99% confidence level VaR statistic. The analysis performed has shown the bias to be small and acceptable for a ten-day period.
- The VaR of trading positions is computed at the close of business. Positions may change substantially during the course of the trading day and so intra-day price volatility and trading may not be captured by the model.
- The data used in the model are collected from global sources. For some sources, local end-of-day, rather than London end-of-day, data may be used, resulting in a timing mismatch. This timing mismatch is more material for 1-day return periods than for 10-day periods (which are used for capitalisation purposes) as the overlaps are inherently smaller across shorter periods. When deciding whether or not to use local end-of-day timing, the internal model review committee balances the principle of aligning the treatment of positions and their associated hedges against the goal of using London end-of-day timing consistently.
- Risk factors relevant to a specific portfolio may be omitted, due to a lack of reliable data, or the use of proxy risk factors, for example. RBS has developed the RNIV framework to address these issues.

1-Day 99% traded internal VaR 2014.\*



\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Traded market risk continued

#### 1-day 99% traded internal VaR

The table below analyses internal VaR for RBS's trading portfolios, segregated by type of market risk exposure, and split between CIB and RCR or Non-Core.

	2014				2013				2012			
	Average £m	Period end £m	Maximum £m	Minimum £m	Average £m	Period end £m	Maximum £m	Minimum £m	Average £m	Period end £m	Maximum £m	Minimum £m
Interest rate	17.4	16.9	39.8	10.8	37.2	44.1	78.2	19.1	62.6	75.6	95.7	40.8
Credit spread	23.1	14.2	42.8	13.4	60.0	37.3	86.8	33.3	69.2	74.1	94.9	44.9
Currency	4.7	5.5	9.7	1.0	8.6	6.5	20.6	3.6	10.3	7.6	21.3	2.6
Equity	3.0	3.7	6.5	1.2	5.8	4.1	12.8	3.2	6.0	3.9	12.5	1.7
Commodity	0.6	0.4	2.5	0.3	0.9	0.5	3.7	0.3	2.0	1.5	6.0	0.9
Diversification (1)		(18.2)				(23.7)				(55.4)		
Total	27.8	22.5	58.2	17.1	79.3	68.8	118.8	42.1	97.3	107.3	137.0	66.5
CIB	26.3	21.3	48.8	15.5	64.2	52.4	104.6	35.6	74.6	88.1	118.0	47.4
RCR	4.5	3.0	16.2	2.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.3	15.2	24.9	14.9	30.1	22.8	41.9	22.0

Note:

(1) RBS benefits from diversification as it reduces risk by allocating positions across various financial instrument types, currencies and markets. The extent of the diversification benefit depends on the correlation between the assets and risk factors in the portfolio at a particular time. The diversification factor is the sum of the VaR on individual risk types less the total portfolio VaR.

### Key points

- Total traded VaR decreased significantly in 2014 compared with 2013, on both a period-end and average basis, for the following two key reasons:
  - the inclusion of CVA and FVA trades in the internal VaR measure in February 2014, which primarily affected Q1 2014. Prior to this change, VaR was higher as only the associated hedges, which had a risk-additive impact on overall trading book exposures, were captured in the internal risk management framework.
  - the decision to exit the US ABP trading business and the unwinding of equity positions in Run-off & Recovery (RoR) within CIB in line with the exit strategy, which largely affected the last three quarters of the year.
- The declines in interest rate and credit spread VaR were also affected by specific factors:
  - Interest rate VaR declined in Q1 2014 due to reduced risk appetite for flow market-making in the Rates business in CIB.
  - Credit spread VaR declined in H2 2014, because the volatile credit spread series rolled out of the 500-day window for VaR.
- Total VaR was notably volatile in the second half of the year, largely as a result of heightened geopolitical risks given the Ukraine/Russia crisis and Middle East tensions and the developments in the eurozone periphery.
- The decrease in the average and period end RCR VaR reflects the inclusion of CVA and FVA trades in the calculation of internal VaR and the accelerated wind-down of capital-intensive and potentially volatile exposures.

### VaR validation\*

A dedicated model-testing team in Market Risk works with the risk managers to:

- Test the accuracy of the valuation methods used in the VaR model on appropriately chosen test portfolios and trades;
- Apply in-house models to perform advanced internal back-testing to complement the regulatory back-testing;
- Identify risks not adequately captured in VaR, and ensure that such risks are addressed via the RNIV framework (refer to page 309);
- Identify any model weaknesses or scope limitations and their impact; and
- Identify and give early warning of any market or portfolio weakness that may become significant.

In addition, independent VaR model reviews are carried out by Model Risk (as detailed on page 315).

As well as being an important market risk measurement and control tool, the VaR model is also used to determine a significant component of the market risk capital requirement (refer to page 311 for more information on calculation of capital requirements). Therefore, it is subject to not only ongoing internal review and validation but also regulator-prescribed back-testing.

### VaR back-testing\*

The main approach employed to assess the ongoing model performance is back-testing, which counts the number of days when a loss exceeds the corresponding daily VaR estimate, measured at a 99% confidence level.

There are two types of profit and loss (P&L) used in back-testing comparisons: Clean P&L and Hypothetical (Hypo) P&L.

The Clean P&L for a particular business day is the firm's actual P&L for that day in respect of the trading activities within the scope of the firm's regulatory VaR model, including any intraday activities, adjusted by stripping out:

- Fees and commissions;
- Brokerage;
- Additions to, and releases from, reserves that are not directly related to market risk; and
- Any Day 1 P&L exceeding an amount of £500,000 (per transaction).

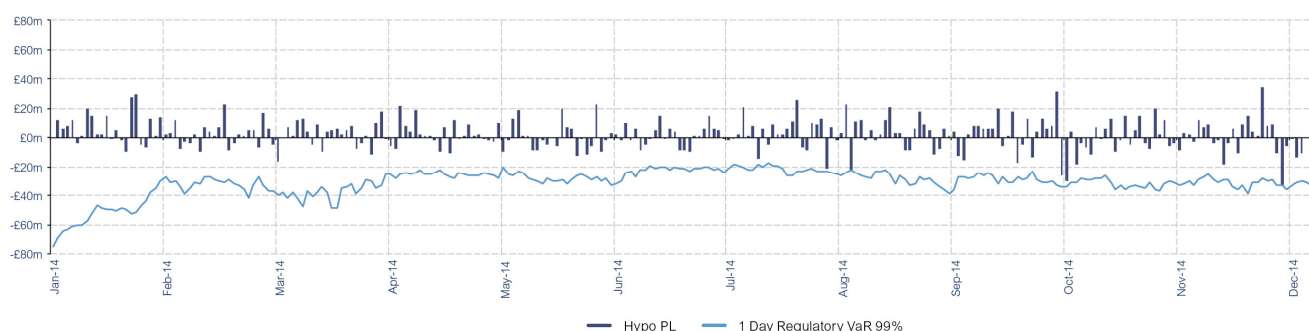
The Hypo P&L reflects the firm's Clean P&L excluding any intra-day activities.

A portfolio is said to produce a back-testing exception when the Clean or Hypo P&L exceeds the VaR level on a given day. Such an event may be caused by a large market movement or may highlight issues such as missing risk factors or inappropriate time series. Any such issues identified are analysed and addressed through taking appropriate remediation or development action. RBS monitors both Clean and Hypo back-testing exceptions.

Regulatory back-testing is performed and reported on a daily basis for legal entities and major business portfolios. Franchise-level market risk teams also perform back-testing at the lower levels as part of the internal ongoing VaR model validation.

The back-testing described above primarily applies to CIB and RCR models, which are approved by the regulators. However, where appropriate, back-testing is also performed for other portfolios that are not subject to regulatory approval.

The graph below presents 1-day 99% regulatory VaR vs. Hypo P&L for RBS plc, RBS's largest legal entity by market risk RWAs and positions.



\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Traded market risk continued

The table below shows regulatory back-testing exceptions for a period of 250 days for 1-day 99% traded regulatory VaR vs. Clean and Hypo P&L for the legal entities approved by the PRA and De Nederlandsche Bank.

Description	Back-testing exceptions		Model status
	Clean	Hypo	
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	—	—	Green
National Westminster Bank Plc	3	3	Green
RBS Securities Inc (RBSSI)	1	1	Green
RBS Financial Products Inc	—	—	Green
The Royal Bank of Scotland N.V.	1	—	Green

### Key points

- Statistically RBS would expect to see back-testing exceptions 1% of the time over a one-year period. From a capital requirement perspective, the PRA categorises a firm's VaR model as green, amber or red. A green model status is consistent with a satisfactory VaR model and is achieved for models that have four or fewer exceptions in a continuous 12 month period. RBS's VaR model has maintained a green status for its regulated legal entities and hence has considered that no action is required to rectify or adapt its VaR models.
- The exception at the NatWest level were driven by: the re-marking in August of certain inflation products following independent price verification; losses on euro and sterling positions as foreign exchange spot rates moved significantly in September; and a one-day delay in booking by a trader in September.
- The exception at the RBS N.V. level in December was primarily driven by the unwinding of a Brazilian fund.
- The exception at the RBSSI level resulted from losses in the US Credit business relating to the mining and chemical sectors and from losses on inflation securities.

The table below shows internal back-testing exceptions for a period of 250 days for 1-day 99% traded internal VaR vs. Clean and Hypo P&L for major CIB businesses.

Description	Back-testing exceptions	
	Actual	Hypo
Credit	1	1
Currencies	—	2
CIB ROR	1	2

Note:

- (1) The business classification for the purpose of back-testing has been revised to bring it in line with the new RBS business hierarchy effective 3 February 2014. Back-testing exceptions for these businesses are also counted from this date.

### Key points

- As noted above, statistically RBS would expect to see back-testing exceptions 1% of the time over a one-year period. At RBS plc level, there was one exception during 2014, confirming that the model was satisfactory.
- The exceptions in the Currencies business occurred in the normal course of business and were mainly due to market moves adversely affecting spot and volatility foreign exchange positions in the business.
- The top-level businesses presented in the table above are subject to quarterly governance by the PRA. For some of these businesses, exceptions were noted during 2014 and analysis conducted as explained below.
- The exceptions in the Credit business mainly occurred due to CDS spread tightening adversely affecting the overall short position.
- CIB RoR experienced one actual and two hypothetical exceptions during 2014. All exceptions were due to fair value differences on the execution of a risk migration trade.

\*unaudited

### Stressed VaR (SVaR)\*

As with VaR, the SVaR technique produces estimates of the potential change in the market value of a portfolio, over a specified time horizon, at a given confidence level. SVaR is a VaR-based measure using historical data from a one-year period of stressed market conditions.

The risk system simulates 99% VaR on the current portfolio for each 260-day period from 1 January 2005 to the current VaR date, moving forward one day at a time. The SVaR is the worst VaR outcome of the simulated results.

This is in contrast with VaR, which is based on a rolling 500-day historical data set. For the purposes of both internal risk management and regulatory SVaR calculation, a time horizon of ten trading days is assumed with a confidence level of 99%.

### Trading SVaR\*

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Total RBS	194	309	396
CIB	189	298	372
RCR	23	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	51	69

### Key point

- The period end traded SVaR declined in 2014 compared with 2013. This was consistent with the decrease in VaR and was primarily driven by the decision to exit the US ABP trading business.

### Risks not in VaR (RNIVs)\*

The RNIV approach is used for market risks that fall within the scope of VaR and SVaR but that are insufficiently captured by the model methodology, for example due to a lack of suitable historical data. The RNIV framework has been developed to quantify these market risks and to ensure that RBS holds adequate capital.

The need for an RNIV calculation is typically identified in one of the following two circumstances: (i) as part of the New Product Risk Assessment process, when a risk manager assesses that the associated risk is not adequately captured by the VaR model; or (ii) as a result of a recommendation made by Model Risk or the model validation team when reviewing the VaR model.

The RNIV calculations provide a capital estimate of risks not captured in the VaR model and are regularly reported and discussed with senior management and the regulator. The methodology used in the material RNIV calculations is internally reviewed by Model Risk. Where appropriate, risk managers set sensitivity limits to control specific risk factors giving rise to the RNIV. RNIV calculations form an integral part of RBS's ongoing model and data improvement efforts to capture all market risks in scope for model approval in VaR and SVaR. Since the introduction of the RNIV framework, progress has been made in transitioning RNIVs into the VaR model.

\*unaudited

RBS adopts two approaches for the quantification of RNIVs:

- A standalone VaR approach. Under this approach, two values are calculated: (i) the VaR RNIV; and (ii) the SVaR RNIV.
- A stress-scenario approach. Under this approach, an assessment of ten-day extreme, but plausible, market moves is used in combination with position sensitivities to give a stress-type loss number - the stressed RNIV value.

For each legal entity covered by the PRA VaR approval (refer to Regulatory VaR), RNIV amounts are aggregated to obtain the following three measures: (i) Total VaR RNIV; (ii) Total SVaR RNIV; and (iii) Total stressed RNIV. In each of these categories, potential diversification benefits between RNIVs are ignored.

The top ten RNIVs represent approximately two thirds of the total RNIV capital requirement.

RNIVs are broadly classified as follows:

- Proxied sensitivities or risk factors: to cover instruments for which market data is not available.
- Higher-order sensitivity terms: to account for the fact that the VaR model is based on a P&L approximation function rather than full repricing of deals.
- Interpolation and re-bucketing inaccuracy: to cover residual errors resulting from the pre-processing of risk factors into a standard set across tenors.
- Data selection bias: to cover the possibility of suboptimal data sources being selected for risk factors.
- Static pricing parameters: to cover the possibility that suboptimal assumed values are used for certain unobserved parameters in pricing models.
- Missing basis risks: to cover cases where data sources are not detailed enough to differentiate the risks of long and short pairs of closely related instruments.

The most material of these are proxied sensitivities, followed by higher-order sensitivity terms.

RNIVs that are related specifically to instruments that have level 3 valuation hierarchy assumptions (refer to pages 388 and 389) are mainly included in the following categories: proxied sensitivities or risk factors; higher-order sensitivity terms; and static pricing parameters.

### Traded market risk *continued*

The table below analyses capital requirements related to RNIVs.

	2014 £m	2013 £m
Risks not in VaR	57	30
Risks not in SVaR	79	39
Stressed RNIV	183	149
	319	218

### Key point

- The RNIV charge increased by 41% year on year. This was primarily due to the removal of the materiality threshold in Q1, and hence all RNIVs are now subject to capital requirements, following an agreement with the PRA. This initial increase was partially offset by risk reductions across the portfolio in H2.

### Stress testing\*

RBS undertakes daily market risk stress testing to identify vulnerabilities and potential losses in excess of or not captured in VaR. The calculated stresses measure the impact of changes in risk factors on the fair values of the trading and available-for-sale portfolios.

RBS conducts historical, macroeconomic and vulnerability-based stress testing.

Scenario-based sensitivity analysis measures the sensitivity of the current portfolio to defined movements in market risk factors. These risk factor movements and the resulting valuation changes are typically smaller than those considered in other stress tests.

Historical stress testing is a measure that is used for internal management. Using a similar technical framework to VaR, the current portfolio is stressed using historical data since 1 January 2005. The methodology simulates the impact of the worst loss that would be incurred by historical risk factor movements over the period, assuming a holding period specific to the risk factors and the businesses. At present, a holding period of 60 business days is applied for credit risk factors including in the case of asset-backed securities (ABS) and for the available-for-sale (AFS) portfolios that are held by CIB Treasury and generally a period of 10 business days for other risk factors. RBS reviews the holding periods annually.

Historical stress tests form part of the market risk limit framework and their results are reported daily to senior management.

Macroeconomic stress tests are carried out periodically as part of the firm-wide, cross-risk capital planning process. The scenario narratives are translated into risk factor shocks using historical events and insights by economists, risk managers and the front office. Market risk stress results are combined with those for other risks into the capital plan that is presented to the Board. The cross-risk capital planning process is conducted twice a year, in April/May and October/November, with a planning horizon of five years. The scenario narratives cover both regulatory scenarios such as the PRA Anchor and the Federal Reserve Comprehensive Capital Analysis and Review and macroeconomic scenarios identified by the firm such as a euro crisis and a China hard landing.

Vulnerability-based stress testing begins with the analysis of a portfolio and expresses the key vulnerabilities of the portfolio in terms of plausible, so-called vulnerability scenarios under which the portfolio would suffer material losses. These scenarios can be historical, forward-looking, macroeconomic or hypothetical. Vulnerability-based stress testing is used for internal management information and is not subject to limits. However, relevant scenarios are reported to senior management.

### Economic capital

A market risk economic capital framework was developed in 2013 and was introduced in internal reporting in 2014.

The associated models calculate the market and default risk in the trading book and are aligned with other models that are used for limit setting and market risk management. The results are annualised to be consistent with the other economic capital models to permit consolidation of all risk types as part of the RBS-wide economic capital programme.

### Other risk measures

In addition to SVaR and stress tests, RBS uses a range of other risk measures to complement VaR. These measures often represent local (small-amplitude) risk calculations which provide valuable additional controls, often at individual desk or business unit level. They mainly include, but are not limited to, sensitivity and position-based risk measures.

Sensitivity measures refer to the changes in deal or portfolio value that result from small changes in market parameters that are subject to the market risk limit framework.

Position-based measures are also used and are stated in terms that relate directly to the business activity they are applied to. Examples of such measures include the aggregate open foreign exchange position or the long, short and net amount of security or currency held and aged inventory in trading books.

\*unaudited



### Calculation of regulatory capital\*

#### Regulatory treatment

The market risks subject to capital requirements under Pillar 1 are primarily interest rate, credit spread and equity risks in the trading book and foreign exchange and commodity risks in both the trading and non-trading books. Interest rate and equity risks are split between general and specific risks. General risks represent market risks due to a move in a market as a whole, such as a main index or yield curve, while specific risks represent market risks arising from events particular to an underlying issuer.

Firms can choose from two broad methodologies to calculate their market risk capital charge: (i) the standard rules, whereby regulator-prescribed rules must be applied, and (ii) the internal model approach, where, subject to regulatory approval, a model such as VaR is used to calculate the capital charge.

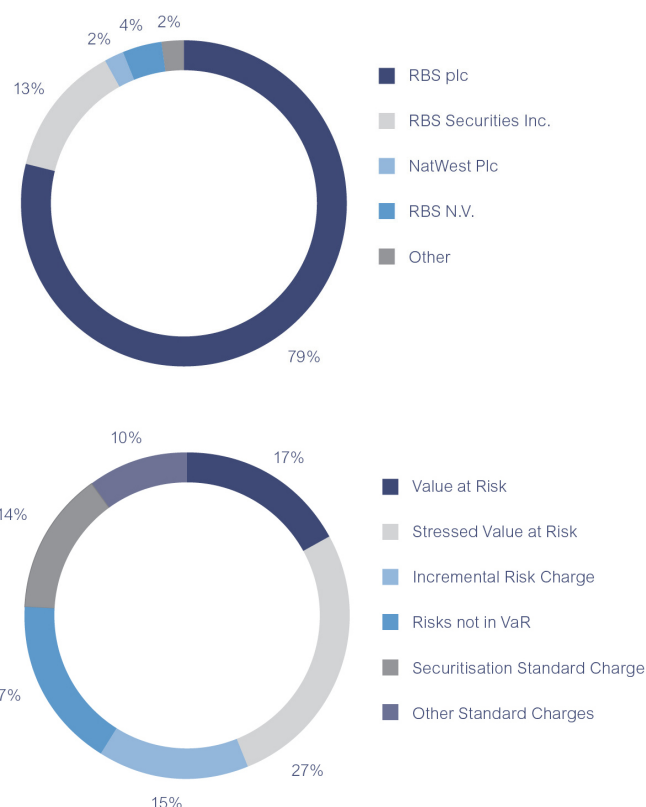
RBS uses both methods, with the internal model approach being used to calculate about 76% (2013 - 86%) of its capital charge.

VaR and SVaR capture general and specific risks but not risks arising from the impact of defaults and rating changes associated with traded credit products and their derivatives. For these risks, three product-dependent approaches are used:

- The incremental risk charge (IRC) model captures risks arising from rating migration and default events for the more liquid traded credit instruments and their derivatives.
- The all price risk model covers the generally lower-liquidity correlation trades and their liquid hedges (such as first-to-default basket trades). RBS ceased using an internal model for all price risk during Q2 2014, refer to the following page.
- Securitisation and re-securitisation risks in the trading book are treated with the non-trading book standardised capitalisation approach.

### RWAs by legal entity and by regulatory approach\*

Market risk RWAs of £24 billion and minimum capital requirement of £1.9 billion are analysed below.



### Regulatory VaR\*

RBS's VaR model has been approved by the PRA to calculate its regulatory market risk capital requirement for the trading book for those legal entities under its jurisdiction. These legal entities are The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, RBS Securities Inc, RBS Financial Products Inc, and National Westminster Bank Plc. As from 1 December 2014, this approval takes the form of an internal model approach permission, replacing the earlier VaR waiver.

While internal VaR provides a measure of the economic risk, regulatory VaR is one of the measures of regulatory capital by legal entity.

The calculation of regulatory VaR differs from that of the internal VaR as it takes into account only regulator-approved products, locations and legal entities and it is based on a ten-day, rather than a one-day, holding period for market risk capital calculations.

The PRA approval covers general market risk in interest rate, foreign exchange, equity and commodity products and specific market risk in interest rate and equity products.

\*unaudited

### Traded market risk continued

#### VaR back-testing\*

For RBS's trading book, a green model status was maintained throughout 2014. For details of back-testing results for regulatory VaR, refer to the table on page 307.

#### Regulatory SVaR\*

RBS's SVaR model has also been approved by the PRA for use in the capital requirement calculation. The regulatory SVaR differs from internal SVaR as it covers only regulator-approved products, locations and legal entities.

#### Risks not in VaR

As discussed earlier, RBS has an established RNIV framework that ensures that the risks not captured in VaR are adequately covered by its capital.

The RNIV framework does not include tail event risks; these risks are covered indirectly by the regulatory multiplier applied to VaR and directly by relevant charges, notably the IRC discussed below.

#### Incremental risk charge (IRC)\*

The IRC model quantifies the impact of rating migration and default events on the market value of instruments with embedded credit risk (in particular, bonds and credit default swaps) that are held in the trading book. It further captures basis risk between different instruments, maturities and reference entities. Following the internal ratings-based approach for credit risk, the IRC is calculated over a one-year capital horizon with a 99.9% confidence level.

The dependency of positions is modelled using a single-factor Gaussian copula, which facilitates an efficient calculation of the charge using numerical integration.

IRC is mainly driven by three-month transition, default and correlation parameters. The portfolio impact of correlated defaults and rating changes is assessed by observing changes in the market value of positions using stressed recovery rates and modelled credit spread changes. Revaluation matrices are used to capture any non-linear behaviour.

The model has distinct parameter sets for sovereign and corporate exposures. It reflects the overall liquidity of each position referencing an entity, using product type, product maturity and product concentration characteristics.

The constant level of risk requirement is met by replacing positions that default or migrate in one period with equivalent positions in the next. The average liquidity horizon by position at the year end was 3.3 months (2013 - 3.7 months).

#### All price risk (APR)\*

Until Q2 2014, RBS's APR model was used to determine the capital that should be held against all material price risks, including those arising from defaults and credit rating changes affecting securities in the hedged portfolio, using a 99.9% confidence level over a one year time horizon.

This model was applied to the correlation trading portfolio subject to certain eligibility criteria (principally that the underlying names be liquid corporate CDS positions).

Given the reduction in the size of the correlation trading portfolio, RBS ceased using an internal model for all price risk during Q2 2014. With the PRA's approval, all remaining open risk is now capitalised under standardised rules.

\*unaudited

### Market risk capital\*

#### Minimum capital requirements

The following table analyses RBS's total market risk minimum capital requirement of £1,917 million at 31 December 2014, calculated in accordance with the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR); this represents 8% of the corresponding RWA amount, £24 billion. It comprises a number of regulatory capital requirements split into two categories: (i) the standardised position risk requirement (PRR) of £459 million, which has several components; and (ii) the Pillar 1 model-based PRR of £1,458 million, which comprises several modelled charges. For 2013 and 2012, the capital requirements were calculated in accordance with Basel 2.5.

	CRR 2014 £m	Basel 2.5 2013 £m	Basel 2.5 2012 £m
Interest rate position risk requirement	116	147	254
Equity position risk requirement	1	1	1
Option position risk requirement	7	10	26
Commodity position risk requirement	2	13	2
Foreign currency position risk requirement	63	39	12
Specific interest rate risk of securitisation positions	270	123	156
Total (standard method)	459	333	451
Pillar 1 model based position risk requirement	1,458	2,086	2,959
Total market risk minimum capital requirement	1,917	2,419	3,410

The following table analyses the principal contributors to the Pillar 1 model based PRR presented in the previous table. Following the implementation of the CRR on 1 January 2014, credit hedges eligible for CVA are no longer included in the modelled market risk capital charges. Such hedges are now included in the CVA capital charge, which forms part of the capital calculation for counterparty credit risk.

2014	CRR 2014				Basel 2.5 2013	Basel 2.5 2012
	Average £m	Maximum £m	Minimum £m	Period end £m	Period end £m	Period end £m
Value-at-risk	323	527	232	329	576	825
Stressed VaR	681	856	511	511	841	1,226
Incremental risk charge	402	530	299	299	443	467
All price risk	2	6	—	—	8	12
Risk not in VaR	412	472	319	319	218	429
				1,458	2,086	2,959

### Key points

- RBS's total market risk minimum capital requirement fell in 2014, largely driven by the decreases in the Pillar 1 model-based contributors (primarily VaR, SVaR and the IRC). The standard method requirement rose, chiefly driven by the rise in the specific interest rate risk of securitisation positions.
- The interest rate position risk requirement decreased, primarily due to the closure of the interest rate trading business in Japan and the associated disposal of bond positions.
- The decrease in the commodity position risk requirement was driven by a change in the treatment of options under the CRR standardised approach.
- The foreign currency position risk requirement increased, reflecting increased foreign currency cash positions over the period.
- Specific interest rate risk of securitisation positions: This charge rose, reflecting the change in treatment regarding securitisation exposures with a risk weight of 1,250%.
- Overall, the Pillar 1 model-based PRR declined 30% during 2014, driven by reductions in the VaR and SVaR charges and the IRC, offset somewhat by an increase in the RNIV charge.
- The decrease in the VaR and SVaR charges was primarily driven by the removal of the CVA eligible hedges (as noted above) in Q1 and ongoing risk reduction in Q2 and Q3 relating to the asset backed product portfolio as part of the risk reduction strategy.
- The IRC declined by 32%, notably in Q4 reflecting a reduced exposure to the eurozone periphery and continued risk reduction in the US ABP portfolio. The IRC figures presented in the table above differ from those in the table on the following page for the reasons explained in the note to that table.
- Given the reduction in the size of the correlation trading portfolio, RBS ceased using an internal model for all price risk during Q2. With the PRA's approval, all remaining open risk is now capitalised under standardised rules.
- For details of the drivers of the increase in the RNIV charge, refer to the commentary on page 310.

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Traded market risk continued IRC by rating and product category

The following table analyses the IRC by rating and product.

2014	Internal ratings (1)							Total £m
	AAA £m	AA £m	A £m	BBB £m	BB £m	B £m	CCC £m	
<i>Product categories</i>								
Cash - asset-backed securities	1.6	—	0.2	0.3	(1.6)	0.6	—	1.1
Cash - regular	36.3	49.4	71.0	67.0	53.4	3.5	2.3	282.9
Derivatives - credit	(3.9)	(11.8)	4.4	3.2	(19.1)	0.8	(0.3)	(26.7)
Derivatives - interest rate	(10.0)	(1.4)	0.2	1.5	1.2	—	—	(8.5)
Other	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>249.6</b>

2013

<i>Product categories</i>								
Cash - asset backed securities	31.4	—	—	0.2	(1.5)	0.1	—	30.2
Cash - regular	73.5	15.5	7.2	132.3	21.4	2.9	33.9	286.7
Derivatives - credit	(4.5)	(1.2)	(4.6)	(21.4)	(19.5)	(13.4)	(23.0)	(87.6)
Derivatives - interest rate	29.7	5.4	0.6	165.5	5.8	0.6	—	207.6
Other	1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>131.8</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>276.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>(9.8)</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>438.6</b>

Notes:

- (1) Based on an assessment of S&P, Moody's and Fitch ratings, where available, or on RBS's internal master grading scale.
- (2) The figures presented are based on the spot IRC charge at 31 December 2014 and will therefore not agree with the IRC position risk requirement, as this is based on the 60-day average. The figures presented above are in capital terms.
- (3) The IRC figures by product category presented above are based on an internal allocation and do not constitute standalone position risk requirements.

### Key points

- Spot IRC capital fell £189 million or 43% year on year, for the same reasons noted on the previous page for the IRC PRR. The largest decline was in the interest rate derivatives (much of it due to decreased positions in BBB-rated EU periphery exposure). This was partially offset by the removal of CVA eligible hedges under the CRR, which drove the movement in credit derivatives.
- The decrease in the AAA rating category reflects the continued reduction in US ABP business.

### Securitisation positions in the trading book

The following table shows the capital requirement for trading book securitisation positions by rating.

2014	Ratings (1)						Total (1,2) £m	STD PRR (3) %	Capital deductions £m
	AAA £m	AA £m	A £m	BBB £m	Non-investment grade £m	Unrated £m			
Trading book securitisation charge	3.9	1.0	4.1	22.1	148.9	90.3	270.3	10.0	—

<b>2013</b>									
Trading book securitisation charge	8.9	6.2	12.7	35.5	54.5	5.4	123.2	42.9	932.1

Notes:

- (1) Based on S&P ratings.
- (2) Excludes the capital deductions.
- (3) Percentage of total standardised position risk requirement.

### Key point

- The increase in the non-investment grade and unrated categories was caused by the change in treatment regarding securitisation exposures with a risk weight of 1,250%. This increase was partially offset by the disposal of assets across the rating categories.

\*unaudited

### Valuation and independent price verification

Traders are responsible for marking-to-market their trading book positions daily, ensuring that assets and liabilities in the trading book are measured at their fair value. Any profits or losses on the revaluation of positions are recognised daily.

Product controllers are responsible for ensuring that independent price verification processes are in place covering all trading book positions held by their business. Independent price verification and trader supervision are the key controls over front office marking of positions.

For more information on valuation controls, refer to page 303. The validation of pricing models is discussed below.

### Model validation

The independent model validation framework governing both pricing models and risk models (including VaR) is described below.

RBS uses a variety of models to manage and measure market risk, as described below. These models comprise pricing models (used for valuation of positions) and risk models (for risk measurement and capital calculation purposes). They are developed in both RBS-level and lower-level functions and are subject to independent review and sign-off.

A dedicated independent model review and challenge function - Model Risk - performs reviews of relevant models in two instances: (i) for new models or amendments to existing models and (ii) as part of its ongoing programme to assess the performance of these models.

A new model is typically introduced when an existing model is no longer fit for purpose or a new product requires a new methodology or model to quantify the risk appropriately. Amendments are usually made when a weakness is identified during use of a model or following analysis either by the model developers or by Model Risk.

### Pricing models\*

Pricing models are developed by a dedicated front office quantitative team, in conjunction with the trading desk. They are used for the valuation of positions for which prices are not directly observable and for the risk management of the portfolio.

Any pricing models that are used as the basis for valuing books and records are subject to approval and oversight by asset-level modelled product review committees.

These committees comprise representatives of the major stakeholders in the valuation process - trading, finance, market risk, model development and model review functions.

The review process comprises the following steps:

- The committees prioritise models for review by Model Risk, considering the materiality of the risk booked against the model and an assessment of the degree of model risk, that is the valuation uncertainty arising from the choice of modelling assumptions.
- Model Risk quantifies the model risk by comparing front office model outputs with those of alternative models independently developed by Model Risk.
- The sensitivities derived from the pricing models are validated.
- The conclusions of the review are used by Market Risk to inform risk limits and by Finance to inform model reserves.

### Risk models\*

All new risk models are subject to review and sign-off by Model Risk.

All model changes are approved through model governance at the franchise level. Changes to existing models that have an impact on VaR exceeding 5% at legal entity level or 15% at a major business level are also subject to Model Risk review and sign-off as are all model changes that require regulator approval before implementation.

Model Risk's independent review comprises some or all of the following steps, as appropriate:

- Testing and challenging the logical and conceptual soundness of the methodology;
- Testing the assumptions underlying the model, where feasible, against actual behaviour. In its validation report, Model Risk will opine on the reasonableness and stability of the assumptions and specify which assumptions, if any, should be routinely monitored in production;
- Testing whether all key market risks have been sufficiently captured;
- Re-applying the proposed approach to verify that the same outcome is achieved;
- Comparing outputs with results from alternative methods;
- Testing parameter selection and calibration;
- Ensuring model outputs are sufficiently conservative in areas where there is significant model uncertainty;
- Confirming the applicability of tests for accuracy and stability; recalculating and ensuring that results are robust; and
- Ensuring appropriate sensitivity analysis has been performed and documented.

\*unaudited

### Traded market risk *continued*

Based on the review and findings from Model Risk, an internal model governance committee with appropriate delegated authority considers whether a model can be approved for use and whether any conditions need to be imposed, including those relating to the remediation of material issues raised through the review process. Once approved through internal governance, the new or amended model is implemented. Models used for regulatory reporting may additionally require PRA approval before implementation.

Model Risk also reassesses the appropriateness of approved risk models on a periodic basis according to the approved Periodic Review Policy. Each periodic review consists of a quick scan assessment and a subsequent decision by an internal model governance committee with appropriate delegated authority to re-ratify a model based on the quick scan assessment or to perform additional work prior to making a decision whether or not to re-ratify a model. In the quick scan assessment Model Risk assesses changes since the last approval along the following dimensions: change in size/composition of the portfolio, market changes, model performance, model changes, status of any outstanding issues, scheduled activities including work carried over from previous reviews.

This independent oversight also provides additional assurance that RBS holds appropriate capital for the market risk to which it is exposed.

The model testing team in Market Risk also performs regular VaR model testing, which is discussed in more detail under Risk measurement - value-at-risk on page 304.

### Non-traded market risk

#### Risk governance

RBS manages the three key categories of non-traded market risk separately. The categories are: non-traded interest rate risk; non-traded foreign exchange risk; and non-traded equity risk.

The Chief Risk Officer delegates responsibility for day-to-day control of non-traded interest rate risk and foreign exchange risk to the Director of Market Risk.

Non-traded market risk positions are reported to the ALCo and the Board, monthly in the case of interest rate risk and quarterly in the case of foreign exchange and equity risk.

#### Controls and assurance

The ERF approves the non-traded market risk framework. The non-traded market risk policy statement sets out the governance and risk management framework through effective identification, measurement, reporting, mitigation, monitoring and control.

The models used for managing non-traded market risk are subject to the validation process described on page 315.

### Risk appetite\*

The ERF sets RBS's appetite for non-traded market risk and approves appropriate risk limits as recommended by the Director of Market Risk and the ALCo. Further information on the process and the limit framework can be found on pages 196 to 205.

### Risk assessment, monitoring and mitigation

#### Interest rate risk

Non-traded interest rate risk (NTIRR) factors are grouped into the following categories:

- Repricing risk, which arises when asset and liability positions either mature (in the case of fixed-rate positions) or their interest rates reset (in the case of floating-rate positions) at different dates. These mismatches may give rise to net interest income and economic value volatility as interest rates vary.
- Yield curve risk, which arises from unanticipated changes in the shape of the yield curve, such that rates at different maturity points may move differently. Such movements may give rise to interest income and economic value volatility.
- The two risk factors above incorporate the duration risk arising from the reinvestment of maturing swaps hedging net free reserves (or net exposure to equity and other low fixed-rate or non-interest-bearing liability balances including, but not limited to, current accounts).
- Basis risk, which arises when related instruments with the same tenor are valued using different reference yield curves. Changes in the spread between the different reference curves can result in unexpected changes in the valuation of or income difference between assets, liabilities or derivative instruments. This occurs, for example, in the retail and commercial portfolios, when products valued on the basis of the Bank of England base rate are funded with LIBOR-linked instruments.
- Optionality risk, which arises when customers have the right to terminate, prepay or otherwise alter a transaction without penalty, resulting in a change in the timing or magnitude of the cash flows of an asset, liability or off-balance sheet instrument. This risk primarily arises in the US mortgage business in CFG where long-term fixed-rate loans are the norm and prepayment penalties are rare.

Due to the long-term nature of many non-trading book portfolios and their varied interest rate repricing characteristics and maturities, it is likely that net interest income will vary from period to period, even if interest rates remain the same. New business originated in any period will alter RBS's interest rate sensitivity if the resulting portfolio differs from portfolios originated in prior periods, depending on the extent to which exposure has been hedged.

RBS's policy is to manage the interest rate sensitivity within risk limits that are approved by the ERF and endorsed by the ALCo before being cascaded to lower levels. These include, in particular, interest rate sensitivity and VaR limits.

In order to manage exposures within these limits, RBS aggregates its interest rate positions and hedges them externally using cash and derivatives - primarily interest rate swaps.

This task is primarily carried out by RBS Treasury, to which all businesses except CFG and CIB transfer most of their NTIRR. The main exposures and limit utilisations are reported to the ALCo and the Board monthly.

\*unaudited



### Foreign exchange risk

The only material non-traded open currency positions are the structural foreign exchange exposures arising from investments in foreign subsidiaries, branches and associates and their related currency funding. These exposures are assessed and managed by RBS Treasury to predefined risk appetite levels under delegated authority from the ALCo. RBS Treasury seeks to limit the potential volatility impact on RBS's Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio from exchange rate movements by maintaining a structural open currency position. Gains or losses arising from the retranslation of net investments in overseas operations are recognised in equity reserves and reduce the sensitivity of capital ratios to foreign exchange rate movements primarily arising from the retranslation of non-sterling-denominated RWAs. Sensitivity is minimised where, for a given currency, the ratio of the structural open position to RWAs equals RBS's CET1 ratio. The sensitivity of the CET1 capital ratio to exchange rates is monitored monthly and reported to the ALCo at least quarterly.

Foreign exchange exposures arising from customer transactions are sold down by businesses on a regular basis in line with RBS policy.

### Equity risk

Non-traded equity risk is the potential variation in the income and reserves arising from changes in non-trading book equity valuations. Any such risk is identified prior to any investments and then mitigated through a framework of controls.

Investments, acquisitions or disposals of a strategic nature are referred to RBS's Acquisitions and Disposals Committee (ADCo). Once approved by ADCo for execution, such transactions are referred for approval to the Board, the RBS Executive Committee (ExCo), the RBS Chief Financial Officer or as otherwise required. Decisions to acquire or hold equity positions in the non-trading book that are not of a strategic nature, such as customer restructurings, are taken by authorised persons with delegated authority under the credit approval framework.

### Risk measurement

#### Interest rate risk

NTIRR can be measured from either an economic value-based or earnings-based perspective (or both). Value-based approaches measure the change in value of the balance sheet assets and liabilities over a longer timeframe, including all cash flows. Earnings-based approaches measure the potential short-term (generally one year) impact on the income statement of changes in interest rates.

RBS uses both approaches to quantify its interest rate risk: VaR as its value-based approach and sensitivity of net interest income (NII) as its earnings-based approach.

These two approaches provide different yet complementary views of the impact of interest rate risk on the balance sheet at a point in time. The scenarios employed in the NII sensitivity approach incorporate business assumptions and simulated modifications in customer behaviour as interest rates change. In contrast, the VaR approach assumes static underlying positions and therefore does not provide a dynamic measurement of interest rate risk. In addition, while the NII sensitivity calculations are measured to a 12-month horizon and thus provide a shorter-term view of the risks on the balance sheet, the VaR approach can identify risks not captured in the sensitivity analysis, in particular the impact of duration and repricing risk on earnings beyond 12 months.

#### Value-at-risk

RBS's standard VaR metrics - which assume a time horizon of one trading day and a confidence level of 99% - are based on interest rate repricing gaps at the reporting date. Daily rate moves are modelled using observations over the last 500 business days. These incorporate customer products plus associated funding and hedging transactions as well as non-financial assets and liabilities such as property, plant and equipment, capital and reserves. Behavioural assumptions are applied as appropriate.

The table below shows the NTIRR VaR for RBS's retail and commercial banking activities at a 99% confidence level together with a currency analysis of period end VaR.

	Average £m	Period end £m	Maximum £m	Minimum £m
2014	50	23	79	23
2013	45	51	57	30
2012	46	21	65	20
		2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Euro		2	4	19
Sterling		12	19	17
US dollar		27	44	15
Other		3	2	4

### Key points

- The decline in VaR between 2013 and 2014 reflects RBS policy to reduce economic exposure to changes in interest rates. This notably related to US dollar and sterling interest rate exposures.
- The reduction in exposure was achieved in the second half of the year through both hedging and the utilisation of naturally arising balance sheet offsets, such as the increase in net free reserves following the partial IPO of CFG. This resulted in period end VaR decreasing significantly more than the average for the year.
- These movements remained well within RBS's approved market risk appetite.

### Non-traded market risk continued

#### Sensitivity of net interest income\*

To analyse earnings sensitivities, forecasts are generated using implied forward rates, projected new business volumes, mix and pricing generated using business assumptions. Based on the balance sheet at the most recent month end, two NII forecasts are calculated each month: (i) a forecast for the current full year, which incorporates actuals monthly as the year progresses; and (ii) a base-case 12 month rolling forecast.

In addition, the 12 month rolling forecast is re-run using alternative rates under various scenarios, incorporating changes in customer behaviour and business assumptions as appropriate. Variances between these scenarios are analysed to identify key drivers. These forecasts and sensitivities form part of the information used by senior management to manage the bank's NII targets.

This sensitivity analysis also incorporates assumptions relating to optionality risk.

The following table shows the sensitivity of net interest income, over the next 12 months, to an immediate upward or downward change of 100 basis points to all interest rates. In addition, the table includes the impact of a gradual 400 basis point steepening (bear steepener) and a gradual 300 basis point flattening (bull flattener) of the yield curve at tenors greater than a year.

The scenarios represent annualised interest rate stresses of a scale deemed sufficient to trigger a modification in customer behaviour. The asymmetry in the steepening and flattening scenarios reflects the difference in the expected behaviour of interest rates as they approach zero.

The reported sensitivities will vary over time due to a number of factors such as market conditions and strategic changes to the balance sheet mix and should not therefore be considered predictive of future performance.

	Euro £m	Sterling £m	US dollar £m	Other £m	Total £m	Of which CFG US\$m
<b>2014</b>						
+ 100 basis point shift in yield curves	(28)	347	214	(17)	516	154
– 100 basis point shift in yield curves	(34)	(298)	(87)	(12)	(431)	(85)
Bear steepener					406	105
Bull flattener					(116)	(58)
<b>2013</b>						
+ 100 basis point shift in yield curves	59	416	175	31	681	183
– 100 basis point shift in yield curves	(29)	(333)	(82)	(15)	(459)	(76)
Bear steepener					403	122
Bull flattener					(273)	(88)
<b>2012</b>						
+ 100 basis point shift in yield curves	(29)	472	119	27	589	255
– 100 basis point shift in yield curves	(20)	(257)	(29)	(11)	(317)	(76)
Bear steepener					216	65
Bull flattener					(77)	(33)

#### Key points

- Interest rate exposure remains asset sensitive, such that rising rates will have a positive impact on net interest income.
- The decreased sensitivity to parallel shifts in the yield curve over a 12 month horizon is due to increased exposure to fixed rate assets and changes in assumptions regarding the impact on customer pricing.

#### Structural hedging\*

Banks generally have the benefit of a significant pool of stable, non and low interest bearing liabilities, principally comprising equity and money transmission accounts. These balances are usually hedged, either by investing directly in longer-term fixed rate assets or by the use of interest rate swaps, in order to provide a consistent and predictable revenue stream.

RBS targets a weighted average life for these economic hedges. This is accomplished using a continuous rolling maturity programme, which is primarily managed by Treasury to achieve the desired profile. The maturity profile of the hedge aims to reduce the potential sensitivity of income to rate movements. The structural hedging programme is RBS-wide, capturing the position in the UK banking businesses and regulated subsidiaries in other jurisdictions.

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Product hedging\*

Product structural hedges are used to minimise the volatility on earnings related to specific products, primarily customer deposits. The balances are primarily hedged with medium-term interest rate swaps, so that reported income is less sensitive to movements in short-term interest rates. The size and term of the hedge are based on the stability of the underlying portfolio.

The table below shows the impact on net interest income associated with product hedges managed by RBS Treasury. These relate to the main UK banking businesses except Private Banking. The figure shown represents the incremental contribution of the hedge relative to short-term wholesale cash rates.

Net interest income	2014 £m	2013 £m
UK Personal & Business Banking	393	387
Commercial Banking	180	121
Corporate & Institutional Banking	75	77
Total product hedges	648	585

### Key points

- The incremental impact of product hedges on net interest income remained positive in 2014, increasing from £585 million to £648 million. Throughout the year, short term wholesale cash rates remained at or close to historical low levels. The notional size of the hedge increased from £48 billion to £64 billion. The scope of the hedging programme was extended to cover not only customer current accounts but also customer savings deposits. The incremental yield on the portfolio above 3-month LIBOR fell from 1.2% to 1.0%, largely as a result of the one-off effect of establishing the new hedge. At the end of December 2014, the equivalent incremental yield available in the market was 0.8% compared with 1.5% at the end of 2013.
- Across RBS, banking book exposure to medium-term fixed rates fell during 2014. The increased exposure established by the product hedge was offset by reducing exposure in Treasury.

### Equity hedging\*

Equity structural hedges are used to minimise the volatility on earnings arising from returns on equity. The hedges managed by Treasury relate mainly to the UK banking businesses and contributed £0.8 billion to these businesses in 2014 (2013 - £0.8 billion), which is an incremental benefit relative to short-term wholesale cash rates. The size of the hedge increased from £39 billion in 2013 to £41 billion in 2014. The fall in yield mainly results from reinvestment of maturing hedges at lower rates.

\*unaudited

### Non-traded market risk continued

#### Foreign exchange risk

The table below shows structural foreign currency exposures.

	Net assets of overseas operations £m	Non-controlling interests £m	Net assets of overseas operations excluding NCI (1) £m	Net investment hedges £m	Structural foreign currency exposures pre-economic hedges £m	Economic hedges (2) £m	Residual structural foreign currency exposures £m
<b>2014</b>							
US dollar	11,402	(2,321)	9,081	(3,683)	5,398	(4,034)	1,364
Euro	6,076	(39)	6,037	(192)	5,845	(2,081)	3,764
Other non-sterling	4,178	(456)	3,722	(2,930)	792	—	792
	<b>21,656</b>	<b>(2,816)</b>	<b>18,840</b>	<b>(6,805)</b>	<b>12,035</b>	<b>(6,115)</b>	<b>5,920</b>
<b>2013</b>							
US dollar	16,176	—	16,176	(1,581)	14,595	(3,808)	10,787
Euro	6,606	(9)	6,597	(190)	6,407	(2,226)	4,181
Other non-sterling	4,233	(372)	3,861	(3,185)	676	—	676
	<b>27,015</b>	<b>(381)</b>	<b>26,634</b>	<b>(4,956)</b>	<b>21,678</b>	<b>(6,034)</b>	<b>15,644</b>
<b>2012</b>							
US dollar	17,313	(1)	17,312	(2,476)	14,836	(3,897)	10,939
Euro	8,903	(2)	8,901	(636)	8,265	(2,179)	6,086
Other non-sterling	4,754	(260)	4,494	(3,597)	897	—	897
	<b>30,970</b>	<b>(263)</b>	<b>30,707</b>	<b>(6,709)</b>	<b>23,998</b>	<b>(6,076)</b>	<b>17,922</b>

#### Notes:

- (1) Non-controlling interests (NCI) represents the structural foreign exchange exposure not attributable to owners' equity, which consisted mainly of CFG in US dollar in 2014 (2013 and 2012: mainly RFS MI in other non-sterling)
- (2) Economic hedges mainly represent US dollar and euro preference shares in issue that are treated as equity under IFRS and do not qualify as hedges for accounting purposes.

### Key points

- Structural foreign currency exposure at 31 December 2014 was £12.0 billion and £5.9 billion before and after economic hedges, respectively, £9.6 billion and £9.7 billion lower than at 31 December 2013, of which £7.5 billion related to CFG. Movements in structural foreign currency exposure result from changes in the net assets of overseas operations, non-controlling interests and net investment hedges.
- Net assets of overseas operations declined by £5.4 billion, largely due to write-downs relating to CFG and US deferred tax assets.
- Non-controlling interests increased by £2.4 billion, as a result of the partial disposal of CFG during the year.
- Net investment hedges increased by £1.8 billion, primarily due to an increase in US dollar hedging to manage the disposal of CFG.
- Economic hedges, which mainly consist of equity capital securities in issue, remained broadly unchanged.
- Changes in foreign currency exchange rates affect equity in proportion to structural foreign currency exposure. For example, a 5% strengthening in foreign currencies against sterling would result in a gain of £0.6 billion in equity (2013 - £1.1 billion), while a 5% weakening would result in a loss of £0.6 billion in equity (2013 - £1 billion).

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Equity risk

Equity positions are carried at fair value on the balance sheet based on available market prices where possible. In the event that market prices are not available, fair value is based on appropriate valuation techniques or management estimates.

Refer to the table below for the balance sheet carrying value of non-traded book equity positions.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Exchange-traded equity	132	368	472
Private equity	544	621	632
Other	681	623	799
	1,357	1,612	1,903

The exposures may take the form of (i) equity shares listed on a recognised exchange, (ii) private equity shares or (iii) other equity shares consisting mainly of Federal Reserve and Federal Home Loan Bank stock. Refer to the table below for the net realised and unrealised gains from these positions.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Net realised gains arising from disposals	111	48	89
Unrealised gains included in Tier 1 or Tier 2 capital	199	232	168

Note:

(1) Includes gains or losses on available-for-sale instruments only.

Gains on equity securities designated at fair value through profit or loss but not held for trading purposes were £222 million for 2014 (2013 - gains of £96 million; 2012 - gains of £184 million).

### Non-traded market risk continued

#### VaR for selected AFS non-trading portfolios

Available-for-sale portfolios in CIB and RCR, other than the structured credit portfolio, do not typically form part of the structural interest rate framework due to the short-term nature of the interest rate risks they carry. They are thus monitored and managed through the same framework and using the same metrics as portfolios in the trading book.

	2014				2013				2012			
	Average £m	Period end £m	Maximum £m	Minimum £m	Average £m	Period end £m	Maximum £m	Minimum £m	Average £m	Period end £m	Maximum £m	Minimum £m
Interest rate	2.7	2.7	6.8	1.1	2.7	2.4	4.8	1.9	6.9	4.5	10.7	4.1
Credit spread	3.6	2.4	5.4	2.4	8.5	4.4	13.3	4.4	10.5	8.8	15.4	7.3
Currency	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.1	1.3	1.0	2.8	1.0	3.0	1.3	4.5	1.3
Equity	0.7	0.8	1.2	—	0.2	0.1	0.3	—	1.7	0.3	1.9	0.3
Diversification (1)		(2.5)				(2.9)				(5.4)		
Total	4.6	3.8	7.1	3.0	9.2	5.0	13.6	5.0	11.8	9.5	18.3	8.5
CIB	3.9	3.6	5.8	2.6	8.7	5.0	12.7	5.0	11.3	7.5	19.0	7.1
RCR	2.3	1.5	3.5	1.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.2	0.4	3.4	0.4	2.5	3.4	3.6	1.6

#### Notes:

- (1) RBS benefits from diversification as it reduces risk by allocating positions across various financial instrument types, currencies and markets. The extent of the diversification benefit depends on the correlation between the assets and risk factors in the portfolio at a particular time. The diversification factor is the sum of the VaR on individual risk types less the total portfolio VaR.
- (2) The table above excludes the structured credit portfolio and loans and receivables.

### Key points

- The average VaR for the non-trading book, predominantly comprising available-for-sale portfolios, was £4.6 million during 2014 compared with £9.2 million during the same period in 2013. This was largely driven by a decline in the credit spread VaR in Q1, which partly reflected a decision to switch some of the securities held as collateral from floating-rate notes issued by financial institutions to government bonds during March as part of RWA reductions.
- A further driver of the decline, which largely affected the last three quarters of the year, was the decision to reduce the US ABP business in line with the exit strategy.

### Structured credit portfolio

The structured credit portfolio is measured on a notional and fair value basis because of its illiquid nature. Notional and fair value decreased to £0.4 billion and £0.3 billion respectively (2013 - £0.7 billion and £0.5 billion), reflecting the sale of underlying assets, primarily consumer ABS, RMBS and CLOs/CDOs, in line with RCR strategy.

### Calculation of regulatory capital

RBS holds capital for two types of non-traded market risk exposures: NTIRR and non-trading book foreign exchange.

Capital for NTIRR is captured under the Pillar 2A process. This is calculated by considering the potential impact on RBS's economic value over a one year horizon. The four main sources of NTIRR - repricing, yield curve, basis and optionality risks - are captured in the calculation.

Pillar 1 capital must be held for non-trading book foreign exchange exposures, as outlined under CRR Articles 455 and 92(3)c. Structural foreign exchange exposures are excluded from the calculations as outlined under CRR Article 352(2); such exposures are considered under Pillar 2A.

Non-traded equity risk is captured in credit risk RWAs.

The capital calculations under internal capital adequacy assessment process are also used for economic capital purposes.



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### Country risk

#### Definition

Country risk is the risk of losses occurring as a result of either a country event or unfavourable country operating conditions. As country events may simultaneously affect all or many individual exposures to a country, country event risk is a concentration risk. For other types of concentration risks such as product, sector or single-name concentration, refer to the Credit risk section.

#### Sources of risk

Country risk has the potential to affect all parts of RBS's portfolio across wholesale and retail activities that are directly or indirectly linked to the country in question. It arises from possible economic or political events in each country to which RBS has exposure, and from unfavourable conditions affecting daily operations in a country.

Country events may include a sovereign default, a political conflict, a banking crisis or a deep and prolonged recession leading to possible counterparty defaults. Transfer or convertibility restrictions imposed by a country's government to stem the loss of foreign currency reserves may temporarily prevent counterparties from meeting their foreign currency payment obligations. Major currency depreciation may also affect a customer's income or debt burden, leading to default.

Unfavourable operating conditions may include the risk that a weak or creditor-unfriendly legal system within a country makes it difficult for RBS to recover its claims in the event of customer default. An unreliable or unstable political system may lead to sudden compliance or reputational issues, or even expropriation without proper compensation.

#### Overview\*

The conflict between Ukraine and Russia and the consequent escalating tensions between Russia and the West triggered an internal review of credit grades. Limits for both countries were adjusted, additional credit restrictions were placed on new business and exposures were reviewed against international sanctions.

The eurozone region emerged from recession, with some of the periphery countries recovering but growth in other countries, including Germany mostly sluggish. The EU's Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) commenced in November 2014 when the European Central Bank (ECB) assumed supervisory responsibility for the 130 largest banks of the eurozone, after concluding a detailed Asset Quality Review of their books, adjusting balance sheets and stress testing their capital positions. This SSM is the first pillar of the EU Banking Union that should reduce the risk of a repeat of the financial crisis over the longer term and that helps to support the quality of the bank's exposure, particularly in Europe. The other pillar will be the Single Resolution Mechanism, scheduled for 2016.

Important shifts in exposure occurred in 2014 as a result of the sale of a significant portion of RBS N.V.'s liquidity portfolio AFS bonds following internal asset quality reviews and stress tests. The sale consisted of Spanish covered bonds, contributing to a reduction in Spanish net balance sheet exposure to £3.3 billion (2013 - £9.1 billion; 2012 - £11.5 billion).

### Outlook for 2015\*

In 2015, recovery in the advanced economies will likely remain uneven, with widening differentials between the US and Europe in growth, price levels and policies. The policy divergence will be amplified by the January 2015 ECB announcement of a €1,000 billion quantitative easing programme, aimed at reversing deflation and stimulating credit growth, while the US Federal Reserve is expected to start tightening interest rates in the second half of 2015.

The Chinese economy continues its structural slowdown; broad reforms aim at ensuring more sustainable long-term growth, but accumulated financial vulnerabilities bear downside risks. Growth in emerging markets is expected to be restrained by reduced capital inflows, depressed global commodity prices, and geopolitical conflicts, at times resulting in market volatility in the most vulnerable economies.

### Governance\*

The Executive Risk Forum (ERF) delegates authority to set sovereign ratings, sovereign loss given default rates, and country Watchlist colours to the Group Chief Credit Officer (CCO), who may further delegate this authority to Strategic Risk. The ERF delegates authority to decide on country risk matters such as risk appetite, risk management strategy and framework, and risk exposure and policy to the Credit Risk Committee (CRC), which may further delegate it to Country Risk Management (CoRM). This includes the setting of country limits, where appropriate including allocations for specific product groups. The CCO and CRC can escalate issues to the ERF when necessary.

For further information on governance, refer to the Risk governance section on page 176.

### Risk appetite\*

RBS's country risk appetite framework has "top-down" and "bottom-up" components.

The top-down component is guided by global risk appetite; each country's internal sovereign rating; its strategic importance to the bank; the composition of the bank's portfolio; the funding profile; and an assessment of the potential for losses arising from possible key country risk events. This component provides a clear structure for the consideration of downside scenarios, the identification of countries that pose material concentration risks to the bank, and possible management actions.

Bottom-up analysis includes the risk/return relationship as well as reputational and regulatory risk.

Country limits are set for almost all countries. The UK is an exception, given its home country status. The US is another exception because of the specific local risk management structure, the size of the local portfolio and corresponding role in RBS-wide risk management, together with the country's strong ratings.

\*unaudited

### Risk mitigation\*

Part of RBS's exposure is mitigated by guarantors or insurers (including export credit agencies), credit default swap (CDS) protection providers, or collateral in third countries, which will not be directly affected by a country event in the obligor's country. Further details on credit mitigation instruments are provided in the Credit risk section.

CDS contracts are used to hedge either entire portfolios or specific individual exposures. These transactions are subject to regular margining, which usually takes the form of cash collateral. For European peripheral sovereigns, credit protection is purchased from a number of major European banks, mostly outside the country of the reference entity. In a few cases where protection was bought from banks in the country of the reference entity, giving rise to wrong-way risk, this risk is mitigated through specific collateralisation and monitored weekly.

### Risk monitoring\*

The CoRM team monitors and reports on exposures to all countries, and follows up with the customer businesses in the event of limit excesses. CoRM has delegated authority up to specified levels to decide on country limit increases; any such decision must be reported to the CRC. Persistent excesses are escalated to the CRC.

A country risk Watchlist process identifies emerging issues, facilitating the development of mitigation strategies. Monthly reports discussing RBS's main country risks and trends are sent to the CRC leadership team, with any key risks reported to the Executive Committee and the Board Risk Committee.

Countries Watchlisted Amber are monitored closely. Appetite for countries Watchlisted Red is limited to short-term business in areas such as trade finance and derivatives, unless the country is deemed a strategic priority country.

Detailed portfolio reviews are conducted to ensure that the composition of country portfolios remains aligned with RBS's country risk appetite in light of economic and political developments. Changes in sovereign ratings or country Watchlist status trigger a review of appetite and, where appropriate, are referred to the CRC for discussion.

### Measurement\*

In this section, country exposure includes wholesale and retail net on-balance sheet exposure (drawn amounts under lending facilities, net of provisions, mark-to-market derivatives positions and issuer-risk debt securities positions in the banking book and trading book) together with off-balance sheet exposure (contingent obligations and undrawn commitments).

RBS also estimates its funding mismatches at risk of redenomination in vulnerable eurozone countries. These mismatches are defined as the exposures (net of provisions) that would be expected to convert to a new national currency minus the liabilities that would be expected to redenominate at the same time. Exposures exclude balances at low risk of redenomination, as identified through consideration of the relevant documentation, particularly the currency of exposure, governing law, court of jurisdiction, precise definition of the contract currency (for euro facilities), and location of payment.

### Basis of preparation

The tables on pages 326 to 327 show RBS's exposure at 31 December 2014, 2013 and 2012. Exposures are reported by country of operation of the obligor, except exposures to governments and individuals, which are shown by country of residence.

The country of operation is the country where the main operating assets of a legal entity are held, or where its main cash flows are generated, taking account of the entity's dependency on subsidiaries' activities.

Countries shown are those which had ratings of A+ or below from Standard and Poor's, Moody's or Fitch at 31 December 2014, where RBS's balance sheet exposure (as defined in this section) to counterparties operating (or individuals residing) in them exceeded £1 billion. Also included are selected eurozone countries.

The exposures are stated before taking into account risk mitigants such as guarantees, insurance or collateral (with the exception of reverse repos) which may have been put in place to reduce or eliminate exposure to country risk events. The tables show CDS positions separately, as RBS may be either a net buyer or a net seller of protection.

Exposures relating to ocean-going vessels are not included as they cannot be meaningfully assigned to specific countries from a country risk perspective.

\*unaudited

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Country risk continued Summary of country exposures

	Net balance sheet exposure						Analysis of net balance sheet exposures						Off- balance sheet £m	Total exposure £m	CDS notional less fair value		
	Sovereign £m	Banks £m	Other FI £m	Corporate £m	Personal £m	Total £m	Net lending £m	Debt securities		Net		Gross Derivatives £m			SFT £m		
								AFS/LAR £m	HFT (net) £m	Derivatives £m	SFT £m						
2014																	
Eurozone																	
Ireland	826	726	839	5,653	14,593	22,637	21,176	56	413	991	1	2,922	25,559	(48)	2,330	1,464	
Italy	127	2,519	368	1,187	25	4,226	1,095	169	5	2,957	—	2,031	6,257	(625)	9,192	823	
Spain	251	583	164	2,184	88	3,270	2,024	47	364	835	—	1,923	5,193	(312)	3,913	422	
Portugal	111	246	97	322	8	784	282	20	152	330	—	222	1,006	(155)	390	613	
Greece	8	258	1	92	17	376	63	—	8	305	—	23	399	(8)	416	—	
Cyprus	—	—	—	113	14	127	108	—	—	19	—	16	143	—	19	—	
Eurozone periphery																	
Germany	14,982	3,940	5,496	2,083	86	26,587	4,601	7,121	5,653	8,317	895	6,090	32,677	(1,749)	39,275	8,704	
France	5,206	7,089	1,924	1,774	81	16,074	2,931	1,951	4,034	6,392	766	8,586	24,660	(2,406)	41,132	17,598	
Netherlands	998	5,557	5,981	2,130	29	14,695	3,582	1,690	2,509	6,830	84	9,323	24,018	(815)	20,986	3,573	
Belgium	806	2,330	93	396	21	3,646	579	274	375	2,334	84	858	4,504	(219)	3,374	932	
Luxembourg	18	556	645	781	5	2,005	968	329	70	461	177	1,475	3,480	(53)	701	2,628	
Other	1,708	762	132	533	16	3,151	612	456	930	1,148	5	1,047	4,198	(562)	4,818	302	
Total																	
eurozone	25,041	24,566	15,740	17,248	14,983	97,578	38,021	12,113	14,513	30,919	2,012	34,516	132,094	(6,952)	126,546	37,059	
Japan	4,264	1,927	514	325	33	7,063	1,633	3	3,043	2,358	26	844	7,907	(25)	10,129	10,005	
China	459	1,011	363	1,674	41	3,548	2,886	243	62	243	114	531	4,079	(4)	244	4,770	
India	611	133	156	1,053	36	1,989	1,336	415	132	106	—	639	2,628	(47)	180	—	
Russia	53	711	101	915	50	1,830	1,673	39	—	118	—	167	1,997	(166)	202	—	
South Korea	325	507	108	397	3	1,340	639	203	167	331	—	450	1,790	106	600	29	
Turkey	161	217	103	716	19	1,216	1,160	44	5	7	—	130	1,346	(36)	40	1,209	
2013																	
Eurozone																	
Ireland	304	688	561	8,973	15,821	26,347	24,893	233	248	900	73	2,711	29,058	(166)	2,476	2,329	
Italy	1,698	1,329	891	1,171	26	5,115	1,582	519	1,240	1,774	—	1,962	7,077	(734)	7,183	527	
Spain	858	3,439	1,405	3,093	293	9,088	3,084	4,162	853	989	—	1,981	11,069	(444)	4,128	2,126	
Portugal	35	310	114	312	6	777	290	93	43	351	—	280	1,057	(163)	418	614	
Greece	1	228	1	105	14	349	89	—	—	260	—	38	387	(12)	455	—	
Cyprus	2	1	—	144	10	157	139	—	2	16	—	18	175	—	16	—	
Eurozone periphery																	
Germany	10,803	5,044	4,265	3,520	90	23,722	8,013	5,168	2,524	7,416	601	7,189	30,911	(1,340)	35,529	1,128	
France	2,806	6,714	1,832	2,427	79	13,858	4,197	1,692	1,678	5,660	631	9,807	23,665	(1,747)	30,644	7,536	
Netherlands	3,222	4,604	5,786	2,303	21	15,936	4,652	4,661	819	5,697	107	9,763	25,699	(356)	15,388	835	
Belgium	106	1,995	267	431	2	2,801	713	443	(480)	2,123	2	1,170	3,971	(123)	2,966	594	
Luxembourg	10	524	659	386	4	1,583	741	75	98	581	88	1,043	2,626	(58)	1,373	253	
Other	1,097	654	160	783	18	2,712	879	510	331	918	74	1,202	3,914	(476)	3,554	622	
Total																	
eurozone	20,942	25,530	15,941	23,648	16,384	102,445	49,272	17,556	7,356	26,685	1,576	37,164	139,609	(5,619)	104,130	16,564	
Japan	1,471	2,240	830	687	34	5,262	2,795	72	(172)	2,365	202	352	5,614	4	9,057	16,445	
China	545	2,794	244	1,518	33	5,134	4,584	166	13	370	1	1,689	6,823	(14)	372	830	
India	606	949	91	2,050	36	3,732	2,909	571	160	92	—	813	4,545	(21)	190	45	
Russia	189	754	6	949	53	1,951	1,781	149	2	19	—	364	2,315	(65)	33	27	
South Korea	242	755	133	576	2	1,708	1,125	179	154	250	—	681	2,389	176	541	50	
Turkey	232	169	126	1,064	24	1,615	1,404	50	67	94	—	324	1,939	(32)	119	998	

## Business review Capital and risk management

### Summary of country exposures

2012	Net balance sheet exposure						Analysis of net balance sheet exposures					Off-balance sheet	Total exposure	CDS notional less fair value		
	Sovereign	Banks	Other FI	Corporate	Personal	Total	Net lending	Debt securities AFS/LAR	HFT (net)	Net Derivatives	SFT			fair value	Gross Derivatives	SFT
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Eurozone</b>																
Ireland	267	1,477	931	12,395	16,205	31,275	28,772	424	363	1,213	503	2,855	34,130	(71)	3,244	4,915
Italy	1,075	1,789	1,186	2,402	23	6,475	2,510	977	630	2,358	—	2,669	9,144	(548)	9,653	3
Spain	444	4,448	1,838	4,501	313	11,544	4,416	4,871	503	1,754	—	1,592	13,136	(375)	5,694	610
Portugal	102	451	177	389	7	1,126	397	180	35	514	—	332	1,458	(126)	618	26
Greece	33	299	(4)	186	13	527	163	—	1	363	—	40	567	(31)	609	—
Cyprus	3	11	1	70	14	99	63	—	4	32	—	14	113	—	33	—
<b>Eurozone periphery</b>																
Germany	32,119	6,865	4,138	5,059	85	48,266	25,765	9,263	3,500	9,474	264	7,689	55,955	(1,448)	57,285	8,209
France	4,419	8,969	2,718	3,439	71	19,616	5,580	2,242	3,581	7,515	698	9,675	29,291	(2,288)	45,154	16,636
Netherlands	3,174	7,994	8,996	3,299	26	23,489	5,660	7,800	647	9,047	335	10,775	34,264	(1,030)	23,679	4,602
Belgium	1,489	2,784	514	640	2	5,429	891	844	564	3,130	—	1,041	6,470	(215)	4,902	476
Luxembourg	13	721	977	358	4	2,073	972	59	192	709	141	1,285	3,358	(206)	2,018	3,858
Other	1,776	1,111	202	1,153	14	4,256	1,269	576	666	1,737	8	1,380	5,636	(437)	5,975	1,432
<b>Total eurozone</b>																
Japan	7,129	2,650	884	567	37	11,267	1,752	1,548	4,890	2,878	199	577	11,844	(71)	13,266	15,047
China	1,069	1,076	67	998	32	3,242	2,063	201	61	916	1	851	4,093	36	221	1,818
India	820	1,259	144	2,725	106	5,054	3,906	683	391	74	—	930	5,984	(43)	177	108
Russia	310	982	125	807	53	2,277	1,748	160	249	120	—	518	2,795	(251)	124	15
South Korea	292	857	196	390	3	1,738	1,184	144	163	221	26	704	2,442	(58)	617	94
Turkey	459	97	95	1,061	11	1,723	1,449	56	125	93	—	481	2,204	(37)	111	449

#### Notes:

- (1) Net lending - Comprises loans and advances, including cash balances and risk elements in lending - net of provisions.
- (2) Debt securities - Comprise securities classified as available-for-sale (AFS), loans and receivables (LAR), held-for-trading (HFT) and designated as at fair value through profit or loss (DFV). All debt securities other than LAR securities are carried at fair value. LAR debt securities are carried at amortised cost less impairment. HFT debt securities are presented as long positions (including DFV securities) net of short positions per country. Impairment losses and exchange differences relating to AFS debt securities, together with interest, are recognised in the income statement. Other changes in the fair value of AFS securities are reported in AFS reserves.
- (3) Derivatives (net) - Comprise the mark-to-market (mtm) value of such contracts after the effect of legally enforceable netting agreements in line with the corresponding regulatory capital models, but before the effect of collateral.
- (4) Securities financing transactions (SFT) (net) - Comprise the mtm value of the cash and securities that are due to RBS at a future date under repurchase agreements, reverse repurchase agreements, stock borrowing, stock lending and equity financing transactions, after the effect of collateral intrinsic to the transaction and legally enforceable netting agreements. Counterparty netting is applied as per the corresponding regulatory capital approach. Additional collateral called to offset mtm positions (variation margin) is not included.
- (5) Net balance sheet exposure - Comprises net lending, debt securities, derivatives (net) and SFT (net) exposures, as defined above.
- (6) Off-balance sheet - Comprises letters of credit, guarantees, other contingent obligations and legally committed undrawn facilities.
- (7) Total exposure - Comprises net balance sheet exposure and off-balance sheet exposure, as defined above.
- (8) Credit default swaps (CDSs) - Under a CDS contract, the credit risk on the reference entity is transferred from the buyer to the seller. 'Fair value' (or 'mtm value') represents the balance sheet carrying value of the resulting exposure. The mtm value of CDSs is included in derivatives against the counterparty of the trade, as opposed to the reference entity. The notional is the par value of the credit protection bought or sold and is included against the reference entity of the CDS contract. The column 'CDS notional less fair value' represents the net effect on exposure should the CDS contracts be triggered by a credit event, assuming a zero recovery rate on the reference exposure. This net effect would be the increase in exposure arising from sold positions netted against the decrease arising from bought positions. For a sold position, the change in exposure equals the notional less the fair value amount; this represents the amount RBS would owe to its CDS counterparties if the reference entity defaulted. Positive recovery rates would tend to reduce the gross components (increases and decreases) of those numbers. Exposures relating to credit derivative product companies (CDPCs) and related hedges as well as Nth-to-default basket swaps have been excluded, as they cannot be meaningfully attributed to a particular reference entity or country. Exposures to CDPCs are disclosed on page 287.
- (9) Sovereign - Comprises central, regional and local government, and central banks.
- (10) Eurozone periphery - Ireland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Cyprus.
- (11) Other eurozone - Austria, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia.

### Country risk continued

#### Key points\*

- The comments below relate to changes in country exposures in 2014 unless indicated otherwise.
  - Net balance sheet and off-balance sheet exposure to most countries declined across most products. RBS maintained a cautious stance and many clients continued to reduce debt levels. The euro depreciated against sterling by 6.5% while the US dollar appreciated by 5.9%.
  - Total eurozone net balance sheet exposure decreased by £4.9 billion or 5% to £97.6 billion. Reductions in eurozone periphery countries and in net lending in other countries were partly offset by increases in debt securities in Germany and France. The main reductions were in lending to corporate clients (mostly in Ireland, Germany, Spain and France) and to the Irish personal sector; in cash deposits held with central banks in Germany and the Netherlands; in available-for-sale (AFS) debt securities issued by Spanish and Dutch financial institutions; and in net held-for-trading (HFT) government bond positions in Italy and Spain. Net HFT debt securities in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and a few other countries increased, driven by trading activity and auctions. Notional bought and sold CDS decreased significantly, primarily as a result of novations. On balance, net bought CDS protection on eurozone exposures increased by £1.3 billion. This largely related to hedging of the credit valuation adjustment on uncollateralised or under-collateralised positions, the fair value of which increased driven by much lower interest rates and a stronger US dollar. Net lending exposure in RCR fell to £4.1 billion for the eurozone as a whole, including £2.0 billion in Ireland, £0.8 billion in Spain and £0.6 billion in Germany, with the commercial real estate sector (CRE) accounting for broadly half of the total.
  - Eurozone periphery net balance sheet exposure decreased by £10.4 billion to £31.4 billion.
    - Ireland - net balance sheet exposure fell by £3.7 billion or 14% to £22.6 billion, with exposure to corporates and households decreasing by £3.3 billion and £1.2 billion respectively, reflecting sales, repayments and write-offs (partly offset by impairment write-backs) plus currency movements. Provisions fell by £2.2 billion to £8.5 billion, reflecting improved collateral values. Cash deposits with the Central Bank of Ireland increased by £0.5 billion as part of Ulster Bank's preparations for the new Capital Requirements Regulation liquidity coverage ratio requirements which come into effect in 2015.
    - Italy - exposure fell by £0.9 billion to £4.2 billion, largely reflecting fluctuations in net HFT. Most AFS government bonds were sold, and lending and derivatives exposure to non-bank financial institutions fell by £0.5 billion. Net derivatives exposure to banks increased by £1.2 billion, driven by the acquisition of a fully cash-collateralised exposure from another bank.
    - Spain - exposure decreased by £5.8 billion to £3.3 billion, largely due to sales of €4.8 billion (mostly covered bonds) from the RBS N.V. liquidity portfolio, under favourable market conditions. These sales also reduced concentrations in Spanish banks and CRE. Net HFT debt exposure and lending to the construction, telecommunications and other sectors also fell.
    - Portugal - exposure was stable at £0.8 billion. HFT debt securities increased as trading returned but remained small.
    - Greece - exposure was essentially unchanged at £0.4 billion. This comprised mostly collateralised derivatives exposure to banks and corporate lending, including exposure to local subsidiaries of international companies. Net of collateral held under credit support annex and reflecting the effect of credit agency cover and parental guarantees, total committed exposure was approximately £120 million net of provisions, mostly in RCR. Contingency planning, including any potential operational and system changes, has been refreshed to ensure readiness for any downside scenario.
    - Funding mismatches - material estimated funding mismatches at risk of redenomination at 31 December 2014 were:
      - Ireland £4.0 billion (down from £6.5 billion due to reduced lending).
      - Spain £0.5 billion (down from £6.5 billion, largely due to the reduction in AFS securities).
      - Italy £1.5 billion (up from £0.5 billion due to higher derivatives exposure, lower euro deposits and as the central bank funding line was no longer used).
      - Portugal £0.5 billion (slightly up due to higher debt trading).
- The net positions for Greece and Cyprus were minimal. With the possible exception of Greece, risks of eurozone break-up (redenomination events) have materially receded since 2011-2012, owing to major improvements in liquidity conditions, driven by the availability of substantial new tools for the European Central Bank, the establishment of the European Stability Mechanism and member countries' progress on reducing imbalances.
- Germany - net balance sheet exposure rose by £2.9 billion to £26.6 billion, as a result of increases in net HFT exposure, AFS debt securities and derivatives exposure to non-bank financial institutions. This was partially offset by decreases in corporate lending (particularly in CRE) and to securitisation vehicles, and in cash deposits with the Bundesbank. Off-balance sheet exposure decreased by £1.1 billion, mostly in the insurance and corporate sectors. Government bond holdings were £14.0 billion (AFS - £6.7 billion; HFT long positions - £7.3 billion) at the end of the year.

\*unaudited



- France - net balance sheet exposure rose by £2.2 billion to £16.1 billion, mainly reflecting debt trading fluctuations and increased derivatives exposure to banks and SFT. Lending to the public, CRE and telecommunications sectors decreased. RBS had £6.8 billion government bond holdings at 31 December 2014 (AFS - £1.1 billion; HFT long positions - £5.7 billion). Off-balance exposure fell by £1.2 billion to £8.6 billion, particularly in the corporate and government sectors.
- Netherlands - net balance sheet exposure fell by £1.2 billion to £14.7 billion, as a result of reductions in AFS debt securities in the RBS N.V. liquidity portfolio and in cash deposits held with the central bank, as RBS N.V.'s liquidity needs decreased in line with balance sheet reductions. Net HFT exposure rose by £1.7 billion through normal market fluctuations while derivatives exposure increased by £1.1 billion to £6.8 billion, largely driven by business with a few major banks.
- Belgium - net balance sheet exposure increased by £0.8 billion to £3.6 billion, mostly in HFT government bonds and derivatives exposure to banks.
- Other eurozone - net HFT government bonds increased by £0.6 billion to £0.9 billion, reflecting increased long positions.
- Japan - HFT government bond exposure increased by £3.2 billion to £3.0 billion, driven by market fluctuations. This rise was partly offset by reductions in central bank deposits, in corporate and bank lending, and in derivatives and SFT exposure to financial institutions. In 2015, RBS will be closing its onshore trading business and withdrawing from Japanese government primary bonds dealership activity.
- China - lending to banks and off-balance sheet exposure decreased by £1.9 billion and £1.2 billion respectively to £0.7 billion and £0.5 billion, mostly in trade finance, driven by more stringent capital requirements and an effort by RBS to improve average returns in a highly competitive environment. Given concerns about economic risks, RBS undertook stress testing across both financial institutions and corporate portfolios and started setting early warning indicators and action plans.
- India - net balance sheet exposure fell by £1.7 billion to £2.0 billion, with reductions in corporate lending, particularly in the oil and gas and mining and metals sectors, and in lending to banks, largely trade finance. The reductions in part reflected increasing capital requirements and sales of low-yielding assets.
- Russia - net balance sheet exposure was £1.8 billion and included £0.9 billion of corporate lending and £0.7 billion of bank lending, around half of which was fully hedged. Internal ratings were reviewed, additional credit restrictions placed on new business, and limits adjusted downwards. Exposures were reviewed against all international sanctions.
- South Korea - net lending to banks and corporate clients decreased by £0.4 billion, reflecting a greater focus on capital efficiency. Net balance sheet exposure was £1.3 billion.
- Turkey - net balance sheet exposure fell by £0.4 billion to £1.2 billion, mainly reflecting lower lending to corporates.
- Shipping - exposures relating to ocean-going vessels are not included in the country risk disclosures as they cannot be meaningfully assigned to specific countries. RBS's shipping portfolio of £10.4 billion (refer to the Credit risk section on page 247 for more details) is predominantly US dollar-denominated and under English law, and is not expected to be affected by specific country events.

Other risks	
331	Pension risk
332	Business risk
333	Strategic risk

### Other risks\*

#### Pension risk

##### Definition

Pension risk is the risk arising from contractual or other obligations to, or with respect to, RBS's pension schemes, whether established for its employees or for those of a related company. It is also the risk that RBS may make payments or other contributions to, or with respect to, a pension scheme because of a moral obligation, or for any other reason.

##### Sources of risk

RBS has exposure to pension risk through its defined benefit schemes worldwide. The five largest schemes, which represent around 96% of the bank's pension liabilities, are the Royal Bank of Scotland Group Pension Fund ('Main scheme'), the Ulster Bank Pension Scheme (Republic of Ireland), the Ulster Bank Pension Scheme, the Royal Bank of Scotland Americas Pension Plan and the Royal Bank of Scotland International Pension Trust. The Main scheme is the principal source of pension risk.

Pension scheme liabilities vary with changes in long-term interest rates and inflation as well as with pensionable salaries, the longevity of scheme members, and legislation. Meanwhile, pension scheme assets vary with changes in interest rates, inflation expectations, credit spreads, exchange rates and equity and property prices. RBS is exposed to the risk that the schemes' assets together with future returns and any additional future contributions are insufficient to meet liabilities as they fall due. In such circumstances, it could be obliged (or might choose) to make additional contributions to the schemes or be required to hold additional capital to mitigate this risk.

##### Key developments in 2014

The 31 March 2013 triennial funding valuation of the Main scheme was agreed in May 2014. It showed the value of liabilities exceeded the value of assets by £5.6 billion at the valuation date, a ratio of assets to liabilities of 82%. RBS and the trustee agreed a plan to fund the Main scheme. To eliminate this deficit, RBS agreed to pay additional contributions from 2014 until 2023. Contributions will start at £650 million in 2014 to 2016 and will fall to £450 million (indexed in line with inflation) for the period 2017 to 2023. These contributions are in addition to regular annual contributions of around £270 million for ongoing accrual of benefits as well as contributions to meet the expenses of running the scheme. The agreed deficit payments supersede all previous schedules of contributions.

Throughout 2014, various pension risk stress-testing initiatives were undertaken, focused both on internally defined scenarios and on scenarios to meet integrated Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and European Banking Authority (EBA) stress testing requirements. For more information on stress testing, refer to page 199.

##### Governance

The Main scheme operates under a trust deed. The corporate trustee, RBS Pension Trustee Limited, is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. The trustee board currently comprises six directors selected by RBS and four directors nominated by members. The trustee is supported by RBS Investment Executive Ltd (RIEL), a team specialising in pension investment and risk management.

The Pension Risk Committee (PRC), acting as a sub-committee of the RBS Asset and Liability Committee, formulates RBS's view of pension risk. The PRC considers mechanisms that could potentially be used for managing risk within the funds as well as financial strategy and employee welfare implications, and also reviews actuarial assumptions from a sponsor perspective as appropriate. The PRC is a key component of RBS's approach to pension risk where risk management, asset strategy and financing issues are reviewed and monitored on behalf of RBS. The PRC also serves as a formal link between RBS, RIEL and the trustee.

For further information on risk governance, refer to page 176.

##### Risk appetite and monitoring

Investment policy for the schemes is defined by the trustee with quantitative and qualitative input from RIEL and other specialist advisers employed by the trustee. While the trustee is responsible for the management of the scheme assets, it consults with RBS on material changes to risk appetite and investment policy.

As the sponsor of its defined benefit pension schemes, RBS manages the risk it faces using a pension risk management framework. This encompasses risk monitoring, modelling, stress testing and reporting. As sponsor, RBS maintains an independent view of the risk inherent in its pension funds. In addition to the scrutiny provided by the PRC, RBS also achieves this through regular pension risk monitoring and reporting to the Board, the Executive Committee and the Board Risk Committee on the material pension schemes that RBS has an obligation to support. If agreement is not reached between RBS and the trustee, the Pensions Regulator can take action by appointing independent trustees, or by serving a contribution notice on the employer requiring payment to the scheme.

##### Risk mitigation

The trustee has taken measures to mitigate inflation and interest rate risks both by investing in suitable physical assets and by entering into inflation and interest rate swaps. The Main scheme also uses derivatives to manage the allocation of the portfolio to different asset classes and to manage risk within asset classes. The assets of the Main scheme, which represented 88% of RBS's pension plan assets at 31 December 2014, are invested in a diversified portfolio of quoted and private equity, government and corporate fixed interest and index-linked bonds, property and other alternative assets.

Risk is also mitigated in other ways. In October 2006, the Main scheme was closed to new employees. In November 2009, RBS confirmed that it was making changes to the Main scheme and a number of other defined benefit schemes, including the introduction of a limit of 2% per annum (or the annual change in the Consumer Price Index, if lower) to the amount of any salary increase that will count for pensionable purposes.

In October 2012, RBS confirmed that it was offering employees in the Main scheme the choice between an increase to the charge, made through its flexible benefits programme, of 5% of salaries and an increase in Normal Pension Age from 60 to 65 in respect of service from October 2012 with no additional charge.

\*unaudited

### Other risks\* continued

#### Risk measurement

Pension risk reporting is submitted monthly to the Board in the RBS Risk Monthly Management Report. The report includes a measurement of the overall deficit or surplus position based on the latest data and estimated capital requirements, and an assessment of the sensitivities of the pension schemes to interest rates, inflation and credit spreads.

RBS also undertakes a number of stress tests and scenario analyses on its material defined benefit pension schemes each year as part of its risk measurement framework. These stress tests are also used to satisfy the requests of regulatory bodies such as the EBA and the PRA. The stress testing framework includes the production of the pension risk internal capital adequacy assessment process as well as additional stress tests for a number of internal management purposes.

Pension stress tests take the form of both stochastic (one that cannot be predicted precisely) and deterministic stresses over time horizons from one to five years in duration. They are designed to examine the behaviour of the pension schemes' assets and liabilities under a range of financial and demographic shocks. The results of the stress tests and their consequential impact on RBS's balance sheet, income statement and capital position are incorporated into the overall enterprise-wide stress test results.

The table below shows the sensitivity of the Main scheme's assets and liabilities (measured according to IAS 19 'Employee Benefits') to changes in interest rates and equity values at the year end, taking account of the current asset allocation and hedging arrangements.

	Change in value of assets £m	Change in value of liabilities £m	Change in net pension obligations £m
<b>At 31 December 2014</b>			
Fall in nominal swap yields of 0.25% at all durations with no change in credit spreads or real swap yields	447	413	34
Fall in real swap yields of 0.25% at all durations with no change in credit spreads or nominal swap yields	932	1,159	(227)
Fall in credit spreads of 0.25% at all durations with no change in nominal or real swap yields	65	1,581	(1,516)
Fall in equity values of 10%	(771)	—	(771)
<b>At 31 December 2013</b>			
Fall in nominal swap yields of 0.25% at all durations with no change in credit spreads or real swap yields	217	333	(116)
Fall in real swap yields of 0.25% at all durations with no change in credit spreads or nominal swap yields	595	895	(300)
Fall in credit spreads of 0.25% at all durations with no change in nominal or real swap yields	60	1,245	(1,185)
Fall in equity values of 10%	(894)	—	(894)
<b>At 31 December 2012</b>			
Fall in nominal swap yields of 0.25% at all durations with no change in credit spreads or real swap yields	76	255	(179)
Fall in real swap yields of 0.25% at all durations with no change in credit spreads or nominal swap yields	578	995	(417)
Fall in credit spreads of 0.25% at all durations with no change in nominal or real swap yields	71	1,261	(1,190)
Fall in equity values of 10%	(862)	—	(862)

### Business risk

#### Definition

Business risk is the risk that RBS suffers losses as a result of adverse variances in its revenues, costs or both as a result of its business plan and strategy. Such variances may be caused by a variety of specific factors such as volatility in pricing, sales volumes, and input costs as well as more general factors such as exposure to macroeconomic, regulatory and industry risks.

#### Sources of risk

Business risk exists at all levels of the organisation and is generated at the transaction level. It is affected by other risks RBS faces, which could contribute to any adverse changes in revenues or costs. Refer to page 171 for a full list of risks.

### Key developments in 2014

RBS reduced its business risk profile as it curtailed riskier activities in CIB, made disposals through RCR, and announced an intensified cost management programme.

An increase in regulatory scrutiny of the industry's approach to stress testing affected the management of business risk in 2014. Additional stress testing was undertaken in response, and scenario modelling capability was enhanced further. In the US, CFG strengthened its capital planning capabilities following the Federal Reserve's Comprehensive Capital and Analysis and Review stress test.

\*unaudited

### Governance

The Board has ultimate responsibility for business risk. Refer to the Risk governance section on page 176.

Responsibility for the day-to-day management of business risk lies primarily with the franchises with oversight by the Finance function. The franchises are responsible for delivery of their business plans and the management of such factors as pricing, sales volumes, marketing expenditure and other factors that can introduce volatility into earnings.

### Risk appetite

RBS assesses volatility in revenues and costs in determining whether RBS and its underlying businesses are within risk appetite. Each franchise is responsible for the implementation of its business plan and the management of associated risks within approved risk appetite targets.

### Risk identification and monitoring

Business risk is identified and managed at the product and transaction level. Estimated revenue and costs, including the potential range of outcomes, are key considerations in the design of any new product or investment decision. All policies that ultimately seek to manage and control financial impact at the product and transaction level are therefore relevant to business risk management, including policies on conduct, funding and investment spending.

Business risk is reported, assessed and challenged at every governance level within the organisation. Each franchise monitors its revenues and costs relative to plans, reporting this on a regular basis to the finance directors of each franchise and to bank-wide functions. The Finance function challenges financial results and reports performance against plan to the Board and executive committees, focusing on revenue generation, cost management initiatives and risk mitigation.

Business risk is reviewed and assessed through RBS's planning cycles, which are discussed with RBS Risk Management, and performance management processes.

In the planning cycles, expected and potential scenarios for revenues and costs are determined, on a bottom-up basis, through plans reflecting expectations of the external environment and the bank's strategic priorities. These scenarios are tested against a range of sensitivities and stresses to identify the key risk drivers behind any potential volatility, together with management actions to address and manage them.

### Risk mitigation

RBS operates a forecasting process to identify projected changes in, or risks to, key financial metrics, and ensures appropriate actions are taken. RBS responded to business risk challenges by designing cost management programmes to deliver substantial savings in 2014 and beyond. RBS Risk Management was also involved in these discussions.

### Risk measurement

The stress test outcomes form a core part of the assessment of earnings and capital adequacy risk appetite and are approved by the Board. The measurement of change in profit and loss of the franchises under stress thereby acts as a measure of business risk. Franchises also conduct their own bottom-up stress testing exercises to assess the financial performance of their businesses under stress.

### Strategic risk

#### Definition

Strategic risk is the risk that RBS will make inappropriate strategic choices, or that there will be changes in the external environment to which RBS fails to adapt its strategies.

#### Sources of risk

Strategic risk arises from decisions that fail to reflect the operating environment, or which do not take adequate account of execution challenges. These include decisions related to RBS products and services which have implications for profitability, risk, the customer base, and for business growth.

Failure to manage this risk could have a wide-ranging impact. It could lower revenues, profitability and returns to shareholders, and severely impair RBS's ability to meet other financial and non-financial objectives.

#### Key developments in 2014

RBS announced the results of a strategic review with a defined plan to shift the business mix towards the UK and the retail and commercial banking segments, with the aim of a lower risk profile for the bank.

The year saw good progress against this plan. Business results in general exceeded targets and the run-down and sell-off of non-core assets were ahead of schedule. RBS's capital ratios increased markedly, a significant step towards targeted levels of financial strength which, when attained, will provide RBS with more strategic options.

There were improvements in the monitoring processes with a focus on the "Top Risks" that could prevent RBS achieving its strategic objectives.

### Governance

RBS's strategic planning process is managed by the Strategy and Corporate Development team. The Risk and Finance functions are key contributors to strategic planning. As part of the process, each customer business develops a strategic plan for its business within a framework set by the bank's senior management. The strategic plans are consolidated at bank-wide level, and reviewed and assessed against risk appetite by the CEO, the CFO and the bank's Director of Strategy and Corporate Finance before presentation to and approval by the Board.

The Board has ultimate responsibility for approving strategic plans, initiatives and changes to strategic direction. In addition to the annual cycle, each customer business presents a more detailed individual "deep dive" review of key dimensions of its strategy at a Board meeting at different points during the year.

### Other risks\* continued

#### Risk appetite and identification

Strategic plans are assessed against, and must comply with, RBS's strategic risk objectives (refer to Risk appetite section, page 180). These objectives are intended to ensure that RBS's chosen strategies do not expose it to an inappropriate degree of financial and non-financial risk. These therefore represent the appetite for strategic risk.

RBS employs robust strategy development processes which consider the implications of economic, industrial, market, technological and customer developments and trends. RBS Risk Management is involved in defining risk appetite for the customer businesses, and in challenging and reviewing strategic plans.

In addition, there are "top risks" and "emerging risks" processes in place which aim to identify early, monitor closely and avoid or otherwise manage effectively strategic risks that have the highest likelihood of impacting strategic plans.

#### Risk monitoring

Top and emerging risks processes monitor the most material risks to strategic objectives. Strategic progress is monitored through quarterly performance review meetings between customer business CEOs and the RBS CEO, CFO, and Director of Strategy and Corporate finance.

Individual customer businesses bear much of the responsibility for managing strategic risks. The senior leadership of the customer businesses track progress on the initiatives and action plans to deliver the strategy through a range of key performance indicators such as financial performance, risk metrics, market shares and numbers of customers, and satisfaction scores.

#### Risk mitigation

A major part of the top risks process is to ensure that all appropriate action is taken to mitigate the most material risks to strategic objectives.

Key strategies are reviewed and approved by the Board. These reviews are intended to maximise the capture of market and customer insight while providing independent scrutiny and challenge. Strategic plans contain analysis of current and expected operating conditions, current and targeted competitive and market positioning, key strategic initiatives, financial and customer targets and milestones, and upside and downside risks.

A full sensitivity analysis of the consolidated strategic plan is undertaken, at the end of the strategic and financial planning process, to assess the robustness of the plan, and compliance with strategic risk objectives, under a variety of stressed conditions. In certain cases, following consideration of an opportunity, RBS may decide not to pursue the opportunity as a result of a perceived strategic risk.

RBS also undertakes strategic reviews to decide how to react to specific developments. It is now considering, for instance, how best to react to the Independent Commission on Banking's proposals for ring-fencing of retail banking operations.

#### Risk measurement

A wide variety of financial, risk, customer and market metrics are used to monitor business performance and thus, inter alia, the effectiveness of chosen strategies. Any deviations from the expected values are analysed to determine drivers which could be strategic, environmental or management. Example metrics include: customer attrition; deposit balances; revenues; impairments or loan losses; profitability; and risk-weighted returns.

## Financial statements

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# Independent auditor's report to the members of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

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## Opinion on financial statements of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2014 and of the Group's loss for the year then ended;
- the consolidated financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union;
- the company financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union and as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and, as regards the Group financial statements, Article 4 of the IAS Regulation.

## What we have audited

The financial statements comprise the accounting policies, the consolidated and company balance sheets as at 31 December 2014, the consolidated income statement, the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated and company statements of changes in equity and the consolidated and company cash flow statements for the year ended 31 December 2014, the related Notes 1 to 42 on the consolidated financial statements, the related Notes 1 to 16 on the company financial statements and the information identified as "audited" in the Capital and risk management section of the Business review. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and IFRSs as adopted by the European Union and, as regards the parent company financial statements, as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006.

## Separate opinion in relation to IFRSs as issued by the IASB

As explained in the accounting policies, in addition to complying with its legal obligation to apply IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, the Group has applied IFRSs as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

In our opinion the Group financial statements comply with IFRSs as issued by the IASB.

## Going concern

As required by the UK Listing Rules we have reviewed the directors' statement on page 99 that the Group is a going concern.

We confirm that:

- we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements is appropriate; and
- we have not identified any material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

However, because not all future events and conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

# Independent auditor's report to the members of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

## Our assessment of risks of material misstatement

The assessed risks of material misstatement described below are those that had the greatest effect on our audit strategy, the allocation of resources in the audit and directing the efforts of the engagement team:

Risk	How the scope of our audit responded to the risk
<p><b>Loan impairment provisions</b></p> <p>The directors exercise significant judgement when determining both when and how much to record as loan impairment provisions. Because of the significance of this judgement and the size of loans and advances, the audit of loan impairment provisions is a key area of focus. At 31 December 2014 gross loans and advances were £439,473 million against which loan impairment provisions of £17,500 million were recorded. The basis of the provisions is summarised in the accounting policies and in Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements.</p> <p>As set out in the Accounting policies, the Group uses one of three methods to assess the amount of impairment provisions required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For larger, individually significant loans and advances, impairments are assessed on an individual basis. These are largely in the Corporate and Institutional Banking, Commercial Banking, Private Banking, Ulster Bank and RBS Capital Resolution (RCR) segments.</li> <li>Collective assessments are made on a portfolio, modelled basis where the loans and advances are homogeneous in nature, for example the personal banking and smaller corporate portfolios.</li> <li>Latent loss provisions are held against losses that have been incurred but have not been identified at the year end. Latent provisions are held against loans and advances across all customer segments and RCR and calculated using models based on probabilities of default and loss given default as well as emergence periods between the impairment event occurring and an individual or collective impairment being recognised.</li> </ul> <p>Where applicable, the impact of forbearance is assessed individually or on a portfolio basis.</p> <p>The most significant judgements arise on impairments recorded against loans and advances in RCR (£10,946 million) and Ulster Bank (£2,711 million) at 31 December 2014. As a result of the strategy to exit RCR assets, loan impairments in RCR are particularly sensitive to changes in market conditions. During the year, £1,320 million was released from RCR impairment provisions following improvements in economic and market conditions, and realisation of collateral at greater than anticipated amounts together with increases in collateral values.</p>	<p>We tested the design and operating effectiveness of the key controls to determine which loans and advances are impaired and provisions against those assets. These included testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>System-based and manual controls over the timely recognition of impaired loans and advances;</li> <li>Controls over the impairment calculation models; and</li> <li>Governance controls, including attending key meetings that form part of the approval process for loan impairment provisions.</li> </ul> <p>We tested a sample of loans and advances to assess whether impairment events had been identified in a timely manner.</p> <p>For the collective and latent impairment models used by the Group, we tested a sample of the data used in the models as well as testing the calculations within the models. We assessed whether the modelling assumptions used considered all relevant risks, and whether the additional overlays to reflect unmodelled risks, were reasonable in light of historical experience, economic climate, current operational processes and the circumstances of the customers. We also tested the extraction from underlying systems of historical data used in the models.</p> <p>For individually assessed loans we selected a sample of loans and tested the estimation of the future expected cash flows from customers and where applicable, from realisation of collateral held. This work involved assessing the work performed by external experts used by the Group to value the collateral or to assess the estimates of future cash flows. In some cases we used our own industry experts, particularly in respect of commercial real estate loans, to assess the appropriateness of valuations and estimates used by the Group.</p>

# Independent auditor's report to the members of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

Risk	How the scope of our audit responded to the risk
<p><b>Valuation of complex or illiquid financial instruments</b></p> <p>The valuation of the Group's financial instruments was a key area of focus of our audit given the degree of complexity involved in valuing some of the financial instruments and the significance of the judgements and estimates made by the directors. As set out in Note 11 of the consolidated financial statements, financial instruments held at fair value comprised assets of £534 billion and liabilities of £497 billion. In the Group's accounting policies, the directors have described the key sources of estimation involved in determining the valuation of financial instruments and in particular when the fair value is established using a valuation technique due to the instrument's complexity or due to the lack of availability of market-based data.</p> <p>Our audit has focused on testing the valuation adjustments including those for credit risk, funding related and own credit. A particular area of focus of our audit has been in testing the valuation of the more illiquid financial instruments disclosed as level 3 instruments which comprised assets of £5 billion and liabilities of £5 billion.</p>	<p>We tested the design and operating effectiveness of the key controls in the Group's financial instrument valuation processes including the controls over data feeds and other inputs into valuation models and the controls over testing and approval of new models or changes to existing models.</p> <p>Our audit work also included testing a sample of the underlying valuation models and the assumptions used in those models using a variety of techniques. This work included valuing a sample of financial instruments using independent models and source data and comparing the results to the Group's valuations and the investigation of any significant differences.</p> <p>For instruments with significant, unobservable valuation inputs, we used our own internal valuation experts to assess and challenge the valuation assumptions used, including considering alternative valuation methodologies used by other market participants.</p>
<p><b>Conduct and litigation provisions and claims</b></p> <p>In Note 32 of the consolidated financial statements the directors have summarised the most significant legal proceedings, investigations and other regulatory and government actions involving the Group. The recognition and measurement of provisions and the measurement and disclosure of contingent liabilities in respect of litigation, customer remediation and regulatory investigations requires significant judgement by the directors and as a result is a key area of focus in our audit. As set out in the accounting policies, judgement is needed to assess whether an obligation exists at 31 December 2014 in order to determine if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is likely that an economic outflow (for example, a payment) is likely; and</li> <li>The amount of the payment (or other economic outflow) can be estimated reliably.</li> </ul> <p>At 31 December 2014 the Group held provisions for liabilities and charges totalling £4,774 million, including conduct and litigation claims totalling £4,111 million. We focused our work on the most significant areas of judgement including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of the provisions for payment protection insurance (£799 million at 31 December 2014) and interest rate hedging product redress (£424 million at 31 December 2014); and</li> <li>Recognition, measurement and disclosure of litigation and regulatory actions in respect of foreign-exchange trading, mortgage-backed securities litigation in US and other litigation.</li> </ul>	<p>We tested the design and operating effectiveness of the Group's key controls over the identification, recording and disclosure of exposures. The controls tested included those over the timely identification of exposures; the completeness and accuracy of data used in any models; and the assessment of the provision and disclosure of exposures in accordance with the relevant accounting standards.</p> <p>We challenged the adequacy of provisions recognised by critically assessing the key assumptions used in the provision models, comparing the assumptions to available peer and historical data. This work also included, amongst other things, reviewing regulatory correspondence and the Group's complaint logs.</p> <p>We assessed the legal advice and correspondence with regulators received in connection with legal proceedings, investigations and regulatory matters which the Group is party to. For the more material matters, we also met with the Group's external legal counsel.</p> <p>We also assessed the disclosures provided on conduct and litigation exposures in order to determine whether the disclosures were sufficiently clear about the uncertainties that existed in relation to the contingent liabilities and provisions recognised, including the sensitivity of the provisions to changes in the underlying assumptions.</p>

# Independent auditor's report to the members of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

Risk	How the scope of our audit responded to the risk
<p><b>Estimates of future profitability</b></p> <p>Included on the Group's balance sheet at 31 December 2014 are deferred tax assets of £1,540 million, goodwill of £6,264 million and other intangible assets of £1,517 million that are supported by the Group's forecasts of future profitability.</p> <p>As the directors have described in the accounting policies, estimating future profitability requires the application of significant judgement by the directors particularly given the uncertainties that exist in the markets in which the Group operates and the changes that are expected in the foreseeable future as a result of changing regulation; for example, the ring-fencing of retail banking operations. The key judgements made by the directors include estimating taxable profits, growth rates and discount rates. The sensitivity of these key judgements and their effect on the carrying value of goodwill has been set out in Note 17 of the consolidated financial statements and the bases of the deferred tax assets set out in Note 23 of the consolidated financial statements.</p>	<p>We have tested the design and operating effectiveness of the key controls over the preparation and review of the Group's budgets and forecasts.</p> <p>For each cash generating unit we critically assessed the forecasts of the cash flows and the appropriateness of the key assumptions used; including forecast taxable profits, growth rates and discount rates, in order to challenge the calculation of the recoverable amount of deferred taxation, goodwill and other intangible assets.</p> <p>We compared the directors' assumptions on growth rates and discount rates to industry averages, those used by peer organisations and other economic metrics, considering any reasonable alternative assumptions. We tested the Group's forecasts of profits, comparing the forecasts to historical experience and assessing whether the forecast is reflective of the Group's committed plans.</p>
<p><b>IT access rights</b></p> <p>The widespread reliance on information systems within the Group means that the controls over access rights are critical. In 2014 and in previous years the Group identified a number of deficiencies in the controls over the provision of access to IT application systems and system databases which increased the risk that individuals had inappropriate access. For the IT application systems and databases that support financial reporting, the existence of these deficiencies means there is an increased risk that the data and reports from the affected systems and databases are not reliable.</p>	<p>We tested the design and operating effectiveness of the Group's controls over the information systems that are critical to financial reporting and identified weaknesses in the access controls.</p> <p>Where these deficiencies affected applications and databases within the scope of our audit we performed a combination of controls and substantive testing in order to determine whether we could place reliance on the completeness and accuracy of system generated information, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determined whether unauthorised or inappropriate changes had been made to the affected databases and IT application systems; and</li> <li>• Assessed the design and operating effectiveness of any controls that mitigated the identified risks.</li> </ul> <p>In addition and where appropriate we extended the scope of our substantive audit procedures.</p>

The description of the risks above should be read in conjunction with the significant issues considered by the Group Audit Committee discussed on pages 57 to 61.

Our audit procedures relating to these matters were designed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and not to express an opinion on individual accounts or disclosures. Our opinion on the financial statements is not modified with respect to any of the risks described above, and we do not express an opinion on these individual matters.

## Our application of materiality

We define materiality as the magnitude of misstatement in the financial statements that makes it probable that the economic decisions of a reasonably knowledgeable person would be changed or influenced. We use materiality both in planning the scope of our audit work and in evaluating the results of our work.

We determined materiality for the Group to be £300 million (2013 - £350 million), which was calculated as 0.5% (2013 - 0.6%) of the total equity of the Group. This represented 11% of the Group's loss for the year (2013 - 4% of the Group's loss). Our materiality in both 2014 and 2013 was based on the equity of the Group given the significant volatility of the Group's profits and losses in recent years.

We agreed with the Group Audit Committee that we would report all audit differences in excess of £10 million, as well as differences below that threshold that, in our view, warranted reporting on qualitative grounds. We also report to the Group Audit Committee on disclosure matters that we identified when assessing the overall presentation of the financial statements.

# Independent auditor's report to the members of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

## An overview of the scope of our audit

We determined the scope of our audit by first considering the internal organisation of the Group and then identifying the components of the audit that have most significance to the financial statements. The significant components of our audit are consistent with the operating segments identified in the financial statements comprising UK Personal & Business Banking, Ulster Bank, Commercial Banking, Private Banking, Corporate & Institutional Banking, Citizens Financial Group, RCR and the central functions of the Group including Finance (both in the UK and overseas), Treasury and Services. A number of these components consist of a number of different operations with audit work performed in different countries. Full scope audits were performed of the Group's operations in ten countries, and a further 19 countries were subject to an audit of specified account balances or specified audit procedures where the extent of our testing was based on our assessment of the risks of material misstatement and of the materiality of the Group's operations at those locations. The audit work performed across the 29 countries accounted for 99% (2013 - 98%) of the Group's total assets and 94% (2013 - 85%) of its total revenue.

The Group audit team sent component auditors detailed instructions on audit procedures to be undertaken and the information to be reported back to the Group audit team. Regular contact was maintained throughout the course of the audit with key component auditors including holding Group planning meetings, regular communications on the status of the audits and a programme of planned visits was followed that was designed so that the Senior Statutory Auditor or another senior member of the Group audit team visited each significant component audit team a number of times during the year.

## Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion:

- the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006; and
- the information given in the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Adequacy of explanations received and accounting records	<p>Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or</li><li>• adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or</li><li>• the parent company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.</li></ul> <p>We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.</p>
Directors' remuneration	<p>Under the Companies Act 2006 we are also required to report if in our opinion certain disclosures of directors' remuneration have not been made or the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited is not in agreement with the accounting records and returns. Under the UK Listing Rules we are required to review certain elements of the Directors' Remuneration Report.</p> <p>We have nothing to report arising from these matters or our review.</p>
Corporate Governance Statement	<p>Under the UK Listing Rules we are also required to review the part of the Corporate Governance Statement relating to the company's compliance with the ten provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code.</p> <p>We have nothing to report arising from our review.</p>
Our duty to read other information in the Annual Report	<p>Under the International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland), we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, information in the annual report is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• materially inconsistent with the information in the audited financial statements; or</li><li>• apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, our knowledge of the Group acquired in the course of performing our audit; or</li><li>• otherwise misleading.</li></ul> <p>In particular, we are required to consider whether we have identified any inconsistencies between our knowledge acquired during the audit and the directors' statement that they consider the annual report is fair, balanced and understandable and whether the annual report appropriately discloses those matters that we communicated to the Group Audit Committee which we consider should have been disclosed.</p> <p>We confirm that we have not identified any such inconsistencies or misleading statements.</p>

# Independent auditor's report to the members of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

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## Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors. We also comply with International Standard on Quality Control 1 (UK and Ireland). Our audit methodology and tools aim to ensure that our quality control procedures are effective, understood and applied. Our quality controls and systems include our dedicated professional standards review team and independent partner reviews.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Group's and the parent company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Michael Lloyd (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Deloitte LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor  
London, United Kingdom  
25 February 2015

Neither an audit nor a review provides assurance on the maintenance and integrity of the website, including controls used to achieve this, and in particular on whether any changes may have occurred to the financial information since first published. These matters are the responsibility of the directors but no control procedures can provide absolute assurance in this area.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements differs from legislation in other jurisdictions.

## Consolidated income statement for the year ended 31 December 2014

	Note	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Interest receivable		13,079	14,488	16,083
Interest payable		(3,821)	(5,471)	(6,727)
<b>Net interest income</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9,258</b>	<b>9,017</b>	<b>9,356</b>
Fees and commissions receivable		4,414	4,678	4,898
Fees and commissions payable		(875)	(923)	(818)
Income from trading activities		1,285	2,571	1,459
Gain on redemption of own debt		20	175	454
Other operating income		1,048	1,219	(634)
<b>Non-interest income</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5,892</b>	<b>7,720</b>	<b>5,359</b>
<b>Total income</b>		<b>15,150</b>	<b>16,737</b>	<b>14,715</b>
Staff costs		(5,757)	(6,086)	(7,150)
Premises and equipment		(2,081)	(2,038)	(1,951)
Other administrative expenses		(4,568)	(6,692)	(4,929)
Depreciation and amortisation		(930)	(1,247)	(1,603)
Write down of goodwill and other intangible assets		(523)	(1,403)	(124)
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>(13,859)</b>	<b>(17,466)</b>	<b>(15,757)</b>
<b>Profit/(loss) before impairment losses</b>		<b>1,291</b>	<b>(729)</b>	<b>(1,042)</b>
Impairment releases/(losses)	13	1,352	(8,120)	(5,010)
<b>Operating profit/(loss) before tax</b>		<b>2,643</b>	<b>(8,849)</b>	<b>(6,052)</b>
Tax charge	6	(1,909)	(186)	(156)
<b>Profit/(loss) from continuing operations</b>		<b>734</b>	<b>(9,035)</b>	<b>(6,208)</b>
(Loss)/profit from discontinued operations, net of tax				
- Citizens		(3,486)	410	490
- Other		41	148	(172)
<b>(Loss)/profit from discontinued operations, net of tax</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>(3,445)</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>318</b>
<b>Loss for the year</b>		<b>(2,711)</b>	<b>(8,477)</b>	<b>(5,890)</b>
<b>Attributable to:</b>				
Non-controlling interests		60	120	(136)
Preference shareholders	7	330	349	273
Paid-in equity holders	7	49	49	28
Dividend access share	9	320	—	—
<b>Ordinary and B shareholders</b>		<b>(3,470)</b>	<b>(8,995)</b>	<b>(6,055)</b>
		<b>(2,711)</b>	<b>(8,477)</b>	<b>(5,890)</b>
<b>Per ordinary and equivalent B share (1)</b>				
Basic and diluted earnings/(loss) from continuing operations	9	0.5p	(85.0p)	(58.9p)
Basic and diluted loss from continuing and discontinued operations	9	(30.6p)	(80.3p)	(55.0p)

Note:  
(1) Ten B shares rank pari-passu with one ordinary share (see Note 27).

The accompanying notes on pages 361 to 449 the accounting policies on pages 349 to 359 and the audited sections of the Business review: Capital and risk management on pages 168 to 334 form an integral part of these financial statements.



## Consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2014

	Note	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Loss for the year		(2,711)	(8,477)	(5,890)
<i>Items that do not qualify for reclassification</i>				
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit plans	4	(108)	446	(2,158)
Tax		(36)	(246)	352
		(144)	200	(1,806)
<i>Items that do qualify for reclassification</i>				
Available-for-sale financial assets		807	(406)	645
Cash flow hedges		1,413	(2,291)	1,006
Currency translation		307	(229)	(900)
Tax		(455)	1,014	(152)
		2,072	(1,912)	599
Other comprehensive income/(loss) after tax		1,928	(1,712)	(1,207)
Total comprehensive loss for the year		(783)	(10,189)	(7,097)
<i>Attributable to:</i>				
Non-controlling interests		246	137	(129)
Preference shareholders		330	349	273
Paid-in equity holders		49	49	28
Dividend access share		320	—	—
Ordinary and B shareholders		(1,728)	(10,724)	(7,269)
		(783)	(10,189)	(7,097)

The accompanying notes on pages 361 to 449 the accounting policies on pages 349 to 359 and the audited sections of the Business review: Capital and risk management on pages 168 to 334 form an integral part of these financial statements.

## Consolidated balance sheet as at 31 December 2014

	Note	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and balances at central banks	10	74,872	82,659	79,290
Loans and advances to banks	10	43,735	54,071	63,951
Loans and advances to customers	10	378,238	440,722	500,135
Debt securities subject to repurchase agreements	30	23,048	55,554	91,173
Other debt securities		63,601	58,045	66,265
Debt securities	15	86,649	113,599	157,438
Equity shares	16	5,635	8,811	15,232
Settlement balances		4,667	5,591	5,741
Derivatives	14	353,590	288,039	441,903
Intangible assets	17	7,781	12,368	13,545
Property, plant and equipment	18	6,167	7,909	9,784
Deferred tax	23	1,540	3,478	3,443
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	19	5,878	7,614	7,820
Assets of disposal groups	20	82,011	3,017	14,013
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>1,050,763</b>	<b>1,027,878</b>	<b>1,312,295</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Deposits by banks	10	60,665	63,979	101,405
Customer accounts	10	391,639	470,880	521,279
Debt securities in issue	10	50,280	67,819	94,592
Settlement balances		4,503	5,313	5,878
Short positions	21	23,029	28,022	27,591
Derivatives	14	349,805	285,526	434,333
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	22	13,346	16,017	14,801
Retirement benefit liabilities	4	2,579	3,210	3,884
Deferred tax	23	500	507	1,141
Subordinated liabilities	24	22,905	24,012	26,773
Liabilities of disposal groups	20	71,320	3,378	10,170
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>990,571</b>	<b>968,663</b>	<b>1,241,847</b>
Non-controlling interests	25	2,946	473	1,770
<b>Owners' equity</b>	26, 27	<b>57,246</b>	<b>58,742</b>	<b>68,678</b>
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>60,192</b>	<b>59,215</b>	<b>70,448</b>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>		<b>1,050,763</b>	<b>1,027,878</b>	<b>1,312,295</b>

The accompanying notes on pages 361 to 449 the accounting policies on pages 349 to 359 and the audited sections of the Business review: Capital and risk management on pages 168 to 334 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The accounts were approved by the Board of directors on 25 February 2015 and signed on its behalf by:

Philip Hampton  
Chairman

Ross McEwan  
Chief Executive

Ewen Stevenson  
Chief Financial Officer

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc  
Registered No. SC45551

## Consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Called-up share capital</b>			
At 1 January	6,714	6,582	15,318
Ordinary shares issued	163	132	197
Share capital sub-division and consolidation	—	—	(8,933)
At 31 December	6,877	6,714	6,582
<b>Paid-in equity</b>			
At 1 January	979	979	979
Reclassification (1)	(195)	—	—
At 31 December	784	979	979
<b>Share premium account</b>			
At 1 January	24,667	24,361	24,001
Ordinary shares issued	385	306	360
At 31 December	25,052	24,667	24,361
<b>Merger reserve</b>			
At 1 January and 31 December	13,222	13,222	13,222
<b>Available-for-sale reserve</b>			
At 1 January	(308)	(346)	(957)
Unrealised gains	980	607	1,939
Realised gains	(333)	(891)	(1,319)
Tax	(67)	432	50
Recycled to profit or loss on disposal of businesses (2)	36	(110)	—
Transfer to retained earnings	(9)	—	(59)
At 31 December	299	(308)	(346)
<b>Cash flow hedging reserve</b>			
At 1 January	(84)	1,666	879
Amount recognised in equity	2,871	(967)	2,093
Amount transferred from equity to earnings	(1,458)	(1,324)	(1,087)
Tax	(334)	541	(219)
Transfer to retained earnings	34	—	—
At 31 December	1,029	(84)	1,666

## Consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Foreign exchange reserve</b>			
At 1 January	3,691	3,908	4,775
Retranslation of net assets	113	(325)	(1,056)
Foreign currency gains on hedges of net assets	108	105	177
Tax	(30)	6	17
Recycled to profit or loss on disposal of businesses	—	(3)	(3)
Transfer to retained earnings	(399)	—	(2)
At 31 December	3,483	3,691	3,908
<b>Capital redemption reserve</b>			
At 1 January	9,131	9,131	198
Share capital sub-division and consolidation	—	—	8,933
At 31 December	9,131	9,131	9,131
<b>Contingent capital reserve</b>			
At 1 January	—	(1,208)	(1,208)
Transfer to retained earnings	—	1,208	—
At 31 December	—	—	(1,208)
<b>Retained earnings</b>			
At 1 January	867	10,596	18,929
Transfer to non-controlling interests	—	—	(361)
Profit/(loss) attributable to ordinary and B shareholders and other equity owners			
- continuing operations	756	(9,118)	(6,184)
- discontinued operations	(3,527)	521	430
Equity preference dividends paid	(330)	(349)	(273)
Paid-in equity dividends paid, net of tax	(49)	(49)	(28)
Dividend access share dividend	(320)	—	—
Citizens Financial Group initial public offering:			
- transfer from available-for-sale reserve	9	—	59
- transfer from cash flow hedging reserve	(34)	—	—
- transfer from foreign exchange reserve	399	—	2
Costs relating to Citizens Financial Group initial public offering	(45)	—	—
Transfer from contingent capital reserve	—	(1,208)	—
Termination of contingent capital agreement	—	320	—
Actuarial (losses)/gains recognised in retirement benefit schemes			
- gross	(108)	446	(2,158)
- tax	(36)	(246)	352
Loss on disposal of own shares held	(8)	(18)	(196)
Shares issued under employee share schemes	(91)	(77)	(87)
Share-based payments			
- gross	29	48	117
- tax	3	1	(6)
Reclassification of paid-in equity	(33)	—	—
At 31 December	(2,518)	867	10,596
<b>Own shares held</b>			
At 1 January	(137)	(213)	(769)
Disposal of own shares	1	75	441
Shares issued under employee share schemes	23	1	115
At 31 December	(113)	(137)	(213)
<b>Owners' equity at 31 December</b>	<b>57,246</b>	<b>58,742</b>	<b>68,678</b>

## Consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Non-controlling interests (see Note 25)</b>			
At 1 January	473	1,770	686
Currency translation adjustments and other movements	86	(6)	(18)
(Loss)/profit attributable to non-controlling interests			
- continuing operations	(22)	83	(24)
- discontinued operations	82	37	(112)
Dividends paid	(4)	(5)	—
Movements in available-for-sale securities			
- unrealised gains	36	8	3
- realised losses	77	21	22
- tax	(13)	(1)	—
- recycled to profit or loss on disposal of businesses (3)	—	(5)	—
Movements in cash flow hedging reserve			
- amount recognised in equity	18	—	—
- amount transferred from equity to earnings	(18)	—	—
- tax	—	—	—
Equity raised (4)	2,232	—	875
Equity withdrawn and disposals	(1)	(1,429)	(23)
Transfer from retained earnings	—	—	361
<b>At 31 December</b>	<b>2,946</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>1,770</b>
<b>Total equity at 31 December</b>	<b>60,192</b>	<b>59,215</b>	<b>70,448</b>
<b>Total equity is attributable to:</b>			
Non-controlling interests	2,946	473	1,770
Preference shareholders	4,313	4,313	3,765
Paid-in equity holders	784	979	979
Ordinary and B shareholders	52,149	53,450	63,934
	<b>60,192</b>	<b>59,215</b>	<b>70,448</b>

### Notes:

- (1) Paid-in equity reclassified to liabilities as a result of the call of RBS Capital Trust III on 23 December 2014 (see Note 27).  
(2) Net of tax - £11 million charge (2013 - £35 million charge).  
(3) 2013 - net of tax of £1 million.  
(4) Includes £2,117 million relating to the initial public offering of Citizens Financial Group.

The accompanying notes on pages 361 to 449 the accounting policies on pages 349 to 359 and the audited sections of the Business review: Capital and risk management on pages 168 to 334 form an integral part of these financial statements.

## Consolidated cash flow statement for the year ended 31 December 2014

	Note	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Operating activities</b>				
Operating profit/(loss) before tax from continuing operations		2,643	(8,849)	(6,052)
(Loss)/profit before tax from discontinued operations		(3,207)	783	664
<i>Adjustments for:</i>				
Depreciation and amortisation		1,109	1,410	1,854
Write down of goodwill and other intangible assets		533	1,403	518
Interest on subordinated liabilities		886	886	841
Charge for defined benefit pension schemes		466	517	558
Pension scheme curtailment and settlement gains		—	(7)	(41)
Cash contribution to defined benefit pension schemes		(1,065)	(821)	(977)
Gain on redemption of own debt		(20)	(175)	(454)
Loss on reclassification to disposal groups		3,994	—	—
(Recoveries)/impairment losses		(1,155)	8,432	5,283
Loans and advances written-off net of recoveries		(5,073)	(4,090)	(3,925)
Elimination of foreign exchange differences		(724)	(47)	7,140
Other non-cash items		(412)	(947)	(1,491)
<b>Net cash flows from trading activities</b>		(2,025)	(1,505)	3,918
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities</b>		(17,948)	(28,780)	(48,736)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities before tax</b>		(19,973)	(30,285)	(44,818)
Income taxes paid		(414)	(346)	(295)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	33	(20,387)	(30,631)	(45,113)
<b>Investing activities</b>				
Sale and maturity of securities		28,020	41,772	49,079
Purchase of securities		(20,276)	(22,561)	(22,987)
Sale of property, plant and equipment		1,162	1,448	2,215
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(816)	(626)	(1,484)
<b>Net (investment in)/divestment of business interests and intangible assets</b>	34	(1,481)	1,150	352
<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>		6,609	21,183	27,175
<b>Financing activities</b>				
Issue of ordinary shares		314	264	120
Issue of subordinated liabilities		2,159	1,796	2,093
Issue of exchangeable bonds		—	330	—
Proceeds of non-controlling interests issued		2,147	—	889
Redemption of non-controlling interests		(1)	(301)	(23)
Disposal of own shares		14	44	243
Repayment of subordinated liabilities		(3,480)	(3,500)	(258)
Dividends paid		(383)	(403)	(301)
Dividend access share		(320)	—	—
Interest on subordinated liabilities		(854)	(958)	(746)
<b>Net cash flows from financing activities</b>		(404)	(2,728)	2,017
<b>Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents</b>		909	512	(3,893)
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>		(13,273)	(11,664)	(19,814)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January</b>		121,177	132,841	152,655
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	37	107,904	121,177	132,841

The accompanying notes on pages 361 to 449 the accounting policies on pages 349 to 359 and the audited sections of the Business review: Capital and risk management on pages 168 to 334 form an integral part of these financial statements.

## Accounting policies

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### 1. Presentation of accounts

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis (see the Report of the directors, page 99) and in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and interpretations issued by the IFRS Interpretations Committee of the IASB as adopted by the European Union (EU) (together IFRS). The EU has not adopted the complete text of IAS 39 'Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement'; it has relaxed some of the standard's hedging requirements. The Group has not taken advantage of this relaxation: its financial statements are prepared in accordance with IFRS as issued by the IASB.

The company is incorporated in the UK and registered in Scotland. Its accounts are presented in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. With the exception of investment property and certain financial instruments as described in Accounting policies 9, 14, 16 and 18, the accounts are presented on an historical cost basis.

Citizens was classified as a disposal group on 31 December 2014; its assets and liabilities at that date have been aggregated and presented in separate balance sheet captions. It has been treated as a discontinued operation and prior periods re-presented.

The Group adopted a number of new and revised IFRSs effective 1 January 2014:

'Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities (Amendments to IAS 32)' adds application guidance to IAS 32 to address inconsistencies identified in the application of the standard's criteria for offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities.

'Investment Entities (amendments to IFRS 10, IFRS 12 and IAS 27)' applies to investment entities; such entities should account for their subsidiaries (other than those that provide services related to the entity's investment activities) at fair value through profit or loss.

IFRIC 21 'Levies' provides guidance on accounting for levies payable to public authorities if certain conditions are met on a particular date.

IAS 36 'Recoverable Amount Disclosures for Non-Financial Assets (Amendments to IAS 36)' aligns IAS 36's disclosure requirement about recoverable amount with IASB's original intentions.

IAS 39 'Novation of Derivatives and Continuation of Hedge Accounting (Amendments to IAS 39)' provides relief from discontinuing hedge accounting on novation of a derivative designated as a hedging instrument.

The implementation of these requirements has not had a material effect on the Group's accounts.

### 2. Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts incorporate the financial statements of the company and entities (including certain structured entities) that are controlled by the Group. The Group controls another entity (a subsidiary) when it is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with that entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the other entity; power generally arises from holding a majority of voting rights. On acquisition of a subsidiary, its identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities are included in the consolidated accounts at their fair value. A subsidiary is included in the consolidated financial statements from the date it is controlled by the Group until the date the Group ceases to control it through a sale or a significant change in circumstances. Changes in the Group's interest in a subsidiary that do not result in the Group ceasing to control that subsidiary are accounted for as equity transactions.

All intergroup balances, transactions, income and expenses are eliminated on consolidation. The consolidated accounts are prepared under uniform accounting policies.

### 3. Revenue recognition

Interest income on financial assets that are classified as loans and receivables, available-for-sale or held-to-maturity and interest expense on financial liabilities other than those measured at fair value are determined using the effective interest method. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset or financial liability (or group of financial assets or liabilities) and of allocating the interest income or interest expense over the expected life of the asset or liability. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash flows to the instrument's initial carrying amount. Calculation of the effective interest rate takes into account fees payable or receivable that are an integral part of the instrument's yield, premiums or discounts on acquisition or issue, early redemption fees and transaction costs. All contractual terms of a financial instrument are considered when estimating future cash flows.

Financial assets and financial liabilities held for trading or designated as at fair value through profit or loss are recorded at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

Fees in respect of services are recognised as the right to consideration accrues through the provision of the service to the customer. The arrangements are generally contractual and the cost of providing the service is incurred as the service is rendered. The price is usually fixed and always determinable. The application of this policy to significant fee types is outlined below.

**Payment services** - this comprises income received for payment services including cheques cashed, direct debits, Clearing House Automated Payments (the UK electronic settlement system) and BACS payments (the automated clearing house that processes direct debits and direct credits). These are generally charged on a per transaction basis. The income is earned when the payment or transaction occurs. Charges for payment services are usually debited to the customer's account monthly or quarterly in arrears. Income is accrued at period end for services provided but not yet charged.



## Accounting policies

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*Credit and debit card fees* - fees from card business include:

- Interchange received: as issuer, the Group receives a fee (interchange) each time a cardholder purchases goods and services. The Group also receives interchange fees from other card issuers for providing cash advances through its branch and automated teller machine networks. These fees are accrued once the transaction has taken place.
- Periodic fees payable by a credit card or debit card holder are deferred and taken to profit or loss over the period of the service.

*Lending (credit facilities)* - commitment and utilisation fees are determined as a percentage of the outstanding facility. If it is unlikely that a specific lending arrangement will be entered into, such fees are taken to profit or loss over the life of the facility otherwise they are deferred and included in the effective interest rate on the loan.

*Brokerage fees* - in respect of securities, foreign exchange, futures or options transactions entered into on behalf of a customer are recognised as income on execution of a significant act.

*Trade finance* - income from the provision of trade finance is recognised over the term of the finance unless specifically related to a significant act, in which case income is recognised when the act is executed.

*Investment management* - fees charged for managing investments are recognised as revenue as the services are provided. Incremental costs that are directly attributable to securing an investment management contract are deferred and charged as expense as the related revenue is recognised.

### 4. Assets held for sale and discontinued operations

A non-current asset (or disposal group) is classified as held for sale if the Group will recover its carrying amount principally through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. A non-current asset (or disposal group) classified as held for sale is measured at the lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell. If the asset (or disposal group) is acquired as part of a business combination it is initially measured at fair value less costs to sell. Assets and liabilities of disposal groups classified as held for sale and non-current assets classified as held for sale are shown separately on the face of the balance sheet. The results of discontinued operations - comprising the post-tax profit or loss of discontinued operations and the post-tax gain or loss recognised either on measurement to fair value less costs to sell or on disposal of the discontinued operation - are shown as a single amount on the face of the income statement; an analysis of this amount is presented in Note 20 on the accounts. A discontinued operation is a cash generating unit or a group of cash generating units that either has been disposed of, or is classified as held for sale, and (a) represents a separate major line of business or geographical area of operations, (b) is part of a single co-ordinated plan to dispose of a separate major line of business or geographical area of operations or (c) is a subsidiary acquired exclusively with a view to resale.

### 5. Employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits, such as salaries, paid absences, and other benefits are accounted for on an accruals basis over the period in which the employees provide the related services. Employees may receive variable compensation satisfied by cash, by debt instruments issued by the Group or by RBSG shares. The treatment of share-based compensation is set out in Accounting policy 25. Variable compensation that is settled in cash or debt instruments is charged to profit or loss over the period from the start of the year to which the variable compensation relates to the expected settlement date taking account of forfeiture and clawback criteria.

The Group provides post-retirement benefits in the form of pensions and healthcare plans to eligible employees.

Contributions to defined contribution pension schemes are recognised in profit or loss when payable.

For defined benefit schemes, the defined benefit obligation is measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds of equivalent term and currency to the scheme liabilities. Scheme assets are measured at their fair value. The difference between scheme assets and scheme liabilities - the net defined benefit asset or liability - is recognised in the balance sheet. A defined benefit asset is limited to the present value of any economic benefits available to the Group in the form of refunds from the plan or reduced contributions to it.

The charge to profit or loss for pension costs (recorded in operating expenses) comprises:

- the current service cost
- interest, computed at the rate used to discount scheme liabilities, on the net defined benefit liability or asset
- past service cost resulting from a scheme amendment or curtailment
- gains or losses on settlement.

A curtailment occurs when the Group significantly reduces the number of employees covered by a plan. A plan amendment occurs when the Group introduces, or withdraws, a defined benefit plan or changes the benefits payable under an existing defined benefit plan. Past service cost may be either positive (when benefits are introduced or changed so that the present value of the defined benefit obligation increases) or negative (when benefits are withdrawn or changed so that the present value of the defined benefit obligation decreases). A settlement is a transaction that eliminates all further obligation for part or all of the benefits.

Actuarial gains and losses (i.e. gains or and losses on re-measuring the net defined benefit asset or liability) are recognised in other comprehensive income in full in the period in which they arise.

## Accounting policies

### 6. Intangible assets and goodwill

Intangible assets acquired by the Group are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Amortisation is charged to profit or loss over the assets' estimated economic lives using methods that best reflect the pattern of economic benefits and is included in Depreciation and amortisation. These estimated useful economic lives are:

Computer software	3 to 12 years
Other acquired intangibles	5 to 10 years

Expenditure on internally generated goodwill and brands is written-off as incurred. Direct costs relating to the development of internal-use computer software are capitalised once technical feasibility and economic viability have been established. These costs include payroll, the costs of materials and services, and directly attributable overheads. Capitalisation of costs ceases when the software is capable of operating as intended. During and after development, accumulated costs are reviewed for impairment against the benefits that the software is expected to generate. Costs incurred prior to the establishment of technical feasibility and economic viability are expensed as incurred as are all training costs and general overheads. The costs of licences to use computer software that are expected to generate economic benefits beyond one year are also capitalised.

Intangible assets include goodwill arising on the acquisition of subsidiaries and joint ventures. Goodwill on the acquisition of a subsidiary is the excess of the fair value of the consideration transferred, the fair value of any existing interest in the subsidiary and the amount of any non-controlling interest measured either at fair value or at its share of the subsidiary's net assets over the Group's interest in the net fair value of the subsidiary's identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities. Goodwill arises on the acquisition of a joint venture when the cost of investment exceeds the Group's share of the net fair value of the joint venture's identifiable assets and liabilities. Goodwill is measured at initial cost less any subsequent impairment losses. Goodwill arising on the acquisition of associates is included within their carrying amounts. The gain or loss on the disposal of a subsidiary, associate or joint venture includes the carrying value of any related goodwill.

### 7. Property, plant and equipment

Items of property, plant and equipment (except investment property - see Accounting policy 9) are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Where an item of property, plant and equipment comprises major components having different useful lives, these are accounted for separately.

Depreciation is charged to profit or loss on a straight-line basis so as to write-off the depreciable amount of property, plant and equipment (including assets owned and let on operating leases) over their estimated useful lives. The depreciable amount is the cost of an asset less its residual value. Freehold land is not depreciated.

The estimated useful lives of the Group's property, plant and equipment are:

Freehold buildings	50 years
Long leasehold property (leases with more than 50 years to run)	50 years
Short leaseholds	unexpired period of the lease
Property adaptation costs	10 to 15 years
Computer equipment	up to 5 years
Other equipment	4 to 15 years

The residual value and useful life of property, plant and equipment are reviewed at each balance sheet date and updated for any changes to previous estimates.

### 8. Impairment of intangible assets and property, plant and equipment

At each reporting date, the Group assesses whether there is any indication that its intangible assets, or property, plant and equipment are impaired. If any such indication exists, the Group estimates the recoverable amount of the asset and the impairment loss if any. Goodwill is tested for impairment annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that it might be impaired.

If an asset does not generate cash flows that are independent from those of other assets or groups of assets, the recoverable amount is determined for the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. A cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets. For the purposes of impairment testing, goodwill acquired in a business combination is allocated to each of the Group's cash-generating units or groups of cash-generating units expected to benefit from the combination. The recoverable amount of an asset or cash-generating unit is the higher of its fair value less cost to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of future cash flows from the asset or cash-generating unit discounted at a rate that reflects market interest rates adjusted for risks specific to the asset or cash-generating unit that have not been taken into account in estimating future cash flows. If the recoverable amount of an intangible or tangible asset is less than its carrying value, an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss and the carrying value of the asset reduced by the amount of the loss. A reversal of an impairment loss on intangible assets (excluding goodwill) or property, plant and equipment is recognised as it arises provided the increased carrying value is not greater than it would have been had no impairment loss been recognised. Impairment losses on goodwill are not reversed.

### 9. Investment property

Investment property comprises freehold and leasehold properties that are held to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both. Investment property is not depreciated but is stated at fair value. Fair value is based on current prices for similar properties in the same location and condition. Any gain or loss arising from a change in fair value is recognised in profit or loss. Rental income from investment property is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease in Other operating income. Lease incentives granted are recognised as an integral part of the total rental income.

## Accounting policies

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### 10. Foreign currencies

The Group's consolidated financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the company.

Group entities record transactions in foreign currencies in their functional currency - the currency of the primary economic environment in which they operate - at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into the relevant functional currency at the foreign exchange rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Foreign exchange differences arising on the settlement of foreign currency transactions and from the translation of monetary assets and liabilities are reported in income from trading activities except for differences arising on cash flow hedges and hedges of net investments in foreign operations (see Accounting policy 23).

Non-monetary items denominated in foreign currencies that are stated at fair value are translated into the relevant functional currency at the foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates the values are determined. Translation differences arising on non-monetary items measured at fair value are recognised in profit or loss except for differences arising on available-for-sale non-monetary financial assets, for example equity shares, which are recognised in other comprehensive income unless the asset is the hedged item in a fair value hedge.

Assets and liabilities of foreign operations, including goodwill and fair value adjustments arising on acquisition, are translated into sterling at foreign exchange rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Income and expenses of foreign operations are translated into sterling at average exchange rates unless these do not approximate to the foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange differences arising on the translation of a foreign operation are recognised in other comprehensive income. The amount accumulated in equity is reclassified from equity to profit or loss on disposal of a foreign operation.

### 11. Leases

#### As lessor

Contracts with customers to lease assets are classified as finance leases if they transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset to the customer; all other contracts with customers to lease assets are classified as operating leases.

Finance lease receivables are included in the balance sheet, within Loans and advances to customers, at the amount of the net investment in the lease being the minimum lease payments and any unguaranteed residual value discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. Finance lease income is allocated to accounting periods so as to give a constant periodic rate of return before tax on the net investment and included in Interest receivable. Unguaranteed residual values are subject to regular review; if there is a reduction in their value, income allocation is revised and any reduction in respect of amounts accrued is recognised immediately.

Rental income from operating leases is recognised in income on a straight-line basis over the lease term unless another systematic basis better represents the time pattern of the asset's use. Operating lease assets are included within Property, plant and equipment and depreciated over their useful lives (see Accounting policy 7). Operating lease rentals receivable are included in Other operating income.

#### As lessee

The Group's contracts to lease assets are principally operating leases. Operating lease rental expense is included in Premises and equipment costs and recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term unless another systematic basis better represents the benefit to the Group.

### 12. Provisions

The Group recognises a provision for a present obligation resulting from a past event when it is more likely than not that it will be required to transfer economic benefits to settle the obligation and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provision is made for restructuring costs, including the costs of redundancy, when the Group has a constructive obligation to restructure. An obligation exists when the Group has a detailed formal plan for the restructuring and has raised a valid expectation in those affected by starting to implement the plan or by announcing its main features.

If the Group has a contract that is onerous, it recognises the present obligation under the contract as a provision. An onerous contract is one where the unavoidable costs of meeting the Group's contractual obligations exceed the expected economic benefits. When the Group vacates a leasehold property, a provision is recognised for the costs under the lease less any expected economic benefits (such as rental income).

Contingent liabilities are possible obligations arising from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by uncertain future events, or present obligations arising from past events that are not recognised because either an outflow of economic benefits is not probable or the amount of the obligation cannot be reliably measured. Contingent liabilities are not recognised but information about them is disclosed unless the possibility of any outflow of economic benefits in settlement is remote.

### 13. Tax

Income tax expense or income, comprising current tax and deferred tax, is recorded in the income statement except income tax on items recognised outside profit or loss which is credited or charged to other comprehensive income or to equity as appropriate.

Current tax is income tax payable or recoverable in respect of the taxable profit or loss for the year arising in profit or loss, other comprehensive income or equity. Provision is made for current tax at rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax is the tax expected to be payable or recoverable in respect of temporary differences between the carrying amount of an asset or liability for accounting purposes and its carrying amount for tax purposes. Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable temporary differences and deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered. Deferred tax is not recognised on temporary differences that arise from initial recognition of an asset or a liability in a transaction (other than a business combination) that at the time of the transaction affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss. Deferred tax is calculated using tax rates expected to apply in the periods when the assets will be realised or the liabilities settled, based on tax rates and laws enacted, or substantively enacted, at the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset where the Group has a legally enforceable right to offset and where they relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority either on an individual Group company or on Group companies in the same tax group that intend, in future periods, to settle current tax liabilities and assets on a net basis or on a gross basis simultaneously.

### 14. Financial assets

On initial recognition, financial assets are classified into held-to-maturity investments; held-for-trading; designated as at fair value through profit or loss; loans and receivables; or available-for-sale financial assets. Regular way purchases of financial assets classified as loans and receivables are recognised on settlement date; all other regular way transactions in financial assets are recognised on trade date.

**Held-to-maturity investments** - a financial asset may be classified as a held-to-maturity investment only if it has fixed or determinable payments, a fixed maturity and the Group has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity. Held-to-maturity investments are initially recognised at fair value plus directly related transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method (see Accounting policy 3) less any impairment losses.

**Held-for-trading** - a financial asset is classified as held-for-trading if it is acquired principally for sale in the near term, or forms part of a portfolio of financial instruments that are managed together and for which there is evidence of short-term profit taking, or it is a derivative (not in a qualifying hedge relationship). Held-for-trading financial assets are recognised at fair value with transaction costs being recognised in profit or loss. Subsequently they are measured at fair value. Gains and losses on held-for-trading financial assets are recognised in profit or loss as they arise.

**Designated as at fair value through profit or loss** - financial assets may be designated as at fair value through profit or loss only if such designation (a) eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency; or (b) applies to a group of financial assets, financial liabilities or both, that the Group manages and evaluates on a fair value basis; or (c) relates to an instrument that contains an embedded derivative which is not evidently closely related to the host contract. Financial assets that the Group designates on initial recognition as being at fair value through profit or loss are recognised at fair value, with transaction costs being recognised in profit or loss, and are subsequently measured at fair value. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss as they arise.

**Loans and receivables** - non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable repayments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as loans and receivables, except those that are classified as available-for-sale or as held-for-trading, or designated as at fair value through profit or loss. Loans and receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus directly related transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method (see Accounting policy 3) less any impairment losses.

**Available-for-sale financial assets** - financial assets that are not classified as held-to-maturity; held-for-trading; designated as at fair value through profit or loss; or loans and receivables are classified as available-for-sale. Financial assets can be designated as available-for-sale on initial recognition. Available-for-sale financial assets are initially recognised at fair value plus directly related transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at fair value. Unquoted equity investments whose fair value cannot be measured reliably are carried at cost and classified as available-for-sale financial assets. Impairment losses and exchange differences resulting from retranslating the amortised cost of foreign currency monetary available-for-sale financial assets are recognised in profit or loss together with interest calculated using the effective interest method (see Accounting policy 3) as are gains and losses attributable to the hedged risk on available-for-sale financial assets that are hedged items in fair value hedges (see Accounting policy 23). Other changes in the fair value of available-for-sale financial assets and any related tax are reported in other comprehensive income until disposal, when the cumulative gain or loss is reclassified from equity to profit or loss.

**Reclassifications** - held-for-trading and available-for-sale financial assets that meet the definition of loans and receivables (non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market) may be reclassified to loans and receivables if the Group has the intention and ability to hold the financial asset for the foreseeable future or until maturity. The Group typically regards the foreseeable future for this purpose as twelve months from the date of reclassification. Additionally, held-for-trading financial assets that do not meet the definition of loans and receivables may, in rare circumstances, be transferred to available-for-sale financial assets or to held-to-maturity investments. Reclassifications are made at fair value. This fair value becomes the asset's new cost or amortised cost as appropriate. Gains and losses recognised up to the date of reclassification are not reversed.

**Fair value** - the Group's approach to determining the fair value of financial instruments measured at fair value is set out in the section of Critical accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty entitled Fair value - financial instruments; further details are given in Note 11.

### 15. Impairment of financial assets

The Group assesses at each balance sheet date whether there is any objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets classified as held-to-maturity, as available-for-sale or as loans and receivables is impaired. A financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired and an impairment loss incurred if there is objective evidence that an event or events since initial recognition of the asset have adversely affected the amount or timing of future cash flows from the asset.

## Accounting policies

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*Financial assets carried at amortised cost* - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss on a financial asset or group of financial assets classified as loans and receivables or as held-to-maturity investments has been incurred, the Group measures the amount of the loss as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset or group of assets and the present value of estimated future cash flows from the asset or group of assets discounted at the effective interest rate of the instrument at initial recognition. For collateralised loans and receivables, estimated future cash flows include cash flows that may result from foreclosure less the costs of obtaining and selling the collateral, whether or not foreclosure is probable.

Where, in the course of the orderly realisation of a loan, it is exchanged for equity shares or property, the exchange is accounted for as the sale of the loan and the acquisition of equity securities or investment property. Where the Group's interest in equity shares following the exchange is such that the Group controls an entity, that entity is consolidated. Impairment losses are assessed individually for financial assets that are individually significant and individually or collectively for assets that are not individually significant. In making collective impairment assessments, financial assets are grouped into portfolios on the basis of similar risk characteristics. Future cash flows from these portfolios are estimated on the basis of the contractual cash flows and historical loss experience for assets with similar credit risk characteristics. Historical loss experience is adjusted, on the basis of observable data, to reflect current conditions not affecting the period of historical experience. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss and the carrying amount of the financial asset or group of financial assets reduced by establishing an allowance for impairment losses. If, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss reduces and the reduction can be ascribed to an event after the impairment was recognised, the previously recognised loss is reversed by adjusting the allowance. Once an impairment loss has been recognised on a financial asset or group of financial assets, interest income is recognised on the carrying amount using the rate of interest at which estimated future cash flows were discounted in measuring impairment.

Impaired loans and receivables are written off, i.e. the impairment provision is applied in writing down the loan's carrying value partially or in full, when the Group concludes that there is no longer any realistic prospect of recovery of part or all of the loan. For loans that are individually assessed for impairment, the timing of write off is determined on a case-by-case basis. Such loans are reviewed regularly and write off will be prompted by bankruptcy, insolvency, renegotiation and similar events.

Except for US retail portfolios, where write off of the irrecoverable amount takes place within 60 - 180 days, the typical time frames from initial impairment to write off for the Group's collectively-assessed portfolios are:

- Retail mortgages: write off usually occurs within five years, or when an account is closed if earlier.
- Credit cards: the irrecoverable amount is written off after 12 months; three years later any remaining amounts outstanding are written off.
- Overdrafts and other unsecured loans: write off occurs within six years.
- Business and commercial loans: write offs of commercial loans are determined in the light of individual circumstances; the period does not exceed five years. Business loans are generally written off within five years.

Amounts recovered after a loan has been written off are credited to the loan impairment charge for the period in which they are received.

*Financial assets carried at fair value* - when a decline in the fair value of a financial asset classified as available-for-sale has been recognised directly in other comprehensive income and there is objective evidence that it is impaired, the cumulative loss is reclassified from equity to profit or loss. The loss is measured as the difference between the amortised cost (including any hedge accounting adjustments) of the financial asset and its current fair value. Impairment losses on available-for-sale equity instruments are not reversed through profit or loss, but those on available-for-sale debt instruments are reversed, if there is an increase in fair value that is objectively related to a subsequent event.

### 16. Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value and classified into held-for-trading; designated as at fair value through profit or loss; or amortised cost. Issues of financial liabilities measured at amortised cost are recognised on settlement date; all other regular way transactions in financial liabilities are recognised on trade date.

*Held-for-trading* - a financial liability is classified as held-for-trading if it is incurred principally for repurchase in the near term, or forms part of a portfolio of financial instruments that are managed together and for which there is evidence of short-term profit taking, or it is a derivative (not in a qualifying hedge relationship). Held-for-trading financial liabilities are recognised at fair value with transaction costs being recognised in profit or loss. Subsequently they are measured at fair value. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss as they arise.



*Designated as at fair value through profit or loss* - financial liabilities may be designated as at fair value through profit or loss only if such designation (a) eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency; or (b) applies to a group of financial assets, financial liabilities or both that the Group manages and evaluates on a fair value basis; or (c) relates to an instrument that contains an embedded derivative which is not evidently closely related to the host contract.

Financial liabilities that the Group designates on initial recognition as being at fair value through profit or loss are recognised at fair value, with transaction costs being recognised in profit or loss, and are subsequently measured at fair value. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss as they arise.

Financial liabilities designated as at fair value through profit or loss principally comprise structured liabilities issued by the Group: designation significantly reduces the measurement inconsistency between these liabilities and the related derivatives carried at fair value.

*Amortised cost* - all other financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method (see Accounting policy 3).

*Fair value* - the Group's approach to determining the fair value of financial instruments measured at fair value is set out in the section of Critical accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty entitled Fair value - financial instruments; further details are given in Note 11.

### 17. Financial guarantee contracts

Under a financial guarantee contract, the Group, in return for a fee, undertakes to meet a customer's obligations under the terms of a debt instrument if the customer fails to do so. A financial guarantee is recognised as a liability; initially at fair value and, if not designated as at fair value through profit or loss, subsequently at the higher of its initial value less cumulative amortisation and any provision under the contract measured in accordance with Accounting policy 12. Amortisation is calculated so as to recognise fees receivable in profit or loss over the period of the guarantee.

### 18. Loan commitments

Provision is made for loan commitments, other than those classified as held-for-trading, if it is probable that the facility will be drawn and the resulting loan will be recognised at an amount less than the cash advanced. Syndicated loan commitments in excess of the level of lending under the commitment approved for retention by the Group are classified as held-for-trading and measured at fair value.

### 19. Derecognition

A financial asset is derecognised when the contractual right to receive cash flows from the asset has expired or when it has been transferred and the transfer qualifies for derecognition. A transfer requires that the Group either (a) transfers the contractual rights to receive the asset's cash flows; or (b) retains the right to the asset's cash flows but assumes a contractual obligation to pay those cash flows to a third party. After a transfer, the Group assesses the extent to which it has retained the risks and rewards of ownership of the transferred asset. The asset remains on the balance sheet if substantially all the risks and rewards have been retained. It is derecognised if substantially all the risks and rewards have been transferred. If substantially all the risks and rewards have been neither retained nor transferred, the Group assesses whether or not it has retained control of the asset. If the Group has retained control of the asset, it continues to recognise the asset to the extent of its continuing involvement; if the Group has not retained control of the asset, it is derecognised.

A financial liability is removed from the balance sheet when the obligation is discharged, or is cancelled, or expires. On the redemption or settlement of debt securities (including subordinated liabilities) issued by the Group, the Group derecognises the debt instrument and records a gain or loss being the difference between the debt's carrying amount and the cost of redemption or settlement. The same treatment applies where the debt is exchanged for a new debt issue that has terms substantially different from those of the existing debt. The assessment of whether the terms of the new debt instrument are substantially different takes into account qualitative and quantitative characteristics including a comparison of the present value of the cash flows under the new terms with the present value of the remaining cash flows of the original debt issue discounted at the effective interest rate of the original debt issue.

### 20. Sale and repurchase transactions

Securities subject to a sale and repurchase agreement under which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the Group continue to be shown on the balance sheet and the sale proceeds recorded as a financial liability. Securities acquired in a reverse sale and repurchase transaction under which the Group is not exposed to substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are not recognised on the balance sheet and the consideration paid is recorded as a financial asset.

Securities borrowing and lending transactions are usually secured by cash or securities advanced by the borrower. Borrowed securities are not recognised on the balance sheet or lent securities derecognised. Cash collateral given or received is treated as a loan or deposit; collateral in the form of securities is not recognised. However, where securities borrowed are transferred to third parties, a liability for the obligation to return the securities to the stock lending counterparty is recorded.

## Accounting policies

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### 21. Netting

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the balance sheet when, and only when, the Group currently has a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and it intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. The Group is party to a number of arrangements, including master netting agreements, that give it the right to offset financial assets and financial liabilities but where it does not intend to settle the amounts net or simultaneously and therefore the assets and liabilities concerned are presented gross.

### 22. Capital instruments

The Group classifies a financial instrument that it issues as a liability if it is a contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset, or to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities on potentially unfavourable terms and as equity if it evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Group after the deduction of liabilities. The components of a compound financial instrument issued by the Group are classified and accounted for separately as financial assets, financial liabilities or equity as appropriate.

Incremental costs and related tax that are directly attributable to an equity transaction are deducted from equity.

The consideration for any ordinary shares of the company purchased by the Group (treasury shares) is deducted from equity. On the cancellation of treasury shares their nominal value is removed from equity and any excess of consideration over nominal value is treated in accordance with the capital maintenance provisions of the Companies Act. On the sale or reissue of treasury shares the consideration received and related tax are credited to equity, net of any directly attributable incremental costs.

### 23. Derivatives and hedging

Derivative financial instruments are initially recognised, and subsequently measured, at fair value. The Group's approach to determining the fair value of financial instruments is set out in the section of Critical accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty entitled Fair value - financial instruments; further details are given in Note 11.

A derivative embedded in a contract is accounted for as a standalone derivative if its economic characteristics are not closely related to the economic characteristics of the host contract; unless the entire contract is measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss.

Gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of derivatives that are not the hedging instrument in a qualifying hedge are recognised as they arise in profit or loss. Gains and losses are recorded in Income from trading activities except for gains and losses on those derivatives that are managed together with financial instruments designated at fair value; these gains and losses are included in Other operating income.

The Group enters into three types of hedge relationship: hedges of changes in the fair value of a recognised asset or liability or unrecognised firm commitment (fair value hedges); hedges of the variability in cash flows from a recognised asset or liability or a highly probable forecast transaction (cash flow hedges); and hedges of the net investment in a foreign operation.

Hedge relationships are formally designated and documented at inception. The documentation identifies the hedged item and the hedging instrument and details the risk that is being hedged and the way in which effectiveness will be assessed at inception and during the period of the hedge. If the hedge is not highly effective in offsetting changes in fair values or cash flows attributable to the hedged risk, consistent with the documented risk management strategy, hedge accounting is discontinued. Hedge accounting is also discontinued if the Group revokes the designation of a hedge relationship.

*Fair value hedge* - in a fair value hedge, the gain or loss on the hedging instrument is recognised in profit or loss. The gain or loss on the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk is recognised in profit or loss and, where the hedged item is measured at amortised cost, adjusts the carrying amount of the hedged item. Hedge accounting is discontinued if the hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting; or if the hedging instrument expires or is sold, terminated or exercised; or if hedge designation is revoked. If the hedged item is one for which the effective interest rate method is used, any cumulative adjustment is amortised to profit or loss over the life of the hedged item using a recalculated effective interest rate.

*Cash flow hedge* - in a cash flow hedge, the effective portion of the gain or loss on the hedging instrument is recognised in other comprehensive income and the ineffective portion in profit or loss. When the forecast transaction results in the recognition of a financial asset or financial liability, the cumulative gain or loss is reclassified from equity to profit or loss in the same periods in which the hedged forecast cash flows affect profit or loss. Otherwise the cumulative gain or loss is removed from equity and recognised in profit or loss at the same time as the hedged transaction. Hedge accounting is discontinued if the hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting; if the hedging instrument expires or is sold, terminated or exercised; if the forecast transaction is no longer expected to occur; or if hedge designation is revoked. On the discontinuance of hedge accounting (except where a forecast transaction is no longer expected to occur), the cumulative unrealised gain or loss is reclassified from equity to profit or loss when the hedged cash flows occur or, if the forecast transaction results in the recognition of a financial asset or financial liability, when the hedged forecast cash flows affect profit or loss. Where a forecast transaction is no longer expected to occur, the cumulative unrealised gain or loss is reclassified from equity to profit or loss immediately.

*Hedge of net investment in a foreign operation* - in the hedge of a net investment in a foreign operation, the portion of foreign exchange differences arising on the hedging instrument determined to be an effective hedge is recognised in other comprehensive income. Any ineffective portion is recognised in profit or loss. Non-derivative financial liabilities as well as derivatives may be the hedging instrument in a net investment hedge. On disposal or partial disposal of a foreign operation, the amount accumulated in equity is reclassified from equity to profit or loss.



## Accounting policies

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### 24. Associates and joint ventures

An associate is an entity over which the Group has significant influence. A joint venture is one which it controls jointly with other parties. Investments in associates and interests in joint ventures are recognised using the equity method. They are stated initially at cost, including attributable goodwill, and subsequently adjusted for post-acquisition changes in the Group's share of net assets.

### 25. Share-based compensation

The Group operates a number of share-based compensation schemes under which it awards RBSG shares and share options to its employees. Such awards are generally subject to vesting conditions: conditions that vary the amount of cash or shares to which an employee is entitled. Vesting conditions include service conditions (requiring the employee to complete a specified period of service) and performance conditions (requiring the employee to complete a specified period of service and specified performance targets to be met). Other conditions to which an award is subject are non-vesting conditions (such as a requirement to save throughout the vesting period).

The cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of shares or share options granted is measured by reference to the fair value of the shares or share options on the date the award is granted and takes into account non-vesting conditions and market performance conditions (conditions related to the market price of RBSG shares): an award is treated as vesting irrespective of whether any market performance condition or non-vesting condition is met. The fair value of options granted is estimated using valuation techniques which incorporate exercise price, term, risk-free interest rates, the current share price and its expected volatility. The cost is expensed on a straight-line basis over the vesting period (the period during which all the specified vesting conditions must be satisfied) with a corresponding increase in equity in an equity-settled award, or a corresponding liability in a cash-settled award. The cost is adjusted for vesting conditions (other than market performance conditions) so as to reflect the number of shares or share options that actually vest.

If an award is modified, the original cost continues to be recognised as if there had been no modification. Where modification increases the fair value of the award, this increase is recognised as an expense over the modified vesting period. A new award of shares or share options is treated as the modification of a cancelled award if, on the date the new award is granted, the Group identifies them as replacing the cancelled award. The cancellation of an award through failure to meet non-vesting conditions triggers an immediate expense for any unrecognised element of the cost of an award.

### 26. Cash and cash equivalents

In the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprises cash and deposits with banks with an original maturity of less than three months together with short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of change in value.

### Critical accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The reported results of the Group are sensitive to the accounting policies, assumptions and estimates that underlie the preparation of its financial statements. UK company law and IFRS require the directors, in preparing the Group's financial statements, to select suitable accounting policies, apply them consistently and make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent. In the absence of an applicable standard or interpretation, IAS 8 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors', requires management to develop and apply an accounting policy that results in relevant and reliable information in the light of the requirements and guidance in IFRS dealing with similar and related issues and the IASB's 'Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting'. The judgements and assumptions involved in the Group's accounting policies that are considered by the Board to be the most important to the portrayal of its financial condition are discussed below. The use of estimates, assumptions or models that differ from those adopted by the Group would affect its reported results.

### Pensions

The Group operates a number of defined benefit pension schemes as described in Note 4 on the accounts. As described in Accounting policy 5, the assets of the schemes are measured at their fair value at the balance sheet date. Scheme liabilities are measured using the projected unit credit method, which takes account of projected earnings increases, using actuarial assumptions that give the best estimate of the future cash flows that will arise under the scheme liabilities. These cash flows are discounted at the interest rate applicable to high-quality corporate bonds of the same currency and term as the liabilities. Any recognisable surplus or deficit of scheme assets over liabilities is recorded in the balance sheet as an asset (surplus) or liability (deficit).

In determining the value of scheme liabilities, financial and demographic assumptions are made including price inflation, pension increases, earnings growth and the longevity of scheme members. A range of assumptions could be adopted in valuing the schemes' liabilities. Different assumptions could significantly alter the amount of the surplus or deficit recognised in the balance sheet and the pension cost charged to the income statement. The assumptions adopted for the Group's pension schemes are set out in Note 4 on the accounts, together with sensitivities of the balance sheet and income statement to changes in those assumptions.

A pension asset of £295 million and a liability of £2,579 million were recognised on the balance sheet at 31 December 2014 (2013 - asset £214 million, liability £3,210 million; 2012 - asset £144 million, liability £3,884 million).

## Accounting policies

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### Goodwill

The Group capitalises goodwill arising on the acquisition of businesses, as discussed in Accounting policy 6. The carrying value of goodwill as at 31 December 2014 was £6,264 million (2013 - £10,139 million; 2012 - £11,266 million).

Goodwill is the excess of the cost of an acquired business over the fair value of its net assets. Goodwill is not amortised but is tested for impairment annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that it might be impaired.

Impairment testing in accordance with Accounting policy 8 above inherently involves a number of judgmental areas: the preparation of cash flow forecasts for periods that are beyond the normal requirements of management reporting; the assessment of the discount rate appropriate to the business; estimation of the fair value of cash-generating units; and the valuation of their separable assets. The sensitivity of the assessment to changes in assumptions is discussed in Note 17 on page 404.

### Provisions for liabilities

As set out in Note 22, at 31 December 2014 the Group recognised provisions for liabilities in respect of Payment Protection Insurance, £799 million (2013 - £926 million; 2012 - £895 million), Interest Rate Hedging Products, £424 million (2013 - £1,077 million; 2012 - £676 million), foreign exchange investigations, £320 million (2013 and 2012 - nil), LIBOR investigations, nil (2013 - £416 million; 2012 - £381 million) and other regulatory proceedings and litigation, £1,988 million (2013 - £2,168 million; 2012 - £368 million). Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount, and are recognised when there is a present obligation as a result of a past event, the outflow of economic benefit is probable and the outflow can be estimated reliably. Judgement is involved in determining whether an obligation exists, and in estimating the probability, timing and amount of any outflows. Where the Group can look to another party such as an insurer to pay some or all of the expenditure required to settle a provision, any reimbursement is recognised when, and only when, it is virtually certain that it will be received.

**Payment Protection Insurance** - the Group has established a provision for redress payable in respect of the mis-selling of Payment Protection Insurance policies. The provision is management's best estimate of the anticipated costs of redress and related administration expenses. The determination of appropriate assumptions to underpin the provision requires significant judgement by management. The principal assumptions underlying the provision together with sensitivities to changes in those assumptions are given in Note 22.

**Interest Rate Hedging Products** - following an industry-wide review conducted in 2012 in conjunction with the Financial Services Authority (now being dealt with by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)), the Group agreed to provide redress to customers in relation to certain interest rate hedging products sold to small and medium-sized businesses classified as retail clients under FSA rules. There remain uncertainties over the eventual cost of redress, including any consequential loss claims. Estimating the liability depends on a number of assumptions. These are discussed in Note 22.

**Provisions for litigation** - the Group and members of the Group are party to legal proceedings in the United Kingdom, the United States and other jurisdictions, arising out of their normal business operations. The measurement and recognition of liabilities in respect of litigation involves a high degree of management judgement. Before the existence of a present obligation as the result of a past event can be confirmed, numerous facts may need to be established, involving extensive and time-consuming discovery, and novel or unsettled legal questions addressed. Once it is determined there is an obligation, assessing the probability of economic outflows and estimating the amount of any liability can be very difficult. In many proceedings, it is not possible to determine whether any loss is probable or to estimate the amount of any loss. Furthermore, for an individual matter, there can be a wide range of possible outcomes and often it is not practicable to quantify a range of such outcomes. The Group's outstanding litigation is periodically assessed in consultation with external professional advisers, where appropriate, to determine the likelihood of the Group incurring a liability. A detailed description of the Group's material legal proceedings and a discussion of the nature of the associated uncertainties are given in Note 32.

**Tax contingencies** - determining the Group's income tax charge and its provisions for income taxes necessarily involves a significant degree of estimation and judgement. The tax treatment of some transactions is uncertain and tax computations are yet to be agreed with the tax authorities in a number of jurisdictions. The Group recognises anticipated tax liabilities based on all available evidence and, where appropriate, in the light of external advice. Any difference between the final outcome and the amounts provided will affect current and deferred income tax assets and liabilities in the period when the matter is resolved.

### Deferred tax

The Group makes provision for deferred tax on temporary differences where tax recognition occurs at a different time from accounting recognition. Deferred tax assets of £1,540 million were recognised as at 31 December 2014 (2013 - £3,478 million; 2012 - £3,443 million).

The Group has recognised deferred tax assets in respect of losses, principally in the UK, and temporary differences. Deferred tax assets are recognised in respect of unused tax losses and other temporary differences to the extent that it is probable that there will be future UK taxable profits against which the losses and other temporary differences can be utilised. The Group has considered the carrying value of the deferred tax asset as at 31 December 2014 and concluded that it is recoverable based on future projections. Deferred tax assets of £5,738 million (2013 - £4,942 million; 2012 - £3,827 million) have not been recognised in respect of tax losses and other temporary differences where the availability of future taxable profits is uncertain. Further details about the Group's deferred tax assets are given in Note 23.

## Accounting policies

### Loan impairment provisions

The Group's loan impairment provisions are established to recognise incurred impairment losses in its portfolio of loans classified as loans and receivables and carried at amortised cost in accordance with Accounting policy 15. A loan is impaired when there is objective evidence that events since the loan was granted have affected expected cash flows from the loan. Such objective evidence, indicative that a borrower's financial condition has deteriorated, can include for loans that are individually assessed: the non-payment of interest or principal; debt renegotiation; probable bankruptcy or liquidation; significant reduction in the value of any security; breach of limits or covenants; and deteriorating trading performance and, for collectively assessed portfolios: the borrowers' payment status and observable data about relevant macroeconomic measures.

The impairment loss is the difference between the carrying value of the loan and the present value of estimated future cash flows at the loan's original effective interest rate.

At 31 December 2014, loans and advances to customers classified as loans and receivables totalled £307,971 million (2013 - £364,772 million; 2012 - £397,846 million) and customer loan impairment provisions amounted to £17,460 million (2013 - £25,153 million; 2012 - £21,136 million). Customer loan impairment releases in 2014 amounted to £1,354 million (2013 - £8,120 million losses; 2012 - £5,031 million losses). The losses in 2013 include loan impairment provisions in respect of loans transferred to RBS Capital Resolution Group. These loans are expected to be exited within three years and impairment provisions in respect of these loans have been reassessed in the light of this change in recovery strategy.

There are two components to the Group's loan impairment provisions: individual and collective.

**Individual component** - all impaired loans that exceed specific thresholds are individually assessed for impairment. Individually assessed loans principally comprise the Group's portfolio of commercial loans to medium and large businesses. Impairment losses are recognised as the difference between the carrying value of the loan and the discounted value of management's best estimate of future cash repayments and proceeds from any security held. These estimates take into account the customer's debt capacity and financial flexibility; the level and quality of its earnings; the amount and sources of cash flows; the industry in which the counterparty operates; and the realisable value of any security held. Estimating the quantum and timing of future recoveries involves significant judgement. The size of receipts will depend on the future performance of the borrower and the value of security, both of which will be affected by future economic conditions; additionally, collateral may not be readily marketable. The actual amount of future cash flows and the date they are received may differ from these estimates and consequently actual losses incurred may differ from those recognised in these financial statements.

**Collective component** - this is made up of two elements: loan impairment provisions for impaired loans that are below individual assessment thresholds (collectively assessed provisions) and for loan losses that have been incurred but have not been separately identified at the balance sheet date (latent loss provisions). Collectively assessed provisions are established on a portfolio basis using a present value methodology taking into account the level of arrears, security, past loss experience, credit scores and defaults based on portfolio trends. The most significant factors in establishing these provisions are the expected loss rates and the related average life. These portfolios include mortgages, credit card receivables and other personal lending. The future credit quality of these portfolios is subject to uncertainties that could cause actual credit losses to differ materially from reported loan impairment provisions. These uncertainties include the economic environment, notably interest rates and their effect on customer spending, the unemployment level, payment behaviour and bankruptcy trends. Latent loss provisions are held against estimated impairment losses in the performing portfolio that have yet to be identified as at the balance sheet date. To assess the latent loss within its portfolios, the Group has developed methodologies to estimate the time that an asset can remain impaired within a performing portfolio before it is identified and reported as such.

### Fair value - financial instruments

In accordance with Accounting policies 14, 16 and 23, financial instruments classified as held-for-trading or designated as at fair value through profit or loss and financial assets classified as available-for-sale are recognised in the financial statements at fair value. All derivatives are measured at fair value.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. A fair value measurement takes into account the characteristics of the asset or liability if market participants would take those characteristics into account when pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date. It also uses the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability. In determining fair value the Group maximises the use of relevant observable inputs and minimises the use of unobservable inputs.

Where the Group manages a group of financial assets and financial liabilities on the basis of its net exposure to either market risks or credit risk, it measures the fair value of a group of financial assets and financial liabilities on the basis of the price that it would receive to sell a net long position (i.e. an asset) for a particular risk exposure or to transfer a net short position (i.e. a liability) for a particular risk exposure in an orderly transaction at the measurement date under current market conditions.

Credit valuation adjustments are made when valuing derivative financial assets to incorporate counterparty credit risk. Adjustments are also made when valuing financial liabilities measured at fair value to reflect the Group's own credit standing.

Where the market for a financial instrument is not active, fair value is established using a valuation technique. These valuation techniques involve a degree of estimation, the extent of which depends on the instrument's complexity and the availability of market-based data. Further details about the Group's valuation methodologies and the sensitivity to reasonably possible alternative assumptions of the fair value of financial instruments valued using techniques where at least one significant input is unobservable are given in Note 11.

## Accounting policies

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### Accounting developments

#### International Financial Reporting Standards

A number of IFRSs and amendments to IFRS were in issue at 31 December 2014 that would affect RBS from 1 January 2015 or later.

#### Effective for 2015

IAS 19 'Defined Benefit Plans: Employee Contributions' was issued in November 2013. This amendment distinguishes the accounting for employee contributions that are related to service from that for those that are independent of service.

Annual Improvements to IFRS 2010 - 2012 and 2011 - 2013 cycles were issued in December 2013 making a number of minor amendments to IFRS.

Implementation of these changes is not expected to have a material effect on the Group's financial statements.

#### Effective after 2015

In July 2014 the IASB published IFRS 9 'Financial Instruments'. IFRS 9 replaces the current financial instruments standard IAS 39, setting out new accounting requirements in a number of areas. First, there are revisions to the classification and measurement of financial instruments. There are new restrictions on the ability to account for financial assets at amortised cost and a prohibition on the bifurcation of embedded derivatives from financial assets. Accounting for financial liabilities is largely unchanged except for the treatment of changes in the fair value of liabilities designated as at fair value through profit or loss attributable to own credit risk; these are recognised in other comprehensive income. Secondly, there are amended requirements for hedge accounting designed to align the accounting more closely to the risk management framework and remove or simplify some of the rule-based requirements of IAS 39. The basic mechanics of hedge accounting: fair value, cash flow and net investment hedges are retained. Finally, there is a new approach to credit impairment provisions moving from IAS 39's incurred loss model to an expected loss model. An expected loss model will result in the recognition of credit impairment losses earlier than an incurred loss model. Subject to EU endorsement, IFRS 9 is applicable for periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018.

IFRS 9 makes major and fundamental changes to accounting for financial instruments. The Group is continuing its assessment of its effect on the Group's financial statements.

IFRS 15 'Revenue from Contracts with Customers' was issued in May 2014. It will replace IAS 11 'Construction Contracts', IAS 18 'Revenue' and several Interpretations. Contracts are bundled or unbundled into distinct performance obligations with revenue recognised as the obligations are met. It is effective from 1 January 2017.

'Accounting for Acquisitions of interests in Joint Operations' issued in May 2014 amends IFRS 11 'Joint Arrangements' to clarify that the donor of assets and liabilities to a joint operation should hold its continuing interest in them at the lower of cost and recoverable amount. The effective date is 1 January 2016.

'Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation' issued in May 2014 amends IAS 16 'Property, Plant and Equipment' and IAS 38 'Intangible Assets' requiring amortisation to be based on the consumption of an asset, introducing a rebuttable presumption that this is not achieved by an amortisation profile aligned to revenue. The effective date is 1 January 2016.

Annual Improvements to IFRS 2012 - 2014 cycle was issued in September 2014 making a number of minor amendments to IFRS. Its effective date is 1 January 2016.

Amendments to IFRS 10 'Consolidated Financial Statements', IFRS 12 'Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities' and IAS 28 'Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures' were issued in September 2014 to clarify the accounting for sales between an investor, its associate or joint ventures, and in December 2014 to clarify the application of the investment entity consolidation exception. The effective date of these amendments is 1 January 2016.

An amendment to IAS 1 'Presentation of Financial Statements' was issued in December 2014 to clarify the application of materiality to financial statements. Its effective date is 1 January 2016.

The Group is assessing the effects of these new standards.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 1 Net interest income

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Loans and advances to customers	12,339	13,165	14,120
Loans and advances to banks	367	433	496
Debt securities	373	890	1,467
Interest receivable	13,079	14,488	16,083
Customer accounts: demand deposits	598	664	828
Customer accounts: savings deposits	731	1,299	1,523
Customer accounts: other time deposits	440	719	934
Deposits by banks	75	277	413
Debt securities in issue	1,010	1,306	2,023
Subordinated liabilities	876	877	807
Internal funding of trading businesses	91	329	199
Interest payable	3,821	5,471	6,727
Net interest income	9,258	9,017	9,356

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 2 Non-interest income

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Fees and commissions receivable</b>			
Payment services	989	1,090	996
Credit and debit card fees	822	892	892
Lending (credit facilities)	1,250	1,291	1,389
Brokerage	321	397	479
Investment management	391	434	455
Trade finance	280	269	282
Other	361	305	405
	<b>4,414</b>	<b>4,678</b>	<b>4,898</b>
<b>Fees and commissions payable</b>			
Banking	(875)	(923)	(818)
<b>Income from trading activities (1)</b>			
Foreign exchange	849	821	619
Interest rate	339	515	1,753
Credit	284	998	735
Changes in fair value of own debt and derivative liabilities attributable to own credit			
- debt securities in issue	44	131	(1,473)
- derivative liabilities	(84)	(96)	(340)
Equities and other	(147)	202	165
	<b>1,285</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>1,459</b>
<b>Gain on redemption of own debt</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>454</b>
<b>Other operating income</b>			
Operating lease and other rental income	380	484	876
Changes in the fair value of own debt designated as at fair value through profit or loss attributable to own credit risk (2)			
- debt securities in issue	(89)	(49)	(2,531)
- subordinated liabilities	(17)	(106)	(305)
Other changes in the fair value of financial assets and liabilities designated as at fair value through profit or loss and related derivatives	83	(26)	153
Changes in the fair value of investment properties	(25)	(281)	(153)
Profit on sale of securities	227	737	1,039
Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment	137	35	32
Profit on sale of subsidiaries and associates	192	168	95
Dividend income	30	67	37
Share of profits of associated entities	126	320	29
Other income (3)	4	(130)	94
	<b>1,048</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>(634)</b>

#### Notes:

- (1) The analysis of income from trading activities is based on how the business is organised and the underlying risks managed. Income from trading activities comprises gains and losses on financial instruments held for trading, both realised and unrealised, interest income and dividends and the related funding costs. The types of instruments include:
- Foreign exchange: spot foreign exchange contracts, currency swaps and options, emerging markets and related hedges and funding.
  - Interest rate: interest rate swaps, forward foreign exchange contracts, forward rate agreements, interest rate options, interest rate futures and related hedges and funding.
  - Credit: asset-backed securities, corporate bonds, credit derivatives and related hedges and funding.
  - Equities: equities, equity derivatives and related hedges and funding.
  - Commodities: commodities, commodity contracts and related hedges and funding.
- (2) Measured as the change in fair value from movements in the year in the credit risk premium payable by RBS.
- (3) Includes income from activities other than banking.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 3 Operating expenses

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Salaries	3,503	3,661	4,008
Variable compensation	408	548	670
Temporary and contract costs	526	650	699
Social security costs	379	422	500
Share-based compensation	43	49	126
Pension costs			
- defined benefit schemes (see Note 4)	462	508	514
- curtailment and settlement gains (see Note 4)	—	(7)	(13)
- defined contribution schemes	87	76	29
Severance	196	69	426
Other	153	110	191
Staff costs	5,757	6,086	7,150
Premises and equipment	2,081	2,038	1,951
Other administrative expenses	4,568	6,692	4,929
Property, plant and equipment (see Note 18)	671	759	987
Intangible assets (see Note 17)	259	488	616
Depreciation and amortisation	930	1,247	1,603
Write down of goodwill and other intangible assets (see Note 17)	523	1,403	124
	13,859	17,466	15,757

#### Other administrative expenses include:

- Payment Protection Insurance costs, Interest Rate Hedging Products redress and related costs, and other litigation and conduct costs. Further details are provided in Note 22.
- The UK bank levy, which was charged at a rate of 0.156% on chargeable liabilities in excess of £20 billion, and amounted to £250 million for 2014 (2013 - 0.13%, £200 million; 2012 - 0.088%, £175 million).

#### Integration, restructuring and divestment costs

Included in operating expenses are the following integration, restructuring and divestment costs.

	Staff £m	Premises £m	Other £m	Depreciation £m	Continuing operations £m	Discontinued operations £m	Total £m
<b>Restructuring</b>							
2014	261	266	268	3	798	103	901
2013	191	112	164	6	473	24	497
2012	699	148	256	142	1,245	49	1,294
<b>Divestment</b>							
2014	120	3	233	—	356	—	356
2013	86	2	77	—	165	—	165
2012	111	(2)	62	—	171	85	256
<b>Integration</b>							
2014	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2013	—	1	1	—	2	—	2
2012	—	(2)	2	—	—	—	—



## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 3 Operating expenses continued

The average number of persons employed, rounded to the nearest hundred, in continuing operations during the year, excluding temporary staff, was 92,800 (2013 - 97,900; 2012 - 103,600); on the same basis there were 18,200 people employed in discontinued operations (2013 - 22,900; 2012 - 34,800). The average number of temporary employees during 2014 was 8,100 (2013 - 9,800; 2012 - 10,100). The number of persons employed in continuing operations at 31 December, excluding temporary staff, by reportable segment (see Note 38 for more details), were as follows:

	2014	2013*	2012*
UK Personal & Business Banking	26,700	28,500	30,500
Ulster Bank	4,400	4,700	4,400
Personal & Business Banking	31,100	33,200	34,900
Commercial Banking	6,100	7,000	6,700
Private Banking	3,500	3,600	3,600
Commercial & Private Banking	9,600	10,600	10,300
Corporate & Institutional Banking	3,600	4,500	4,900
Centre	10,500	11,200	11,700
RCR	600	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	1,000	2,700
Services	34,200	35,200	34,800
Integration and restructuring	100	200	500
Total	89,700	95,900	99,800
UK	63,400	68,700	71,200
USA	2,000	2,400	2,900
Europe	7,400	8,400	9,200
Rest of the World	16,900	16,400	16,500
Total	89,700	95,900	99,800

\*Restated

There were 17,400 people employed in discontinued operations at 31 December 2014 (2013 - 19,000; 2012 - 33,700).

### Share-based payments

As described in the Remuneration report on page 91, the Group grants share-based awards to employees principally on the following bases:

Award plan	Eligible employees	Nature of award (1)	Vesting conditions (2)	Settlement
Sharesave	UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands, Gibraltar and Isle of Man	Option to buy shares under employee savings plan	Continuing employment or leavers in certain circumstances	2015 to 2020
Deferred performance awards	All	Awards of ordinary shares	Continuing employment or leavers in certain circumstances	2015 to 2018
Long-term incentives (3)	Senior employees	Awards of conditional shares or share options	Continuing employment or leavers in certain circumstances and/or achievement of performance conditions	2019 to 2020

Notes:

(1) Awards are equity-settled unless international comparability is better served by cash-settled awards.

(2) All awards have vesting conditions and therefore some may not vest.

(3) Long-term incentives include the Executive Share Option Plan, the Long-Term Incentive Plan and the Medium-Term Performance Plan.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### Sharesave

	2014		2013		2012	
	Average exercise price £	Shares under option (million)	Average exercise price £	Shares under option (million)	Average exercise price £	Shares under option (million)
At 1 January	2.90	62	2.86	57	3.36	64
Granted	3.43	12	2.96	13	2.49	14
Exercised	2.34	(6)	2.36	—	2.37	—
Cancelled	3.61	(17)	3.38	(8)	3.76	(21)
At 31 December	2.85	51	2.90	62	2.86	57

The fair value of options granted in 2014 was determined using a pricing model that included: expected volatility of shares determined at the grant date based on historical volatility over a period of up to seven years; expected option lives that equal the vesting period; no dividends on equity shares; and risk-free interest rates determined from UK gilts with terms matching the expected lives of the options.

The strike price of options and the fair value on granting awards of fully paid shares is the average market price over the five trading days preceding grant date.

Options are exercisable within six months of vesting; 1.9 million options were exercisable at 31 December 2014 (2013 - 1.3 million; 2012 - 0.2 million). The weighted average share price at the date of exercise of options was £3.65 (2013 - £3.36; 2012 - £2.78). At 31 December 2014, exercise prices ranged from £2.33 to £39.27 (2013 and 2012 - £2.33 to £39.27) and the average contractual life was 3.7 years (2013 - 3.5 years; 2012 - 3.9 years). The fair value of options granted in 2014 was £18 million (2013 - £25 million; 2012 - £28 million).

### Deferred performance awards

	2014		2013		2012	
	Value at grant £m	Shares awarded (million)	Value at grant £m	Shares awarded (million)	Value at grant £m	Shares awarded (million)
At 1 January	180	55	261	73	756	191
Granted	311	95	113	36	141	50
Forfeited	(28)	(7)	(48)	(14)	(98)	(25)
Vested	(170)	(51)	(146)	(40)	(538)	(143)
CFG awards	(21)	(7)	—	—	—	—
At 31 December	272	85	180	55	261	73

The awards granted in 2014 vest evenly over the following three anniversaries.

### Long-term incentives

	2014			2013			2012		
	Value at grant £m	Shares awarded (million)	Options over shares (million)	Value at grant £m	Shares awarded (million)	Options over shares (million)	Value at grant £m	Shares awarded (million)	Options over shares (million)
At 1 January	320	94	13	375	98	20	345	58	37
Granted	72	22	—	109	35	—	157	59	—
Exercised	(61)	(14)	(5)	(51)	(11)	(3)	(15)	(4)	(1)
Lapsed	(85)	(22)	(1)	(113)	(28)	(4)	(112)	(15)	(16)
CFG awards	(32)	(11)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
At 31 December	214	69	7	320	94	13	375	98	20

In conjunction with the Initial Public Offering of Citizens Financial Group, Inc. (CFG), incentive awards of over 11 million RBSG shares and a convertible bond were replaced with awards of over 3 million CFG shares having the same market value.

The market value of awards exercised in 2014 was £44 million (2013 - £37 million; 2012 - £10 million). There are vested options over 7 million shares exercisable up to 2019 (2013 - 13 million; 2012 - 18 million).

At 31 December 2014, a provision of £1 million had been made in respect of 0.1 million options over shares that may be cash-settled (2013 - £1 million in respect of 0.1 million share awards; 2012 - £1 million in respect of 0.1 million share awards and 0.3 million options over shares).

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 3 Operating expenses continued Variable compensation awards

The following tables analyse Group and CIB variable compensation awards for 2014<sup>(1)</sup>.

	Group			CIB		
	2014 £m	2013 £m	Change %	2014 £m	2013 £m	Change %
Non-deferred cash awards <sup>(2)</sup>	66	62	6	5	7	(29)
Total non-deferred variable compensation	66	62	6	5	7	(29)
Deferred bond awards	168	168	—	30	47	(36)
Deferred share awards	187	306	(39)	79	191	(59)
Total deferred variable compensation	355	474	(25)	109	238	(54)
Total variable compensation <sup>(3)</sup>	421	536	(21)	114	245	(53)
Variable compensation as a % of operating profit <sup>(4)</sup>	6%	24%		23%	30%	
Proportion of variable compensation that is deferred	84%	88%		96%	97%	
Of which						
- deferred bond awards	47%	35%		28%	20%	
- deferred share awards	53%	65%		72%	80%	

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Reconciliation of variable compensation awards to income statement charge</b>			
Variable compensation awarded	421	536	636
Less: deferral of charge for amounts awarded for current year	(150)	(230)	(252)
Income statement charge for amounts awarded in current year	271	306	384
Add: current year charge for amounts deferred from prior years	201	279	342
Less: forfeiture of amounts deferred from prior years	(64)	(37)	(56)
Income statement charge for amounts deferred from prior years	137	242	286
Income statement charge for variable compensation <sup>(3)</sup>	408	548	670

	Actual			Expected	
	2012 £m	2013 £m	2014 £m	2015 £m	2016 and beyond £m
<b>Year in which income statement charge is expected to be taken for deferred variable compensation</b>					
Variable compensation deferred from 2012 and earlier	401	289	42	20	2
Variable compensation deferred from 2013	—	—	162	44	21
Less: clawback of variable compensation deferred from prior years	(59)	(10)	(3)	—	—
Less: forfeiture of amounts deferred from prior years	(56)	(37)	(64)	—	—
Variable compensation for 2014 deferred	—	—	—	123	28
	286	242	137	187	51

Notes:

- (1) The tables above relate to continuing businesses only; variable compensation relating to discontinued businesses in 2014 totalled £62 million (2013 - £40 million).
- (2) Cash payments to all employees are limited to £2,000.
- (3) Excludes other performance related compensation.
- (4) Reported operating profit excluding Citizens Financial Group before variable compensation expense and one-off and other items. 2013 also excludes the impact of the creation of RCR.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 4 Pensions

The Group sponsors a number of pension schemes in the UK and overseas.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Pension Fund (the "Main scheme") operates under UK trust law and is managed and administered on behalf of its members in accordance with the terms of the trust deed, the scheme rules and UK legislation (principally the Pension Schemes Act 1993, the Pensions Act 1995 and the Pensions Act 2004). Under UK legislation a defined benefit pension scheme is required to meet the statutory funding objective of having sufficient and appropriate assets to cover its liabilities. Pension fund trustees are required to: prepare a statement of funding principles; obtain regular actuarial valuations and reports; put in place a recovery plan addressing any funding shortfall; and send regular summary funding statements to members of the scheme.

The Main scheme corporate trustee is RBS Pension Trustee Limited (RBSPT), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Westminster Bank Plc. RBSPT is the legal owner of the Main scheme assets which are held separately from the assets of the Group. The Board of RBSPT comprises four trustee directors nominated by members selected from eligible active staff and pensioner members who apply and six appointed by the Group. The Board is responsible for operating the scheme in line with its formal rules and pensions law. It has a duty to act in the best interests of all scheme members, including pensioners and those who are no longer employed by the Group, but who still have benefits in the scheme.

Similar governance principles apply to the Group's other pension schemes, although different legislative frameworks apply to the Group's overseas schemes.

The Main scheme, accounting for 87% (2013 - 86%; 2012 - 85%) of the Group's retirement benefit obligations, was closed to new entrants in 2006. Since 2009, pensionable salary increases in the Main scheme and certain other UK and Irish schemes have been limited to 2% per annum or CPI inflation if lower. Also, with effect from 1 October 2012, the normal pension age for future benefits was increased to 65 unless members elected to make a contribution to maintain a normal pension age of 60.

The Group's defined benefit schemes generally provide a pension of one-sixtieth of final pensionable salary for each year of service prior to retirement up to a maximum of 40 years. Employees making additional contributions can secure additional benefits.

Since October 2006, new UK entrants may join The Royal Bank of Scotland Retirement Savings Plan, a defined contribution pension scheme.

The Group also provides post-retirement benefits other than pensions, principally through subscriptions to private healthcare schemes in the UK and the US and unfunded post-retirement benefit plans. Provision for the costs of these benefits is charged to the income statement over the average remaining future service lives of eligible employees. The amounts are not material.

Interim valuations of the Group's schemes under IAS 19 'Employee Benefits' were prepared at 31 December with the support of independent actuaries, using the following assumptions:

Principal actuarial assumptions (weighted average)	Main scheme			All schemes		
	2014 %	2013 %	2012 %	2014 %	2013 %	2012 %
Discount rate <sup>(1)</sup>	3.7	4.7	4.5	3.6	4.5	4.4
Expected return on plan assets <sup>(1)</sup>	3.7	4.7	4.5	3.6	4.5	4.4
Rate of increase in salaries	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	2.8	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.6
Inflation assumption	3.0	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.2	2.8

Note:

(1) The discount rate and the expected return on plan assets for the Main scheme as at 31 December 2013 was 4.65%.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 4 Pensions continued

#### Discount rate

The Group discounts its defined benefit pension obligations at discount rates determined by reference to the yield on 'high quality' corporate bonds.

The sterling yield curve (applied to 91% of the Group's defined benefit obligations) is constructed by reference to yields on 'AA' corporate bonds from which a single discount rate is derived based on a cash flow profile similar in structure and duration to the pension obligations. Significant judgement is required when setting the criteria for bonds to be included in the population from which the yield curve is derived. The criteria include issue size, quality of pricing and the exclusion of outliers. Judgement is also required in determining the shape of the yield curve at long durations: a constant credit spread relative to gilts is assumed.

Discount rates for other currencies are derived using a variety of methodologies. In the case of US dollar defined benefit obligations, a matching portfolio of high-quality 'AA' corporate bonds is used for the first 30 years' cash flows; cash flows beyond 30 years are discounted using a yield curve determined in a similar way to the UK. For euro defined benefit obligations, a similar approach to the UK has been used at 31 December 2014. However, at longer durations, rates are derived by extrapolating yields on 'A' and 'AAA' corporate bonds to derive equivalent 'AA' yields.

#### Major classes of plan assets as a percentage of total plan assets

	Main scheme			All schemes		
	2014 %	2013 %	2012 %	2014 %	2013 %	2012 %
<b>Quoted assets</b>						
Quoted equities						
- Consumer industry	4.3	4.2	4.2	5.5	4.3	4.4
- Manufacturing industry	3.2	4.0	5.6	2.8	4.1	6.0
- Energy and utilities	2.9	3.6	4.1	2.7	3.6	4.4
- Financial institutions	3.9	3.9	4.1	3.5	3.9	4.4
- Technology and telecommunications	4.2	4.7	4.9	3.8	4.7	5.3
- Other	2.8	3.5	0.5	4.6	3.7	0.5
Private equity	4.3	4.9	5.4	3.8	4.4	4.7
Index-linked bonds	28.1	29.0	30.7	26.6	28.3	28.7
Government fixed interest bonds	3.6	2.1	1.9	5.0	2.2	2.9
Corporate fixed interest bonds	15.3	19.5	19.5	15.6	19.6	19.5
<b>Unquoted assets</b>						
Corporate and other bonds	2.3	2.1	1.6	2.0	1.9	1.5
Hedge funds	1.6	5.2	2.2	1.5	5.1	2.5
Real estate	5.8	4.0	4.3	5.5	4.0	4.2
Derivatives	10.6	3.0	2.2	9.8	2.8	2.0
Cash and other assets	7.1	6.0	8.7	7.3	7.1	9.0
Equity exposure of equity futures	1.3	8.0	9.0	1.6	8.0	8.4
Cash exposure of equity futures	(1.3)	(7.7)	(8.9)	(1.6)	(7.7)	(8.4)
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

The assets of the Main scheme, which represent 88% of plan assets at 31 December 2014 (2013 and 2012 - 85%), are invested in a diversified portfolio of quoted and private equity, government and corporate fixed-interest and index-linked bonds, and other assets including property and hedge funds.

The Main scheme also employs derivative instruments, where appropriate, to achieve a desired asset class exposure or to match assets more closely to liabilities. The value of assets shown reflects the actual physical assets held by the scheme, with any derivative holdings valued on a mark-to-market basis.

The Main scheme's holdings of derivative instruments are summarised in the table below:

	2014			2013			2012		
	Notional amounts £m	Fair value Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Notional amounts £m	Fair value Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Notional amounts £m	Fair value Assets £m	Liabilities £m
Inflation rate swaps	8,467	73	415	6,273	258	141	5,474	20	335
Interest rate swaps	23,858	6,055	3,305	22,108	3,283	2,867	19,304	3,424	2,811
Total return swaps	181	1	—	187	1	—	515	6	—
Currency swaps	782	223	191	2,196	813	720	2,539	326	259
Credit default swaps	875	427	435	900	13	16	709	11	12
Equity and bond futures	599	14	2	1,904	71	2	2,109	16	17
Currency forwards	8,562	2	—	9,182	66	—	8,551	41	—
Equity and bond call options	7,382	846	48	4,102	108	63	963	94	—
Equity and bond put options	7,409	1	61	4,071	11	90	963	13	31

The investment strategy of other schemes is similar to that of the Main scheme, adjusted to take account of the nature of liabilities, risk appetite of the trustees, size of the scheme and any local regulatory constraints. The use of derivative instruments outside the Main scheme is not material.

Swaps are part of the management of the inflation and interest rate sensitivity of the Main scheme liabilities. They have been executed at prevailing market rates and within standard market bid/offer spreads. The majority of swaps are with The Royal Bank of Scotland plc and National Westminster Bank Plc (the "banks"). At 31 December 2014, the gross notional value of the swaps was £34,163 million (2013 - £31,664 million; 2012 - £28,541 million) and had a net positive fair value of £2,433 million (2013 - £624 million; 2012 - £370 million).

Collateral is required on all swap transactions with those between the banks and the Main scheme on terms that do not allow the banks to re-hypothecate. The banks had delivered £2,908 million of collateral at 31 December 2014 (2013 - £633 million; 2012 - £521 million).

Ordinary shares of the company with a fair value of £2 million (2013 and 2012 - £4 million) and other financial instruments issued by the Group with a value of £2,172 million (2013 - £416 million; 2012 - £610 million) are held by the Main scheme.

### Post-retirement mortality assumptions (Main scheme)

	2014	2013	2012
Longevity at age 60 for current pensioners (years)			
Males	28.0	27.6	27.3
Females	30.0	29.5	29.2
Longevity at age 60 for future pensioners currently aged 40 (years)			
Males	29.3	28.6	29.4
Females	31.6	30.8	31.0

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 4 Pensions continued

	Main scheme			All schemes		
	Fair value of plan assets £m	Present value of defined benefit obligation £m	Net pension deficit £m	Fair value of plan assets £m	Present value of defined benefit obligation £m	Net pension deficit £m
<b>Changes in value of net pension deficit</b>						
At 1 January 2013	22,441	25,648	3,207	26,370	30,110	3,740
Currency translation and other adjustments	—	—	—	1	14	13
<b>Income statement</b>						
Net interest expense	1,011	1,137	126	1,173	1,317	144
Current service cost		296	296		372	372
Past service cost		15	15		1	1
Gains on settlements		—	—		(7)	(7)
	1,011	1,448	437	1,173	1,683	510
<b>Statement of comprehensive income</b>						
Return on plan assets above recognised interest income	986	—	(986)	1,097	—	(1,097)
Experience gains and losses	—	(102)	(102)	—	(176)	(176)
Actuarial gains and losses due to changes in financial assumptions	—	562	562	—	589	589
Actuarial gains and losses due to changes in demographic assumptions	—	224	224	—	238	238
	986	684	(302)	1,097	651	(446)
Contributions by employer	656	—	(656)	821	—	(821)
Contributions by plan participants and other scheme members	—	—	—	14	14	—
Benefits paid	(822)	(822)	—	(988)	(988)	—
At 1 January 2014	24,272	26,958	2,686	28,488	31,484	2,996
Currency translation and other adjustments	—	—	—	(60)	(85)	(25)
<b>Income statement</b>						
Net interest expense	1,137	1,234	97	1,314	1,421	107
Current service cost		278	278		357	357
Past service cost		18	18		2	2
	1,137	1,530	393	1,314	1,780	466
<b>Statement of comprehensive income</b>						
Return on plan assets above recognised interest income	4,629	—	(4,629)	5,171	—	(5,171)
Experience gains and losses	—	(3)	(3)	—	(18)	(18)
Actuarial gains and losses due to changes in financial assumptions	—	3,757	3,757	—	4,806	4,806
Actuarial gains and losses due to changes in demographic assumptions	—	401	401	—	491	491
	4,629	4,155	(474)	5,171	5,279	108
Contributions by employer	906	—	(906)	1,065	—	(1,065)
Contributions by plan participants and other scheme members	—	—	—	5	5	—
Benefits paid	(867)	(867)	—	(1,030)	(1,030)	—
Transfer to disposal groups	—	—	—	(594)	(790)	(196)
At 31 December 2014	30,077	31,776	1,699	34,359	36,643	2,284

### Net pension deficit comprises

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Net assets of schemes in surplus (included in Prepayments, accrued income and other assets, Note 19)	(295)	(214)	(144)
Net liabilities of schemes in deficit	2,579	3,210	3,884
	2,284	2,996	3,740

The income statement charge comprises:

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Continuing operations	462	501	501
Discontinued operations	4	9	16
	466	510	517



## Notes on the consolidated accounts

The weighted average duration of the Main scheme's defined benefit obligation at 31 December 2014 is 20.0 years (2013 - 18.0 years; 2012 - 19.2 years).

The defined benefit obligation is attributable to the different classes of scheme members in the following proportions (Main scheme):

	2014 %	2013 %	2012 %
Active	18.8	19.5	23.8
Deferred	41.0	38.4	32.4
Pensioner	40.2	42.1	43.8
	100.0	100.0	100.0

Following the legal separation of ABN AMRO Bank N.V. on 1 April 2010, ABN AMRO's principal pension scheme in the Netherlands was transferred to the State of the Netherlands. At 31 December 2009, this scheme had fair value of plan assets of £8.3 billion and present value of defined benefit obligations of £8.3 billion. The principal actuarial assumptions at 31 December 2009 were: discount rate 5.25%; expected return on plan assets (weighted average) 5.25%; rate of increase in salaries 2.5%; rate of increase in pensions in payment 2.0%; and inflation assumption 2.0%.

History of defined benefit schemes	Main scheme					All schemes				
	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2010 £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2010 £m
Fair value of plan assets	30,077	24,272	22,441	21,111	19,110	34,359	28,488	26,370	25,086	22,816
Present value of defined benefit obligations	31,776	26,958	25,648	22,955	21,092	36,643	31,484	30,110	27,137	24,999
Net deficit	1,699	2,686	3,207	1,844	1,982	2,284	2,996	3,740	2,051	2,183
Experience gains/(losses) on plan liabilities	3	102	(232)	(208)	(858)	18	176	(207)	(200)	(882)
Experience gains on plan assets	4,629	986	301	935	1,830	5,171	1,097	485	842	1,941
Actual return on pension schemes assets	5,766	1,997	1,329	1,966	2,779	6,485	2,270	1,696	2,065	3,170
Actual return on pension schemes assets - %	23.8%	8.9%	6.3%	10.3%	16.7%	22.8%	8.6%	6.8%	9.1%	11.4%

### Triennial funding valuation

In May 2014, the triennial funding valuation of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Pension Fund was agreed which showed that the value of the liabilities exceeded the value of assets by £5.6 billion at 31 March 2013, a ratio of 82%. To eliminate this deficit, RBS will pay annual contributions of £650 million from 2014 to 2016 and £450 million (indexed in line with inflation) from 2017 to 2023. These contributions are in addition to regular annual contributions of approximately £270 million in respect of the ongoing accrual of benefits as well as contributions to meet the expenses of running the scheme.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 4 Pensions continued

The table below sets out the sensitivities of the pension cost for the year and the present value of defined benefit obligations at 31 December to a change in the principal actuarial assumptions:

	Main scheme						All schemes					
	(Decrease)/increase						(Decrease)/increase					
	in pension cost for year			in obligation at 31 December			in pension cost for year			in obligation at 31 December		
	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
0.25% increase in the discount rate	(67)	(66)	(66)	(1,466)	(1,187)	(1,199)	(79)	(80)	(80)	(1,695)	(1,379)	(1,392)
0.25% increase in inflation	55	52	60	1,159	895	995	63	58	66	1,334	1,000	1,129
0.25% additional rate of increase in pensions in payment	43	42	39	982	758	690	49	48	45	1,107	844	782
0.25% additional rate of increase in deferred pensions	21	18	20	394	329	297	24	21	23	476	383	342
0.25% additional rate of increase in salaries	9	9	6	100	83	95	12	12	9	131	110	125
Longevity increase of one year	39	35	33	988	728	647	42	39	38	1,053	801	727

Pension costs and liabilities are calculated on the central assumptions and under the relevant sensitivity scenarios. The sensitivity to pension costs/liabilities is the difference between these calculations.

The sensitivity analysis presented above may not be representative of the actual change in the pension cost or defined benefit obligation as it is unlikely that the changes in assumptions would occur in isolation of one another as some of the assumptions may be correlated.

### 5 Auditor's remuneration

Amounts paid to the Group's auditors for statutory audit and other services are set out below. All audit-related and other services are approved by the Group Audit Committee and are subject to strict controls to ensure the external auditor's independence is unaffected by the provision of other services. The Group Audit Committee recognise that for certain assignments the auditors are best placed to perform the work economically; for other work the Group selects the supplier best placed to meet its requirements. The Group's auditors are permitted to tender for such work in competition with other firms where the work is permissible under audit independence rules.

The analysis of auditor's remuneration is as follows:

	2014 £m	2013 £m
Fees payable for the audit of the Group's annual accounts	4.0	4.0
Fees payable to the auditor and its associates for other services to the Group		
- the audit of the company's subsidiaries	24.2	22.1
- audit-related assurance services (1)	4.8	3.8
Total audit and audit-related assurance services fees	33.0	29.9
Taxation compliance services	0.3	0.2
Taxation advisory services	0.1	0.1
Other assurance services	1.2	2.3
Corporate finance services (2)	1.7	0.8
Consulting services	0.1	0.2
Total other services	3.4	3.6
Fees payable to the auditor and its associates in respect of audits of associated pension schemes	0.4	0.5
Total	36.8	34.0

Notes:

(1) Comprises fees of £0.9 million (2013 - £0.9 million) in relation to reviews of interim financial information, £2.5 million (2013 - £2.3 million) in respect of reports to the Group's regulators in the UK and overseas, £0.3 million (2013 - £0.3 million) in respect of internal controls assurance and £1.1 million (2013 - £0.3 million) in relation to non-statutory audit opinions.

(2) Comprises fees of £0.9 million (2013 - £0.8 million) in respect of work performed by the auditors as reporting accountants on debt and equity issuances undertaken by the Group, including securitisations and £0.8 million (2013 - nil) in respect of reporting accountant services in connection with disposals by the Group.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 6 Tax

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Current tax			
Charge for the year	(423)	(315)	(487)
Over/(under) provision in respect of prior years	247	120	(62)
	(176)	(195)	(549)
Deferred tax			
(Charge)/credit for the year	(259)	586	745
Reduction in the carrying value of deferred tax assets	(1,472)	(701)	(394)
(Under)/over provision in respect of prior year	(2)	124	42
Tax charge for the year	(1,909)	(186)	(156)

The actual tax charge differs from the expected tax (charge)/credit computed by applying the standard rate of UK corporation tax of 21.5% (2013 - 23.25%; 2012 - 24.5%) as follows:

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Expected tax (charge)/credit	(568)	2,057	1,483
Losses in year where no deferred tax asset recognised	(86)	(879)	(511)
Foreign profits taxed at other rates	76	(117)	(295)
UK tax rate change impact <sup>(1)</sup>	—	(313)	(149)
Unrecognised timing differences	(3)	(8)	59
Non-deductible goodwill impairment	(28)	(247)	—
Items not allowed for tax			
- losses on disposals and write-downs	(12)	(20)	(49)
- UK bank levy	(54)	(47)	(43)
- regulatory and legal actions	(182)	(144)	(93)
- other disallowable items	(191)	(212)	(255)
Non-taxable items			
- gain on sale of Direct Line Insurance Group	41	—	—
- gain on sale of WorldPay (Global Merchant Services)	—	37	—
- gain on sale of RBS Aviation Capital	—	—	26
- other non-taxable items	79	153	84
Taxable foreign exchange movements	21	(25)	(1)
Losses brought forward and utilised	225	36	2
(Reduction)/increase in carrying value of deferred tax asset in respect of:			
- UK losses	(850)	(701)	—
- US losses and temporary differences	(775)	—	—
- Australia losses	—	—	(191)
- Ireland losses	153	—	(203)
Adjustments in respect of prior years <sup>(2)</sup>	245	244	(20)
Actual tax charge	(1,909)	(186)	(156)

#### Notes:

- (1) In recent years the UK Government has steadily reduced the rate of UK corporation tax, with the latest enacted rates standing at 21% with effect from 1 April 2014 and 20% with effect from 1 April 2015. The closing deferred tax assets and liabilities have been calculated in accordance with the rates enacted at the balance sheet date.
- (2) Prior year tax adjustments include releases of tax provisions in respect of structured transactions and adjustments to reflect submitted tax computations in the UK and overseas. In addition, a prior year tax credit of £151 million has been recognised in 2014 in respect of tax losses arising in the Belfast Branch of Ulster Bank Ireland Limited reflecting UK tax law changes and European Court of Justice decisions on the surrender of tax losses.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 7 Profit attributable to preference shareholders and paid-in equity holders

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Preference shareholders			
Non-cumulative preference shares of US\$0.01	213	226	153
Non-cumulative preference shares of €0.01	115	121	115
Non-cumulative preference shares of £1	2	2	5
	330	349	273
Paid-in equity holders			
Interest on securities classified as equity, net of tax	49	49	28
Total (1)	379	398	301

Notes:

(1) Discretionary dividends on certain non-cumulative preference shares and discretionary distributions on certain innovative securities recommenced in May 2012.

(2) Between 1 January 2015 and the date of approval of these accounts, dividends amounting to US\$107 million and £0.4 million have been declared in respect of equity preference shares for payment on 31 March 2015.

### 8 Ordinary dividends

The company did not pay an ordinary dividend in 2014, 2013 or 2012.

### 9 Earnings per ordinary and equivalent B share

Earnings per ordinary and equivalent B share have been calculated based on the following:

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Earnings</b>			
Loss attributable to ordinary and B shareholders	(3,470)	(8,995)	(6,055)
Loss/(profit) from discontinued operations attributable to ordinary and B shareholders	3,527	(521)	(430)
Profit/(loss) from continuing operations attributable to ordinary and B shareholders	57	(9,516)	(6,485)

#### Weighted average number of shares (millions)

Ordinary shares outstanding during the year	6,256	6,096	5,902
Equivalent B shares in issue during the year	5,100	5,100	5,100
Weighted average number of ordinary shares and equivalent B shares outstanding during the year	11,356	11,196	11,002
Effect of dilutive share options and convertible securities	91	115	105
Diluted weighted average number of ordinary shares and equivalent B shares outstanding during the year	11,447	11,311	11,107

Basic (loss)/earnings per ordinary and equivalent B share from discontinued operations was (31.1p) (2013 - 4.7p; 2012 - 3.9p). Diluted earnings per ordinary and equivalent B share from discontinued operations was 4.6p in 2013. There was no dilutive impact in 2014 or 2012.

At a General Meeting on 25 June 2014, the company's independent shareholders approved an agreement between RBS and HM Treasury for the retirement of the Dividend Access Share (the DAS retirement agreement).

Prior to the DAS retirement agreement, the DAS was entitled to a dividend amounting to the greater of 7% of the aggregate issue price of B shares and 250% of the ordinary dividend rate multiplied by the number of B shares issued, less any dividends paid on the B shares and on ordinary shares issued on their conversion. When calculating earnings per share, IFRS requires profit or loss to be allocated to participating equity instruments as if all of the profit or loss for the period had been distributed.

Under the DAS retirement agreement, once RBS has paid dividends on the DAS totalling £1.5 billion, it will lose its preferential dividend rights and become a single B share. The dividends are payable at the discretion of the directors. The first DAS dividend of £320 million was paid in August 2014. Unpaid DAS dividends will be subject to an increase of 5% per annum from 1 January 2016 and an increase of 10% per annum from 1 January 2021.

These changes to the DAS agreement have re-characterised the DAS such that it is no longer a participating share; it is only entitled to total dividends of £1.5 billion, subject to increases after 1 January 2016. Consequently earnings per share for periods ended after 25 June 2014 only reflect DAS dividends recognised before the end of a reporting period; this amounted to £320 million in respect of the year ended 31 December 2014. Dividends can be paid on ordinary and B shares only once the remaining £1,180 million of retirement dividend, subject to increases as above, has been paid.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 10 Financial instruments - classification

The following tables analyse financial assets and liabilities in accordance with the categories of financial instruments in IAS 39. Assets and liabilities outside the scope of IAS 39 are shown separately.

2014	Held-for-trading £m	Designated as at fair value through profit or loss £m	Hedging derivatives £m	Available- for-sale £m	Loans and receivables £m	Held-to- maturity £m	Amortised cost £m	Finance leases £m	Other assets/ liabilities £m	Total £m
<b>Assets</b>										
Cash and balances at central banks	—	—		—	74,872	—				74,872
Loans and advances to banks										
- reverse repos	18,129	—		—	2,579	—				20,708
- other (1)	11,773	—		—	11,254	—				23,027
Loans and advances to customers										
- reverse repos	43,018	—		—	969	—				43,987
- other	23,038	61		—	307,002	—		4,150		334,251
Debt securities	49,226	117		29,673	3,096	4,537				86,649
Equity shares	4,821	301		513	—	—				5,635
Settlement balances	—	—		—	4,667					4,667
Derivatives	348,149		5,441							353,590
Intangible assets									7,781	7,781
Property, plant and equipment									6,167	6,167
Deferred tax									1,540	1,540
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	—	—		—	—	—			5,878	5,878
Assets of disposal groups									82,011	82,011
	498,154	479	5,441	30,186	404,439	4,537		4,150	103,377	1,050,763
<b>Liabilities</b>										
Deposits by banks										
- repos	23,990	—					869			24,859
- other (2)	26,118	—					9,688			35,806
Customer accounts										
- repos	35,985	—					1,366			37,351
- other (3)	15,308	4,731					334,249			354,288
Debt securities in issue (4)	6,490	10,216					33,574			50,280
Settlement balances	—	—					4,503			4,503
Short positions	23,029	—								23,029
Derivatives	346,184		3,621							349,805
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	—	—					1,801	—	11,545	13,346
Retirement benefit liabilities									2,579	2,579
Deferred tax									500	500
Subordinated liabilities	—	863					22,042			22,905
Liabilities of disposal groups									71,320	71,320
	477,104	15,810	3,621				408,092	—	85,944	990,571
Equity										60,192
										1,050,763

For the notes to this table refer to page 377.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 10 Financial instruments - classification continued

2013	Held-for-trading £m	Designated as at fair value through profit or loss £m	Hedging derivatives £m	Available- for-sale £m	Loans and receivables £m	Amortised cost £m	Finance leases £m	Other assets/ liabilities £m	Total £m
<b>Assets</b>									
Cash and balances at central banks	—	—		—	82,659				82,659
Loans and advances to banks									
- reverse repos	25,795	—		—	721				26,516
- other (1)	9,952	—		—	17,603				27,555
Loans and advances to customers									
- reverse repos	49,897	—		—	—				49,897
- other	19,170	49		—	364,772		6,834		390,825
Debt securities	56,582	122		53,107	3,788				113,599
Equity shares	7,199	400		1,212	—				8,811
Settlement balances	—	—		—	5,591				5,591
Derivatives	283,508		4,531						288,039
Intangible assets								12,368	12,368
Property, plant and equipment								7,909	7,909
Deferred tax								3,478	3,478
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	—	—		—	—			7,614	7,614
Assets of disposal groups								3,017	3,017
	452,103	571	4,531	54,319	475,134		6,834	34,386	1,027,878
<b>Liabilities</b>									
Deposits by banks									
- repos	23,127	—				5,523			28,650
- other (2)	19,764	—				15,565			35,329
Customer accounts									
- repos	52,300	—				4,184			56,484
- other (3)	10,236	5,862				398,298			414,396
Debt securities in issue (4)	8,560	15,848				43,411			67,819
Settlement balances	—	—				5,313			5,313
Short positions	28,022	—							28,022
Derivatives	281,299		4,227						285,526
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	—	—				1,764	19	14,234	16,017
Retirement benefit liabilities								3,210	3,210
Deferred tax								507	507
Subordinated liabilities	—	868				23,144			24,012
Liabilities of disposal groups								3,378	3,378
	423,308	22,578	4,227			497,202	19	21,329	968,663
Equity									59,215
									1,027,878

For the notes to this table refer to page 377.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

2012	Held-for-trading £m	Designated as at fair value through profit or loss £m	Hedging derivatives £m	Available- for-sale £m	Loans and receivables £m	Amortised cost £m	Finance leases £m	Other assets/ liabilities £m	Total £m
<b>Assets</b>									
Cash and balances at central banks	—	—		—	79,290				79,290
Loans and advances to banks									
- reverse repos	33,394	—		—	1,389				34,783
- other (1)	13,265	—		—	15,903				29,168
Loans and advances to customers									
- reverse repos	70,025	—		—	22				70,047
- other	24,841	189		—	397,824		7,234		430,088
Debt securities	78,340	873		73,737	4,488				157,438
Equity shares	13,329	533		1,370					15,232
Settlement balances	—	—		—	5,741				5,741
Derivatives	433,264		8,639						441,903
Intangible assets								13,545	13,545
Property, plant and equipment								9,784	9,784
Deferred tax								3,443	3,443
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	—	—		—	—			7,820	7,820
Assets of disposal groups								14,013	14,013
	666,458	1,595	8,639	75,107	504,657		7,234	48,605	1,312,295
<b>Liabilities</b>									
Deposits by banks									
- repos	36,370	—				7,962			44,332
- other (2)	30,571	—				26,502			57,073
Customer accounts									
- repos	82,224	—				5,816			88,040
- other (3)	12,077	6,323				414,839			433,239
Debt securities in issue (4)	10,879	23,614				60,099			94,592
Settlement balances	—	—				5,878			5,878
Short positions	27,591	—							27,591
Derivatives	428,537		5,796						434,333
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	—	—				1,684	12	13,105	14,801
Retirement benefit liabilities								3,884	3,884
Deferred tax								1,141	1,141
Subordinated liabilities	—	1,128				25,645			26,773
Liabilities of disposal groups								10,170	10,170
	628,249	31,065	5,796			548,425	12	28,300	1,241,847
Equity									70,448
									1,312,295

Amounts included in the consolidated income statement:

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Gains/(losses) on financial assets/liabilities designated as at fair value through profit or loss			
- continuing operations	55	(113)	(2,612)
(Losses)/gains on disposal or settlement of loans and receivables			
- continuing operations	(232)	(179)	1
- discontinued operations	(48)	(69)	(77)

### Notes:

- (1) Includes items in the course of collection from other banks of £980 million (2013 - £1,454 million; 2012 - £1,531 million).
- (2) Includes items in the course of transmission to other banks of £513 million (2013 - £828 million; 2012 - £521 million).
- (3) The carrying amount of other customer accounts designated as at fair value through profit or loss is £432 million (2013 - £412 million; 2012 - £305 million) higher than the principal amount. No amounts have been recognised in profit or loss for changes in credit risk associated with these liabilities as the changes are immaterial, measured as the change in fair value from movements in the period in the credit risk premium payable.
- (4) Comprises bonds and medium term notes of £48,476 million (2013 - £63,959 million; 2012 - £88,723 million) and certificates of deposit and other commercial paper of £1,804 million (2013 - £3,860 million; 2012 - £5,869 million).



## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 10 Financial instruments - classification continued

The tables below present information on financial assets and liabilities that are offset in the balance sheet under IFRS or subject to enforceable master netting agreement together with financial collateral received or given.

	Gross £m	IFRS offset £m	Balance sheet £m	Effect of master netting and similar agreements £m	Cash collateral £m	Other financial collateral £m	Net amount after the effect of netting arrangements and related collateral £m
<b>2014</b>							
<b>Assets</b>							
Derivatives	588,525	(245,418)	343,107	(295,315)	(33,272)	(7,014)	7,506
Reverse repos	95,393	(30,823)	64,570	(5,016)	—	(59,505)	49
Loans to customers	3,781	(3,781)	—	—	—	—	—
Settlement balances	2,084	(1,997)	97	—	—	—	97
	<b>689,793</b>	<b>(282,019)</b>	<b>407,774</b>	<b>(300,331)</b>	<b>(33,272)</b>	<b>(66,519)</b>	<b>7,652</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Derivatives	583,363	(241,235)	342,128	(295,315)	(30,203)	(14,437)	2,173
Repos	91,888	(30,823)	61,065	(5,016)	—	(56,049)	—
Customer accounts	7,964	(7,964)	—	—	—	—	—
Settlement balances	1,998	(1,997)	1	—	—	—	1
	<b>685,213</b>	<b>(282,019)</b>	<b>403,194</b>	<b>(300,331)</b>	<b>(30,203)</b>	<b>(70,486)</b>	<b>2,174</b>
<b>2013</b>							
<b>Assets</b>							
Derivatives	545,867	(265,709)	280,158	(241,265)	(24,423)	(5,990)	8,480
Reverse repos	115,715	(40,658)	75,057	(11,379)	—	(63,589)	89
Loans to customers	3,438	(3,438)	—	—	—	—	—
Settlement balances	2,950	(2,672)	278	(262)	—	—	16
	<b>667,970</b>	<b>(312,477)</b>	<b>355,493</b>	<b>(252,906)</b>	<b>(24,423)</b>	<b>(69,579)</b>	<b>8,585</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Derivatives	540,622	(262,656)	277,966	(241,265)	(25,302)	(8,257)	3,142
Repos	120,639	(40,658)	79,981	(11,379)	—	(68,602)	—
Customer accounts	6,491	(6,491)	—	—	—	—	—
Settlement balances	3,682	(2,672)	1,010	(262)	—	—	748
	<b>671,434</b>	<b>(312,477)</b>	<b>358,957</b>	<b>(252,906)</b>	<b>(25,302)</b>	<b>(76,859)</b>	<b>3,890</b>
<b>2012</b>							
<b>Assets</b>							
Derivatives	801,606	(373,476)	428,130	(374,887)	(34,291)	(5,644)	13,308
Reverse repos	139,120	(38,377)	100,743	(17,439)	—	(83,304)	—
Loans to customers	1,748	(1,460)	288	—	—	—	288
Settlement balances	3,680	(2,456)	1,224	(345)	—	—	879
	<b>946,154</b>	<b>(415,769)</b>	<b>530,385</b>	<b>(392,671)</b>	<b>(34,291)</b>	<b>(88,948)</b>	<b>14,475</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Derivatives	796,991	(373,476)	423,515	(374,887)	(31,863)	(11,702)	5,063
Repos	163,500	(38,377)	125,123	(17,439)	—	(107,684)	—
Customer accounts	1,897	(1,460)	437	—	—	—	437
Settlement balances	4,270	(2,456)	1,814	(345)	—	—	1,469
	<b>966,658</b>	<b>(415,769)</b>	<b>550,889</b>	<b>(392,671)</b>	<b>(31,863)</b>	<b>(119,386)</b>	<b>6,969</b>

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### Reclassification of financial instruments

In 2014, UK Government bonds with a fair value of £3.6 billion were reclassified from available-for-sale (AFS) to held-to-maturity (HTM). In 2008 and 2009, RBS reclassified financial assets from held-for-trading (HFT) and AFS categories into loans and receivables (LAR) and from HFT into AFS. The tables below show the carrying value, fair value and the effect on profit or loss of these reclassifications.

	Carrying value £m	Fair value £m	Amount recognised in the income statement Income £m	Impairment (losses)/ releases £m	Amount that would have been recognised had reclassification not occurred £m	Reduction/ (increase) in profit or loss as a result of reclassification £m
<b>2014</b>						
<b>Reclassified from HFT to LAR</b>						
Loans	671	561	33	(76)	65	108
Debt securities	835	787	(22)	—	128	150
	1,506	1,348	11	(76)	193	258
<b>Reclassified from HFT to AFS <sup>(1)</sup></b>						
Debt securities	251	251	29	—	27	(2)
<b>Reclassified from AFS to HTM <sup>(2)</sup></b>						
Debt securities	3,625	3,766	68	—	67	(1)
	5,382	5,365	108	(76)	287	255
<b>2013</b>						
<b>Reclassified from HFT to LAR</b>						
Loans	1,417	1,160	(28)	(13)	42	83
Debt securities	1,293	901	(29)	3	(74)	(48)
	2,710	2,061	(57)	(10)	(32)	35
<b>Reclassified from HFT to AFS <sup>(1)</sup></b>						
Debt securities	311	311	56	—	111	55
<b>Reclassified from AFS to LAR <sup>(3)</sup></b>						
Debt securities	—	—	4	7	—	(11)
	3,021	2,372	3	(3)	79	79
<b>2012</b>						
<b>Reclassified from HFT to LAR</b>						
Loans	2,892	2,546	42	15	517	460
Debt securities	1,671	1,333	(120)	(6)	251	377
	4,563	3,879	(78)	9	768	837
<b>Reclassified from HFT to AFS <sup>(1)</sup></b>						
Debt securities	1,548	1,548	(158)	(20)	25	203
<b>Reclassified from AFS to LAR <sup>(3)</sup></b>						
Debt securities	167	90	7	—	7	—
	6,278	5,517	(229)	(11)	800	1,040

#### Notes:

(1) £12 million (2013 - £113 million; 2012 - £171 million) was taken to AFS reserves.

(2) £155 million would have been taken to AFS reserves if reclassification had not occurred.

(3) £1 million in 2013 and 2012 would have been taken to AFS reserves if reclassification had not occurred.

### 11 Financial instruments - valuation

#### Valuation of financial instruments carried at fair value

##### Control environment

RBS's control environment for the determination of the fair value of financial instruments includes formalised protocols for the review and validation of fair values independent of the businesses entering into the transactions. There are specific controls to ensure consistent pricing policies and procedures, incorporating disciplined price verification. RBS ensures that appropriate attention is given to bespoke transactions, structured products, illiquid products and other instruments which are difficult to price.

A key element of the control environment is the independent price verification (IPV) process. Valuations are first performed by the business which entered into the transaction. Such valuations may be directly from available prices, or may be derived using a model and variable model inputs. These valuations are reviewed, and if necessary amended, by a team independent of those trading the financial instruments, in the light of available pricing evidence.

IPV differences are classified according to the quality of independent market observables into IPV quality bands linked to the fair value hierarchy principles, as laid out in IFRS 13 'Fair Value Measurement'. These differences are classified into fair value levels 1, 2 and 3 (with the valuation uncertainty risk increasing as the levels rise from 1 to 3) and then further classified into high, medium, low and indicative depending on the quality of the independent data available to validate the prices. Valuations are revised if they are outside agreed thresholds.

IPV takes place at least monthly, at month end date, for exposures in the regulatory trading book and at least quarterly for exposures in the regulatory banking book. Monthly meetings are held between the business and the support functions to discuss the results of the IPV and pricing reserves. The IPV control includes formalised reporting and escalation of any valuation differences in breach of established thresholds. The Pricing Unit determines IPV policy, monitors adherence to that policy and performs additional independent reviews of highly subjective valuation issues.

Valuation models are subject to a review process which requires different levels of model documentation, testing and review, depending on the complexity of the model and the size of RBS's exposure. A key element of the control environment for model use is a Modelled Product Review Committee, made up of valuations experts from several functions within RBS. This committee sets the policy for model documentation, testing and review, and prioritises models with significant exposure for review by the RBS Pricing Model Risk team. Potential valuation uncertainty is a key input in determining model review priorities at these meetings. The Pricing Model Risk team within Risk Management, which is independent of the trading businesses, assesses the appropriateness of the application of the model to the product, the mathematical robustness of the model, and where appropriate, considers alternative modelling approaches.

The CIB and RCR Valuation Control Committees meet formally on a monthly basis to discuss independent pricing, reserving and valuation issues. All material methodology changes require review and ratification by these committees. The committees, which include valuation specialists representing several independent review functions, comprise Market Risk, Pricing Model Risk, Finance and senior business representatives.

The Executive Valuation Committee discusses the issues escalated by CIB and RCR Valuations Committees, and other relevant issues including prudential valuation. This committee covers key material and subjective valuation issues within the trading businesses and provides a ratification to the appropriateness of areas with high levels of residual valuation uncertainty. Committee members include the Chief Financial Officer, the Financial Controller, the Chief Accountant, and other senior members within finance and risk.

The CIB Valuation Committee operates under delegated authority of the CIB Risk Committee. The CIB Valuation Committee submits a quarterly paper covering the key areas that are governed by them to the CIB Risk Committee. Additionally, the CIB Valuation Committee may escalate items to the CIB Risk Committee on a more frequent basis as appropriate.

Market risk metrics such as value-at-risk (VaR), Incremental Risk Charge and stressed value-at-risk (SVaR) cover financial instruments in CIB and RCR. RBS has a framework to quantify those market risks not adequately captured by standard market risk framework such as VaR and SVaR - refer to pages 304 to 310 for details.

##### Valuation hierarchy

There is a process to review and control the classification of financial instruments into the three level hierarchy established by IFRS 13. Some instruments may not easily fall into a level of the fair value hierarchy and judgment may be required as to which level the instrument is classified.

Initial classification of a financial instrument is carried out by the Product Control team following the principles in IFRS 13. They base their judgment on information gathered during the IPV process for instruments which include the sourcing of independent prices and model inputs. The quality and completeness of the information gathered in the IPV process gives an indication as to the liquidity and valuation uncertainty of an instrument.

These initial classifications are reviewed and challenged by the Pricing Unit and are also subject to senior management review. Particular attention is paid to instruments crossing from one level to another, new instrument classes or products, instruments that are generating significant profit and loss and instruments where valuation uncertainty is high.

##### Valuation techniques

RBS derives fair value of its instruments differently depending on whether the instrument is a non-modelled or a modelled product.

##### Non-modelled products

Non-modelled products are valued directly from a price input typically on a position by position basis and include cash, equities and most debt securities.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

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### Modelled products

Modelled products valued using a pricing model range in complexity from comparatively vanilla products such as interest rate swaps and options (e.g. interest rate caps and floors) through to more complex derivatives. The valuation of modelled products requires an appropriate model and inputs into this model. Sometimes models are also used to derive inputs (e.g. to construct volatility surfaces). RBS uses a number of modelling methodologies.

### Inputs to valuation models

Values between and beyond available data points are obtained by interpolation and extrapolation. When utilising valuation techniques, the fair value can be significantly affected by the choice of valuation model and by underlying assumptions concerning factors such as the amounts and timing of cash flows, discount rates and credit risk. The principal inputs to these valuation techniques are as follows:

- Bond prices - quoted prices are generally available for government bonds, certain corporate securities and some mortgage-related products.
- Credit spreads - where available, these are derived from prices of credit default swaps or other credit based instruments, such as debt securities. For others, credit spreads are obtained from pricing services.
- Interest rates - these are principally benchmark interest rates such as the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), Overnight Index Swaps rate (OIS) and other quoted interest rates in the swap, bond and futures markets.
- Foreign currency exchange rates - there are observable markets both for spot and forward contracts and futures in the world's major currencies.
- Equity and equity index prices - quoted prices are generally readily available for equity shares listed on the world's major stock exchanges and for major indices on such shares.
- Commodity prices - many commodities are actively traded in spot and forward contracts and futures on exchanges in London, New York and other commercial centres.
- Price volatilities and correlations - volatility is a measure of the tendency of a price to change with time. Correlation measures the degree which two or more prices or other variables are observed to move together. If they move in the same direction there is positive correlation; if they move in opposite directions there is negative correlation. Volatility is a key input in valuing options and in the valuation of certain products such as derivatives with multiple underlying variables that are correlation-dependent. Volatility and correlation values are obtained from broker quotations, pricing services or derived from option prices.

- Prepayment rates - the fair value of a financial instrument that can be prepaid by the issuer or borrower differs from that of an instrument that cannot be prepaid. In valuing prepayable instruments that are not quoted in active markets, RBS considers the value of the prepayment option.
- Counterparty credit spreads - adjustments are made to market prices (or parameters) when the creditworthiness of the counterparty differs from that of the assumed counterparty in the market price (or parameters).
- Recovery rates/loss given default - these are used as an input to valuation models and reserves for asset-backed securities and other credit products as an indicator of severity of losses on default. Recovery rates are primarily sourced from market data providers or inferred from observable credit spreads.

RBS uses consensus prices for the IPV of some instruments. The consensus service encompasses the equity, interest rate, currency, commodity, credit, property, fund and bond markets, providing comprehensive matrices of vanilla prices and a wide selection of exotic products. CIB and RCR contribute to consensus pricing services where there is a significant interest either from a positional point of view or to test models for future business use. Data sourced from consensus pricing services is used for a combination of control processes including direct price testing, evidence of observability and model testing. In practice this means that RBS submits prices for all material positions for which a service is available. Data from consensus services are subject to the same level of quality review as other inputs used for IPV process.

In order to determine a reliable fair value, where appropriate, management applies valuation adjustments to the pricing information gathered from the above sources. The sources of independent data are reviewed for quality and are applied in the IPV processes using a formalised input quality hierarchy. These adjustments reflect RBS's assessment of factors that market participants would consider in setting a price.

Furthermore, on an ongoing basis, RBS assesses the appropriateness of any model used. To the extent that the price determined by internal models does not represent the fair value of the instrument, for instance in highly stressed market conditions, RBS makes adjustments to the model valuation to calibrate to other available pricing sources.

Where unobservable inputs are used, RBS may determine a range of possible valuations derived from differing stress scenarios to determine the sensitivity associated with the valuation. When establishing the fair value of a financial instrument using a valuation technique, RBS considers adjustments to the modelled price which market participants would make when pricing that instrument. Such adjustments include the credit quality of the counterparty and adjustments to compensate for model limitations.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 11 Financial instruments - valuation continued

#### Valuation reserves

When valuing financial instruments in the trading book, adjustments are made to mid-market valuations to cover bid-offer spread, liquidity and credit risk. The following table shows credit valuation adjustments (CVA) and other valuation reserves. CVA represents an estimate of the adjustment to fair value that a market participant would make to incorporate the risk inherent in derivative exposures.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Credit valuation adjustments (CVA)	1,414	1,766	2,814
- of which: monoline insurers and credit derivative product companies (CDPC)	47	99	506
Other valuation reserves			
- bid-offer	398	513	625
- funding valuation adjustment	718	424	475
- product and deal specific	657	753	897
	1,773	1,690	1,997
Valuation reserves	3,187	3,456	4,811

The table below analyses CVA relating to counterparties other than monoline insurers and CDPCs by rating and sector.

	2014 £m	2013 £m
<b>Ratings</b>		
AAA	82	104
AA to AA+	35	13
A to AA-	78	168
BBB- to A-	401	446
Non-investment grade and unrated	771	936
	1,367	1,667
<b>Counterparty</b>		
Banks	32	89
Other financial institutions	203	199
Corporate	938	1,126
Government	194	253
	1,367	1,667

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

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### Credit valuation adjustments

Credit valuation adjustments represent an estimate of the adjustment to fair value that a market participant would make to incorporate the counterparty credit risk inherent in derivative exposures. CVA is actively managed by a credit and market risk hedging process, and therefore movements in CVA are partially offset by trading revenue on the hedges.

The CVA is calculated on a portfolio basis reflecting an estimate of the amount a third party would charge to assume the credit risk.

Where a positive exposure exists to a counterparty that is considered to be close to default, the CVA is calculated by applying expected losses to the current level of exposure. Otherwise, expected losses are applied to estimated potential future positive exposures which are modelled to reflect the volatility of the market factors which drive the exposures and the correlation between those factors.

Potential future positive exposures arising from vanilla products (including interest rate and foreign exchange derivatives, as well as some inflation derivatives) are modelled using RBS's core counterparty risk systems. The majority of CVA arises on these vanilla products together with exposures to counterparties which are considered to be close to default. The exposures arising from all other product types are modelled and assessed separately. The potential future positive exposure to each counterparty is the aggregate of the exposures arising on the underlying product types.

Expected losses are determined from market implied probabilities of default and internally assessed recovery levels. The probability of default is calculated with reference to observable credit spreads and observable recovery levels. For counterparties where observable data do not exist, the probability of default is determined from the credit spreads and recovery levels of similarly rated entities.

The correlation between exposure and counterparty risk is also incorporated within the CVA calculation where this risk is considered significant. The risk primarily arises on credit derivative trades where the default risk of the referenced entity is correlated with the counterparty risk. The risk also arises on trades with emerging market counterparties where the gross mark-to-market value of the trade, and therefore the counterparty exposure can increase based on weakening of the local currency.

Collateral held under a credit support agreement is factored into the CVA calculation. In such cases where RBS holds collateral against counterparty exposures, CVA is held to the extent that residual risk remains.

### Bid-offer, liquidity and other reserves

Fair value positions are adjusted to bid (long positions) or offer (short positions) levels, by marking individual cash positions directly to bid or offer or by taking bid-offer reserves calculated on a portfolio basis for derivatives exposures. The bid-offer approach is based on current market spreads and standard market bucketing of risk.

Risk data are used as the primary sources of information within bid-offer calculations and are aggregated when they are more granular than market standard buckets. Bid-offer adjustments for each risk factor (including delta (the degree to which the price of an instrument changes in response to a change in the price of the underlying), vega (the degree to which the price of an instrument changes in response to the volatility in the price of the underlying), correlation (the degree to which prices of different instruments move together)) are determined by aggregating similar risk exposures arising on different products. Additional basis bid-offer reserves are taken where these are charged in the market. Risk associated with non-identical underlying exposures is not netted down unless there is evidence that the cost of closing the combined risk exposure is less than the cost of closing individual exposures.

Bid-offer spreads vary by maturity and risk type to reflect different spreads in the market. For positions where there is no observable quote, the bid-offer spreads are widened in comparison to proxies to reflect reduced liquidity or observability. Bid-offer methodologies may also incorporate liquidity triggers whereby wider spreads are applied to risks above pre-defined thresholds.

As permitted by IFRS 13, netting is applied on a portfolio basis to reflect the value at which RBS believes it could exit the portfolio, rather than the sum of exit costs for each of the portfolio's individual trades. This is applied where the asset and liability positions are managed as a portfolio for risk and reporting purposes. For example, netting is applied where long and short risk in two different maturity buckets can be closed out in a single market transaction at lower cost than two separate transactions (calendar netting). This reflects the fact that to close down the portfolio, the net risk can be settled rather than each long and short trade individually.

Vanilla risk on exotic products is typically reserved as part of the overall portfolio based calculation e.g. delta and vega risk on exotic products are included within the delta and vega bid-offer calculations. Aggregation of risk arising from different models is in line with RBS's risk management practices; the model review control process considers the appropriateness of model selection in this respect.

Product related risks such as correlation risk, attract specific bid-offer reserves. Additional reserves are provided for exotic products to ensure overall reserves match market close-out costs. These market close-out costs inherently incorporate risk decay and cross-effects (taking into account how changes in one risk factor may affect other inputs rather than treating all risk factors independently) that are unlikely to be adequately reflected in a static hedge based on vanilla instruments. Where there is limited bid-offer information for a product, the pricing approach and risk management strategy are taken into account when assessing the reserve.

The discount rates applied to derivative cash-flows in determining fair value reflect any underlying collateral agreements. Collateralised derivatives are generally discounted at the relevant OIS rates at an individual trade level. Uncollateralised derivatives are discounted with reference to funding levels by applying a funding spread over benchmark interest rates on a portfolio basis (funding valuation adjustment).

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 11 Financial instruments - valuation continued

#### Funding valuation adjustment (FVA)

Funding valuation adjustments represent an estimate of the adjustment to fair value that a market participant would make to incorporate funding costs and benefits that arise in relation to uncollateralised derivative exposures.

Funding levels are applied to estimated potential future exposures, the modelling of which is consistent with the approach used in the calculation of CVA relating to other counterparties. The counterparty contingent nature of the exposures is reflected in the calculation.

#### Amounts deferred on initial recognition

On initial recognition of financial assets and liabilities valued using valuation techniques incorporating information other than observable market data, any difference between the transaction price and that derived from the valuation technique is deferred. Such amounts are recognised in profit or loss over the life of the transaction; when market data becomes observable; or when the transaction matures or is closed out as appropriate. At 31 December 2014, net gains of £119 million (2013 - £205 million; 2012 - £153 million) were carried forward. During the year, net gains of £53 million (2013 - £134 million; 2012 - £39 million) were deferred and £139 million (2013 - £82 million; 2012 - £47 million) were recognised in the income statement.

#### Own credit

RBS takes into account the effect of its own credit standing when valuing financial liabilities recorded at fair value in accordance with IFRS. Own credit spread adjustments are made when valuing issued debt held at fair value, including issued structured notes, and derivatives. An own credit adjustment is applied to positions where it is believed that counterparties would consider RBS's creditworthiness when pricing trades.

For issued debt and structured notes this adjustment is based on debt issuance spreads above average inter-bank rates (at a range of tenors). Secondary senior debt issuance spreads are used in the calculation of the own credit adjustment applied to senior debt.

The fair value of RBS's derivative financial liabilities is also adjusted to reflect RBS's own credit risk (DVA). Expected gains are applied to estimated potential future negative exposures, the modelling of which is consistent with the approach used in calculation of CVA relating to other counterparties. Expected gains are determined from market implied probabilities of default and recovery levels. FVA is considered the primary adjustment applied to derivative liabilities. The extent to which DVA and FVA overlap is eliminated from DVA.

The own credit adjustment for fair value does not alter cash flows, is not used for performance management, is disregarded for regulatory capital reporting processes and will reverse over time as the liabilities mature.

The reserve movement between periods will not equate to the reported profit or loss for own credit. The balance sheet reserves are stated by conversion of underlying currency balances at spot rates for each period whereas the income statement includes intra-period foreign exchange sell-offs.

The effect of change in credit spreads could reverse in future periods provided the liability is not repaid at a premium or a discount.

The cumulative own credit adjustment (OCA) recorded on held-for-trading (HFT) and designated as at fair value through profit or loss (DFV) debt securities in issue, subordinated liabilities and derivative liabilities are set out below.

Cumulative own credit adjustment (increase)/decrease in liability (1)	Debt securities in issue (2)			Subordinated liabilities		Derivatives (3)	Total
	HFT £m	DFV £m	Total £m	DFV £m	Total £m		
2014	(397)	(123)	(520)	221	(299)	12	(287)
2013	(467)	(33)	(500)	256	(244)	96	(148)
2012	(648)	56	(592)	362	(230)	259	29

Carrying values of underlying liabilities	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn
2014	6.5	10.4	16.9	0.9	17.8
2013	8.6	15.8	24.4	0.9	25.3
2012	10.9	23.6	34.5	1.1	35.6

#### Notes:

(1) The OCA does not alter cash flows and is not used for performance management.

(2) Includes wholesale and retail note issuances.

(3) The reserve movement between periods will not equate to the reported profit or loss for own credit. The balance sheet reserve is stated by conversion of underlying currency balances at spot rates for each period, whereas the income statement includes intra-period foreign exchange sell-offs.



## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### Financial instruments carried at fair value - valuation hierarchy

The following tables show financial instruments carried at fair value on the balance sheet by valuation hierarchy - level 1, level 2 and level 3.

	2014				2013				2012			
	Level 1 £bn	Level 2 £bn	Level 3 £bn	Total £bn	Level 1 £bn	Level 2 £bn	Level 3 £bn	Total £bn	Level 1 £bn	Level 2 £bn	Level 3 £bn	Total £bn
<b>Assets</b>												
Loans and advances	—	95.4	0.6	96.0	—	104.4	0.5	104.9	—	140.7	1.0	141.7
Debt securities												
Government	53.5	6.0	—	59.5	56.6	13.5	0.1	70.2	81.0	14.4	—	95.4
Other	2.0	16.3	1.2	19.5	1.4	36.2	2.0	39.6	2.6	50.2	4.8	57.6
	55.5	22.3	1.2	79.0	58.0	49.7	2.1	109.8	83.6	64.6	4.8	153.0
Of which ABS	—	6.4	0.8	7.2	—	33.2	1.7	34.9	—	45.1	4.2	49.3
Equity shares	4.6	0.5	0.5	5.6	7.0	1.1	0.7	8.8	13.1	1.3	0.8	15.2
Derivatives												
Credit	—	1.9	0.4	2.3	—	4.5	0.8	5.3	—	9.3	1.7	11.0
Other	—	348.8	2.6	351.4	0.1	279.9	2.7	282.7	0.1	428.7	2.1	430.9
	—	350.7	3.0	353.7	0.1	284.4	3.5	288.0	0.1	438.0	3.8	441.9
	60.1	468.9	5.3	534.3	65.1	439.6	6.8	511.5	96.8	644.6	10.4	751.8
Proportion	11.2%	87.8%	1.0%	100.0%	12.7%	86.0%	1.3%	100.0%	12.9%	85.7%	1.4%	100.0%
<b>Liabilities</b>												
Deposits	—	105.9	0.2	106.1	—	111.0	0.3	111.3	—	167.4	0.2	167.6
Debt securities in issue	—	15.5	1.2	16.7	—	23.1	1.3	24.4	—	33.1	1.4	34.5
Short positions	19.9	3.1	—	23.0	23.9	4.1	—	28.0	23.6	4.0	—	27.6
Derivatives												
Credit	—	2.1	0.6	2.7	—	4.5	0.9	5.4	—	9.6	0.8	10.4
Other	0.1	344.4	2.6	347.1	0.1	277.9	2.1	280.1	0.1	421.3	2.5	423.9
	0.1	346.5	3.2	349.8	0.1	282.4	3.0	285.5	0.1	430.9	3.3	434.3
Subordinated liabilities	—	0.9	—	0.9	—	0.9	—	0.9	—	1.1	—	1.1
	20.0	471.9	4.6	496.5	24.0	421.5	4.6	450.1	23.7	636.5	4.9	665.1
Proportion	4.1%	95.0%	0.9%	100.0%	5.3%	93.7%	1.0%	100.0%	3.6%	95.7%	0.7%	100.0%

#### Notes:

- (1) Level 1: valued using unadjusted quoted prices in active markets, for identical financial instruments. Examples include G10 government securities, listed equity shares, certain exchange-traded derivatives and certain US agency securities.

Level 2: valued using techniques based significantly on observable market data. Instruments in this category are valued using:

- (a) quoted prices for similar instruments or identical instruments in markets which are not considered to be active; or  
(b) valuation techniques where all the inputs that have a significant effect on the valuations are directly or indirectly based on observable market data.

Level 2 instruments included non-G10 government securities, most government agency securities, investment-grade corporate bonds, certain mortgage products, including CLOs, most bank loans, repos and reverse repos, less liquid listed equities, state and municipal obligations, most notes issued, and certain money market securities and loan commitments and most OTC derivatives.

Level 3: instruments in this category have been valued using a valuation technique where at least one input which could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation, is not based on observable market data. Level 3 instruments primarily include cash instruments which trade infrequently, certain syndicated and commercial mortgage loans, certain emerging markets instruments, unlisted equity shares, certain residual interests in securitisations, CDOs, other mortgage-backed products and less liquid debt securities, certain structured debt securities in issue, and OTC derivatives where valuation depends upon unobservable inputs such as certain credit and exotic derivatives. No gain or loss is recognised on the initial recognition of a financial instrument valued using a technique incorporating significant unobservable data.

- (2) Transfers between levels are deemed to have occurred at the beginning of the quarter in which the instruments were transferred. There were no significant transfers between level 1 and level 2.  
(3) For an analysis of derivatives by type of contract see Capital and risk management – Balance Sheet analysis - derivatives, which includes balances relating to disposal groups.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 11 Financial instruments - valuation continued

The following table analyses level 3 balances and related valuation sensitivities.

	2014			2013			2012		
	Balance £bn	Sensitivity (1) £m		Balance £bn	Sensitivity (1) £m		Balance £bn	Sensitivity (1) £m	
<b>Assets</b>									
Loans and advances	0.6	30	(30)	0.5	50	(40)	1.0	140	(70)
Debt securities									
Government	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—
Other	1.2	50	(40)	2.0	160	(100)	4.8	370	(190)
	1.2	50	(40)	2.1	160	(100)	4.8	370	(190)
Equity shares	0.5	90	(80)	0.7	120	(110)	0.8	60	(100)
Derivatives									
Credit	0.4	40	(40)	0.8	70	(110)	1.7	230	(230)
Other	2.6	250	(250)	2.7	320	(140)	2.1	200	(120)
	3.0	290	(290)	3.5	390	(250)	3.8	430	(350)
	5.3	460	(440)	6.8	720	(500)	10.4	1,000	(710)
Of which ABS	0.8	30	(30)	1.7	120	(90)	4.2	290	(120)
<b>Liabilities</b>									
Deposits	0.2	—	(10)	0.3	10	(10)	0.2	30	(50)
Debt securities in issue	1.2	40	(40)	1.3	50	(70)	1.4	60	(70)
Derivatives									
Credit	0.6	60	(60)	0.9	40	(60)	0.8	40	(90)
Other	2.6	160	(180)	2.1	90	(60)	2.5	100	(60)
	3.2	220	(240)	3.0	130	(120)	3.3	140	(150)
	4.6	260	(290)	4.6	190	(200)	4.9	230	(270)

Note:

- (1) Sensitivity represents the favourable and unfavourable effect on the income statement or the statement of comprehensive income due to reasonably possible changes to valuations using reasonably possible alternative inputs in RBS's valuation techniques or models. Level 3 sensitivities are calculated at a sub-portfolio level and hence these aggregated figures do not reflect the correlation between some of the sensitivities. In particular, for some portfolios, the sensitivities may be negatively correlated where a downward movement in one asset would produce an upward movement in another, but due to the additive presentation above, this correlation cannot be shown.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### Valuation techniques

The table below shows a breakdown of valuation techniques and the ranges for those unobservable inputs used in valuation models and techniques that have a material impact on the valuation of Level 3 financial instruments. The table excludes unobservable inputs where the impact on valuation is less significant. Movements in the underlying input may have a favourable or unfavourable impact on the valuation depending on the particular terms of the contract and the exposure. For example an increase in the credit spread of a bond would be favourable for the issuer and unfavourable for the note holder. Whilst RBS indicates where it considers that there are significant relationships between the inputs, these inter-relationships will be affected by macro economic factors including interest rates, foreign exchange rates or equity index levels.

Financial instruments	Level 3 (£bn)		Valuation technique	Unobservable inputs	Range	
	Assets	Liabilities			Low	High
Debt securities	1.2		Price based DCF	Price (2) Yield (2)	0% 10%	100% 30%
Derivatives						
Credit	0.4	0.6	DCF based on recoveries	Recovery rates (3) Credit spreads (4)	0% 80bps	100% 700bps
Other	2.6	2.6	Option pricing model	Correlation (5) Volatility (6)	(40%) 15%	85% 83%

#### Notes:

- (1) Level 3 structured issued debt securities of £1.2 billion are not included in the table above as valuation is consistent with the valuation of the embedded derivative component.
- (2) Price and yield: There may be a range of price based information used to value an instrument. This may be a direct comparison of one instrument or portfolio with another or movements in a more liquid instrument may be used to indicate the movement in the value of less liquid instrument. The comparison may also be indirect in that adjustments are made to the price to reflect differences between the pricing source and the instrument being valued, for example different maturity, credit quality, seniority or expected payouts. Similarly to price, an instrument's yield may be compared to other instruments either directly or indirectly. Prices move inversely to yields.
- (3) Recovery rate: Reflects market expectations about the return of principal for a debt instrument or other obligations after a credit event or on liquidation. Recovery rates tend to move conversely to credit spreads.
- (4) Credit spreads and discount margins: Credit spreads and margins express the return required over a benchmark rate or index to compensate for the credit risk associated with a cash instrument. A higher credit spread would indicate that the underlying instrument has more credit risk associated with it. Consequently, investors require a higher yield to compensate for the higher risk. The discount rate comprises credit spread or margin plus the benchmark rate; it is used to value future cash flows.
- (5) Correlation: Measures the degree by which two prices or other variables are observed to move together. If they move in the same direction there is positive correlation; if they move in opposite directions there is negative correlation. Correlations typically include relationships between: default probabilities of assets in a basket (a group of separate assets), exchange rates, interest rates and other financial variables.
- (6) Volatility: A measure of the tendency of a price to change with time.
- (7) RBS does not have any material liabilities measured at fair value that are issued with an inseparable third party credit enhancement.

The Level 3 sensitivities above are calculated at a trade or low level portfolio basis. They are not calculated on an overall portfolio basis and therefore do not reflect the likely potential uncertainty on the portfolio as a whole. The figures are aggregated and do not reflect the correlated nature of some of the sensitivities. In particular, for some of the portfolios the sensitivities may be negatively correlated where a downwards movement in one asset would produce an upwards movement in another, but due to the additive presentation of the above figures this correlation cannot be displayed. The actual potential downside sensitivity of the total portfolio may be less than the non-correlated sum of the additive figures as shown in the above table.

### Judgemental issues

The diverse range of products traded by RBS results in a wide range of instruments that are classified into Level 3 of the hierarchy. Whilst the majority of these instruments naturally fall into a particular level, for some products an element of judgment is required. The majority of RBS's financial instruments carried at fair value are classified as Level 2: inputs are observable either directly (i.e. as a price) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices).

### Active and inactive markets

A key input in the decision making process for the allocation of assets to a particular level is liquidity. In general, the degree of valuation uncertainty depends on the degree of liquidity of an input.

Where markets are liquid or very liquid, little judgment is required.

However, when the information regarding the liquidity in a particular market is not clear, a judgment may need to be made. This can be more difficult as assessing the liquidity of a market is not always straightforward. For an equity traded on an exchange, daily volumes of trading can be seen, but for an over-the counter (OTC) derivative assessing the liquidity of the market with no central exchange is more difficult.

A key related issue is where a market moves from liquid to illiquid or vice versa. Where this change is considered to be temporary, the classification is not changed. For example, if there is little market trading in a product on a reporting date but at the previous reporting date and during the intervening period the market has been considered to be liquid, the instrument will continue to be classified in the same level in the hierarchy. This is to provide consistency so that transfers between levels are driven by genuine changes in market liquidity and do not reflect short term or seasonal effects.

### Interaction with the IPV process

The determination of an instrument's level cannot be made at a global product level as a single product type can be in more than one level. For example, a single name corporate credit default swap could be in Level 2 or Level 3 depending on whether the reference counterparty's obligations are liquid or illiquid.

As part of RBS's IPV process, data are gathered at a trade level from market trading activity, trading systems, pricing services, consensus pricing providers, brokers and research material amongst other sources.

### 11 Financial instruments - valuation continued

The breadth and depth of the IPV data allows for a rules based quality assessment to be made of market activity, liquidity and pricing uncertainty, which assists with the process of allocation to an appropriate level. Where suitable independent pricing information is not readily available, the quality assessment will result in the instrument being assessed as Level 3.

#### Modelled products

For modelled products the market convention is to quote these trades through the model inputs or parameters as opposed to a cash price equivalent. A mark-to-market is derived from the use of the independent market inputs calculated using RBS's model.

The decision to classify a modelled asset as Level 2 or 3 will be dependent upon the product/model combination, the currency, the maturity, the observability and quality of input parameters and other factors. All these must be assessed to classify the asset.

An assessment is made of each input into a model. There may be multiple inputs into a model and each is assessed in turn for observability and quality. As part of the process of classifying the quality of IPV results the IPV quality classifications have been designed to follow the accounting level classifications, although with a further level of granularity. For example there are a number of different IPV quality levels that equate to a Level 2 classification and so on.

If an input fails the observability or quality tests then the instrument is considered to be in Level 3 unless the input can be shown to have an insignificant effect on the overall valuation of the product.

The majority of derivative instruments for example vanilla interest rate swaps, foreign exchange swaps and liquid single name credit derivatives are classified as Level 2 as they are vanilla products valued using observable inputs. The valuation uncertainty on these is considered to be low and both input and output testing may be available.

#### Non-modelled products

Non-modelled products are generally quoted on a price basis and can therefore be considered for each of the three levels. This is determined by the market activity, liquidity and valuation uncertainty of the instruments which is in turn measured from the availability of independent data used by the IPV process to allocate positions to IPV quality levels.

The availability and quality of independent pricing information is considered during the classification process. An assessment is made regarding the quality of the independent information. For example, where consensus prices are used for non-modelled products, a key assessment of the quality of a price is the depth of the number of prices used to provide the consensus price. If the depth of contributors falls below a set hurdle rate, the instrument is considered to be Level 3. This hurdle rate is that used in the IPV process to determine the IPV quality rating. However, where an instrument is generally considered to be illiquid, but regular quotes from market participants exist, these instruments may be classified as Level 2 depending on frequency of quotes, other available pricing and whether the quotes are used as part of the IPV process or not.

For some instruments with a wide number of available price sources, there may be differing quality of available information and there may be a wide range of prices from different sources. In these situations the highest quality source is used to determine the classification of the asset. For example, a tradable quote would be considered a better source than a consensus price.

#### Level 3 portfolios and sensitively methodologies

Reasonably possible alternative assumptions of unobservable inputs are determined based on a 90% confidence interval. The assessments recognise different favourable and unfavourable valuation movements where appropriate. Each unobservable input within a product is considered separately and sensitivity is reported on an additive basis.

Alternative assumptions are determined with reference to all available evidence including consideration of the following: quality of independent pricing information taking into account consistency between different sources, variation over time, perceived tradability or otherwise of available quotes; consensus service dispersion ranges; volume of trading activity and market bias (e.g. one-way inventory); day 1 profit or loss arising on new trades; number and nature of market participants; market conditions; modelling consistency in the market; size and nature of risk; length of holding of position; and market intelligence.

#### Other considerations

##### Valuation adjustments

CVA applied to derivative exposures to other counterparties and own credit adjustments applied to derivative liabilities (DVA) are calculated on a portfolio basis. Whilst the methodology used to calculate each of these adjustments references certain inputs which are not based on observable market data, these inputs are not considered to have a significant effect on the net valuation of the related portfolios. The classification of the derivative portfolios which the valuation adjustments are applied to is not determined by the observability of the valuation adjustments, and any related sensitivity does not form part of the Level 3 sensitivities presented.

##### Funding related adjustments

The discount rates applied to derivative cash-flows in determining fair value reflect any underlying collateral agreements. Collateralised derivative exposures are generally discounted at the relevant OIS rates whilst funding valuation adjustments are applied to uncollateralised derivative exposures. Whilst these adjustments reference certain inputs which are not based on observable market data, these inputs are not considered to have a significant effect on the valuation of the individual trades. The classification of derivatives is not determined by the observability of these adjustments, and any related sensitivity does not form part of the Level 3 sensitivities presented.

##### Own credit - issued debt

For structured notes issued the own credit adjustment is based on debt issuance spreads above average inter-bank rates at the reporting date (at a range of tenors). Whilst certain debt issuance spreads are not based on observable market data, these inputs are not considered to have a significant effect on the valuation of individual trades. Neither the classification of structured notes issued nor any related valuation sensitivities are determined by the observability of the debt issuance spreads.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### Movement in level 3

2014	At 1 January £m	Amount recorded in the Income statement (1) £m		Level 3 transfers		Issuances (3) £m	Purchases £m	Settlements £m	Sales £m	Foreign exchange and other £m	At 31 December £m	Amounts recorded in the income statement in respect of balances held at year end	
		SOCI (2) £m	In £m	Out £m	Unrealised £m							Realised £m	
<b>Assets</b>													
FVTPL assets (3)	5,167	107	—	1,142	(967)	—	861	(998)	(622)	(17)	4,673	151	(83)
AFS assets	1,594	(1)	(45)	6	(158)	—	8	(367)	(428)	25	634	(4)	3
	6,761	106	(45)	1,148	(1,125)	—	869	(1,365)	(1,050)	8	5,307	147	(80)
<b>Liabilities</b>													
	4,631	1	—	1,770	(690)	109	59	(1,253)	(51)	19	4,595	(171)	105
Net gains/(losses)		105	(45)									318	(185)
<b>2013</b>													
<b>Assets</b>													
FVTPL assets (3)	7,067	(570)	—	1,207	(387)	4	1,054	(850)	(2,328)	(30)	5,167	(838)	156
AFS assets	3,338	70	159	183	(14)	—	122	(725)	(1,493)	(46)	1,594	4	41
	10,405	(500)	159	1,390	(401)	4	1,176	(1,575)	(3,821)	(76)	6,761	(834)	197
<b>Liabilities</b>													
	4,850	32	—	922	(482)	436	343	(1,240)	(212)	(18)	4,631	(150)	67
Net (losses)/gains		(532)	159									(684)	130
<b>2012</b>													
<b>Assets</b>													
FVTPL assets (3)	10,308	(1,960)	—	1,124	(653)	—	2,306	(1,638)	(2,312)	(108)	7,067	(1,843)	113
AFS assets	6,092	174	77	465	(472)	—	52	(1,005)	(2,026)	(19)	3,338	(51)	51
	16,400	(1,786)	77	1,589	(1,125)	—	2,358	(2,643)	(4,338)	(127)	10,405	(1,894)	164
<b>Liabilities</b>													
	6,323	(399)	—	936	(514)	542	171	(2,157)	1	(53)	4,850	(346)	(2)
Net (losses)/gains		(1,387)	77									(1,548)	166

#### Notes:

- (1) Net losses on HFT instruments of £100 million (2013 - £543 million; 2012 - £1,528 million) were recorded in income from trading activities in continuing operations. Net gains on other instruments of £205 million (2013 - £11 million; 2012 - £141 million) were recorded in other operating income and interest income as appropriate in continuing operations. There were no losses (2013 - nil; 2012 - £19 million) in discontinued operations.
- (2) Consolidated statement of comprehensive income.
- (3) Fair value through profit or loss comprises held-for-trading predominantly and designated at fair value through profit and loss.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 11 Financial instruments - valuation continued

#### Fair value of financial instruments not carried at fair value

The following table shows the carrying value and fair value of financial instruments carried at amortised cost on the balance sheet.

2014	Items where fair value approximates carrying value £bn	Carrying value £bn	Fair value £bn	Fair value of hierarchy level		
				Level 1 £bn	Level 2 £bn	Level 3 £bn
Financial assets						
Cash and balances at central banks	74.9					
Loans and advances to banks						
- items in the course of collection from other banks	1.0					
- other		12.8	12.8	—	6.6	6.2
Loans and advances to customers						
UK PBB						
- mortgages		103.0	102.7	—	—	102.7
- other		24.2	23.8	—	—	23.8
Ulster Bank						
- mortgages		16.1	13.7	—	—	13.7
- other		5.9	5.7	—	—	5.7
Commercial Banking						
- commercial real estate		17.5	16.5	—	—	16.5
- other		67.5	65.1	—	—	65.1
Private Banking		16.5	16.5	—	—	16.5
CIB		50.0	48.6	—	0.9	47.7
Central items		1.1	1.1	—	1.1	—
RCR						
- commercial real estate		4.5	4.3	—	—	4.3
- other		5.8	5.5	—	—	5.5
Total loans and advances to customers		312.1	303.5	—	2.0	301.5
Of which:						
Performing		300.5	292.5	—	2.0	290.5
Non-performing		11.6	11.0	—	—	11.0
Debt securities		7.6	7.5	4.7	1.9	0.9
Settlement balances	4.7					
Financial liabilities						
Deposits by banks						
- demand deposits	3.7					
- items in the course of transmission to other banks	0.5					
- other		6.4	6.4	—	1.4	5.0
Customer accounts						
- demand deposits	234.9					
- other		100.7	100.7	—	54.8	45.9
Debt securities in issue		33.6	35.0	—	32.0	3.0
Settlement balances	4.5					
Notes in circulation	1.8					
Subordinated liabilities		22.0	22.5	—	22.4	0.1

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

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The fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Quoted market values are used where available; otherwise, fair values have been estimated based on discounted expected future cash flows and other valuation techniques. These techniques involve uncertainties and require assumptions and judgments covering prepayments, credit risk and discount rates. Furthermore there is a wide range of potential valuation techniques. Changes in these assumptions would significantly affect estimated fair values. The fair values reported would not necessarily be realised in an immediate sale or settlement.

The assumptions and methodologies underlying the calculation of fair values of financial instruments at the balance sheet date are as follows:

### Short-term financial instruments

For certain short-term financial instruments: cash and balances at central banks, items in the course of collection from other banks, settlement balances, items in the course of transmission to other banks, demand deposits and notes in circulation, fair value approximates to carrying value.

### Loans and advances to banks and customers

In estimating the fair value of loans and advances to banks and customers measured at amortised cost, RBS's loans are segregated into appropriate portfolios reflecting the characteristics of the constituent loans. Two principal methods are used to estimate fair value:

- (a) Contractual cash flows are discounted using a market discount rate that incorporates the current spread for the borrower or where this is not observable, the spread for borrowers of a similar credit standing. This method is used for portfolios where counterparties have external ratings: large corporate loans in Commercial Banking and institutional and corporate lending in CIB.

- (b) Expected cash flows (unadjusted for credit losses) are discounted at the current offer rate for the same or similar products. This approach is adopted for lending portfolios in UK PBB, Commercial Banking (SME loans), Ulster Bank and Private Banking in order to reflect the homogeneous nature of these portfolios.

For certain portfolios where there are very few or no recent transactions, such as Ulster Bank's portfolio of lifetime tracker mortgages, a bespoke approach is used based on available market data.

### Debt securities

The majority of debt securities are valued using quoted prices in active markets, or using quoted prices for similar assets in active markets. Fair values of the rest are determined using discounted cash flow valuation techniques.

### Deposits by banks and customer accounts

Fair values of deposits are estimated using discounted cash flow valuation techniques.

### Debt securities in issue and subordinated liabilities

Fair values are determined using quoted prices for similar liabilities where available or by reference to valuation techniques, adjusting for own credit spreads where appropriate.



## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 11 Financial instruments - valuation continued

2013	Items where fair value approximates carrying value £bn	Carrying value £bn	Fair value £bn	Fair value of hierarchy level	
				Level 2 £bn	Level 3 £bn
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and balances at central banks	82.7				
Loans and advances to banks					
- items in the course of collection from other banks	1.5				
- other		16.8	16.8	6.0	10.8
Loans and advances to customers					
UK PBB		124.8	123.7		
Ulster Bank		26.1	20.5		
Commercial Banking		83.4	80.1		
Private Banking		16.6	16.6		
CIB		49.1	48.5		
Central items		0.6	0.5		
Citizens Financial Group		49.3	49.5		
RCR		21.7	20.6		
Total loans and advances to customers		371.6	360.0	13.5	346.5
Of which:					
Performing		354.6	343.9		
Non-performing		17.0	16.1		
Debt securities		3.8	3.2	1.9	1.3
Settlement balances	5.6				
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Deposits by banks					
- items in the course of transmission to other banks	0.8				
- other		20.3	20.3	6.9	13.4
Customer accounts					
- demand deposits	268.7				
- other		133.8	134.0	89.4	44.6
Debt securities in issue		43.4	44.7	40.5	4.2
Settlement balances	5.3				
Notes in circulation	1.8				
Subordinated liabilities		23.1	22.5	22.3	0.2
				2012 Carrying value £bn	2012 Fair value £bn
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and balances at central banks				79.3	79.3
Loans and advances to banks				17.3	17.3
Loans and advances to customers				405.1	385.4
Debt securities				4.5	4.0
Settlement balances				5.7	5.7
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Deposits by banks				34.5	34.5
Customer accounts				420.7	421.0
Debt securities in issue				60.1	59.8
Settlement balances				5.9	5.9
Notes in circulation				1.7	1.7
Subordinated liabilities				25.6	24.3

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 12 Financial instruments - maturity analysis

#### Remaining maturity

The following table shows the residual maturity of financial instruments, based on contractual date of maturity.

	2014			2013			2012		
	Less than 12 months £m	More than 12 months £m	Total £m	Less than 12 months £m	More than 12 months £m	Total £m	Less than 12 months £m	More than 12 months £m	Total £m
<b>Assets</b>									
Cash and balances at central banks	74,872	—	74,872	82,659	—	82,659	79,290	—	79,290
Loans and advances to banks	43,175	560	43,735	53,206	865	54,071	63,143	808	63,951
Loans and advances to customers	149,118	229,120	378,238	169,314	271,408	440,722	197,855	302,280	500,135
Debt securities	24,756	61,893	86,649	19,542	94,057	113,599	26,363	131,075	157,438
Equity shares	—	5,635	5,635	—	8,811	8,811	—	15,232	15,232
Settlement balances	4,667	—	4,667	5,591	—	5,591	5,741	—	5,741
Derivatives	67,022	286,568	353,590	45,067	242,972	288,039	51,021	390,882	441,903
<b>Liabilities</b>									
Deposits by banks	59,034	1,631	60,665	61,108	2,871	63,979	90,704	10,701	101,405
Customer accounts	384,079	7,560	391,639	455,620	15,260	470,880	494,405	26,874	521,279
Debt securities in issue	10,690	39,590	50,280	16,547	51,272	67,819	20,296	74,296	94,592
Settlement balances and short positions	6,426	21,106	27,532	10,490	22,845	33,335	8,573	24,896	33,469
Derivatives	69,103	280,702	349,805	45,385	240,141	285,526	51,503	382,830	434,333
Subordinated liabilities	3,272	19,633	22,905	1,350	22,662	24,012	2,351	24,422	26,773

#### Assets and liabilities by contractual cash flow maturity

The tables below show the contractual undiscounted cash flows receivable and payable, up to a period of 20 years, including future receipts and payments of interest of financial assets and liabilities by contractual maturity. The balances in the following tables do not agree directly with the consolidated balance sheet, as the tables include all cash flows relating to principal and future coupon payments, presented on an undiscounted basis. The tables have been prepared on the following basis:

Financial assets have been reflected in the time band of the latest date on which they could be repaid, unless earlier repayment can be demanded by RBS. Financial liabilities are included at the earliest date on which the counterparty can require repayment, regardless of whether or not such early repayment results in a penalty. If the repayment of a financial instrument is triggered by, or is subject to, specific criteria such as market price hurdles being reached, the asset is included in the time band that contains the latest date on which it can be repaid, regardless of early repayment.

The liability is included in the time band that contains the earliest possible date on which the conditions could be fulfilled, without considering the probability of the conditions being met.

For example, if a structured note is automatically prepaid when an equity index exceeds a certain level, the cash outflow will be included in the less than three months period, whatever the level of the index at the year end. The settlement date of debt securities in issue, issued by certain securitisation vehicles consolidated by RBS, depends on when cash flows are received from the securitised assets. Where these assets are prepayable, the timing of the cash outflow relating to securities assumes that each asset will be prepaid at the earliest possible date. As the repayments of assets and liabilities are linked, the repayment of assets in securitisations is shown on the earliest date that the asset can be prepaid, as this is the basis used for liabilities.

The principal amounts of financial assets and liabilities that are repayable after 20 years or where the counterparty has no right to repayment of the principal are excluded from the table, as are interest payments after 20 years.

Held-for-trading assets of £498.2 billion (2013 - £452.1 billion; 2012 - £666.5 billion) and liabilities of £477.1 billion (2013 - £423.3 billion; 2012 - £628.2 billion) have been excluded from the following tables in view of their short-term nature.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 12 Financial instruments - maturity analysis *continued*

2014	0-3 months £m	3-12 months £m	1-3 years £m	3-5 years £m	5-10 years £m	10-20 years £m
<b>Assets by contractual maturity</b>						
Cash and balances at central banks	74,872	—	—	—	—	—
Loans and advances to banks	15,110	975	219	46	15	—
Debt securities	5,889	5,328	5,014	4,684	6,103	2,602
Settlement balances	4,667	—	—	—	—	—
Total maturing assets	100,538	6,303	5,233	4,730	6,118	2,602
Loans and advances to customers	56,664	37,249	64,266	56,726	64,051	71,492
Derivatives held for hedging	611	1,483	2,281	711	380	63
	157,813	45,035	71,780	62,167	70,549	74,157
<b>Liabilities by contractual maturity</b>						
Deposits by banks	8,287	754	793	8	575	140
Debt securities in issue	2,591	7,585	12,952	8,536	8,897	1,926
Subordinated liabilities	1,243	2,731	3,045	4,365	13,394	3,698
Settlement balances and other liabilities	6,295	5	4	—	—	—
Total maturing liabilities	18,416	11,075	16,794	12,909	22,866	5,764
Customer accounts	328,158	7,884	3,170	1,082	114	23
Derivatives held for hedging	140	348	789	543	949	1,010
	346,714	19,307	20,753	14,534	23,929	6,797
<b>Maturity gap</b>	82,122	(4,772)	(11,561)	(8,179)	(16,748)	(3,162)
<b>Cumulative maturity gap</b>	82,122	77,350	65,789	57,610	40,862	37,700
<b>Guarantees and commitments notional amount</b>						
Guarantees (1)	16,721	—	—	—	—	—
Commitments (2)	212,777	—	—	—	—	—
	229,498	—	—	—	—	—
<b>2013</b>						
<b>Assets by contractual maturity</b>						
Cash and balances at central banks	82,659	—	—	—	—	—
Loans and advances to banks	16,096	1,876	279	4	74	5
Debt securities	3,078	5,044	10,667	11,310	14,189	7,238
Settlement balances	5,591	—	—	—	—	—
Total maturing assets	107,424	6,920	10,946	11,314	14,263	7,243
Loans and advances to customers	70,511	48,027	84,836	65,542	74,296	69,242
Derivatives held for hedging	545	1,282	2,148	427	115	93
	178,480	56,229	97,930	77,283	88,674	76,578
<b>Liabilities by contractual maturity</b>						
Deposits by banks	16,867	1,550	1,306	158	944	426
Debt securities in issue	11,457	7,601	16,375	7,356	9,879	4,840
Subordinated liabilities	324	1,982	6,473	6,140	11,376	3,345
Settlement balances and other liabilities	7,074	4	9	4	—	1
Total maturing liabilities	35,722	11,137	24,163	13,658	22,199	8,612
Customer accounts	388,322	9,524	5,889	2,356	698	35
Derivatives held for hedging	130	271	933	1,190	1,732	330
	424,174	20,932	30,985	17,204	24,629	8,977
<b>Maturity gap</b>	71,702	(4,217)	(13,217)	(2,344)	(7,936)	(1,369)
<b>Cumulative maturity gap</b>	71,702	67,485	54,268	51,924	43,988	42,619
<b>Guarantees and commitments notional amount</b>						
Guarantees (1)	20,179	—	—	—	—	—
Commitments (2)	213,046	—	—	—	—	—
	233,225	—	—	—	—	—

For the notes relating to this table refer to the following page.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

2012	0-3 months £m	3-12 months £m	1-3 years £m	3-5 years £m	5-10 years £m	10-20 years £m
<b>Assets by contractual maturity</b>						
Cash and balances at central banks	79,290	—	—	—	—	—
Loans and advances to banks	15,592	1,393	272	27	20	62
Debt securities	6,320	4,505	13,330	19,369	25,772	10,644
Settlement balances	5,741	—	—	—	—	—
Total maturing assets	106,943	5,898	13,602	19,396	25,792	10,706
Loans and advances to customers	73,590	57,403	93,445	65,569	76,682	87,450
Derivatives held for hedging	571	1,878	3,909	1,879	429	67
	181,104	65,179	110,956	86,844	102,903	98,223
<b>Liabilities by contractual maturity</b>						
Deposits by banks	23,363	973	8,336	388	1,091	594
Debt securities in issue	15,072	14,555	23,733	13,118	20,154	4,975
Subordinated liabilities	318	2,979	7,045	3,182	11,134	3,603
Settlement balances and other liabilities	7,560	4	9	1	—	1
Total maturing liabilities	46,313	18,511	39,123	16,689	32,379	9,173
Customer accounts	386,504	24,123	11,791	2,186	1,246	63
Derivatives held for hedging	310	752	1,790	1,262	1,244	684
	433,127	43,386	52,704	20,137	34,869	9,920
<b>Maturity gap</b>	60,630	(12,613)	(25,521)	2,707	(6,587)	1,533
<b>Cumulative maturity gap</b>	60,630	48,017	22,496	25,203	18,616	20,149
<b>Guarantees and commitments notional amount</b>						
Guarantees (1)	19,025	—	—	—	—	—
Commitments (2)	215,808	—	—	—	—	—
	234,833	—	—	—	—	—

### Notes:

- (1) RBS is only called upon to satisfy a guarantee when the guaranteed party fails to meet its obligations. RBS expects most guarantees it provides to expire unused.
- (2) RBS has given commitments to provide funds to customers under undrawn formal facilities, credit lines and other commitments to lend subject to certain conditions being met by the counterparty. RBS does not expect all facilities to be drawn, and some may lapse before drawdown.

## 13 Financial assets - impairments

The following table shows the movement in the provision for impairment losses on loans and advances.

	Individually assessed £m	Collectively assessed £m	Latent £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
At 1 January	16,909	6,304	2,003	25,216	21,250	19,883
Transfers (to)/from disposal groups	(100)	(158)	(295)	(553)	(9)	764
Currency translation and other adjustments	(630)	(21)	(16)	(667)	121	(310)
Disposals	(6)	—	—	(6)	(77)	(5)
Amounts written-off	(4,004)	(1,274)	—	(5,278)	(4,346)	(4,266)
Recoveries of amounts previously written-off	72	133	—	205	256	341
(Release)/charge to income statement						
- continuing operations	(845)	173	(692)	(1,364)	8,105	5,054
- discontinued operations	36	142	16	194	307	265
Unwind of discount (recognised in interest income)	(138)	(109)	—	(247)	(391)	(476)
At 31 December (1)	11,294	5,190	1,016	17,500	25,216	21,250

### Notes:

- (1) Includes £40 million relating to loans and advances to banks (2013 - £63 million; 2012 - £114 million).
- (2) The table above excludes impairments relating to securities.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 13 Financial assets - impairments continued

	2014	2013	2012
	£m	£m	£m
<b>Impairment (releases)/losses charged to the income statement</b>			
Loans and advances to customers	(1,354)	8,120	5,031
Loans and advances to banks	(10)	(15)	23
	(1,364)	8,105	5,054
Debt securities	12	15	(75)
Equity shares	—	—	31
	12	15	(44)
	(1,352)	8,120	5,010

The following tables analyse impaired financial assets.

	2014			2013			2012		
	Cost £m	Provision £m	Carrying value £m	Cost £m	Provision £m	Carrying value £m	Cost £m	Provision £m	Carrying value £m
<b>Loans and receivables</b>									
Loans and advances to banks (1)	42	40	2	70	63	7	134	114	20
Loans and advances to customers (2)	25,201	16,444	8,757	37,101	23,150	13,951	38,352	19,176	19,176
	25,243	16,484	8,759	37,171	23,213	13,958	38,486	19,290	19,196

Notes:

(1) Impairment provisions individually assessed.

(2) Impairment provisions individually assessed on balances of £17,655 million (2013 - £26,939 million; 2012 - £26,797 million).

	Carrying value 2014 £m	Carrying value 2013 £m	Carrying value 2012 £m
<b>Available-for-sale securities</b>			
Debt securities	143	145	225
Equity shares	22	30	31
<b>Loans and receivables</b>			
Debt securities	29	585	1,008
	194	760	1,264

The following table shows financial and non-financial assets, recognised on RBS's balance sheet, obtained during the year by taking possession of collateral or calling on other credit enhancements.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Residential property	—	18	67
Other property	3	13	46
Cash	40	44	49
Other assets	—	2	1
	43	77	163

In general, RBS seeks to dispose of property and other assets not readily convertible into cash, obtained by taking possession of collateral, as rapidly as the market for the individual asset permits.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 14 Derivatives

Companies within RBS transact derivatives as principal either as a trading activity or to manage balance sheet foreign exchange, interest rate and credit risk.

RBS enters into fair value hedges, cash flow hedges and hedges of net investments in foreign operations. The majority of RBS's interest rate hedges relate to the management of RBS's non-trading interest rate risk. RBS manages this risk within approved limits. Residual risk positions are hedged with derivatives principally interest rate swaps. Suitable larger financial instruments are fair value hedged; the remaining exposure, where possible, is hedged by derivatives documented as cash flow hedges and qualifying for hedge accounting. The majority of RBS's fair value hedges involve interest rate swaps hedging the interest rate risk in recognised financial assets and financial liabilities. Cash flow hedges relate to exposures to the variability in future interest payments and receipts on forecast transactions and on recognised financial assets and financial liabilities. RBS hedges its net investments in foreign operations with currency borrowings and forward foreign exchange contracts.

For cash flow hedge relationships of interest rate risk, the hedged items are actual and forecast variable interest rate cash flows arising from financial assets and financial liabilities with interest rates linked to LIBOR, EURIBOR or the Bank of England official Bank Rate. The financial assets are customer loans and the financial liabilities are customer deposits and LIBOR linked medium-term notes and other issued securities. At 31 December 2014, variable rate financial assets of £80 billion (2013 - £74 billion; 2012 - £61 billion) and variable rate financial liabilities of £14 billion (2013 - £10 billion; 2012 - £9 billion) were hedged in such cash flow hedge relationships.

For cash flow hedging relationships, the initial and ongoing prospective effectiveness is assessed by comparing movements in the fair value of the expected highly probable forecast interest cash flows with movements in the fair value of the expected changes in cash flows from the hedging interest rate swap. Prospective effectiveness is measured on a cumulative basis i.e. over the entire life of the hedge relationship. The method of calculating hedge ineffectiveness is the hypothetical derivative method. Retrospective effectiveness is assessed by comparing the actual movements in the fair value of the cash flows and actual movements in the fair value of the hedged cash flows from the interest rate swap over the life to date of the hedging relationship.

For fair value hedge relationships of interest rate risk, the hedged items are typically large corporate fixed-rate loans, fixed rate finance leases, fixed rate medium-term notes or preference shares classified as debt. At 31 December 2014, fixed rate financial assets of £18 billion (2013 - £23 billion; 2012 - £25 billion) and fixed rate financial liabilities of £32 billion (2013 - £34 billion; 2012 - £39 billion) were hedged by interest rate swaps in fair value hedge relationships.

The initial and ongoing prospective effectiveness of fair value hedge relationships is assessed on a cumulative basis by comparing movements in the fair value of the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk with changes in the fair value of the hedging interest rate swap. Retrospective effectiveness is assessed by comparing the actual movements in the fair value of the hedged items attributable to the hedged risk with actual movements in the fair value of the hedging derivative over the life to date of the hedging relationship.

The following table shows the notional amounts and fair values of RBS's derivatives.

	2014			2013			2012		
	Notional amount £bn	Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Notional amount £bn	Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Notional amount £bn	Assets £m	Liabilities £m
<b>Exchange rate contracts</b>									
Spot, forwards and futures	2,025	32,960	33,419	2,041	24,495	24,136	2,259	23,237	22,721
Currency swaps	870	22,254	26,844	956	18,576	22,846	1,071	22,238	30,223
Options purchased	896	23,458	—	792	18,852	—	683	17,580	—
Options written	881	—	23,457	766	—	18,767	684	—	17,536
<b>Interest rate contracts</b>									
Interest rate swaps	20,161	219,411	211,287	27,483	179,891	172,618	25,474	300,907	286,620
Options purchased	1,471	49,248	—	1,568	37,437	—	1,934	61,798	—
Options written	1,552	—	47,866	1,513	—	35,410	1,884	—	58,289
Futures and forwards	4,133	886	739	5,025	712	669	4,191	749	653
<b>Credit derivatives</b>									
	125	2,254	2,611	253	5,306	5,388	553	11,005	10,353
<b>Equity and commodity contracts</b>									
	78	3,119	3,582	81	2,770	5,692	111	4,389	7,938
		<b>353,590</b>	<b>349,805</b>		<b>288,039</b>	<b>285,526</b>		<b>441,903</b>	<b>434,333</b>

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 14 Derivatives continued

Included in the table above are derivatives held for hedging purposes as follows:

	2014		2013		2012	
	Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Assets £m	Liabilities £m
<b>Fair value hedging</b>						
Interest rate contracts	2,122	2,319	2,086	2,587	3,779	4,488
<b>Cash flow hedging</b>						
Interest rate contracts	3,240	1,291	2,390	1,602	4,854	1,276
Exchange rate contracts	—	5	—	—	—	—
<b>Net investment hedging</b>						
Exchange rate contracts	78	6	55	38	6	32

Hedge ineffectiveness recognised in other operating income in continuing operations comprised:

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Fair value hedging</b>			
Gains/(losses) on the hedged items attributable to the hedged risk	809	(165)	178
(Losses)/gains on the hedging instruments	(840)	154	(132)
Fair value hedging ineffectiveness	(31)	(11)	46
Cash flow hedging ineffectiveness	(33)	(64)	25
	(64)	(75)	71

Hedge ineffectiveness recognised in other operating income in discontinued operations was £1 million in 2012.

The following table shows when hedged cash flows are expected to occur and when they will affect income for designated cash flow hedges.

	0-1 years £m	1-5 years £m	5-10 years £m	10-20 years £m	Over 20 years £m	Total £m
<b>2014</b>						
<b>Hedged forecast cash flows expected to occur</b>						
Forecast receivable cash flows	278	844	227	—	—	1,349
Forecast payable cash flows	(49)	(100)	(61)	(92)	(12)	(314)
<b>Hedged forecast cash flows affect on profit or loss</b>						
Forecast receivable cash flows	303	826	218	—	—	1,347
Forecast payable cash flows	(52)	(97)	(62)	(92)	(12)	(315)
<b>2013</b>						
<b>Hedged forecast cash flows expected to occur</b>						
Forecast receivable cash flows	303	877	271	—	—	1,451
Forecast payable cash flows	(33)	(69)	(64)	(101)	(19)	(286)
<b>Hedged forecast cash flows affect on profit or loss</b>						
Forecast receivable cash flows	302	859	261	—	—	1,422
Forecast payable cash flows	(32)	(69)	(64)	(101)	(19)	(285)
<b>2012</b>						
<b>Hedged forecast cash flows expected to occur</b>						
Forecast receivable cash flows	285	806	190	—	—	1,281
Forecast payable cash flows	(56)	(152)	(172)	(259)	(39)	(678)
<b>Hedged forecast cash flows affect on profit or loss</b>						
Forecast receivable cash flows	277	785	180	—	—	1,242
Forecast payable cash flows	(55)	(150)	(173)	(257)	(37)	(672)



## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 15 Debt securities

2014	Central and local government			Banks £m	Other financial institutions £m	Corporate £m	Total £m	Of which ABS (1) £m
	UK £m	US £m	Other £m					
Held-for-trading	6,218	7,709	24,451	1,499	7,372	1,977	49,226	3,559
Designated as at fair value through profit or loss	—	—	111	2	4	—	117	—
Available-for-sale	4,747	5,230	11,058	3,404	5,073	161	29,673	3,608
Loans and receivables	—	—	—	185	2,774	137	3,096	2,734
Held to maturity	4,537	—	—	—	—	—	4,537	—
	15,502	12,939	35,620	5,090	15,223	2,275	86,649	9,901

#### Available-for-sale

Gross unrealised gains	451	144	541	8	166	6	1,316	128
Gross unrealised losses	(1)	(5)	(3)	(1)	(133)	(2)	(145)	(120)

#### 2013

Held-for-trading	6,764	10,951	22,794	1,720	12,406	1,947	56,582	10,674
Designated as at fair value through profit or loss	—	—	104	—	17	1	122	15
Available-for-sale	6,436	12,880	10,303	5,974	17,330	184	53,107	24,174
Loans and receivables	10	1	—	175	3,466	136	3,788	3,423
	13,210	23,832	33,201	7,869	33,219	2,268	113,599	38,286

#### Available-for-sale

Gross unrealised gains	201	428	445	70	386	11	1,541	458
Gross unrealised losses	(69)	(86)	(32)	(205)	(493)	(2)	(887)	(753)

#### 2012

Held-for-trading	7,692	17,349	27,165	2,243	21,876	2,015	78,340	18,619
Designated as at fair value through profit or loss	—	—	123	86	610	54	873	516
Available-for-sale	7,950	19,040	15,995	7,227	23,294	231	73,737	30,184
Loans and receivables	5	—	—	365	3,728	390	4,488	3,707
	15,647	36,389	43,283	9,921	49,508	2,690	157,438	53,026

#### Available-for-sale

Gross unrealised gains	944	1,092	1,185	56	650	19	3,946	748
Gross unrealised losses	—	(1)	(14)	(498)	(1,319)	—	(1,832)	(1,816)

#### Note:

(1) Includes asset-backed securities issued by US federal agencies and government sponsored entities, and covered bonds.

Gross gains of £502 million (2013 - £1,018 million; 2012 - £1,824 million) and gross losses of £386 million (2013 - £352 million; 2012 - £901 million) were realised on the sale of available-for-sale securities in continuing operations.

Gross gains of £20 million (2013 - £96 million; 2012 - £137 million) and gross losses of £3 million (2013 - £1 million; 2012 - £12 million) were realised on the sale of available-for-sale securities in discontinued operations.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 15 Debt securities continued

The following table analyses available-for-sale debt securities and the related yield (based on weighted averages) by remaining maturity and issuer.

	Within 1 year		After 1 but within 5 years		After 5 but within 10 years		After 10 years		Total	
	Amount £m	Yield %	Amount £m	Yield %	Amount £m	Yield %	Amount £m	Yield %	Amount £m	Yield %
<b>2014</b>										
Central and local governments										
- UK	124	1.0	1,473	1.1	1,253	2.8	1,897	3.8	4,747	2.6
- US	241	0.3	3,126	2.4	1,863	2.0	—	—	5,230	2.2
- other	4,838	1.1	2,784	3.1	2,023	1.8	1,413	3.0	11,058	2.0
Banks	1,610	0.8	571	1.1	960	1.3	263	1.6	3,404	1.0
Other financial institutions	1,237	0.5	1,062	0.5	1,599	1.3	1,175	0.6	5,073	0.8
Corporate	127	0.2	34	0.7	—	—	—	—	161	0.3
	8,177	0.9	9,050	2.1	7,698	1.8	4,748	2.7	29,673	1.8
Of which ABS (1)	403	0.2	866	0.3	1,515	0.2	824	0.5	3,608	0.3
<b>2013</b>										
Central and local governments										
- UK	251	4.4	1,792	2.3	3,167	3.0	1,226	3.4	6,436	2.9
- US	896	1.7	6,011	2.7	2,892	2.7	3,081	2.4	12,880	2.6
- other	2,347	1.3	4,417	2.7	1,745	2.5	1,794	3.7	10,303	2.5
Banks	2,071	1.1	3,284	1.2	438	3.7	181	1.9	5,974	1.4
Other financial institutions	1,013	1.7	3,416	2.4	3,950	2.8	8,951	1.8	17,330	2.1
Corporate	1	0.1	69	1.3	114	6.9	-	-	184	4.8
	6,579	1.5	18,989	2.3	12,306	2.9	15,233	2.3	53,107	2.3
Of which ABS (1)	920	2.1	5,781	2.1	5,346	3.0	12,127	2.0	24,174	2.3
<b>2012</b>										
Central and local governments										
- UK	—	—	1,559	2.0	4,105	3.3	2,286	3.5	7,950	3.1
- US	139	2.4	10,633	2.3	6,022	2.4	2,246	2.5	19,040	2.3
- other	3,346	0.6	5,849	3.0	5,273	3.0	1,527	3.4	15,995	2.6
Banks	1,764	1.6	3,294	2.8	1,685	1.2	484	1.6	7,227	2.1
Other financial institutions	741	3.0	5,289	2.5	4,378	3.0	12,886	1.4	23,294	2.0
Corporate	25	2.5	140	2.4	66	1.2	—	—	231	2.0
	6,015	1.2	26,764	2.5	21,529	2.7	19,429	2.0	73,737	2.3
Of which ABS (1)	1,385	1.8	6,413	2.9	6,773	2.4	15,613	1.4	30,184	2.0

Note:

(1) Includes asset-backed securities issued by US federal agencies and government sponsored entities, and covered bonds.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 16 Equity shares

	2014			2013			2012		
	Listed £m	Unlisted £m	Total £m	Listed £m	Unlisted £m	Total £m	Listed £m	Unlisted £m	Total £m
Held-for-trading	4,709	112	4,821	7,121	78	7,199	13,261	68	13,329
Designated as at fair value through profit or loss	11	290	301	172	228	400	251	282	533
Available-for-sale	145	368	513	196	1,016	1,212	221	1,149	1,370
	4,865	770	5,635	7,489	1,322	8,811	13,733	1,499	15,232
<b>Available-for-sale</b>									
Gross unrealised gains	26	183	209	73	177	250	58	172	230
Gross unrealised losses	(4)	(8)	(12)	(9)	(10)	(19)	(54)	(13)	(67)

Gross gains of £175 million (2013 - £76 million; 2012 - £118 million) and gross losses of £64 million (2013 - £4 million; 2012 - £2 million) were realised on the sale of available-for-sale equity shares in continuing operations. Gross gains of £71 million in 2012 were realised on the sale of available-for-sale equity shares in discontinued operations.

Dividend income from available-for-sale equity shares was £30 million (2013 - £67 million; 2012 - £37 million) in continuing operations and £22 million (2013 - £21 million; 2012 - £22 million) in discontinued operations.

Unquoted equity investments whose fair value cannot be reliably measured are carried at cost and classified as available-for-sale financial assets. They include capital stock (redeemable at cost) in the Federal Home Loan Bank and the Federal Reserve Bank of nil (2013 - £0.6 billion; 2012 - £0.7 billion) that RBS's banking subsidiaries in the US are required to hold; and a number of individually small shareholdings in unlisted companies. Unquoted equity shares generated no material gains or losses in 2014, 2013 or 2012.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 17 Intangible assets

2014	Goodwill £m	Purchased intangibles £m	Internally generated software £m	Total £m
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 January	25,282	1,035	4,558	30,875
Transfers to disposal groups	(8,055)	(394)	(730)	(9,179)
Currency translation and other adjustments	(86)	7	13	(66)
Additions	—	10	621	631
Disposals and write-off of fully amortised assets	(20)	(608)	(1,464)	(2,092)
At 31 December	17,121	50	2,998	20,169
<b>Accumulated amortisation and impairment</b>				
At 1 January	15,143	917	2,447	18,507
Transfers to disposal groups	(4,098)	(284)	(248)	(4,630)
Currency translation and other adjustments	(298)	(3)	(2)	(303)
Disposals and write-off of fully amortised assets	(20)	(608)	(1,450)	(2,078)
Charge for the year				
- continuing operations	—	2	257	259
- discontinued operations	—	21	79	100
Write down of goodwill and other intangible assets				
- continuing operations	130	2	391	523
- discontinued operations	—	—	10	10
At 31 December	10,857	47	1,484	12,388
Net book value at 31 December	6,264	3	1,514	7,781

2013

<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 January	25,288	1,008	5,010	31,306
Transfers to disposal groups	—	(43)	(24)	(67)
Currency translation and other adjustments	(5)	5	(14)	(14)
Additions	—	84	907	991
Disposals and write-off of fully amortised assets	(1)	(19)	(1,321)	(1,341)
At 31 December	25,282	1,035	4,558	30,875
<b>Accumulated amortisation and impairment</b>				
At 1 January	14,022	679	3,060	17,761
Transfers to disposal groups	—	(9)	(1)	(10)
Currency translation and other adjustments	62	(24)	(10)	28
Disposals and write-off of fully amortised assets	—	(11)	(1,221)	(1,232)
Charge for the year				
- continuing operations	—	147	341	488
- discontinued operations	—	6	63	69
Write down of goodwill and other intangible assets				
- continuing operations	1,059	129	215	1,403
- discontinued operations	—	—	—	—
At 31 December	15,143	917	2,447	18,507
Net book value at 31 December	10,139	118	2,111	12,368

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

2012	Goodwill £m	Purchased intangibles £m	Internally generated software £m	Total £m
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 January	26,843	3,052	5,448	35,343
Transfers to disposal groups	(984)	(15)	(341)	(1,340)
Currency translation and other adjustments	(486)	(90)	(368)	(944)
Acquisition of subsidiaries	—	—	5	5
Additions	—	39	909	948
Disposals and write-off of fully amortised assets	(85)	(1,978)	(643)	(2,706)
At 31 December	25,288	1,008	5,010	31,306
<b>Accumulated amortisation and impairment</b>				
At 1 January	14,419	2,446	3,620	20,485
Transfers to disposal groups	(444)	(10)	(136)	(590)
Currency translation and other adjustments	(289)	(68)	(356)	(713)
Disposals and write-off of fully amortised assets	(76)	(1,968)	(638)	(2,682)
Charge for the year				
- continuing operations	—	137	479	616
- discontinued operations	—	41	86	127
Write down of goodwill and other intangible assets				
- continuing operations	18	101	5	124
- discontinued operations	394	—	—	394
At 31 December	14,022	679	3,060	17,761
Net book value at 31 December	11,266	329	1,950	13,545

The Group's goodwill acquired in business combinations is reviewed annually at 30 September for impairment by comparing the recoverable amount of each cash-generating unit (CGU) to which goodwill has been allocated with its carrying value.

Impairment testing involves the comparison of the carrying value of a CGU or group of CGUs with its recoverable amount. Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value and value in use. Value in use is the present value of expected future cash flows from the CGU or group of CGUs. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants.

Impairment testing inherently involves a number of judgmental areas: the preparation of cash flow forecasts for periods that are beyond the normal requirements of management reporting; the assessment of the discount rate appropriate to the business; estimation of the fair value of CGUs; and the valuation of the separable assets of each business whose goodwill is being reviewed. Sensitivity to the more significant variables in each assessment are presented in the tables on the following page.

The recoverable amounts for all CGUs at 30 September 2014 were based on the value in use test, using management's latest five-year forecasts. The long-term growth rates have been based on respective country nominal GDP growth rates. The risk discount rates are based on observable market long-term government bond yields and average industry betas adjusted for an appropriate risk premium.

The results of the annual impairment test for 2013 and 2012 are presented using the reportable segments for those years which differ as a result of the changes to RBS's structure implemented in 2014.

Following the change in reportable segments in 2014, the £2.8 billion goodwill attributed to UK Corporate was allocated to Commercial Banking (£2.1 billion), UK Personal & Business Banking (£0.6 billion) and Corporate & Institutional Banking (£0.1 billion). All UK Retail, Wealth and US Retail & Commercial goodwill was allocated to UK Personal & Business Banking, Private Banking and Citizens Financial Group respectively. The goodwill allocated to Corporate & Institutional Banking was written off immediately following re-segmentation. The change in reportable segments in 2014 did not impact the impairment tests performed in 2013 and 2012.

The analysis of goodwill by reportable segment is shown in Note 38.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 17 Intangible assets *continued*

The carrying value of goodwill and amount by which it is exceeded by the recoverable amount is set out below by reportable segment along with the key assumptions applied in calculating the recoverable amount and sensitivities to changes in those assumptions.

	Goodwill £bn	Assumptions		Recoverable amount exceeded carrying value £bn	Consequential impact of 1% adverse movement in		Consequential impact of 5% adverse movement in forecast pre-tax earnings £bn
		Terminal growth rate %	Pre-tax discount rate %		Discount rate £bn	Terminal growth rate £bn	
September 2014							
UK Personal & Business Banking	3.4	4.5	11.5	17.6	(3.6)	(2.5)	(1.6)
Commercial Banking	2.1	4.5	11.7	3.0	(1.9)	(0.9)	(1.0)
Private Banking	0.8	4.5	11.4	0.7	(0.5)	(0.3)	(0.2)
Citizens Financial Group	3.8	5.0	14.4	0.3	(1.1)	(0.7)	(0.7)

#### September 2013

UK Retail	2.8	4.4	10.4	20.4	(4.2)	(3.3)	(1.7)
UK Corporate	2.8	4.4	10.5	7.3	(3.3)	(2.1)	(1.6)
Wealth	0.8	4.4	12.0	0.7	(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.2)
US Retail & Commercial	3.8	4.8	12.8	4.1	(1.5)	(0.8)	(0.8)

#### September 2012

UK Retail	2.8	4.7	13.5	13.8	(2.5)	(2.4)	(1.3)
UK Corporate	2.8	4.7	13.5	6.3	(2.3)	(1.8)	(1.4)
Wealth	0.8	4.7	14.8	1.9	(0.5)	(0.4)	(0.3)
International Banking	1.0	4.7	12.2	0.3	(1.1)	(1.2)	(0.6)
US Retail & Commercial	3.8	5.3	16.9	2.0	(1.2)	(0.8)	(0.7)

Other intangible assets are reviewed for indicators of impairment. In 2014, £401 million (2013 - £215 million; 2012 - £5 million) of previously capitalised software was written off.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 18 Property, plant and equipment

2014	Investment properties £m	Freehold premises £m	Long leasehold premises £m	Short leasehold premises £m	Computers and other equipment £m	Operating lease assets £m	Total £m
<b>Cost or valuation</b>							
At 1 January	2,633	2,978	286	1,732	4,244	1,899	13,772
Transfers to disposal groups	—	(131)	—	(275)	(1,034)	(210)	(1,650)
Currency translation and other adjustments	(175)	17	(2)	11	59	23	(67)
Reclassifications	—	(8)	—	—	8	—	—
Additions	117	52	2	60	319	230	780
Expenditure on investment properties	13	—	—	—	—	—	13
Change in fair value of investment properties							
- continuing operations	(25)	—	—	—	—	—	(25)
Disposals and write-off of fully depreciated assets	(630)	(48)	(46)	(194)	(614)	(391)	(1,923)
At 31 December	1,933	2,860	240	1,334	2,982	1,551	10,900
<b>Accumulated impairment, depreciation and amortisation</b>							
At 1 January	—	963	169	980	2,981	770	5,863
Transfers to disposal groups	—	(41)	—	(205)	(800)	(55)	(1,101)
Currency translation and other adjustments	—	1	(6)	7	50	7	59
Reclassifications	—	—	—	1	(1)	—	—
Write down of property, plant and equipment	—	4	—	2	4	—	10
Disposals and write-off of fully depreciated assets	—	(20)	(42)	(103)	(449)	(234)	(848)
Charge for the year							
- continuing operations	—	95	9	97	305	165	671
- discontinued operations	—	4	—	19	47	9	79
At 31 December	—	1,006	130	798	2,137	662	4,733
Net book value at 31 December	1,933	1,854	110	536	845	889	6,167
<b>2013</b>							
<b>Cost or valuation</b>							
At 1 January	3,111	2,998	289	1,732	4,606	3,325	16,061
Transfers to disposal groups	(26)	(30)	—	(12)	(45)	—	(113)
Currency translation and other adjustments	34	(10)	(2)	(15)	(42)	(1)	(36)
Reclassifications	—	5	—	4	(9)	—	—
Additions	121	49	9	102	411	60	752
Expenditure on investment properties	13	—	—	—	—	—	13
Change in fair value of investment properties							
- continuing operations	(281)	—	—	—	—	—	(281)
- discontinued operations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disposals and write-off of fully depreciated assets	(339)	(34)	(10)	(79)	(677)	(1,485)	(2,624)
At 31 December	2,633	2,978	286	1,732	4,244	1,899	13,772
<b>Accumulated impairment, depreciation and amortisation</b>							
At 1 January	—	852	151	924	3,228	1,122	6,277
Transfers to disposal groups	—	(6)	—	(9)	(35)	—	(50)
Currency translation and other adjustments	—	4	5	(7)	(35)	(4)	(37)
Write down of property, plant and equipment	—	15	3	—	—	—	18
Disposals and write-off of fully depreciated assets	—	(12)	(1)	(65)	(561)	(559)	(1,198)
Charge for the year							
- continuing operations	—	104	11	115	324	205	759
- discontinued operations	—	6	—	22	60	6	94
At 31 December	—	963	169	980	2,981	770	5,863
Net book value at 31 December	2,633	2,015	117	752	1,263	1,129	7,909



## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 18 Property, plant and equipment continued

2012	Investment properties £m	Freehold premises £m	Long leasehold premises £m	Short leasehold premises £m	Computers and other equipment £m	Operating lease assets £m	Total £m
<b>Cost or valuation</b>							
At 1 January	4,468	2,855	273	1,823	4,479	3,892	17,790
Transfers (to)/from disposal groups	(129)	101	11	95	(135)	—	(57)
Currency translation and other adjustments	(51)	21	13	(124)	(182)	(53)	(376)
Reclassifications	24	(47)	21	(6)	8	—	—
Additions	372	153	8	121	519	402	1,575
Expenditure on investment properties	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
Change in fair value of investment properties							
- continuing operations	(153)	—	—	—	—	—	(153)
- discontinued operations	(5)	—	—	—	—	—	(5)
Disposals and write-off of fully depreciated assets	(1,425)	(85)	(37)	(177)	(83)	(916)	(2,723)
At 31 December	3,111	2,998	289	1,732	4,606	3,325	16,061
<b>Accumulated impairment, depreciation and amortisation</b>							
At 1 January	—	736	114	850	3,035	1,187	5,922
Transfers from/(to) disposal groups	—	43	6	66	(65)	—	50
Currency translation and other adjustments	—	(9)	11	(114)	(157)	(21)	(290)
Reclassifications	—	(7)	7	—	—	—	—
Write down of property, plant and equipment	—	9	7	1	—	—	17
Disposals and write-off of fully depreciated assets	—	(15)	(4)	(16)	(36)	(462)	(533)
Charge for the year							
- continuing operations	—	88	10	114	365	410	987
- discontinued operations	—	7	—	23	86	8	124
At 31 December	—	852	151	924	3,228	1,122	6,277
Net book value at 31 December	3,111	2,146	138	808	1,378	2,203	9,784

Investment property valuations principally employ present value techniques that discount expected cash flows. Expected cash flows reflect rental income, occupancy and residual market values; valuations are sensitive to changes in these factors. The fair value measurement of non-specialised properties in locations where the market for such properties is active and transparent are categorised as level 2 - 78% (2013 - 46%); otherwise investment property fair value measurements are categorised as level 3 - 22% (2013 - 54%).

Valuations were carried out by qualified surveyors who are members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, or an equivalent overseas body; property with a fair value of £932 million (2013 - £985 million) was valued by independent valuers.

The fair value of investment properties includes £235 million of depreciation since purchase (2013 - £271 million; 2012 - £186 million).

Rental income from investment properties in continuing operations was £217 million (2013 - £244 million; 2012 - £267 million). Direct operating expenses of investment properties in continuing operations were £81 million (2013 - £91 million; 2012 - £125 million).

Property, plant and equipment, excluding investment properties, include £2 million (2013 - £42 million; 2012 - £35 million) assets in the course of construction.

### 19 Prepayments, accrued income and other assets

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Prepayments	623	612	904
Accrued income	486	530	526
Tax recoverable	342	337	231
Pension schemes in net surplus (see Note 4)	295	214	144
Interests in associates	1,054	902	776
Other assets	3,078	5,019	5,239
	5,878	7,614	7,820

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 20 Discontinued operations and assets and liabilities of disposal groups

In accordance with a commitment to the EC to sell Citizens Financial Group, Inc. (Citizens) by 31 December 2016, RBS disposed of 29.5% of its interest in Citizens during the second half of 2014 primarily through an initial public offering in the USA. RBS plans to cede control by the end of 2015 and therefore Citizens is classified as a disposal group and its results presented as discontinued operations, with comparatives re-presented.

On reclassification to disposal groups at 31 December 2014, the carrying value of Citizens exceeded its fair value less costs to sell (Fair Value Hierarchy level 2: based on the quoted price of shares in Citizens Financial Group, Inc.) by £3,994 million and the carrying value of the assets and liabilities of the disposal group has been adjusted by this amount. This loss has been attributed to the intangible assets of the disposal group.

#### (a) Loss/(profit) from discontinued operations, net of tax

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Citizens</b>			
Interest income	2,204	2,252	2,447
Interest expense	(191)	(288)	(401)
Net interest income	2,013	1,964	2,046
Other income	1,043	1,056	1,180
Total income	3,056	3,020	3,226
Operating expenses	(2,123)	(2,102)	(2,182)
Profit before impairment losses	933	918	1,044
Impairment losses	(197)	(312)	(269)
Operating profit/(loss) before tax	736	606	775
Tax charge	(228)	(196)	(285)
Profit after tax	508	410	490
Loss on reclassification to disposal groups	(3,994)	—	—
(Loss)/profit from Citizens discontinued operations, net of tax	(3,486)	410	490
<b>Other</b>			
Net premium income	—	699	3,718
Other income from insurance business	—	62	(16)
Insurance income	—	761	3,702
Other income	24	26	29
Total income	24	787	3,731
Operating expenses	(2)	(172)	(1,409)
Profit before insurance net claims and impairment losses	22	615	2,322
Insurance net claims	—	(445)	(2,427)
Impairment losses	—	—	(4)
Operating profit/(loss) before tax	22	170	(109)
Tax charge	(10)	(29)	(61)
Profit/(loss) after tax	12	141	(170)
Businesses acquired exclusively with a view to disposal			
Profit/(loss) after tax	29	7	(2)
Profit from other discontinued operations, net of tax	41	148	(172)

Other discontinued operations reflect the results of Direct Line Insurance Group plc (DLG) presented as a discontinued operation until 12 March 2013 and as an associate thereafter and the results of RFS Holdings attributable to the State of the Netherlands and Santander following the legal separation of ABN AMRO Bank N.V. on 1 April 2010. The profit from discontinued operations includes a gain of £82 million (2013 - £37 million gain; 2012 - £112 million loss) attributable to non-controlling interests.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 20 Discontinued operations and assets and liabilities of disposal groups continued

#### (b) Cash flows attributable to discontinued operations

Included within RBS's cash flows are the following amounts attributable to discontinued operations:

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Net cash flows from operating activities	3,997	359	(2,410)
Net cash flows from investing activities	(4,194)	(1,172)	3,910
Net cash flows from financing activities	596	(355)	(827)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	129	(218)	1

#### (c) Assets and liabilities of disposal groups

	2014			2013 £m	2012 £m
	Citizens £m	Other £m	Total £m		
<b>Assets of disposal groups</b>					
Cash and balances at central banks	622	—	622	2	18
Loans and advances to banks	1,728	17	1,745	63	2,112
Loans and advances to customers	59,606	944	60,550	1,765	1,863
Debt securities and equity shares	15,865	—	15,865	24	7,191
Derivatives	402	—	402	1	15
Intangible assets	555	28	583	30	750
Property, plant and equipment	503	46	549	32	223
Interests in associates	—	—	—	879	—
Other assets	1,686	9	1,695	58	1,666
Discontinued operations and other disposal groups	80,967	1,044	82,011	2,854	13,838
Assets acquired exclusively with a view to disposal	—	—	—	163	175
	80,967	1,044	82,011	3,017	14,013
<b>Liabilities of disposal groups</b>					
Deposits by banks	6,794	—	6,794	—	1
Customer accounts	61,256	33	61,289	3,273	753
Debt securities in issue	1,625	—	1,625	—	—
Derivatives	144	—	144	1	7
Insurance liabilities	—	—	—	—	6,193
Subordinated liabilities	226	—	226	—	529
Other liabilities	1,223	19	1,242	102	2,679
Discontinued operations and other disposal groups	71,268	52	71,320	3,376	10,162
Liabilities acquired exclusively with a view to disposal	—	—	—	2	8
	71,268	52	71,320	3,378	10,170

Citizens is included in disposal groups at 31 December 2014.

DLG is included in disposal groups at 31 December 2013 and 2012. In addition, disposal groups at 31 December 2013 include the Chicago area retail branches, small business operations and select middle market relationships in the Chicago market which form part of CFG. No adjustment was required to the carrying value of these assets and liabilities on reclassification.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### (d) Financial instruments: Classification and valuation hierarchy

			2014		
	Carrying value £bn	Fair value £bn	Fair value approximates carrying value £bn	Level 2 £bn	Level 3 £bn
<b>Citizens</b>					
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash and balances at central banks - loans and receivables	0.6	0.6	0.6		
Loans and advances					
- held-for-trading	0.2	0.2		0.2	
- loans and receivables	58.4				
- finance leases	2.7				
	61.1	61.1		1.7	59.4
Debt securities - available-for-sale	15.3	15.3		15.3	
Equity shares - available-for-sale	0.6	0.6		0.6	
Derivatives	0.4	0.4		0.4	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Deposits by banks - held-for-trading	1.7	1.7		1.7	
Deposits by banks - amortised cost					
- demand deposits	0.1	0.1	0.1		
- other	5.0	5.0		5.0	
Customer accounts - amortised cost					
- demand deposits	28.9	28.9	28.9		
- other	32.4	32.4		32.4	
Debt securities in issue - amortised cost	1.6	1.6		1.6	
Derivatives	0.1	0.1		0.1	
Subordinated liabilities - amortised cost	0.2	0.2		0.2	

Fair values have been established in accordance with Accounting policy 14 (page 353) and 16 (page 354), and Note 11.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 21 Short positions

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Debt securities			
- Government	20,856	24,661	23,551
- Other issuers	1,962	3,102	3,429
Equity shares	211	259	611
	<b>23,029</b>	<b>28,022</b>	<b>27,591</b>

Note:

(1) All short positions are classified as held-for-trading.

### 22 Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Notes in circulation	1,803	1,759	1,684
Current tax	586	516	527
Accruals	2,833	3,116	3,579
Deferred income	502	589	875
Provisions for liabilities and charges (see table below)	4,774	5,489	3,147
Other liabilities (1)	2,848	4,548	4,989
	<b>13,346</b>	<b>16,017</b>	<b>14,801</b>

Note:

(1) Other liabilities include £28 million (2013 - £25 million; 2012 - £24 million) in respect of share-based compensation.

	Payment protection insurance (1) £m	Interest rate hedging products (2) £m	Other customer redress (3) £m	Regulatory and legal actions					Property and other (7) £m	Total £m
				LIBOR (4) £m	investigations (5) £m	FX provisions (5) £m	Other regulatory provisions (5) £m	Litigation (6) £m		
<b>Provisions for liabilities and charges</b>										
At 1 January 2014	926	1,077	337	416	—	—	150	2,018	565	5,489
Transfer from accruals and other liabilities	—	—	52	—	—	—	—	—	10	62
Transfers to disposal groups	—	—	(53)	—	—	—	—	(4)	—	(57)
Currency translation and other movements	—	—	(7)	(2)	2	4	107	(7)	—	97
Charge to income statement										
- continuing operations	650	208	444	—	720	100	236	528	—	2,886
- discontinued operations	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
Releases to income statement										
- continuing operations	—	(23)	(18)	—	—	—	(33)	(75)	—	(149)
- discontinued operations	—	—	—	—	—	—	(30)	—	—	(30)
Provisions utilised	(777)	(838)	(175)	(414)	(402)	(71)	(493)	(358)	—	(3,528)
At 31 December 2014	<b>799</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>1,805</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,774</b>

Notes:

(1) To reflect current experience of PPI complaints received, the Group increased its provision for PPI by £650 million in 2014 (2013 - £900 million; 2012 - £1,110 million), bringing the cumulative charge to £3.7 billion, of which £2.9 billion (79%) in redress had been paid by 31 December 2014. Of the £3.7 billion cumulative charge, £3.4 billion relates to redress and £0.3 billion to administrative expenses.

The principal assumptions underlying the Group's provision in respect of PPI sales are: assessment of the total number of complaints that the Group will receive; the proportion of these that will result in redress; and the average cost of such redress. The number of complaints has been estimated from an analysis of the Group's portfolio of PPI policies sold by vintage and by product. Estimates of the percentage of policyholders that will lodge complaints (the take up rate) and of the number of these that will be upheld (the uphold rate) have been established based on recent experience, guidance in FSA policy statements and the expected rate of responses from proactive customer contact. The average redress assumption is based on recent experience and FSA calculation rules. The table below shows the sensitivity of the provision to changes in the principal assumptions (all other assumptions remaining the same).

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

Assumption	Actual to date	Current assumptions	Sensitivity	
			Change in assumption %	Consequential change in provision £m
Single premium book past business review take up rate	49%	52%	+/-5	+/-56
Uphold rate (1)	90%	89%	+/-5	+/-25
Average redress	£1,700	£1,660	+/-5	+/-26

Note:

(1) Uphold rates exclude claims where no PPI policy was held.

Interest that will be payable on successful complaints has been included in the provision as has the estimated cost to the Group of administering the redress process. The Group expects the majority of the cash outflows associated with the remaining provision to have occurred by Q2 2016. There are uncertainties as to the eventual cost of redress which will depend on actual complaint volumes, take up and uphold rates and average redress costs.

Background information in relation to PPI claims is given in Note 32.

- (2) The Group has estimated £1,435 million for its liability in respect of the sale of Interest Rate Hedging Products based on experience, having now agreed all outcomes with the independent skilled person appointed to review all decisions. The provision includes redress that will be paid to customers, consequential loss (including interest) on customer redress, the cost to the Group of exiting the hedging positions and the cost of undertaking the review.

In 2014, the Group increased its provision by £185 million (2013 - £550 million; 2012 - £700 million), principally reflecting a marginal increase in redress experience compared to expectations and the cost of a small number of consequential loss claims over and above interest offered as part of basic redress payments. The outcomes of all cases have now been agreed with the independent skilled person appointed to review all decisions.

The cumulative charge for IRHP is £1.4 billion, of which £1.1 billion relates to redress and £0.3 billion to administrative expenses.

The principal assumptions underlying the Group's provision are:

- the proportion of relevant customers with interest rate caps that will ask to be included in the review
- the type of consequential loss claims that will be received
- movements in market rates that will impact the cost of closing out legacy hedging positions
- the cost of the review

Uncertainties remain over the number of transactions that will qualify for redress and the nature and cost of that redress, including the cost of consequential loss claims.

Background information in relation to Interest Rate Hedging Products claims is given in Note 32.

- (3) The Group has provided for other customer redress, primarily in relation to investment advice in retail and private banking (£190 million) and packaged accounts (£150 million).
- (4) On 6 February 2013, the Group reached agreement with the FSA, the US Department of Justice and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in relation to the setting of LIBOR and other trading rates, including financial penalties of £381 million. In December 2013, the Group agreed to pay settlement penalties of approximately €260 million and €131 million to resolve investigations by the European Commission into Yen LIBOR competition infringements and EURIBOR competition infringements respectively. For further details see Note 32.
- (5) The Group is party to certain legal proceedings and regulatory investigations and continues to co-operate with a number of regulators. All such matters are periodically reassessed with the assistance of external professional advisers, where appropriate, to determine the likelihood of the Group incurring a liability and to evaluate the extent to which a reliable estimate of any liability can be made. An additional charge of £820 million was booked in 2014 (2013 - £124 million; 2012 - £75 million), primarily relating to investigations into the foreign exchange market, regulatory fines in connection with the June 2012 technology incident and other conduct and regulatory matters. Details of these investigations and a discussion of the nature of the associated uncertainties are given in Note 32.
- (6) Arising out of its normal business operations, the Group is party to legal proceedings in the United Kingdom, the United States and other jurisdictions. An additional charge of £2,050 million was recorded in 2013 as a result of greater levels of certainty on expected outcomes, primarily in respect of mortgage-backed securities and securities-related litigation following third party settlements and regulatory decisions. Detailed descriptions of the Group's legal proceedings and discussion of the associated uncertainties are given in Note 32.
- (7) The property provisions principally comprise provisions for onerous lease contracts. Provision is made for future rentals payable in respect of vacant leasehold property and for any shortfall where leased property is sub-let at a rental lower than the lease rentals payable by the Group.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 23 Deferred tax

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Deferred tax liability	500	507	1,141
Deferred tax asset	(1,540)	(3,478)	(3,443)
Net deferred tax asset	(1,040)	(2,971)	(2,302)

Net deferred tax asset comprised:

	Pension £m	Accelerated capital allowances £m	Provisions £m	Deferred gains £m	IFRS transition £m	Fair value of financial instruments £m	Available- for-sale financial assets £m	Intangibles £m	Cash flow hedging £m	Share schemes £m	Tax losses carried forward £m	Other £m	Total £m
At 1 January 2013	(803)	1,744	(1,071)	385	(160)	(8)	135	227	577	(12)	(3,231)	(85)	(2,302)
(Disposal)/acquisition of subsidiaries	—	(21)	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(16)
Charge/(credit) to income statement													
- continuing operations	60	(493)	(472)	(60)	68	16	(37)	(35)	3	1	1,086	(146)	(9)
- discontinued operations	—	48	33	—	—	—	(23)	39	51	—	—	57	205
Charge/(credit) to other comprehensive income	245	—	(3)	—	—	—	(93)	—	(633)	(1)	(348)	(3)	(836)
Currency translation and other adjustments	—	(20)	25	2	1	(5)	3	(5)	3	—	(3)	(14)	(13)
At 1 January 2014	(498)	1,258	(1,483)	327	(91)	3	(15)	226	1	(12)	(2,496)	(191)	(2,971)
Transfer to disposal groups	28	(579)	423	—	—	—	60	(276)	48	—	—	33	(263)
Charge/(credit) to income statement													
- continuing operations	47	(181)	878	(4)	50	(18)	(5)	—	(62)	(13)	1,019	22	1,733
- discontinued operations	(6)	33	(38)	—	—	—	(2)	51	6	—	—	38	82
Charge/(credit) to other comprehensive income	80	—	—	—	—	—	34	—	281	(3)	(12)	—	380
Currency translation and other adjustments	2	10	(33)	—	(6)	(13)	(6)	4	6	(2)	10	27	(1)
At 31 December 2014	(347)	541	(253)	323	(47)	(28)	66	5	280	(30)	(1,479)	(71)	(1,040)

Deferred tax assets in respect of unused tax losses are recognised if the losses can be used to offset probable future taxable profits after taking into account the expected reversal of other temporary differences. Recognised deferred tax assets in respect of tax losses are analysed further below.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
UK tax losses carried forward			
- The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	489	1,693	2,654
- UK branch of RBS N.V.	—	—	322
- National Westminster Bank Plc	768	718	66
- RBS Management Services (UK) Ltd	—	—	30
	1,257	2,411	3,072
Overseas tax losses carried forward			
- Ulster Bank Ireland	222	74	72
- Citizens Financial Group	—	11	87
	222	85	159
	1,479	2,496	3,231



## Notes on the consolidated accounts

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### UK tax losses

Under UK tax rules, tax losses do not expire and can be carried forward indefinitely. In his 2014 Autumn Statement, the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer announced proposals to restrict the use of losses carried forward by UK banks to a maximum of 50% of profits in periods from April 2015 onwards. A longer recovery period of the DTA associated with UK tax losses will therefore arise, assuming that these proposals are enacted by Parliament in 2015. International Accounting Standards require the recoverability of DTAs to be considered by reference to legislation in force at the balance sheet reporting date.

*The Royal Bank of Scotland plc* - the deferred tax asset in respect of taxable losses brought forward at 1 January 2014 related mainly to trading losses that arose in the UK branch of RBS N.V. These were transferred following the transfer of activities of the UK Branch of RBS N.V. to The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. The UK Branch tax losses attributable to credit market write-downs during the financial crisis were principally incurred between 2007 and 2009.

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc reported a taxable profit in 2011 and tax losses in 2012 and 2013. The taxable loss for 2012 reflected the reversal of previous own credit gains offset by core banking profitability. In 2013 UK tax losses were largely attributable to loan impairment charges arising from the RCR accelerated recovery strategy recorded in the final quarter of the period. In 2014, core profitability remained strong and a taxable profit arises. A reduction in the carrying value of deferred tax assets of £701 million was recorded in 2013. In addition, deferred tax of £150 million was not recognised in respect of excess 2013 UK taxable losses. CIB restructuring will constrain the utilisation of carried forward tax losses in the near-term. Consequently, a further reduction in the carrying value of deferred tax assets of £850 million has been recorded in 2014. The bank expects that the recognised deferred tax asset of £489 million in respect of tax losses amounting to £2,445 million will be recovered by the end of 2019. The proposed UK tax law change referred to above, if enacted, is expected to extend the recovery period by approximately one year.

*National Westminster Bank Plc* - the deferred tax asset in respect of tax losses at 31 December 2014 relates to residual unrelieved trading losses that arose between 2009 and 2014. 60% of the losses that arose were relieved against taxable profits arising in other UK Group companies. Based on the Group's strategic plan, the bank expects that the recognised deferred tax asset of £768 million in respect of tax losses amounting to £3,838 million will be recovered by the end of 2018. The proposed UK tax law change referred to above, if enacted, is expected to extend the recovery period by approximately two years.

### Overseas tax losses

*Ulster Bank Ireland* - a deferred tax asset of £222 million has been recognised in respect of losses of £1,776 million (2013 - £592 million; 2012 - £575 million) of total tax losses of £8,599 million (2013 - £11,575 million; 2012 - £7,627 million) carried forward at 31 December 2013. These losses arose principally as a result of significant impairment charges that arose between 2008 and 2013 reflecting the challenging economic conditions in the Republic of Ireland during that period. Impairment charges have reduced and Ulster Bank Ireland returned to profitability during 2014. Based on the Group's strategic plan, the losses on which a deferred tax asset has been recognised will be utilised against future taxable profits of the company by the end of 2021.

### Unrecognised deferred tax

Deferred tax assets of £5,738 million (2013 - £4,942 million; 2012 - £3,827 million) have not been recognised in respect of tax losses and other temporary differences carried forward of £26,742 million (2013 - £28,099 million; 2012 - £20,432 million) in jurisdictions where doubt exists over the availability of future taxable profits. Of these losses and other temporary differences, £4,378 million expire within five years and £5,311 million thereafter. The balance of tax losses and other temporary differences carried forward has no time limit.

Deferred tax liabilities of £186 million (2013 - £186 million; 2012 - £214 million) have not been recognised in respect of retained earnings of overseas subsidiaries and held-over gains on the incorporation of overseas branches. Retained earnings of overseas subsidiaries are expected to be reinvested indefinitely or remitted to the UK free from further taxation. No taxation is expected to arise in the foreseeable future in respect of held-over gains. Changes to UK tax legislation largely exempts from UK tax overseas dividends received on or after 1 July 2009.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 24 Subordinated liabilities

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Dated loan capital	17,028	17,597	20,210
Undated loan capital	4,771	5,376	5,488
Preference shares	1,106	1,039	1,075
	<b>22,905</b>	<b>24,012</b>	<b>26,773</b>

The following tables analyse the remaining contractual maturity of subordinated liabilities by the final redemption date and by the next call date.

2014 - final redemption	2015 £m	2016 £m	2017-2019 £m	2020-2024 £m	Thereafter £m	Perpetual £m	Total £m
Sterling	700	—	—	381	—	640	1,721
US dollar	926	—	793	6,371	2,766	1,948	12,804
Euro	1,120	27	2,672	2,420	267	195	6,701
Other	526	—	77	796	—	280	1,679
	<b>3,272</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3,542</b>	<b>9,968</b>	<b>3,033</b>	<b>3,063</b>	<b>22,905</b>

2014 - call date	Currently £m	2015 £m	2016 £m	2017-2019 £m	2020-2024 £m	Thereafter £m	Perpetual £m	Total £m
Sterling	15	700	57	212	495	45	197	1,721
US dollar	2,871	1,962	—	2,020	5,007	944	—	12,804
Euro	—	1,284	861	3,893	347	267	49	6,701
Other	8	602	273	796	—	—	—	1,679
	<b>2,894</b>	<b>4,548</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>6,921</b>	<b>5,849</b>	<b>1,256</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>22,905</b>

2013 - final redemption	2014 £m	2015 £m	2016-2018 £m	2019-2023 £m	Thereafter £m	Perpetual £m	Total £m
Sterling	45	608	60	366	—	785	1,864
US dollar	706	961	1,386	4,735	91	4,486	12,365
Euro	200	1,005	2,985	1,946	166	823	7,125
Other	399	617	531	813	—	298	2,658
	<b>1,350</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>4,962</b>	<b>7,860</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>6,392</b>	<b>24,012</b>

2013 - call date	Currently £m	2014 £m	2015 £m	2016-2018 £m	2019-2023 £m	Thereafter £m	Perpetual £m	Total £m
Sterling	1	103	695	290	518	59	198	1,864
US dollar	3,084	2,701	426	1,849	3,447	848	10	12,365
Euro	326	1,267	657	4,098	560	166	51	7,125
Other	761	1,230	292	375	—	—	—	2,658
	<b>4,172</b>	<b>5,301</b>	<b>2,070</b>	<b>6,612</b>	<b>4,525</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>24,012</b>

2012 - final redemption	2013 £m	2014 £m	2015-2017 £m	2018-2022 £m	Thereafter £m	Perpetual £m	Total £m
Sterling	214	—	630	464	—	994	2,302
US dollar	611	664	2,388	3,722	177	4,409	11,971
Euro	1,478	—	3,035	3,814	397	806	9,530
Other	48	425	790	1,381	—	326	2,970
	<b>2,351</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>6,843</b>	<b>9,381</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>6,535</b>	<b>26,773</b>

2012 - call date	Currently £m	2013 £m	2014 £m	2015-2017 £m	2018-2022 £m	Thereafter £m	Perpetual £m	Total £m
Sterling	24	429	60	826	715	36	212	2,302
US dollar	2,577	3,546	664	1,767	2,408	1,009	—	11,971
Euro	—	3,509	289	2,863	2,427	397	45	9,530
Other	—	1,192	—	1,214	564	—	—	2,970
	<b>2,601</b>	<b>8,676</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>6,670</b>	<b>6,114</b>	<b>1,442</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>26,773</b>

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

Issuances and redemptions during the year (values as at date of transaction).

	Capital treatment	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>New issues</b>				
<i>The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc</i>				
€1,000 million 3.625% subordinated notes 2024	Tier 2	828	—	—
US\$2,250 million 5.125% subordinated notes 2024	Tier 2	1,331	—	—
US\$2,000 million 6% subordinated notes 2023	Tier 2	—	1,193	—
US\$1,000 million 6.1% subordinated notes 2023	Tier 2	—	603	—
US\$2,250 million 6.125% subordinated notes 2022	Tier 2	—	—	1,385
<i>The Royal Bank of Scotland plc</i>				
AUD883 million 13.125% subordinated notes 2022	Tier 2	—	—	590
CAD420 million 10.5% subordinated notes 2022	Tier 2	—	—	268
CHF124 million 9.375% subordinated notes 2022	Tier 2	—	—	86
€564 million 10.5% subordinated notes 2022	Tier 2	—	—	469
US\$2,132 million 9.5% subordinated notes 2022	Tier 2	—	—	1,346
<i>Charter One Financial, Inc</i>				
US\$350 million 4.150% subordinated notes 2022 <sup>(1)</sup>	Ineligible	—	—	214
		2,159	1,796	4,358
<b>Redemptions</b>				
<i>The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc</i>				
US\$750 million 5% subordinated notes	Tier 2	453	—	—
US\$250 million 5% subordinated notes	Tier 2	151	—	—
€391 million floating rate undated notes	Tier 1	310	—	—
US\$318 million floating rate undated notes	Tier 1	188	—	—
US\$750 million 5% subordinated notes	Tier 2	—	464	—
<i>The Royal Bank of Scotland plc</i>				
AUD397 million floating rate subordinated notes	Tier 2	217	—	—
AUD265 million floating rate subordinated notes	Tier 2	145	—	—
CAD217 million floating rate subordinated notes	Tier 2	94	—	—
US\$322 million floating rate subordinated notes	Tier 2	177	—	—
US\$229 million floating rate subordinated notes	Tier 2	144	—	—
US\$686 million floating rate subordinated notes	Tier 2	431	—	—
€227 million floating rate subordinated notes	Tier 2	179	—	—

Note:

(1) Transferred to disposal groups at 31 December 2014.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 24 Subordinated liabilities continued

	Capital treatment	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Redemptions continued</b>				
<i>The Royal Bank of Scotland plc continued</i>				
CHF34 million floating rate subordinated notes	Tier 2	23	—	—
£56 million 6% undated notes	Tier 2	56	—	—
€176 million floating rate undated notes	Tier 2	138	—	—
€170 million floating rate undated notes	Tier 2	133	—	—
£1 million floating rate undated notes	Tier 2	1	—	—
AUD32 million floating rate subordinated notes 2017 (partial redemption)	Tier 2	17	—	—
AUD53.7 million floating rate subordinated notes 2017 (partial redemption)	Tier 2	29	—	—
€79.75 million floating rate notes 2017 (partial redemption)	Tier 2	65	—	—
US\$211.9 million floating rate subordinated notes 2017 (partial redemption)	Tier 2	129	—	—
€1,000 million 6% subordinated notes	Tier 2	—	808	—
US\$50 million floating rate subordinated notes	Tier 2	—	31	—
€500 million 6% subordinated notes	Tier 2	—	415	—
£150 million 10.5% subordinated bonds	Tier 2	—	150	—
AUD193 million 6% subordinated notes 2014 (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	—	129
AUD145 million floating rate subordinated notes (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	—	97
CAD483 million 4.25% subordinated notes (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	—	308
US\$428 million floating rate subordinated notes (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	—	270
US\$271 million floating rate subordinated notes (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	—	171
US\$814 million floating rate subordinated notes (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	—	514
€273 million 4.5% subordinated (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	—	227
CHF166 million floating subordinated notes (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	—	114
€398 million floating rate subordinated notes (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	—	331
AUD400 million 6.5% subordinated notes (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	—	267
AUD360 million floating rate subordinated notes (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	—	241
US\$1,050 million floating rate subordinated notes (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	—	663
<i>Charter One Financial Inc</i>				
US\$400 million 6.375% subordinated notes	Ineligible	—	—	258
<i>Ulster Banking Group</i>				
£60 million floating rate subordinated notes	Tier 2	60	—	—
<i>RBS N.V. and subsidiaries</i>				
AUD451.8 million 6.50% subordinated notes 2018 (partial redemption)	Tier 2	240	—	—
AUD149.2 million 7.461% subordinated notes 2018 (partial redemption)	Tier 2	79	—	—
US\$72.8 million 6.14% subordinated notes 2019 (partial redemption)	Tier 2	45	—	—
€100 million 5.13% flip flop subordinated notes	Tier 2	—	81	—
€13 million zero coupon subordinated notes	Tier 2	—	11	—
€1,085 million floating rate subordinated notes (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	904	—
US\$9 million 6.14% subordinated notes (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	5	—
US\$936 million floating rate subordinated notes (partial redemption)	Tier 2	—	566	—
<i>The Royal Bank of Scotland Berhad</i>				
MYR200 million 4.15% subordinated notes	Ineligible	36	—	—
		3,540	3,435	3,590

RBS has now resumed payments on all discretionary non-equity capital instruments following the end of the European Commission ban in 2012 for RBSG and 2013 for RBS N.V. Future coupons and dividends on hybrid capital instruments will only be paid subject to, and in accordance with, the terms of the relevant instruments.

Certain preference shares issued by the company are classified as liabilities; these securities remain subject to the capital maintenance rules of the Companies Act 2006.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 25 Non-controlling interests

	Citizens Financial Group £m	Direct Line Insurance Group plc £m	ABN AMRO £m	Other interests £m	Total £m
At 1 January 2013	—	1,109	266	395	1,770
Currency translation and other adjustments	—	—	(8)	2	(6)
Profit/(loss) attributable to non-controlling interests					
- continuing operations	—	—	95	(12)	83
- discontinued operations	—	19	18	—	37
Dividends paid	—	—	—	(5)	(5)
Gains on available-for-sale financial assets, net of tax	—	—	23	—	23
Equity withdrawn and disposals	—	(1,128)	—	(301)	(1,429)
At 1 January 2014	—	—	394	79	473
Currency translation and other adjustments	114	—	(24)	(4)	86
(Loss)/profit attributable to non-controlling interests					
- continuing operations	—	—	(27)	5	(22)
- discontinued operations	52	—	30	—	82
Dividends paid	—	—	—	(4)	(4)
Gains on available-for-sale financial assets, net of tax	24	—	76	—	100
Equity raised	2,117	—	115	—	2,232
Equity withdrawn and disposals	—	—	—	(1)	(1)
At 31 December 2014	2,307	—	564	75	2,946

### 26 Share capital

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	Number of shares		
				2014 000s	2013 000s	2012 000s
<b>Allotted, called up and fully paid</b>						
Ordinary shares of £1	6,366	6,203	6,071	6,365,896	6,203,022	6,070,765
B shares of £0.01	510	510	510	51,000,000	51,000,000	51,000,000
Dividend access share of £0.01 <sup>(1)</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-cumulative preference shares of US\$0.01	1	1	1	209,609	209,609	209,609
Non-cumulative convertible preference shares of US\$0.01	—	—	—	65	65	65
Non-cumulative preference shares of €0.01	—	—	—	2,044	2,044	2,044
Non-cumulative convertible preference shares of £0.01	—	—	—	15	15	15
Non-cumulative preference shares of £1	—	—	—	54	54	54
Cumulative preference shares of £1	1	1	1	900	900	900

Note:

(1) One dividend access share in issue.

	Number of	
	£m	shares - thousands
<b>Movement in allotted, called up and fully paid ordinary shares</b>		
At 1 January 2013	6,071	6,070,765
Shares issued	132	132,257
At 1 January 2014	6,203	6,203,022
Shares issued	163	162,874
At 31 December 2014	6,366	6,365,896

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 26 Share capital continued

#### Ordinary shares

There is no authorised share capital under the company's constitution. The directors have the authority to issue £17.7 billion nominal of ordinary shares in connection with a conversion of B shares. At 31 December 2014 they had a remaining authority granted at the 2014 Annual General Meeting to issue up to £256 million nominal of ordinary shares other than by pre-emption to existing shareholders.

During 2014, the company allotted and issued the following new ordinary shares of £1 each:

Month	Number of shares	Subscription price per share	Gross proceeds
May	32.8m	305.329p	£100 million
July	15.5m	328.910p	£51 million
October	23.9m	355.890p	£85 million
December	16.8m	381.398p	£64 million

In addition, the company issued 73.9 million ordinary shares of £1 each in connection with employee share plans.

#### B shares and dividend access share

In December 2009, the company entered into an acquisition and contingent capital agreement with HM Treasury. HM Treasury agreed to acquire at 50p per share 51 billion B shares with a nominal value of £0.01 each and a dividend access share with a nominal value of £0.01; these shares were issued to HM Treasury on 22 December 2009. Net proceeds were £25.1 billion.

The B shares do not generally carry voting rights at general meetings of ordinary shareholders. Following the subdivision and consolidation of ordinary shares in 2012 and subject to anti-dilution adjustments, each B share is entitled to one tenth of the cash dividend of an ordinary share and may be converted at any time at the option of the holder into ordinary shares at the rate of ten B shares for each ordinary share.

HM Treasury has agreed not to convert its B shares into ordinary shares to the extent that its holding of ordinary shares following the conversion would represent more than 75% of the company's issued ordinary share capital.

On 25 June 2014, the company's independent shareholders approved the 'DAS Retirement Agreement' between RBS and HM Treasury to provide for the future retirement of the Dividend Access Share ('DAS'). The DAS Retirement Agreement sets out terms for the removal of the DAS. Under the DAS Retirement Agreement once RBS has paid dividends on the DAS totalling £1.5 billion, it will lose its preferential rights and become a single B share.

#### Preference shares

Under IFRS certain of the Group's preference shares are classified as debt and are included in subordinated liabilities on the balance sheet.

#### Other securities

Certain of the Group's subordinated securities in the legal form of debt are classified as equity under IFRS.

These securities entitle the holders to interest which may be deferred at the sole discretion of the company. Repayment of the securities is at the sole discretion of the company on giving between 30 and 60 days notice.

#### Non-cumulative preference shares

Non-cumulative preference shares entitle the holders thereof (subject to the terms of issue) to receive periodic non-cumulative cash dividends at specified fixed rates for each Series payable out of distributable profits of the company.

The non-cumulative preference shares are redeemable at the option of the company, in whole or in part from time to time at the rates detailed in the table below plus dividends otherwise payable for the then current dividend period accrued to the date of redemption.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

Class of preference share	Number of shares in issue	Interest rate	Redemption date on or after	Redemption price per share	Debt/equity (1)
Non-cumulative preference shares of US\$0.01					
Series F	6.3 million	7.65%	31 March 2007	US\$25	Debt
Series H	9.7 million	7.25%	31 March 2004	US\$25	Debt
Series L	30.0 million	5.75%	30 September 2009	US\$25	Debt
Series M	23.1 million	6.40%	30 September 2009	US\$25	Equity
Series N	22.1 million	6.35%	30 June 2010	US\$25	Equity
Series P	9.9 million	6.25%	31 December 2010	US\$25	Equity
Series Q	20.6 million	6.75%	30 June 2011	US\$25	Equity
Series R	10.2 million	6.125%	30 December 2011	US\$25	Equity
Series S	26.4 million	6.60%	30 June 2012	US\$25	Equity
Series T	51.2 million	7.25%	31 December 2012	US\$25	Equity
Series U	10,130	7.64%	29 September 2017	US\$100,000	Equity
Non-cumulative convertible preference shares of US\$0.01					
Series 1	64,772	9.118%	31 March 2010	US\$1,000	Debt
Non-cumulative preference shares of €0.01					
Series 1	1.25 million	5.50%	31 December 2009	€ 1,000	Equity
Series 2	784,989	5.25%	30 June 2010	€ 1,000	Equity
Series 3	9,429	7.0916%	29 September 2017	€ 50,000	Equity
Non-cumulative convertible preference shares of £0.01					
Series 1	14,866	7.387%	31 December 2010	£1,000	Debt
Non-cumulative preference shares of £1					
Series 1	54,442	3 month LIBOR + 2.33%	5 October 2012	£1,000	Equity

Note:

(1) Those preference shares where the Group has an obligation to pay dividends are classified as debt; those where distributions are discretionary are classified as equity. The conversion rights attaching to the convertible preference shares may result in the Group delivering a variable number of equity shares to preference shareholders; these convertible preference shares are treated as debt.

In the event that the non-cumulative convertible preference shares are not redeemed on or before the redemption date, the holder may convert them into ordinary shares in the company at the prevailing market price.

Under existing arrangements, no redemption or purchase of any non-cumulative preference shares may be made by the company without the prior consent of the Prudential Regulation Authority.

On a winding-up or liquidation of the company, the holders of the non-cumulative preference shares are entitled to receive, out of any surplus assets available for distribution to the company's shareholders (after payment of arrears of dividends on the cumulative preference shares up to the date of repayment) pari passu with the cumulative preference shares and all other shares of the company ranking pari passu with the non-cumulative preference shares as regards participation in the surplus assets of the company, a liquidation distribution per share equal to the applicable redemption price detailed in the table above, together with an amount equal to dividends for the then current dividend period accrued to the date of payment, before any distribution or payment may be made to holders of the ordinary shares as regards participation in the surplus assets of the company.

Except as described above, the holders of the non-cumulative preference shares have no right to participate in the surplus assets of the company. Holders of the non-cumulative preference shares are not entitled to receive notice of or attend general meetings of the company except if any resolution is proposed for adoption by the shareholders of the company to vary or abrogate any of the rights attaching to the non-cumulative preference shares or proposing the winding-up or liquidation of the company. In any such case, they are entitled to receive notice of and to attend the general meeting of shareholders at which such resolution is to be proposed and are entitled to speak and vote on such resolution (but not on any other resolution). In addition, in the event that, prior to any general meeting of shareholders, the company has failed to pay in full the three most recent quarterly dividend payments due on the non-cumulative dollar preference shares (other than Series U), the two most recent semi-annual dividend payments due on the non-cumulative convertible dollar preference shares and the most recent dividend payments due on the non-cumulative euro preference shares, the non-cumulative sterling preference shares, the Series U non-cumulative dollar preference shares and the non-cumulative convertible sterling preference shares, the holders shall be entitled to receive notice of, attend, speak and vote at such meeting on all matters together with the holders of the ordinary shares. In these circumstances only, the rights of the holders of the non-cumulative preference shares so to vote shall continue until the company shall have resumed the payment in full of the dividends in arrears.



## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 26 Share capital continued

The Group has now resumed payments on all discretionary non-equity capital instruments following the end of the European Commission ban in 2012 for RBSG and 2013 for RBS N.V. Future coupons and dividends on hybrid capital instruments will only be paid subject to, and in accordance with, the terms of the relevant instruments.

### 27 Other equity

*Paid-in equity* - comprises equity instruments issued by the company other than those legally constituted as shares.

	2014 £m	2013 £m
<i>EMTN notes</i>		
US\$564 million 6.99% capital securities (callable October 2017)	275	275
CAD321 million 6.666% notes (callable October 2017)	156	156
<i>Trust preferred issues: subordinated notes (1)</i>		
US\$357 million 5.512% 2044 (callable September 2014) (2)	—	195
US\$276 million 3 month US\$ LIBOR plus 0.80% 2044 (callable September 2014) (3)	150	150
€166 million 4.243% 2046 (callable January 2016) (4)	110	110
£93 million 5.6457% 2047 (callable June 2017) (5)	93	93
	<b>784</b>	<b>979</b>

#### Notes:

- (1) Subordinated notes issued to limited partnerships that have in turn issued partnership preferred securities to trusts that have issued trust preferred securities to investors. The trust preferred securities are redeemable only at the issuer's option and dividends are payable at the Group's discretion. On maturity of the subordinated notes, the partnerships are required to reinvest in eligible capital instruments issued by the Group. Prior to the implementation of IFRS 10 in 2013, the limited partnerships and the trusts were consolidated and the trust preferred securities recorded as non-controlling interests.
- (2) Preferred securities in issue - US\$357 million RBS Capital Trust III, fixed/floating non-cumulative trust preferred securities. Notice of redemption issued in December 2014. As a result, the related subordinated notes have been reclassified to liabilities.
- (3) Preferred securities in issue - US\$276 million RBS Capital Trust IV, floating rate non-cumulative trust preferred securities. Notice of redemption issued in January 2015.
- (4) Preferred securities in issue - €166 million RBS Capital Trust C, fixed/floating rate non-cumulative trust preferred securities.
- (5) Preferred securities in issue - £93 million RBS Capital Trust D, fixed/floating rate non-cumulative trust preferred securities.

*Merger reserve* - the merger reserve comprises the premium on shares issued to acquire NatWest, less goodwill amortisation charged under previous GAAP, and the premium arising on shares issued to acquire Aonach Mor Limited, less amounts realised through subsequent share redemptions by Aonach Mor Limited. No share premium was recorded in the company financial statements through the operation of the merger relief provisions of the Companies Act.

*Capital redemption reserve* - under UK companies legislation, when shares are redeemed or purchased wholly or partly out of the company's profits, the amount by which the company's issued share capital is diminished must be transferred to the capital redemption reserve. The capital maintenance provisions of UK companies legislation apply to the capital redemption reserve as if it were part of the company's paid up share capital.

*Contingent capital reserve* - in December 2009, HM Treasury agreed to subscribe for up to 16 billion B shares of £0.01 each at 50p per share subject to certain conditions including the Group's Core Tier 1 capital ratio falling below 5%. The fair value of the consideration payable by the company on entering into this agreement amounted to £1,458 million to be settled in instalments; of this £1,208 million was debited to the contingent capital reserve. The reserve and £320 million in respect of the final instalment were transferred to Retained earnings on cancellation of the contingent capital arrangements on 16 December 2013.

*Own shares held* - at 31 December 2014, 28 million ordinary shares of £1 each of the company (2013 - 34 million; 2012 - 51 million) were held by employee share trusts in respect of share awards and options granted to employees. During the year the employee share trusts awarded 6.5 million ordinary shares in satisfaction of the exercise of options and the vesting of share awards under the employee share plans.

The Group optimises capital efficiency by maintaining reserves in subsidiaries, including regulated entities. Certain preference shares and subordinated debt are also included within regulatory capital. The remittance of reserves to the company or the redemption of shares or subordinated capital by regulated entities may be subject to maintaining the capital resources required by the relevant regulator.

UK law prescribes that only the reserves of the company are taken into account for the purpose of making distributions and in determining permissible applications of the share premium account.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 28 Leases

Year in which receipt will occur	Finance lease contracts and hire purchase agreements				Operating lease assets: future minimum lease rentals
	Gross amounts £m	Present value adjustments £m	Other movements £m	Present value £m	£m
2014					
Within 1 year	3,046	(227)	(20)	2,799	175
After 1 year but within 5 years	4,924	(445)	(85)	4,394	297
After 5 years	2,998	(1,239)	(37)	1,722	86
Total	10,968	(1,911)	(142)	8,915	558
2013					
Within 1 year	3,513	(300)	(44)	3,169	186
After 1 year but within 5 years	6,014	(534)	(251)	5,229	341
After 5 years	4,244	(1,481)	(428)	2,335	141
Total	13,771	(2,315)	(723)	10,733	668
2012					
Within 1 year	3,605	(330)	(40)	3,235	293
After 1 year but within 5 years	5,963	(600)	(197)	5,166	512
After 5 years	4,984	(1,709)	(315)	2,960	291
Total	14,552	(2,639)	(552)	11,361	1,096
			2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Nature of operating lease assets on the balance sheet					
Transportation			570	822	1,501
Cars and light commercial vehicles			49	64	435
Other			270	243	267
			889	1,129	2,203
Amounts recognised as income and expense in continuing operations					
Finance leases - contingent rental income			(85)	(94)	(110)
Operating leases - minimum rentals payable			249	255	259
Finance lease contracts and hire purchase agreements					
Accumulated allowance for uncollectable minimum receivables			104	197	278

Amounts recognised as income and expense in discontinued operations are £124 million (2013 - £134 million; 2012 - £133 million) in relation to operating leases - minimum rentals payable.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 28 Leases continued

#### Residual value exposures

The table below gives details of the unguaranteed residual values included in the carrying value of finance lease receivables (see pages 375 to 377) and operating lease assets (see pages 405 and 406).

	Year in which residual value will be recovered				
	Within 1 year £m	After 1 year but within 2 years £m	After 2 years but within 5 years £m	After 5 years £m	Total £m
2014					
Operating leases					
- transportation	24	122	92	99	337
- cars and light commercial vehicles	10	4	6	—	20
- other	24	26	38	6	94
Finance lease contracts	20	24	59	37	140
Hire purchase agreements	—	1	2	—	3
	78	177	197	142	594
2013					
Operating leases					
- transportation	197	34	217	134	582
- cars and light commercial vehicles	18	8	7	—	33
- other	24	25	32	1	82
Finance lease contracts	41	53	198	429	721
Hire purchase agreements	—	1	—	1	2
	280	121	454	565	1,420
2012					
Operating leases					
- transportation	284	182	207	333	1,006
- cars and light commercial vehicles	317	44	49	1	411
- other	30	19	39	3	91
Finance lease contracts	38	47	148	318	551
Hire purchase agreements	1	—	1	—	2
	670	292	444	655	2,061

RBS provides asset finance to its customers through acting as a lessor. It purchases plant, equipment and intellectual property, renting them to customers under lease arrangements that, depending on their terms, qualify as either operating or finance leases.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 29 Structured entities

A structured entity (SE) is an entity that has been designed such that voting or similar rights are not the dominant factor in deciding who controls the entity, for example, when any voting rights relate to administrative tasks only and the relevant activities are directed by means of contractual arrangements. SEs are usually established for a specific, limited purpose. They do not carry out a business or trade and typically have no employees. They take a variety of legal forms - trusts, partnerships and companies - and fulfil many different functions. As well as being a key element of securitisations, SEs are also used in fund management activities in order to segregate custodial duties from the provision of fund management advice.

### Consolidated structured entities

#### Securitisations

In a securitisation, assets, or interests in a pool of assets, are transferred generally to an SE which then issues liabilities to third party investors. The majority of securitisations are supported through liquidity facilities or other credit enhancements. RBS arranges securitisations to facilitate client transactions and undertakes own asset securitisations to sell or to fund portfolios of financial assets. RBS also acts as an underwriter and depositor in securitisation transactions in both client and proprietary transactions.

RBS's involvement in client securitisations takes a number of forms. It may: sponsor or administer a securitisation programme; provide liquidity facilities or programme-wide credit enhancement; and purchase securities issued by the vehicle.

#### Own asset securitisations

In own-asset securitisations, the pool of assets held by the SE is either originated by RBS, or (in the case of whole loan programmes) purchased from third parties.

The table below analyses the asset categories for those own-asset securitisations where the transferred assets continue to be recorded on RBS's balance sheet.

Asset type	2014				2013				2012			
	Debt securities in issue				Debt securities in issue				Debt securities in issue			
	Assets £m	Held by third parties £m	Held by RBS (1) £m	Total £m	Assets £m	Held by third parties £m	Held by RBS (1) £m	Total £m	Assets £m	Held by third parties £m	Held by RBS (1) £m	Total £m
Mortgages												
- UK	11,992	3,543	9,877	13,420	14,434	4,876	10,978	15,854	16,448	6,462	11,963	18,425
- Irish	8,593	1,697	7,846	9,543	9,300	1,890	8,751	10,641	10,587	3,217	7,634	10,851
UK credit cards	2,717	—	1,567	1,567	3,261	500	1,625	2,125	3,019	1,243	1,736	2,979
UK personal loans	—	—	—	—	3,382	—	3,677	3,677	4,658	—	4,283	4,283
Other loans (2)	5,373	334	5,245	5,579	12,326	488	12,078	12,566	18,008	1,059	18,064	19,123
	28,675	5,574	24,535	30,109	42,703	7,754	37,109	44,863	52,720	11,981	43,680	55,661
Cash deposits	4,616				6,245				5,366			
	33,291				48,948				58,086			

Notes:

(1) Debt securities retained by RBS may be pledged with central banks.

(2) Corporate, social housing and student loans.

### Commercial paper conduits

RBS consolidates a number of asset-backed commercial paper (ABCP) conduits. A conduit is an SE that issues commercial paper and uses the proceeds to purchase or fund a pool of assets. The commercial paper is secured on the assets and is redeemed by further commercial paper issuance, repayment of assets or funding from liquidity facilities.

Commercial paper is typically short-dated, usually up to three months. At 31 December 2014 assets held by the conduits totalled £0.6 billion (2013 - £1.6 billion; 2012 - £3.6 billion). At 31 December 2014, 2013 and 2012 the conduits were funded entirely by RBS.

### Covered bond programme

Certain loans and advances to customers have been assigned to bankruptcy remote limited liability partnerships to provide security for issues of debt securities by RBS. RBS retains all of the risks and rewards of these loans, the partnerships are consolidated, the loans retained on RBS's balance sheet and the related covered bonds included within debt securities in issue. At 31 December 2014, £13,401 million of mortgages provided security for debt securities in issue of £7,114 million (2013: mortgages - £16,177 million, bonds - £9,041 million; 2012: mortgages - £15,990 million, bonds - £10,139 million).

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 29 Structured entities continued

#### Unconsolidated structured entities

RBS's interests in unconsolidated structured entities are analysed below.

2014	Asset backed securitisation vehicles - sponsored £m	Asset backed securitisation vehicles - not sponsored £m	Investment funds and other £m	Total £m
<b>Held-for-trading</b>				
Loans and advances to customers	—	449	22	471
Debt securities	167	3,687	2	3,856
Equity shares	—	—	327	327
Derivative assets	—	1,670	10	1,680
Derivative liabilities	(1)	(850)	(28)	(879)
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>4,956</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>5,455</b>
<b>Other than held-for-trading</b>				
Loans and advances to customers	202	5,347	23	5,572
Debt securities	476	5,168	147	5,791
<b>Total</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>10,515</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>11,363</b>
Liquidity facilities/loan commitments	—	2,759	—	2,759
Guarantees	—	71	—	71
<b>Maximum exposure</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>18,301</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>19,648</b>
<b>2013</b>				
<b>Held-for-trading</b>				
Loans and advances to customers	8	140	143	291
Debt securities	358	9,476	109	9,943
Equity shares	—	1	622	623
Derivatives assets	263	1,163	333	1,759
Derivatives liabilities	(113)	(329)	(234)	(676)
<b>Total</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>10,451</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>11,940</b>
<b>Other than held-for-trading</b>				
Loans and advances to customers	26	3,967	30	4,023
Debt securities	481	19,926	51	20,458
<b>Total</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>23,893</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>24,481</b>
Liquidity facilities/loan commitments	4	2,830	34	2,868
Guarantees	—	83	9	92
<b>Maximum exposure</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>37,257</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>39,381</b>

#### Notes:

- (1) Income from interests in unconsolidated structured entities includes interest receivable, changes in fair value and other income less impairments.
- (2) A sponsored entity is a structured entity established by RBS where RBS provides liquidity and/or credit enhancements or provides ongoing services to the entity. RBS can act as sponsor for its own or for customers' transactions.
- (3) In 2014 RBS transferred £1,756 million (2013 - £2,119 million) of assets into sponsored structured entities which are not consolidated by RBS and for which RBS held no interest at 31 December 2014. Income arising from these entities was £172 million (2013 - £192 million).
- (4) The 2013 interests in unconsolidated structured entities have been revised.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 30 Asset transfers

#### Transfers that do not qualify for derecognition

##### Securities repurchase agreements and lending transactions

The Group enters into securities repurchase agreements and securities lending transactions under which it transfers securities in accordance with normal market practice.

Generally, the agreements require additional collateral to be provided if the value of the securities falls below a predetermined level. Under standard terms for repurchase transactions in the UK and US markets, the recipient of collateral has an unrestricted right to sell or repledge it, subject to returning equivalent securities on settlement of the transaction.

Securities sold under repurchase transactions are not derecognised if the Group retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership. The fair value (and carrying value) of securities transferred under such repurchase transactions included on the balance sheet, are set out below. All of these securities could be sold or repledged by the holder.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Assets subject to securities repurchase agreements or security lending transactions</b>			
Debt securities	23,048	55,554	91,173
Equity shares	2,557	5,310	6,772

#### Assets pledged as collateral

The Group pledges collateral with its counterparties in respect of derivative liabilities and bank and other borrowings.

##### Assets pledged against liabilities

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Loans and advances to banks	11,973	10,342	12,784
Loans and advances to customers	23,245	23,594	25,186
Securities	9,595	8,673	24,236
	<b>44,813</b>	<b>42,609</b>	<b>62,206</b>

##### Liabilities secured by assets

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Deposits by banks	770	3,254	12,309
Customer accounts	130	2,766	3,000
Derivatives	39,289	42,691	60,434
	<b>40,189</b>	<b>48,711</b>	<b>75,743</b>

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 31 Capital resources

RBS's regulatory capital resources in accordance with PRA definitions were as follows:

	PRA transitional basis 2014 £m	Basel 2.5 basis 2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Shareholders' equity (excluding non-controlling interests)</b>			
Shareholders' equity	57,246	58,742	68,678
Preference shares - equity	(4,313)	(4,313)	(4,313)
Other equity instruments	(784)	(979)	(979)
	52,149	53,450	63,386
Non-controlling interests	—	473	403
<b>Regulatory adjustments and deductions</b>			
Own credit	500	726	691
Defined benefit pension fund adjustment	(238)	362	913
Net unrealised AFS losses	—	308	346
Cash flow hedging reserve	(1,029)	84	(1,666)
Deferred tax assets	(1,222)	—	—
Prudential valuation adjustments	(384)	—	—
Goodwill and other intangible assets	(7,781)	(12,368)	(13,545)
Expected losses less impairments	(1,491)	(19)	(1,904)
50% of securitisation positions	—	(748)	(1,107)
Other regulatory adjustments	(855)	(103)	(197)
	(12,500)	(11,758)	(16,469)
<b>CET1 capital</b>	<b>39,649</b>	<b>42,165</b>	<b>47,320</b>
<b>Additional Tier 1 capital</b>			
Preference shares - equity	—	4,313	4,313
Preference shares - debt	—	911	1,054
Innovative/hybrid Tier 1 securities	—	4,207	4,125
Qualifying instruments and related share premium subject to phase out	5,820	—	—
Qualifying instruments issued by subsidiaries and held by third parties	1,648	—	—
	7,468	9,431	9,492
<b>Tier 1 deductions</b>			
50% of material holdings	—	(976)	(295)
Tax on expected losses less impairments	—	6	618
	—	(970)	323
<b>Tier 1 capital</b>	<b>47,117</b>	<b>50,626</b>	<b>57,135</b>



## Notes on the consolidated accounts

	PRA transitional basis 2014 £m	Basel 2.5 basis 2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Qualifying Tier 2 capital</b>			
Undated subordinated debt	—	2,109	2,194
Dated subordinated debt - net of amortisation	—	12,436	13,420
Qualifying instruments and related share premium	6,136	—	—
Qualifying instruments issued by subsidiaries and held by third parties	7,490	—	—
Unrealised gains on AFS equity shares	—	114	63
Collectively assessed impairment provisions	—	395	399
	13,626	15,054	16,076
<b>Tier 2 deductions</b>			
50% of securitisation positions	—	(748)	(1,107)
Expected losses less impairments	—	(25)	(2,522)
50% of material holdings	—	(976)	(295)
	—	(1,749)	(3,924)
<b>Tier 2 capital</b>	<b>13,626</b>	<b>13,305</b>	<b>12,152</b>
<b>Supervisory deductions</b>			
Unconsolidated investments	—	(36)	(2,243)
Other deductions	—	(236)	(244)
	—	(272)	(2,487)
<b>Total regulatory capital</b>	<b>60,743</b>	<b>63,659</b>	<b>66,800</b>

It is RBS's policy to maintain a strong capital base, to expand it as appropriate and to utilise it efficiently throughout its activities to optimise the return to shareholders while maintaining a prudent relationship between the capital base and the underlying risks of the business. In carrying out this policy, RBS has regard to the supervisory requirements of the PRA. The PRA uses risk asset ratio (RAR) as a measure of capital adequacy in the UK banking sector, comparing a bank's capital resources with its risk-weighted assets (the assets and off-balance sheet exposures are 'weighted' to reflect the inherent credit and other risks); by international agreement, the RAR should be not less than 8% with a Tier 1 component of not less than 4%. RBS has complied with the PRA's capital requirements throughout the year.

A number of subsidiaries and sub-groups within RBS, principally banking entities, are subject to various individual regulatory capital requirements in the UK and overseas. Furthermore, the payment of dividends by subsidiaries and the ability of members of RBS to lend money to other members of RBS may be subject to restrictions such as local regulatory or legal requirements, the availability of reserves and financial and operating performance.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 32 Memorandum items

#### Contingent liabilities and commitments

The amounts shown in the table below are intended only to provide an indication of the volume of business outstanding at 31 December 2014. Although the Group is exposed to credit risk in the event of a customer's failure to meet its obligations, the amounts shown do not, and are not intended to, provide any indication of the Group's expectation of future losses.

	Less than 1 year £m	More than 1 year but less than 3 years £m	More than 3 years but less than 5 years £m	Over 5 years £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Contingent liabilities</b>							
Guarantees and assets pledged as collateral security	7,437	2,102	2,992	4,190	16,721	20,179	19,164
Other contingent liabilities	4,958	2,013	1,104	1,506	9,581	5,991	10,697
	12,395	4,115	4,096	5,696	26,302	26,170	29,861
<b>Commitments (1)</b>							
Undrawn formal standby facilities, credit lines and other commitments to lend							
- less than one year	74,868	—	—	—	74,868	77,592	83,461
- one year and over	10,082	36,285	77,575	13,967	137,909	135,454	132,347
Other commitments	1,993	53	21	40	2,107	2,793	1,976
	86,943	36,338	77,596	14,007	214,884	215,839	217,784
<b>Contingent liabilities and commitments</b>	<b>99,338</b>	<b>40,453</b>	<b>81,692</b>	<b>19,703</b>	<b>241,186</b>	<b>242,009</b>	<b>247,645</b>

Note:

(1) Includes liquidity facilities provided to Group sponsored conduits.

Banking commitments and contingent obligations, which have been entered into on behalf of customers and for which there are corresponding obligations from customers, are not included in assets and liabilities. The Group's maximum exposure to credit loss, in the event of its obligation crystallising and all counterclaims, collateral or security proving valueless, is represented by the contractual nominal amount of these instruments included in the table above. These commitments and contingent obligations are subject to the Group's normal credit approval processes.

#### Contingent liabilities

Guarantees - the Group gives guarantees on behalf of customers. A financial guarantee represents an irrevocable undertaking that the Group will meet a customer's specified obligations to a third party if the customer fails to do so. The maximum amount that the Group could be required to pay under a guarantee is its principal amount as in the table above. The Group expects most guarantees to expire unused.

Other contingent liabilities - these include standby letters of credit, supporting customer debt issues and contingent liabilities relating to customer trading activities such as those arising from performance and customs bonds, warranties and indemnities.

#### Commitments

Commitments to lend - under a loan commitment the Group agrees to make funds available to a customer in the future. Loan commitments, which are usually for a specified term may be unconditionally cancellable or may persist, provided all conditions in the loan facility are satisfied or waived. Commitments to lend include commercial standby facilities and credit lines, liquidity facilities to commercial paper conduits and unutilised overdraft facilities.

Other commitments - these include documentary credits, which are commercial letters of credit providing for payment by the Group to a named beneficiary against presentation of specified documents, forward asset purchases, forward deposits placed and undrawn note issuance and revolving underwriting facilities, and other short-term trade related transactions.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### Contractual obligations for future expenditure not provided for in the accounts

The following table shows contractual obligations for future expenditure not provided for in the accounts at the year end.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Operating leases</b>			
Minimum rentals payable under non-cancellable leases (1)			
- within 1 year	237	348	399
- after 1 year but within 5 years	784	1,143	1,253
- after 5 years	2,110	2,144	2,286
	3,131	3,635	3,938
Capital expenditure on property, plant and equipment	35	38	37
Contracts to purchase goods or services (2)	1,827	1,162	959
	4,993	4,835	4,934

Notes:

(1) Predominantly property leases.

(2) Of which due within 1 year: £389 million (2013 - £373 million; 2012 - £444 million).

### Trustee and other fiduciary activities

In its capacity as trustee or other fiduciary role, the Group may hold or place assets on behalf of individuals, trusts, companies, pension schemes and others. The assets and their income are not included in the Group's financial statements. The Group earned fee income of £425 million (2013 - £462 million; 2012 - £476 million) from these activities.

### The Financial Services Compensation Scheme

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), the UK's statutory fund of last resort for customers of authorised financial services firms, pays compensation if a firm is unable to meet its obligations. The FSCS funds compensation for customers by raising management expenses levies and compensation levies on the industry. In relation to protected deposits, each deposit-taking institution contributes towards these levies in proportion to their share of total protected deposits on 31 December of the year preceding the scheme year (which runs from 1 April to 31 March), subject to annual maxima set by the Prudential Regulation Authority. In addition, the FSCS has the power to raise levies on a firm that has ceased to participate in the scheme and is in the process of ceasing to be authorised for the costs that it would have been liable to pay had the FSCS made a levy in the financial year it ceased to be a participant in the scheme.

The FSCS has borrowed from HM Treasury to fund compensation costs associated with the failure of Bradford & Bingley, Heritable Bank, Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander, Landsbanki 'Icesave' and London Scottish Bank plc. The interest rate on these borrowings is subject to a floor being the higher of 12 month LIBOR plus 100 basis points or the relevant gilt rate for the equivalent cost of borrowing from HMT. The FSCS and HM Treasury have agreed that the period of these loans will reflect the expected timetable for recoveries from the estates of Bradford & Bingley and the other failed banks. The FSCS will levy the deposit-taking sector for its share of the balance of the principal outstanding for the non-Bradford & Bingley loan prior to the FSCS loan facility with HMT expiring in March 2015. In addition, the FSCS levied an interim payment relating to resolution costs for Dunfermline Building Society of £100 million. The total capital element levied on the industry in the 2014/15 scheme year was £399 million (£363 million in the 2013/14 scheme year).

The Group has accrued £110 million for its share of estimated FSCS levies.

### 32 Memorandum items continued

#### Litigation, investigations and reviews

The company and certain members of the Group are party to legal proceedings and the subject of investigation and other regulatory and governmental action in the United Kingdom, the European Union, the United States and other jurisdictions.

RBS recognises a provision for a liability in relation to these matters when it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle an obligation resulting from past events, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. While the outcome of the legal proceedings, investigations and regulatory and governmental matters in which RBS is involved is inherently uncertain, the directors believe that, based on the information available to them, appropriate provisions have been made in respect of legal proceedings, investigations and regulatory and governmental matters as at 31 December 2014 (see Note 22). The aggregate provisions for litigation and regulatory proceedings of £1,500 million recognised in 2014, included a provision of £720 million related to the foreign exchange related investigations, of which £320 million was taken in the last quarter of 2014. The future outflow of resources in respect of any matter may ultimately prove to be substantially greater than or less than the aggregate provision that RBS has recognised.

In many proceedings, it is not possible to determine whether any loss is probable or to estimate the amount of any loss. Numerous legal and factual issues may need to be resolved, including through potentially lengthy discovery and document production exercises and determination of important factual matters, and by addressing novel or unsettled legal questions relevant to the proceedings in question, before a liability can be reasonably estimated for any claim. RBS cannot predict if, how, or when such claims will be resolved or what the eventual settlement, damages, fine, penalty or other relief, if any, may be, particularly for claims that are at an early stage in their development or where claimants seek substantial or indeterminate damages.

There are also situations where RBS may enter into a settlement agreement. This may occur in order to avoid the expense, management distraction or reputational implications of continuing to contest liability, or in order to take account of the risks inherent in defending claims or investigations even for those matters for which RBS believes it has credible defences and should prevail on the merits. The uncertainties inherent in all such matters affect the amount and timing of any potential outflows for both matters with respect to which provisions have been established and other contingent liabilities. The future outflow of resources in respect of any matter may ultimately prove to be substantially greater than or less than the aggregate provision that RBS has recognised for that matter.

Other than those discussed below, no member of the Group is or has been involved in governmental, legal or regulatory proceedings (including those which are pending or threatened) that are expected to be material individually or in aggregate.

#### Litigation

##### Shareholder litigation (US)

RBS and certain of its subsidiaries, together with certain current and former officers and directors were named as defendants in a purported class action filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York involving holders of American Depositary Receipts (the ADR claims).

A consolidated amended complaint asserting claims under Sections 10 and 20 of the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Sections 11, 12 and 15 of the Securities Act was filed in November 2011 on behalf of all persons who purchased or otherwise acquired the Group's American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) from issuance through 20 January 2009. In September 2012, the Court dismissed the ADR claims with prejudice. In August 2013, the Court denied the plaintiffs' motions for reconsideration and for leave to re-plead their case. The plaintiffs appealed the dismissal of this case to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and that appeal was heard on 19 June 2014. A decision in respect of the appeal has not yet been issued.

##### Shareholder litigation (UK)

Between March and July 2013, claims were issued in the High Court of Justice of England and Wales by sets of current and former shareholders, against RBS (and in one of those claims, also against certain former individual officers and directors) alleging that untrue and misleading statements and/or improper omissions were made in connection with the rights issue announced by RBS on 22 April 2008 in breach of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. In July 2013 these and other similar threatened claims were consolidated by the Court via a Group Litigation Order. RBS's defence to the claims was filed on 13 December 2013. Since then, further High Court claims have been issued against RBS under the Group Litigation Order. At a case management conference in December 2014 the judge ordered that trial commence in December 2016.

##### Other securitisation and securities related litigation in the United States

RBS companies have been named as defendants in their various roles as issuer, depositor and/or underwriter in a number of claims in the United States that relate to the securitisation and securities underwriting businesses. These cases include actions by individual purchasers of securities and purported class action suits. Together, the pending individual and class action cases involve the issuance of more than US\$46 billion of mortgage-backed securities (MBS) issued primarily from 2005 to 2007. In general, plaintiffs in these actions claim that certain disclosures made in connection with the relevant offerings contained materially false or misleading statements and/or omissions regarding the underwriting standards pursuant to which the mortgage loans underlying the securities were issued. RBS companies remain as defendants in more than 30 lawsuits brought by purchasers of MBS, including the purported class action identified below.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

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Among these MBS lawsuits are two cases filed in September 2011 by the US Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) as conservator for the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac). The primary FHFA lawsuit remains pending in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, and it relates to approximately US\$32 billion of MBS for which RBS entities acted as sponsor/depositor and/or lead underwriter or co-lead underwriter. Of these approximately US\$9.5 billion were outstanding at 31 December 2014 with cumulative write downs to date of approximately US\$1.09 billion (being the recognised loss of principal value suffered by security holders). In September 2013, the Court denied the defendants' motion to dismiss FHFA's amended complaint in this case. Discovery is ongoing and is scheduled to be substantially completed by the end of 2015.

The other remaining FHFA lawsuit that involves RBS (in which the primary defendant is Nomura Holding America Inc. and subsidiaries) names RBS Securities Inc. as a defendant by virtue of the fact that it was an underwriter of some of the securities at issue. Trial in this matter is scheduled to commence in March 2015 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Three other FHFA lawsuits (against JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley and Countrywide) in which RBS Securities Inc. was an underwriter defendant were settled without any contribution from RBS Securities Inc. On 19 June 2014, another FHFA lawsuit in which RBS Securities Inc. was an underwriter defendant (against Ally Financial Group) was settled by RBS Securities Inc. by payment of US\$99.5 million.

Other MBS lawsuits against RBS companies include three cases filed by the National Credit Union Administration Board (on behalf of US Central Federal Credit Union, Western Corporate Federal Credit Union, Southwest Corporate Federal Credit Union, and Members United Corporate Federal Credit Union), five cases filed by the Federal Home Loan Banks of Boston, Chicago, Seattle and San Francisco, and a case filed by the Commonwealth of Virginia on behalf of the Virginia Retirement System.

RBS companies are also defendants in a purported MBS class action entitled *New Jersey Carpenters Health Fund v. Novastar Mortgage Inc. et al.*; which remains pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

The status of the previously disclosed settlements in the other MBS class actions in which RBS companies were defendants is as follows: In re *IndyMac Mortgage-Backed Securities Litigation* (the court indicated its intention to approve settlement at the final settlement hearing held on 3 February 2015), *New Jersey Carpenters Vacation Fund et al. v. The Royal Bank of Scotland plc et al.* (final court approval of the settlement granted in November 2014), and *Luther v. Countrywide Financial Corp. et al.* and related class action cases (final court approval of the settlement granted in December 2013). In the latter matter, several members of the settlement class are appealing the court-approved settlement to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Certain other claims on behalf of public and private institutional investors have been threatened against RBS in connection with various mortgage-related offerings. RBS cannot predict whether any of these threatened claims will be pursued, but expects that several may. If such claims are asserted and were successful, the amounts involved may be material.

In many of the securitisation and securities related cases in the US, RBS has or will have contractual claims to indemnification from the issuers of the securities (where an RBS company is underwriter) and/or the underlying mortgage originator (where an RBS company is issuer). The amount and extent of any recovery on an indemnification claim, however, is uncertain and subject to a number of factors, including the ongoing creditworthiness of the indemnifying party a number of whom are or may be insolvent.

### London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)

Certain members of the Group have been named as defendants in a number of class actions and individual claims filed in the US with respect to the setting of LIBOR and certain other benchmark interest rates. The complaints are substantially similar and allege that certain members of the Group and other panel banks individually and collectively violated various federal laws, including the US commodities and antitrust laws, and state statutory and common law, as well as contracts, by manipulating LIBOR and prices of LIBOR-based derivatives in various markets through various means.

Most of the USD LIBOR-related actions in which RBS companies are defendants, including all purported class actions relating to USD LIBOR, have been transferred to a coordinated proceeding in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. In the coordinated proceeding, consolidated class action complaints were filed on behalf of (1) exchange-based purchaser plaintiffs, (2) over-the-counter purchaser plaintiffs, and (3) corporate debt purchaser plaintiffs. In orders dated 29 March 2013 and 23 June 2014, the Court dismissed plaintiffs' antitrust claims and claims under RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act), but declined to dismiss (a) certain Commodities Exchange Act claims on behalf of persons who transacted in Eurodollar futures contracts and options on futures contracts on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (on the theory that defendants' alleged persistent suppression of USD LIBOR caused loss to plaintiffs), and (b) certain contract and unjust enrichment claims on behalf of over-the-counter purchaser plaintiffs who transacted directly with a defendant. Over 35 other USD LIBOR-related actions involving RBS, including purported class actions on behalf of lenders and mortgage borrowers, are subject to motions to dismiss that are being litigated. Discovery has been stayed in all cases in the coordinated proceeding pending further order from the Court. On 21 January 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court held in *Gelboim v. Bank of America Corp.* that plaintiffs in the class action on behalf of corporate debt purchasers do not need to wait until there is a final judgment in the coordinated proceeding before they can appeal the dismissal of their antitrust claims to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

### 32 Memorandum items continued

Certain members of the Group have also been named as defendants in class actions relating to (i) JPY LIBOR and Euroyen TIBOR (the "Yen action"), (ii) Euribor, and (iii) Swiss Franc LIBOR, all three of which are pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. On 28 March 2014, the Court in the Yen action dismissed the plaintiffs' antitrust claims, but refused to dismiss their claims under the Commodity Exchange Act for price manipulation.

Details of LIBOR investigations and their outcomes affecting RBS are set out under 'Investigations and reviews' on the next page.

### ISDAFIX antitrust litigation

Beginning in September 2014, RBS plc and a number of other financial institutions were named as defendants in several purported class action complaints (now consolidated into one complaint) alleging manipulation of USD ISDAFIX rates, to the detriment of persons who entered into transactions that referenced those rates. The complaints were filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and contain claims for unjust enrichment and violations of the U.S. antitrust laws and the Commodities Exchange Act. This matter is subject to pre-discovery motions to dismiss some or all of the claims against the defendants.

### Credit default swap antitrust litigation

Certain members of the Group, as well as a number of other financial institutions, are defendants in a consolidated antitrust class action pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. The plaintiffs generally allege that defendants violated the U.S. antitrust laws by restraining competition in the market for credit default swaps through various means and thereby causing inflated bid-ask spreads for credit default swaps. On 4 September 2014, the Court largely denied the defendants' motion to dismiss this matter.

### FX antitrust litigation

Certain members of the Group, as well as a number of other financial institutions, are defendants in a consolidated antitrust class action on behalf of U.S. based plaintiffs that is pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. The plaintiffs in this action allege that the defendants violated the U.S. antitrust laws by conspiring to manipulate the foreign exchange market by manipulating benchmark foreign exchange rates. On 28 January 2015, the court denied the defendants' motion to dismiss this action. On the same day, the court dismissed two similar class action complaints that had been filed on behalf of non-U.S. plaintiffs in Norway and South Korea on the principal ground that such claims are barred by the Foreign Trade Antitrust Improvements Act. On 23 February 2015, an additional class action complaint was filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on behalf of investors that transacted in exchange-traded foreign exchange futures contracts and/or options on foreign exchange futures contracts. The complaint contains allegations that are substantially similar to those contained in the consolidated antitrust class action, and it asserts both antitrust claims and claims under the Commodities Exchange Act.

### Madoff

In December 2010, Irving Picard, as trustee for the bankruptcy estates of Bernard L. Madoff and Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC., filed a clawback claim against The Royal Bank of Scotland N.V. (RBS N.V.) in the New York bankruptcy court. The trustee seeks to recover US\$75.8 million in redemptions that RBS N.V. allegedly received from certain Madoff feeder funds and US\$162.1 million that RBS N.V. allegedly received from its swap counterparties at a time when RBS N.V. allegedly 'knew or should have known of Madoff's possible fraud'. The Trustee alleges that those transfers were preferences or fraudulent conveyances under the US bankruptcy code and New York law and he asserts the purported right to claw them back for the benefit of Madoff's estate. A further claim, for US\$21.8 million, was filed in October 2011. This matter is subject to pre-discovery motions to dismiss the claims against RBS N.V..

### Thornburg adversary proceeding

RBS Securities Inc. and certain other RBS companies, as well as several other financial institutions, are defendants in an adversary proceeding filed in the U.S. bankruptcy court in Maryland by the trustee for TMST, Inc. (formerly known as Thornburg Mortgage, Inc.).

The trustee seeks recovery of transfers made under certain restructuring agreements as, among other things, avoidable fraudulent and preferential conveyances and transfers. On 25 September 2014, the Court largely denied the defendants' motion to dismiss this matter and as a result, discovery has commenced.

### CPDO Litigation

CPDO claims have been served on RBS N.V. in England, the Netherlands and Australia relating to the sale of a type of structured financial product known as a constant proportion debt obligation (CPDO). In November 2012, the Federal Court of Australia issued a judgment against RBS N.V. and others in one such case holding that RBS N.V. and others committed certain wrongful acts in connection with the rating and sale of the CPDO. In March 2013, RBS N.V. was ordered to pay A\$19.7 million. RBS N.V. appealed this decision and the appeal court found against RBS N.V. in May 2014. The decision is not being further appealed. RBS N.V. made the required payments totalling A\$19.7 million in March and April 2013. The judgment may potentially have significance to the other claims served and to any future similar claims.

### Interest rate hedging products

RBS is dealing with a large number of active litigation claims in the UK in relation to the sale of interest rate hedging products. In general claimants allege that the relevant interest rate hedge products were mis-sold to them, with some also alleging RBS made misrepresentations in relation to LIBOR. Claims have been brought by customers who are being considered under the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) redress programme, as well as customers who are outside of the scope of that programme. RBS is encouraging those customers that are eligible to seek redress under the FCA redress programme to participate in that programme. RBS remains exposed to potential claims from customers who were either ineligible to be considered for redress or who are dissatisfied with their redress offers.



### Weiss v. National Westminster Bank PLC

NatWest is defending a lawsuit filed by a number of United States nationals (or their estates, survivors, or heirs) who were victims of terrorist attacks in Israel. The plaintiffs allege that NatWest is liable for damages arising from those attacks pursuant to the U.S. Antiterrorism Act because NatWest previously maintained bank accounts and transferred funds for the Palestine Relief & Development Fund, an organisation which plaintiffs allege solicited funds for Hamas, the alleged perpetrator of the attacks. On 28 March 2013, the trial court (the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York) granted summary judgment in favour of NatWest on the issue of scienter, but on 22 September 2014, that summary judgment ruling was vacated by the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The appeals court returned the case to the trial court for consideration of NatWest's other asserted grounds for summary judgment and, if necessary, for trial.

### Freeman v. HSBC Holdings PLC

On 10 November 2014, RBS N.V. and certain other financial institutions (HSBC, Barclays, Standard Chartered, Credit Suisse, and Bank Saderat) were named as defendants in a complaint filed by a number of United States nationals (or their estates, survivors, or heirs), most of whom are or were United States military personnel, who were killed or injured in more than 70 attacks in Iraq between 2004 and 2011. The attacks were allegedly perpetrated by Hezbollah and certain Iraqi terror cells allegedly funded by the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to the complaint, RBS N.V. and the other defendants are liable for damages arising from the attacks because they allegedly conspired with Iran and certain Iranian banks to assist Iran in transferring money to Hezbollah and the Iraqi terror cells, in violation of the U.S. Antiterrorism Act, by agreeing to engage in "stripping" of transactions initiated by the Iranian banks so that the Iranian nexus to the transactions would not be detected. The defendants will move to dismiss the complaint.

### Investigations and reviews

RBS's businesses and financial condition can be affected by the fiscal or other policies and actions of various governmental and regulatory authorities in the United Kingdom, the European Union (EU), the United States and elsewhere. RBS has engaged, and will continue to engage, in discussions with relevant governmental and regulatory authorities, including in the United Kingdom, the EU, the United States and elsewhere, on an ongoing and regular basis regarding operational, systems and control evaluations and issues including those related to compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including consumer protection, competition, anti-bribery, anti-money laundering and sanctions regimes. It is possible that any matters discussed or identified may result in investigatory or other action being taken by governmental and regulatory authorities, increased costs being incurred by RBS, remediation of systems and controls, public or private censure, restriction of RBS's business activities or fines. Any of the events or circumstances mentioned below could have a material adverse effect on RBS, its business, authorisations and licences, reputation, results of operations or the price of securities issued by it.

RBS is co-operating fully with the investigations and reviews described below.

### LIBOR and other trading rates

In February 2013, RBS announced settlements with the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in the United Kingdom, the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) in relation to investigations into submissions, communications and procedures around the setting of LIBOR. RBS agreed to pay penalties of £87.5 million, US\$325 million and US\$150 million to these authorities respectively to resolve the investigations. As part of the agreement with the DOJ, RBS plc entered into a Deferred Prosecution Agreement in relation to one count of wire fraud relating to Swiss Franc LIBOR and one count for an antitrust violation relating to Yen LIBOR. In addition, on 12 April 2013, RBS Securities Japan Limited entered a plea of guilty to one count of wire fraud relating to Yen LIBOR and on 6 January 2014, the US District Court for the District of Connecticut entered a final judgment in relation to the conviction of RBS Securities Japan Limited pursuant to the plea agreement.

In February 2014, RBS paid settlement penalties of approximately €260 million and €131 million to resolve investigations by the European Commission (EC) into Yen LIBOR competition infringements and EURIBOR competition infringements respectively.

In July 2014, RBS entered into an Enforceable Undertaking with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) in relation to potential misconduct involving the Australian Bank Bill Swap Rate. RBS undertakes in the Enforceable Undertaking to (a) comply with its existing undertakings arising out of the February 2013 settlement with the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission as they relate to Australian Benchmark Interest Rates, (b) implement remedial measures with respect to its trading in Australian reference bank bills and (c) appoint an independent compliance expert to review and report on RBS's implementation of such remedial measures. The remediation measures include ensuring appropriate records retention, training, communications surveillance and trading reviews are in place. As part of the Enforceable Undertaking, RBS also agreed to make a voluntary contribution of A\$1.6 million to fund independent financial literacy projects in Australia.

On 21 October 2014, the EC announced its findings that RBS and one other financial institution had participated in a bilateral cartel aimed at influencing the Swiss franc LIBOR benchmark interest rate between March 2008 and July 2009. RBS agreed to settle the case with the EC and received full immunity from fines for revealing the existence of the cartel to the EC and co-operating closely with the EC's ongoing investigation. Also on 21 October 2014, the EC announced its findings that RBS and three other financial institutions had participated in a related cartel on bid-ask spreads of Swiss franc interest rate derivatives in the European Economic Area (EEA). Again, RBS received full immunity from fines for revealing the existence of the cartel to the EC and co-operating closely with the EC's ongoing investigation.



### 32 Memorandum items continued

RBS is co-operating with investigations and new and ongoing requests for information by various other governmental and regulatory authorities, including in the UK, US and Asia, into its submissions, communications and procedures relating to a number of trading rates, including LIBOR and other interest rate settings, and non-deliverable forwards. RBS is providing information and documents to the CFTC and the DOJ as part of an investigation into the setting of USD, EUR and GBP ISDAFIX and related trading activities. RBS is also under investigation by competition authorities in a number of jurisdictions stemming from the actions of certain individuals in the setting of LIBOR and other trading rates, as well as interest rate-related trading. At this stage, RBS cannot estimate reliably what effect, if any, the outcome of these investigations may have on RBS.

### Foreign exchange related investigations

In November 2014, RBS plc reached a settlement with the FCA in the United Kingdom and the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) in relation to investigations into failings in the bank's Foreign Exchange businesses within its Corporate & Institutional Banking (CIB) segment. RBS plc agreed to pay penalties of £217 million to the FCA and \$290 million to the CFTC to resolve the investigations. Payment of the fines was made on 19 November 2014.

As previously disclosed, RBS remains in discussions with other governmental and regulatory authorities on similar issues relating to failings in the Bank's Foreign Exchange business within its CIB segment, including settlement discussions regarding the criminal investigation being conducted by the DOJ and certain other financial regulatory authorities. The timing and amounts of any further settlements and related litigation risks and consequences remain uncertain and could be material.

On 21 July 2014, the Serious Fraud Office announced that it was launching a criminal investigation into allegations of fraudulent conduct in the foreign exchange market, apparently involving multiple financial institutions.

### Technology incident in June 2012

In June 2012, RBS was affected by a technology incident, as a result of which the processing of certain customer accounts and payments were subject to considerable delay. RBS agreed to reimburse customers for any loss suffered as a result of the incident and RBS made a provision of £175 million in 2012.

In April 2013, the FCA announced that it had commenced an enforcement investigation into the incident. This was a joint investigation conducted by the FCA together with the UK Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA). Enforcement proceedings were then commenced. On 20 November 2014, RBS announced that it had reached agreement with the FCA and the PRA over failings in relation to the incident. RBS agreed a penalty of £42 million with the FCA and £14 million with the PRA. Separately the Central Bank of Ireland initiated an investigation and issued enforcement proceedings against Ulster Bank Ireland Limited (UBIL), an RBS company. On 12 November 2014, the Central Bank of Ireland announced that it had fined UBIL €3.5 million in relation to its investigation.

### Interest rate hedging products

In June 2012, following an industry wide review, the FSA announced that RBS and other UK banks had agreed to a redress exercise and past business review in relation to the sale of interest rate hedging products to some small and medium sized businesses who were classified as retail clients or private customers under FSA rules. In January 2013, the FSA issued a report outlining the principles to which it wished RBS and other UK banks to adhere in conducting the review and redress exercise. This exercise is being scrutinised by an independent reviewer, who is reviewing and approving all redress outcomes, and the FCA is overseeing this. RBS has reached agreement with the independent reviewer in relation to redress outcomes for in scope customers. RBS and the independent reviewer are now focussing on customer responses to review outcomes, securing acceptance of offers and assessing ancillary issues such as consequential loss claims. The FCA has announced that the review and redress exercise will be closed to new entrants on 31 March 2015.

The Central Bank of Ireland also requested UBIL, along with a number of Irish banks, to undertake a similar exercise and past business review in relation to the sale of interest rate hedging products to retail designated small and medium sized businesses in the Republic of Ireland. RBS also agreed to undertake a similar exercise and past business review in respect of relevant customers of RBS International. The review of the sale of interest rate hedging products to eligible RBS International customers is complete, and the review of the sale of interest rate hedging products to eligible Republic of Ireland customers is expected to be completed during Q1 2015.

RBS has made provisions in relation to the above redress exercises totalling £1.4 billion to date for these matters, including £0.2 billion in 2014, of which £1 billion had been utilised at 31 December 2014.

### FSA mystery shopping review

In February 2013, the FSA announced the results of a mystery shopping review it undertook into the investment advice offered by banks and building societies to retail clients. As a result of that review the FSA announced that firms involved were cooperative and agreed to take immediate action. RBS was one of the firms involved.

The action required included a review of the training provided to advisers, considering whether changes are necessary to advice processes and controls for new business, and undertaking a past business review to identify any historic poor advice (and where breaches of regulatory requirements are identified, to put this right for customers).

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

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Subsequent to the FSA announcing the results of its mystery shopping review, the FCA has required RBS to carry out a past business review and customer contact exercise on a sample of historic customers that received investment advice on certain lump sum products through the UK Financial Planning channel of the Personal & Business Banking (PBB) segment of RBS, which includes RBS plc and NatWest, during the period from March 2012 until December 2012. This review is being conducted under section 166 of the Financial Services and Markets Act, under which a skilled person has been appointed to carry out the exercise. Redress is currently being offered to certain customers in this sample group. In addition, RBS has agreed with the FCA that it will carry out a remediation exercise, for a specific customer segment who were sold a particular structured product, in response to concerns raised by the FCA with regard to (a) the target market for the product and (b) how the product may have been described to customers by certain advisers. A pilot customer communications exercise to certain cohorts of customers was undertaken between November 2014 and January 2015 with a further communication exercise to the remaining cohorts due to be completed by mid 2015.

### Card Protection Plan Limited

In August 2013, the FCA announced that Card Protection Plan Limited and 13 banks and credit card issuers, including RBS, had agreed to a compensation scheme in relation to the sale of card and/or identity protection insurance to certain retail customers. The closing date before which any claims under the compensation scheme must have been submitted has now passed and only exceptional cases will be dealt with prior to a final closure date for the scheme of 28 February 2015. RBS has made appropriate provision based on its estimate of ultimate exposure.

### Packaged accounts

As a result of an uplift in packaged account complaints, RBS has proactively put in place dedicated resource to investigate and resolve complaints on an individual basis.

### FCA review of GRG treatment of SMEs

In November 2013, a report by Lawrence Tomlinson, entrepreneur in residence at the UK Government's Department for Business Innovation and Skills, was published (Tomlinson Report). The Tomlinson Report was critical of RBS's Global Restructuring Group's treatment of SMEs. The Tomlinson Report was passed to the PRA and FCA. Shortly thereafter, the FCA announced that an independent skilled person would be appointed under Section 166 of the Financial Services and Markets Act to review the allegations in the Tomlinson Report. On 17 January 2014, Promontory Financial Group and Mazars were appointed as the skilled person. RBS is fully cooperating with the FCA in its investigation.

Separately, in November 2013 RBS instructed the law firm Clifford Chance to conduct an independent review of the principal allegation made in the Tomlinson Report: RBS's Global Restructuring Group was alleged to be culpable of systematic and institutional behaviour in artificially distressing otherwise viable businesses and through that putting businesses into insolvency. Clifford Chance published its report on 17 April 2014 and concluded that there was no evidence to support the principal allegation.

A separate independent review of the principal allegation, led by Mason Hayes & Curran, Solicitors, was conducted in the Republic of Ireland. The report was published in December 2014 and found no evidence to support the principal allegation.

### Multilateral interchange fees

On 11 September 2014, the Court of Justice upheld earlier decisions by the EU Commission and the General Court that MasterCard's multilateral interchange fee (MIF) arrangements for cross border payment card transactions with MasterCard and Maestro branded consumer credit and debit cards in the EEA are in breach of competition law.

In April 2013, the EC announced it was opening a new investigation into interchange fees payable in respect of payments made in the EEA by MasterCard cardholders from non-EEA countries.

In May 2013, the EC announced it had reached an agreement with Visa regarding immediate cross border credit card MIF rates. This agreement has now been market tested and was made legally binding on 26 February 2014. The agreement is to last for four years.

In addition, the EC has proposed a draft regulation on interchange fees for card payments. The draft regulation is subject to a consultation process, prior to being finalised and enacted. It is currently expected that the regulation will be enacted during the first half of 2015. The current draft regulation proposes the capping of both cross-border and domestic MIF rates for debit and credit consumer cards. The draft regulation also sets out other proposals for reform including to the Honour All Cards Rule so merchants will be required to accept all cards with the same level of MIF but not cards with different MIF levels.

In the UK, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) had previously opened investigations into domestic interchange fees applicable in respect of Visa and MasterCard consumer and commercial credit and debit card transactions. On 4 November 2014, the successor body to the OFT, the Competition & Markets Authority (CMA), announced that it would not proceed with its investigations. The CMA took this decision primarily based on the expected implementation of the draft EC regulation on interchange fees for card payments, coupled with some commitments made by Visa and MasterCard around its implementation in the UK. Whilst not currently proceeding, the CMA's investigations do formally remain open and CMA has noted that, if the EC regulation on interchange fees did not address its concerns, it would then look again at continuing with its investigations.

The outcomes of these ongoing investigations, proceedings and proposed regulation are not yet known, but they may have a material adverse effect on the structure and operation of four party card payment schemes in general and, therefore, on RBS's business in this sector.

### Payment Protection Insurance

Since 2011, RBS has been implementing a policy statement agreed with the FCA for the handling of complaints about the mis-selling of Payment Protection Insurance (PPI). RBS has made provisions totalling £3.7 billion to date for this matter, including £0.7 billion in 2014, of which £2.9 billion has been utilised at 31 December 2014.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

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### 32 Memorandum items continued

#### Retail banking - EC

Since initiating an inquiry into retail banking in the EU in 2005, the EC continues to keep retail banking under review. In late 2010 the EC launched an initiative pressing for greater transparency of bank fees and is currently proposing to legislate for increased harmonisation of terminology across Member States. RBS cannot predict the outcome of these actions at this stage.

#### UK personal current accounts/retail banking

Following the OFT's publication of a market study report into the Personal Current Account (PCA) market in July 2008, the OFT launched a follow up review of the PCA market in July 2012. This review was intended to consider whether certain initiatives agreed by the OFT with banks in light of the July 2008 report, primarily around transparency, unarranged overdrafts and customers in financial difficulty, had been successful and whether the market should be referred to the Competition Commission (CC) for a fuller market investigation.

The OFT's PCA report following this July 2012 launch was published in January 2013. The OFT acknowledged some specific improvements in the market since its last review but concluded that further changes were required to tackle ongoing concerns, including a lack of switching, the ability of consumers to compare products and the complexity of overdraft charges. The OFT decided not to refer the market to the CC but said that it expected to return to the question of a referral to the CC in 2015, or earlier. The OFT also announced that it would be carrying out behavioural economic research on the way consumers make decisions and engage with retail banking service, and would study the operation of payment systems as well as the SME banking market.

On 11 March 2014, the successor body to the OFT and CC, the CMA, announced that in addition to its pending SME review (see below), it would be undertaking an update of the OFT's 2013 PCA review. On 18 July 2014 the CMA published its preliminary findings in respect of both the PCA and SME market studies. The CMA provisionally decided to make a market investigation reference (MIR) for both the PCA and SME market studies. The provisional decision on both PCAs and SMEs was then subject to a consultation period until 17 September 2014. Following this period of consultation, on 6 November 2014, the CMA made its final decision to proceed with a MIR. The MIR will be a wide-ranging 18-24 month Phase 2 inquiry but at this stage it is not possible to estimate potential impacts on RBS.

#### SME banking market study

The OFT announced its market study on competition in banking for SMEs in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland on 19 June 2013. Following a consultation on the scope of the market study, the OFT published an update paper on 27 September 2013 setting out its proposed scope. On 11 March 2014, the OFT set out some competition concerns on SME banking and also announced that its successor body, the CMA, would continue the review. As discussed above, the CMA has decided to make a MIR for the SME market study in addition to the PCA study. As regards SMEs, the CMA concluded that it would be more appropriate to make a MIR than accept a set of undertakings in lieu put forward by RBS, Barclays, HSBC and Lloyds. Alongside the MIR, the CMA will also be reviewing the previous undertakings given following the CC's investigation into SME banking in 2002 and whether these

undertakings need to be varied. At this stage it is not possible to estimate potential impacts on RBS.

#### FCA Wholesale Sector Competition Review

On 9 July 2014, the FCA launched a review of competition in the wholesale sector to identify any areas which may merit further investigation through an in-depth market study.

The initial review was an exploratory exercise and focused primarily on competition in wholesale securities and investment markets, and related activities such as corporate banking. It commenced with a three month consultation exercise, including a call for inputs from stakeholders. Following this consultation period, the FCA published its feedback statement on 19 February 2015. The FCA now intends to undertake a market study into investment and corporate banking (to launch in Spring 2015) and potentially into asset management (to launch late 2015 if undertaken).

#### Credit default swaps (CDS) investigation

RBS is a party to the EC's antitrust investigation into the CDS information market. RBS has received and responded to a Statement of Objections from the EC and continues to co-operate fully with the EC's ongoing investigation. In general terms, the EC has raised concerns that a number of banks, Markit and ISDA may have jointly prevented exchanges from entering the CDS market. At this stage, RBS cannot estimate reliably what effect the outcome of the investigation may have on RBS, which may be material.

#### Securitisation and collateralised debt obligation business

In the United States, RBS is involved in reviews, investigations and proceedings (both formal and informal) by federal and state governmental law enforcement and other agencies and self-regulatory organisations, including the DOJ and various other members of the RMBS Working Group of the Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force relating to, among other things, issuance, underwriting and trading in mortgage-backed securities, collateralised debt obligations (CDOs), and synthetic products. In connection with these inquiries, Group companies have received requests for information and subpoenas seeking information about, among other things, the structuring of CDOs, financing to loan originators, purchase of whole loans, sponsorship and underwriting of securitisations, due diligence, representations and warranties, communications with ratings agencies, disclosure to investors, document deficiencies, trading activities and practices and repurchase requests.

In November 2013, RBS announced that it had settled with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) over its investigation of RBS Securities Inc. relating to due diligence conducted in connection with a 2007 offering of residential mortgage-backed securities and corresponding disclosures.

Pursuant to the settlement, RBS Securities Inc., without admitting or denying the SEC's allegations, consented to the entry of a final judgment ordering certain relief, including an injunction and the payment of approximately US\$153 million in disgorgement, penalties, and interest. The settlement was subsequently approved by the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. RBS co-operated fully with the SEC throughout the investigation.

In 2007, the New York State Attorney General issued subpoenas to a wide array of participants in the securitisation and securities industry, focusing on the information underwriters obtained from the independent firms hired to perform due diligence on mortgages. RBS completed its production of documents requested by the New York State Attorney General in 2008, principally producing documents related to loans that were pooled into one securitisation transaction. In May 2011, the New York State Attorney General requested additional information about RBS's mortgage securitisation business and, following the formation of the RMBS Working Group, has focused on the same or similar issues as the other state and federal RMBS Working Group investigations described above. The investigation is ongoing and RBS continues to respond to requests for information.

### US mortgages - loan repurchase matters

RBS's CIB business in North America has been a purchaser of non-agency US residential mortgages in the secondary market, and an issuer and underwriter of non-agency residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS). CIB did not originate or service any US residential mortgages and it was not a significant seller of mortgage loans to government sponsored enterprises (GSEs) (e.g. the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Association).

In issuing RMBS, CIB generally assigned certain representations and warranties regarding the characteristics of the underlying loans made by the originator of the residential mortgages; however, in some circumstances, CIB made such representations and warranties itself. Where CIB has given those or other representations and warranties (whether relating to underlying loans or otherwise), CIB may be contractually required to repurchase such loans or indemnify certain parties against losses for certain breaches of such representations and warranties. In certain instances where it is required to repurchase loans or related securities, CIB may be able to assert claims against third parties who provided representations or warranties to CIB when selling loans to it, although the ability to recover against such parties is uncertain. Between the start of 2009 and 31 December 2014, CIB received approximately US\$741 million in repurchase demands in respect of loans made primarily from 2005 to 2008 and related securities sold where obligations in respect of contractual representations or warranties were undertaken by CIB. However, repurchase demands presented to CIB are subject to challenge and rebuttal by CIB.

Citizens Financial Group, Inc (Citizens) has not been an issuer or underwriter of non-agency RMBS. However, Citizens is an originator and servicer of residential mortgages, and it routinely sells such mortgage loans in the secondary market and to GSEs. In the context of such sales, Citizens makes certain representations and warranties regarding the characteristics of the underlying loans and, as a result, may be contractually required to repurchase such loans or indemnify certain parties against losses for certain breaches of the representations and warranties concerning the underlying loans. Between the start of 2009 and 31 December 2014, Citizens received US\$257 million in repurchase demands and indemnification payment requests in respect of loans originated primarily since 2003. However, repurchase demands presented to Citizens are subject to challenge and rebuttal by Citizens.

Although there has in recent times been disruption in the ability of certain financial institutions operating in the United States to complete foreclosure proceedings in respect of US mortgage loans in a timely manner or at all (including as a result of interventions by certain states and local governments), to date, Citizens has not been materially impacted by such disruptions and RBS has not ceased making foreclosures.

RBS cannot currently estimate what the ultimate exposure may be with respect to repurchase demands. Furthermore, RBS is unable to estimate the extent to which the matters described above will impact it, and future developments may have an adverse impact on RBS's net assets, operating results or cash flows in any particular period.

### Citizens consent orders

The activities of Citizens' two US bank subsidiaries - Citizens Bank, N.A. and Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania - are subject to extensive US laws and regulations concerning unfair or deceptive acts or practices in connection with customer products. Certain of the bank subsidiaries' practices with respect to overdraft protection and other consumer products have not met applicable standards. The bank subsidiaries have implemented and are continuing to implement changes to improve and bring their practices into compliance with regulatory guidance. In April 2013, the bank subsidiaries consented to the issuance of orders by their respective primary federal banking regulators, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) (Consent Orders). In the Consent Orders (which are publicly available and will remain in effect until terminated by the regulators), the bank subsidiaries neither admitted nor denied the regulators' findings that they had engaged in deceptive marketing and implementation of the bank's overdraft protection programme, checking rewards programmes, and stop-payment process for pre-authorised recurring electronic fund transfers.

In connection with the Consent Orders, the bank subsidiaries paid a total of US\$10 million in civil monetary penalties. The Consent Orders also require the bank subsidiaries to develop plans to provide restitution to affected customers (the amount of which is anticipated to be approximately US\$8 million), to cease and desist any operations in violation of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, and to submit to the regulators periodic written progress reports regarding compliance with the Consent Orders.

In addition, Citizens Bank, N.A. agreed to take certain remedial actions to improve its compliance risk management systems and to create a comprehensive action plan designed to achieve compliance with the relevant Consent Order. Restitution plans have been prepared and submitted for approval, and Citizens Bank, N.A. has submitted for approval and is in the process of implementing its action plan for compliance with the Consent Order, as well as updated policies, procedures and programmes related to its compliance risk management systems.



### 32 Memorandum items continued

In addition to the above, the bank subsidiaries could face further formal administrative enforcement actions from their federal supervisory agencies, including the assessment of civil monetary penalties and restitution, relating to issues identified by Citizens arising from other consumer products and related practices and policies, and they could face potential civil litigation.

#### Governance and risk management consent order

In July 2011, RBS agreed with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the New York State Banking Department, the Connecticut Department of Banking, and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to enter into a consent Cease and Desist Order (Governance Order) to address deficiencies related to governance, risk management and compliance systems and controls in RBS plc and RBS N.V. branches. In the Governance Order, RBS agreed to create the following written plans or programmes:

- a plan to strengthen board and senior management oversight of the corporate governance, management, risk management, and operations of RBS's U.S. operations on an enterprise-wide and business line basis,
- an enterprise-wide risk management programme for RBS's U.S. operations,
- a plan to oversee compliance by RBS's U.S. operations with all applicable U.S. laws, rules, regulations, and supervisory guidance,
- a Bank Secrecy Act/anti-money laundering compliance programme for the RBS plc and RBS N.V. branches in the U.S. (the U.S. Branches) on a consolidated basis,
- a plan to improve the U.S. Branches' compliance with all applicable provisions of the Bank Secrecy Act and its rules and regulations as well as the requirements of Regulation K of the Federal Reserve,
- a customer due diligence programme designed to reasonably ensure the identification and timely, accurate, and complete reporting by the U.S. Branches of all known or suspected violations of law or suspicious transactions to law enforcement and supervisory authorities, as required by applicable suspicious activity reporting laws and regulations, and
- a plan designed to enhance the U.S. Branches' compliance with OFAC requirements.

The Governance Order (which is publicly available) identified specific items to be addressed, considered, and included in each proposed plan or programme. RBS also agreed in the Governance Order to adopt and implement the plans and programmes after approval by the regulators, to fully comply with the plans and programmes thereafter, and to submit to the regulators periodic written progress reports regarding compliance with the Governance Order. RBS has created, submitted, and adopted plans and/or programmes to address each of the areas identified above. In connection with RBS's efforts to implement these plans and programmes, it has, among other things, made investments in technology, hired and trained additional personnel, and revised compliance, risk management, and other policies and procedures for RBS's U.S. operations. RBS continues to test the effectiveness of the remediation efforts undertaken by RBS to ensure they are sustainable and meet regulators' expectations. Furthermore, RBS continues to work closely with the regulators in its efforts to fulfil its obligations under the Governance Order, which will remain in effect until terminated by the regulators.

RBS may be subject to formal and informal supervisory actions and may be required by its US banking supervisors to take further actions and implement additional remedial measures with respect to these and additional matters. RBS's activities in the United States may be subject to significant limitations and/or conditions.

#### US dollar processing consent order

In December 2013 RBS and The Royal Bank of Scotland plc agreed a settlement with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Fed), the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS), and the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) with respect to The Royal Bank of Scotland plc's historical compliance with US economic sanction regulations outside the US. As part of the settlement, RBS and The Royal Bank of Scotland plc entered into a consent Cease and Desist Order with the Fed (US Dollar Processing Order), which remains in effect until terminated by the Fed. The US Dollar Processing Order (which is publicly available) indicated, among other things, that RBS and The Royal Bank of Scotland plc lacked adequate risk management and legal review policies and procedures to ensure that activities conducted outside the United States comply with applicable OFAC regulations. RBS agreed to create an OFAC compliance programme to ensure compliance with OFAC regulations by RBS's global business lines outside of the United States, and to adopt, implement, and comply with the programme. Prior to and in connection with the US Dollar Processing Order, RBS has made investments in technology, hired and trained personnel, and revised compliance, risk management, and other policies and procedures. RBS also agreed in the US Dollar Processing Order (as part of the OFAC compliance programme) to hire an independent consultant to conduct an annual OFAC compliance review of compliance policies and their implementation and an appropriate risk-focused sampling of U.S. dollar payments.

#### US/Swiss tax programme

In August 2013, the DOJ announced a programme for Swiss banks (the Programme), to settle the long-running dispute between the US tax authorities and Switzerland regarding the role of Swiss banks in concealing the assets of US tax payers in offshore accounts. The Programme provides Swiss banks with an opportunity to obtain resolution, through non-prosecution agreements or non-target letters, concerning their status in connection with the DOJ's investigations.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

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Coutts & Co Ltd, a member of the Group incorporated in Switzerland, notified the DOJ that it intended to participate in the Programme based on the possibility that some of its clients may not have declared their assets in compliance with US tax laws. The Programme required a detailed review of all US related accounts. The results of Coutts & Co Ltd's review were presented to the DOJ in June 2014. Coutts & Co Ltd has now completed the collection of evidence of the tax status of all US related account holders, including those US account holders participating in an offshore voluntary disclosure programme. The results of the review were presented by Coutts to the DOJ on 5 November 2014. Coutts continues to cooperate with the DOJ pursuant to the terms of the Programme. Coutts expects to reach resolution with the DOJ in 2015, under the terms of the Programme. Provision has been made for the estimated liability arising from this programme/review.

### [German prosecutor investigation into Coutts & Co Ltd](#)

A prosecuting authority in Germany is undertaking an investigation into Coutts & Co Ltd in Switzerland, and current and former employees, for alleged aiding and abetting of tax evasion by certain Coutts & Co Ltd clients. Coutts & Co Ltd is cooperating with the authority.

### [Review of suitability of advice provided by Coutts & Co](#)

In 2013 the FCA conducted a thematic review of the advice processes across the UK wealth management industry. As a result of this review, Coutts & Co, a member of the Group incorporated in England and Wales, decided to undertake a past business review into the suitability of investment advice provided to its clients. This review is ongoing. Coutts & Co is in the process of contacting clients and redress is being offered in appropriate cases. Provision has been made for the estimated liability arising from this programme/review.

### [Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme](#)

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) is a government lending initiative for small businesses with viable business proposals that lack security for conventional lending. RBS has identified a number of instances where it has not properly explained to customers how borrower and guarantor liabilities work under the EFG scheme and will now undertake a review of affected and potentially affected customers to determine whether affected customers should be offered redress. From 2009 to the end of 2014, RBS provided over £940 million of lending under the EFG scheme.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 33 Net cash flow from operating activities

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Operating profit/(loss) before tax - continuing operations	2,643	(8,849)	(6,052)
(Loss)/profit before tax - discontinued operations	(3,207)	783	664
Decrease in prepayments and accrued income	5	300	787
Interest on subordinated liabilities	886	886	841
Decrease in accruals and deferred income	(313)	(889)	(3,653)
(Recoveries)/impairment losses	(1,155)	8,432	5,283
Loans and advances written-off net of recoveries	(5,073)	(4,090)	(3,925)
Unwind of discount on impairment losses	(247)	(391)	(476)
Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment	(137)	(44)	(20)
Profit on sale of subsidiaries and associates	(363)	(240)	(95)
Profit on sale of securities	(244)	(830)	(1,235)
Charge for defined benefit pension schemes	466	517	558
Pension schemes curtailment and settlement gains	—	(7)	(41)
Cash contribution to defined benefit pension schemes	(1,065)	(821)	(977)
Other provisions charged net of releases	2,711	4,422	2,899
Other provisions utilised	(3,528)	(2,066)	(1,507)
Depreciation and amortisation	1,109	1,410	1,854
Gain on redemption of own debt	(20)	(175)	(454)
Loss on reclassification to disposal groups	3,994	—	—
Write down of goodwill and other intangible assets	533	1,403	518
Elimination of foreign exchange differences	(724)	(47)	7,140
Other non-cash items	1,704	(1,209)	1,809
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from trading activities	(2,025)	(1,505)	3,918
Decrease in loans and advances to banks and customers	11,245	49,314	30,719
Decrease in securities	8,399	29,140	13,537
Decrease/(increase) in other assets	375	(190)	1,672
(Increase)/decrease in derivative assets	(65,958)	153,864	88,134
Changes in operating assets	(45,939)	232,128	134,062
Decrease in deposits by banks and customers	(11,508)	(84,364)	(7,848)
Decrease in debt securities in issue	(15,894)	(26,868)	(68,029)
Decrease in other liabilities	(4,150)	(885)	(4,141)
Increase/(decrease) in derivative liabilities	64,424	(148,807)	(89,763)
(Decrease)/increase in settlement balances and short positions	(4,881)	16	(13,017)
Changes in operating liabilities	27,991	(260,908)	(182,798)
Income taxes paid	(414)	(346)	(295)
Net cash outflow from operating activities	(20,387)	(30,631)	(45,113)

### 34 Analysis of the net investment in business interests and intangible assets

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Acquisitions and disposals</b>			
Fair value given for businesses acquired	(54)	—	(68)
Net (liabilities)/assets sold	(1,180)	1,435	1,317
Non-cash consideration	—	3	(90)
Profit on disposal	363	240	95
Net cash and cash equivalents disposed	11	210	—
Net (outflow)/inflow of cash in respect of disposals	(806)	1,888	1,322
Dividends received from associates	10	134	22
Cash expenditure on intangible assets	(631)	(872)	(924)
Net (outflow)/inflow	(1,481)	1,150	352

Note:

(1) Includes cash proceeds of £578 million in 2013 relating to the disposal of the controlling interest in Direct Line Group.



## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 35 Interest received and paid

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Interest received	13,453	17,948	19,238
Interest paid	(4,194)	(6,450)	(7,044)
	<u>9,259</u>	<u>11,498</u>	<u>12,194</u>

### 36 Analysis of changes in financing during the year

	Share capital, share premium, paid-in equity and merger reserve			Subordinated liabilities		
	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
At 1 January	45,582	45,144	53,520	24,012	26,773	26,319
Issue of ordinary shares	314	264	120			
Net proceeds from issue of subordinated liabilities				2,159	1,796	2,093
Repayment of subordinated liabilities				(3,480)	(3,500)	(258)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing	314	264	120	(1,321)	(1,704)	1,835
Share capital sub-division and consolidation	—	—	(8,933)			
Ordinary shares issued in respect of employee share schemes	234	174	437			
Reclassification of paid-in equity	(195)	—	—			
Other adjustments including foreign exchange	—	—	—	214	(1,057)	(1,381)
At 31 December	<u>45,935</u>	<u>45,582</u>	<u>45,144</u>	<u>22,905</u>	<u>24,012</u>	<u>26,773</u>

### 37 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
At 1 January			
- cash	101,172	91,658	109,888
- cash equivalents	20,005	41,183	42,767
	<u>121,177</u>	<u>132,841</u>	<u>152,655</u>
Net cash outflow	(13,273)	(11,664)	(19,814)
At 31 December	<u>107,904</u>	<u>121,177</u>	<u>132,841</u>
Comprising:			
Cash and balances at central banks	74,872	82,659	79,290
Treasury bills and debt securities	1,899	702	772
Loans and advances to banks	31,133	37,816	52,779
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>107,904</u>	<u>121,177</u>	<u>132,841</u>

Note:  
(1) Includes cash collateral posted with bank counterparties in respect of derivative liabilities of £11,508 million (2013 - £10,342 million; 2012 - £12,784 million).

Certain members of the Group are required by law or regulation to maintain balances with the central banks in the jurisdictions in which they operate. These balances are set out below.

	2014	2013	2012
Bank of England	£0.6bn	£0.6bn	£0.4bn
US Federal Reserve	US\$1.3bn	US\$1.2bn	US\$1.2bn
De Nederlandsche Bank	€0.2bn	€0.2bn	€0.4bn

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

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### 38 Segmental analysis

#### (a) Reportable segments

The directors manage the Group primarily by class of business and present the segmental analysis on that basis. This includes the review of net interest income for each class of business - interest receivable and payable for all reportable segments is therefore presented net. Segments charge market prices for services rendered between each other; funding charges between segments are determined by RBS Treasury, having regard to commercial demands. The segment performance measure is operating profit/(loss).

#### Organisational structure

On 27 February 2014, RBS announced a revised organisational structure comprising the following reportable segments.

**UK Personal & Business Banking** offers a comprehensive range of banking products and related financial services to the UK personal and small business markets. It serves customers through a number of channels including: the RBS and NatWest network of branches and ATMs in the United Kingdom, telephony, online and mobile. Small businesses include accounts having less than £2 million annual turnover and no currency transactions.

**Ulster Bank** is a retail and commercial bank in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It provides a comprehensive range of financial services through both its Retail Banking division, which provides loan and deposit products through a network of branches and direct channels, and its Corporate Banking division, which provides services to businesses and corporate customers.

**Commercial Banking** provides banking, finance and risk management services to the commercial, mid-corporate and corporate sector in the UK. It offers a full range of banking products and related financial services through a nationwide network of relationship managers, telephone and internet channels. The product range includes invoice finance through the RBSIF brand and asset finance through the Lombard brand.

**Private Banking** provides banking and wealth management services in the UK through Coutts & Co and Adam & Company, offshore through RBS International and Isle of Man Bank and internationally through Coutts & Co Ltd.

**Corporate & Institutional Banking** serves corporate and institutional clients primarily in the UK and Western Europe, as well as those US and Asian multinationals with substantial trade and investment links in the region. Products include debt financing, risk management and trade services, focusing on core product capabilities that are of most relevance to clients.

**Central Functions** comprises Group and corporate functions, such as treasury, finance, risk management, compliance, legal, communications and human resources. The Centre manages the Group's capital resources and Group-wide regulatory projects and provides services to the operating segments.

**Citizens Financial Group (CFG)** provides financial services primarily through the Citizens and Charter One brands. CFG is engaged in retail and corporate banking activities through its branch network in 11 states in the United States and through non-branch offices in other states.

Although CFG has been reclassified as a discontinued operation, it continues to be presented as a reportable segment.

**RBS Capital Resolution (RCR)** became fully operational on 1 January 2014 with a pool of c.£29 billion of assets with particularly high long-term capital intensity, credit risk and/or potentially volatile outcomes in stressed environments. RCR brings assets under common management and increases focus on managing these assets so as to release capital. No business lines were moved to RCR so comparative data has not been restated.

**Non-Core Division** was dissolved on 31 December 2013. It managed separately assets that RBS intended to run off or dispose of. The division contained a range of businesses and asset portfolios primarily from the legacy GBM businesses, higher risk profile asset portfolios including excess risk concentrations, and other illiquid portfolios. It also included a number of other portfolios and businesses including those in regional markets that were no longer strategic to RBS.

#### Reporting changes

A number of previously reported reconciling items (Payment Protection Insurance costs, Interest Rate Hedging Products redress and related costs, regulatory and legal actions, restructuring costs, amortisation of purchased intangible assets, write down of other intangible assets and bank levy) have now been allocated to the reportable segments. Consistent with the manner in which RBS is managed, operating profit on a non-statutory basis excludes:

- Own credit adjustments;
- Gain on redemption of own debt;
- Write down of goodwill;
- Asset Protection Scheme;
- Strategic disposals; and
- RFS Holdings minority interest (RFS MI),

and includes the results of Citizens that are included in discontinued operations in the statutory results.

In addition, during 2014 RBS also made changes to the method of allocating costs relating to Services and Functions and the basis of allocation of RBS Treasury costs. For further information on these changes, see page 126.

Comparatives have been restated accordingly for the changes outlined above.

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

2014	Net interest income £m	Non-interest income £m	Total income £m	Operating expenses £m	Depreciation and amortisation £m	Impairment (losses)/releases £m	Operating profit/(loss) £m
UK Personal & Business Banking	4,683	1,354	6,037	(4,319)	—	(268)	1,450
Ulster Bank	636	194	830	(589)	—	365	606
Personal & Business Banking	5,319	1,548	6,867	(4,908)	—	97	2,056
Commercial Banking	2,041	1,169	3,210	(1,703)	(141)	(76)	1,290
Private Banking	691	391	1,082	(936)	—	4	150
Commercial & Private Banking	2,732	1,560	4,292	(2,639)	(141)	(72)	1,440
Corporate & Institutional Banking	817	3,132	3,949	(4,830)	(20)	9	(892)
Central items	440	(477)	(37)	(68)	(757)	12	(850)
Citizens Financial Group	2,013	1,068	3,081	(1,942)	(181)	(197)	761
RCR	(47)	92	45	(352)	(11)	1,306	988
Non-statutory basis	11,274	6,923	18,197	(14,739)	(1,110)	1,155	3,503

### Reconciling items

Own credit adjustments	—	(146)	(146)	—	—	—	(146)
Gain on redemption of own debt	—	20	20	—	—	—	20
Write down of goodwill	—	—	—	(130)	—	—	(130)
Strategic disposals	—	191	191	—	—	—	191
Citizens discontinued operations	(2,013)	(1,078)	(3,091)	1,943	180	197	(771)
RFS Holdings minority interest	(3)	(18)	(21)	(3)	—	—	(24)
Statutory basis	9,258	5,892	15,150	(12,929)	(930)	1,352	2,643

### 2013\*

UK Personal & Business Banking	4,490	1,323	5,813	(4,492)	(1)	(501)	819
Ulster Bank	619	240	859	(693)	(1)	(1,774)	(1,609)
Personal & Business Banking	5,109	1,563	6,672	(5,185)	(2)	(2,275)	(790)
Commercial Banking	1,962	1,195	3,157	(1,839)	(136)	(652)	530
Private Banking	658	419	1,077	(1,109)	—	(29)	(61)
Commercial & Private Banking	2,620	1,614	4,234	(2,948)	(136)	(681)	469
Corporate & Institutional Banking	684	4,324	5,008	(7,095)	(115)	(680)	(2,882)
Central items	783	126	909	718	(916)	(64)	647
Citizens Financial Group	1,892	1,073	2,965	(2,042)	(162)	(156)	605
Non-Core	(96)	(250)	(346)	(548)	(79)	(4,576)	(5,549)
Non-statutory basis	10,992	8,450	19,442	(17,100)	(1,410)	(8,432)	(7,500)

### Reconciling items

Own credit adjustments	—	(120)	(120)	—	—	—	(120)
Gain on redemption of own debt	—	175	175	—	—	—	175
Write-down of goodwill	—	—	—	(1,059)	—	—	(1,059)
Strategic disposals	—	161	161	—	—	—	161
Citizens discontinued operations	(1,964)	(1,056)	(3,020)	1,939	163	312	(606)
RFS Holdings minority interest	(11)	110	99	1	—	—	100
Statutory basis	9,017	7,720	16,737	(16,219)	(1,247)	(8,120)	(8,849)

\*Restated

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 38 Segmental analysis continued

2012*	Net interest income £m	Non-interest income £m	Total income £m	Operating expenses £m	Depreciation and amortisation £m	Impairment losses £m	Operating profit/(loss) £m
UK Personal & Business Banking	4,532	1,352	5,884	(4,472)	—	(741)	671
Ulster Bank	635	196	831	(600)	—	(1,364)	(1,133)
Personal & Business Banking	5,167	1,548	6,715	(5,072)	—	(2,105)	(462)
Commercial Banking	1,969	1,351	3,320	(1,859)	(168)	(545)	748
Private Banking	676	450	1,126	(945)	6	(46)	141
Commercial & Private Banking	2,645	1,801	4,446	(2,804)	(162)	(591)	889
Corporate & Institutional Banking	816	5,595	6,411	(6,279)	(150)	(229)	(247)
Central items	620	508	1,128	790	(1,033)	(40)	845
Citizens Financial Group	1,938	1,159	3,097	(2,046)	(200)	(91)	760
Non-Core	231	57	288	(706)	(257)	(2,223)	(2,898)
Non-statutory basis	11,417	10,668	22,085	(16,117)	(1,802)	(5,279)	(1,113)

#### Reconciling items

Own credit adjustments	—	(4,649)	(4,649)	—	—	—	(4,649)
Gain on redemption of own debt	—	454	454	—	—	—	454
Write down of goodwill	—	—	—	(18)	—	—	(18)
Asset Protection Scheme	—	(44)	(44)	—	—	—	(44)
Strategic disposals	—	113	113	—	—	—	113
Citizens discontinued operations	(2,046)	(1,180)	(3,226)	1,983	199	269	(775)
RFS Holdings minority interest	(15)	(3)	(18)	(2)	—	—	(20)
Statutory basis	9,356	5,359	14,715	(14,154)	(1,603)	(5,010)	(6,052)

	2014			2013*			2012*		
	External £m	Inter segment £m	Total £m	External £m	Inter segment £m	Total £m	External £m	Inter segment £m	Total £m
<b>Total income</b>									
UK Personal & Business Banking	6,051	(14)	6,037	5,820	(7)	5,813	6,007	(123)	5,884
Ulster Bank	688	142	830	736	123	859	754	77	831
Personal & Business Banking	6,739	128	6,867	6,556	116	6,672	6,761	(46)	6,715
Commercial Banking	3,525	(315)	3,210	3,472	(315)	3,157	3,742	(422)	3,320
Private Banking	697	385	1,082	585	492	1,077	448	678	1,126
Commercial & Private Banking	4,222	70	4,292	4,057	177	4,234	4,190	256	4,446
Corporate & Institutional Banking	3,890	59	3,949	4,736	272	5,008	6,057	354	6,411
Central items	(49)	12	(37)	1,164	(255)	909	998	130	1,128
Citizens Financial Group	3,110	(29)	3,081	2,883	82	2,965	2,973	124	3,097
RCR	275	(230)	45	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	n/a	n/a	44	(390)	(346)	1,104	(816)	288
Non-statutory basis	18,187	10	18,197	19,440	2	19,442	22,083	2	22,085
<b>Reconciling items</b>									
Own credit adjustments	(146)	—	(146)	(120)	—	(120)	(4,649)	—	(4,649)
Gain on redemption of own debt	20	—	20	175	—	175	454	—	454
Asset Protection Scheme	—	—	—	—	—	—	(44)	—	(44)
Strategic disposals	191	—	191	161	—	161	113	—	113
Citizens discontinued operations	(3,081)	(10)	(3,091)	(3,020)	—	(3,020)	(3,226)	—	(3,226)
RFS Holdings minority interest	(21)	—	(21)	101	(2)	99	(16)	(2)	(18)
Statutory basis	15,150	—	15,150	16,737	—	16,737	14,715	—	14,715

\*Restated

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

	2014			2013*			2012*		
	External £m	Inter segment £m	Total £m	External £m	Inter segment £m	Total £m	External £m	Inter segment £m	Total £m
<b>Total revenue</b>									
UK Personal & Business Banking	7,205	13	7,218	7,306	17	7,323	7,491	870	8,361
Ulster Bank	822	76	898	1,022	67	1,089	1,076	—	1,076
Personal & Business Banking	8,027	89	8,116	8,328	84	8,412	8,567	870	9,437
Commercial Banking	3,500	26	3,526	3,545	31	3,576	3,778	47	3,825
Private Banking	933	515	1,448	984	635	1,619	1,043	839	1,882
Commercial & Private Banking	4,433	541	4,974	4,529	666	5,195	4,821	886	5,707
Corporate & Institutional Banking	5,025	3,996	9,021	6,419	4,925	11,344	8,130	6,130	14,260
Central items	1,652	2,627	4,279	2,700	8,675	11,375	2,936	14,248	17,184
Citizens Financial Group	3,336	10	3,346	3,208	94	3,302	3,413	132	3,545
RCR	632	319	951	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	n/a	n/a	948	523	1,471	2,164	815	2,979
Non-statutory basis	23,105	7,582	30,687	26,132	14,967	41,099	30,031	23,081	53,112
<b>Reconciling items</b>									
Own credit adjustments	(146)	—	(146)	(120)	—	(120)	(4,649)	—	(4,649)
Gain on redemption of own debt	20	—	20	175	—	175	454	—	454
Asset Protection Scheme	—	—	—	—	—	—	(44)	—	(44)
Strategic disposals	191	—	191	161	—	161	113	—	113
Citizens discontinued operations	(3,307)	—	(3,307)	(3,327)	—	(3,327)	(3,643)	—	(3,643)
RFS Holdings minority interest	(18)	—	(18)	110	—	110	(2)	—	(2)
Eliminations	—	(7,582)	(7,582)	—	(14,967)	(14,967)	—	(23,081)	(23,081)
Statutory basis	19,845	—	19,845	23,131	—	23,131	22,260	—	22,260

	2014			2013*			2012*		
	Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Cost to acquire fixed assets and intangible assets £m	Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Cost to acquire fixed assets and intangible assets £m	Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Cost to acquire fixed assets and intangible assets £m
UK Personal & Business Banking	134,257	150,481	—	132,154	146,256	—	133,004	136,686	—
Ulster Bank	27,596	24,657	—	28,183	27,047	11	30,727	28,745	4
Personal & Business Banking	161,853	175,138	—	160,337	173,303	11	163,731	165,431	4
Commercial Banking	89,382	88,987	218	87,899	93,200	83	88,322	94,378	345
Private Banking	20,480	36,793	21	21,148	37,564	27	21,494	39,431	51
Commercial & Private Banking	109,862	125,780	239	109,047	130,764	110	109,816	133,809	396
Corporate & Institutional Banking	577,230	536,243	28	551,200	512,691	508	775,549	754,953	390
Central items	86,947	69,394	832	103,470	84,279	842	113,380	105,180	991
RCR	29,030	12,683	111	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	n/a	n/a	31,177	6,100	18	63,380	9,858	169
Citizens Financial Group	84,932	71,258	215	71,738	61,289	267	72,904	63,116	308
Direct Line Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,697	9,267	275
RFS Holdings minority interest	909	75	—	909	237	—	838	233	—
	1,050,763	990,571	1,425	1,027,878	968,663	1,756	1,312,295	1,241,847	2,533

\*Restated

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 38 Segmental analysis *continued*

Segmental analysis of assets and liabilities included in disposal groups:

	2014		2013*		2012*	
	Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Assets £m	Liabilities £m
Private Banking	2	—	3	—	—	—
Corporate & Institutional Banking	18	14	78	48	235	53
Central items	—	—	882	1	(74)	1
Citizens Financial Group	80,967	71,268	679	3,190	—	—
RCR	569	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-Core	n/a	n/a	773	21	576	808
Direct Line Group	—	—	—	—	12,697	9,267
RFS Holdings minority interest	455	36	602	118	579	41
	82,011	71,320	3,017	3,378	14,013	10,170

\*Restated

Segmental analysis of goodwill is as follows:

	UK Personal & Business Banking £m	Commercial Banking £m	Private Banking £m	Corporate & Institutional Banking £m	Citizens Financial Group £m	Direct Line Group £m	Total £m
At 1 January 2012*	3,351	2,121	812	1,214	3,992	934	12,424
Transfer to disposal groups	—	—	—	—	—	(540)	(540)
Disposals	—	—	(9)	—	—	—	(9)
Currency translation and other adjustments	—	—	(3)	(25)	(169)	—	(197)
Write down of goodwill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
- continuing operations	—	—	—	(18)	—	—	(18)
- discontinued operations	—	—	—	—	—	(394)	(394)
At 1 January 2013*	3,351	2,121	800	1,171	3,823	—	11,266
Disposals	—	—	(1)	—	—	—	(1)
Currency translation and other adjustments	—	—	2	18	(87)	—	(67)
Write down of goodwill - continuing operations	—	—	—	(1,059)	—	—	(1,059)
At 1 January 2014*	3,351	2,121	801	130	3,736	—	10,139
Transfers to disposal groups	—	—	—	—	(3,957)	—	(3,957)
Currency translation and other adjustments	—	—	(9)	—	221	—	212
Write down of goodwill - continuing operations	—	—	—	(130)	—	—	(130)
At 31 December 2014	3,351	2,121	792	—	—	—	6,264

\*Restated

## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### (b) Geographical segments

The geographical analysis in the tables below has been compiled on the basis of location of office where the transactions are recorded.

2014	UK £m	USA £m	Europe £m	RoW £m	Total £m
Total revenue	15,913	1,261	1,817	854	19,845
Net interest income	7,976	223	637	422	9,258
Net fees and commissions	2,483	285	595	176	3,539
Income from trading activities	530	538	238	(21)	1,285
Other operating income/(loss)	941	89	(83)	121	1,068
Total income	11,930	1,135	1,387	698	15,150
Operating profit before tax	828	375	1,354	86	2,643
Total assets	779,885	182,471	51,227	37,180	1,050,763
Of which total assets held for sale	48	80,985	—	978	82,011
Total liabilities	744,604	166,489	45,417	34,061	990,571
Of which total liabilities held for sale	2	71,282	—	36	71,320
Net assets attributable to equity owners and non-controlling interests	35,281	15,982	5,810	3,119	60,192
Contingent liabilities and commitments	103,576	89,002	41,399	7,209	241,186
Cost to acquire property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	1,025	244	133	23	1,425

2013	UK £m	USA £m	Europe £m	RoW £m	Total £m
Total revenue	16,015	2,188	2,913	2,015	23,131
Net interest income	7,794	236	746	241	9,017
Net fees and commissions	2,544	336	663	212	3,755
Income from trading activities	1,474	899	106	92	2,571
Other operating income	644	203	242	305	1,394
Total income	12,456	1,674	1,757	850	16,737
Operating (loss)/profit before tax	(2,444)	(1,221)	(5,262)	78	(8,849)
Total assets	747,347	197,789	40,113	42,629	1,027,878
Of which total assets held for sale	915	750	198	1,154	3,017
Total liabilities	692,861	183,549	50,107	42,146	968,663
Of which total liabilities held for sale	—	3,210	81	87	3,378
Net assets attributable to equity owners and non-controlling interests	54,486	14,240	(9,994)	483	59,215
Contingent liabilities and commitments	107,500	83,048	41,368	10,093	242,009
Cost to acquire property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	1,086	428	232	10	1,756

2012	UK £m	USA £m	Europe £m	RoW £m	Total £m
Total revenue	12,396	3,181	3,790	2,893	22,260
Net interest income	8,212	111	770	263	9,356
Net fees and commissions	2,834	425	564	257	4,080
Income from trading activities	(314)	1,323	193	257	1,459
Other operating (loss)/income	(710)	113	356	61	(180)
Total income	10,022	1,972	1,883	838	14,715
Operating (loss)/profit before tax	(4,671)	1,046	(2,034)	(393)	(6,052)
Total assets	899,604	305,588	47,966	59,137	1,312,295
Of which total assets held for sale	11,638	291	1,001	1,083	14,013
Total liabilities	835,268	288,005	61,801	56,773	1,241,847
Of which total liabilities held for sale	8,405	129	871	765	10,170
Net assets attributable to equity owners and non-controlling interests	64,336	17,583	(13,835)	2,364	70,448
Contingent liabilities and commitments	105,018	84,788	49,341	8,498	247,645
Cost to acquire property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	1,953	325	186	69	2,533



## Notes on the consolidated accounts

### 39 Directors' and key management remuneration

	2014 £000	2013 £000
<b>Directors' remuneration</b>		
Non-executive directors - emoluments	1,367	1,208
Chairman and executive directors		
- emoluments	4,211	3,632
- contributions and allowances in respect of money purchase schemes	—	348
	5,578	5,188
- amounts receivable under long-term incentive plans and share option plans	1,469	—
	<b>7,047</b>	<b>5,188</b>

No directors accrued benefits under defined benefit schemes during 2014 and 2013. No directors are accruing benefits under a money purchase scheme (2013 - one).

The executive directors may participate in the company's long-term incentive plans, executive share option and sharesave schemes and details of their interests in the company's shares arising from their participation are given in the Directors' remuneration report. Details of the remuneration received by each director is also given in the Directors' remuneration report.

### Compensation of key management

The aggregate remuneration of directors and other members of key management during the year was as follows:

	2014 £000	2013 £000
Short-term benefits	20,917	30,590
Post-employment benefits	1,964	238
Termination benefits	3,481	2,033
Share-based payments	4,889	13,003
	<b>31,251</b>	<b>45,864</b>

In 2014, key management includes only members of the Executive Committee; in 2013 key management also included members of the Management Committee.

### 40 Transactions with directors and key management

(a) At 31 December 2014, amounts outstanding in relation to transactions, arrangements and agreements entered into by authorised institutions in the Group, as defined in UK legislation, were £654,534 in respect of loans to six persons who were directors of the company at any time during the financial period.

(b) For the purposes of IAS 24 'Related Party Disclosures', key management comprise directors of the company and members of the Executive Committee. The captions in the Group's primary financial statements include the following amounts attributable, in aggregate, to key management:

	2014 £000	2013 £000
Loans and advances to customers	4,089	10,750
Customer accounts	22,037	33,279

Key management have banking relationships with Group entities which are entered into in the normal course of business and on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and security, as for comparable transactions with other persons of a similar standing or, where applicable, with other employees. These transactions did not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavourable features.

### 41 Related parties

#### UK Government

On 1 December 2008, the UK Government through HM Treasury became the ultimate controlling party of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc. The UK Government's shareholding is managed by UK Financial Investments Limited, a company wholly owned by the UK Government. As a result, the UK Government and UK Government controlled bodies became related parties of the Group.

The Group enters into transactions with many of these bodies on an arm's length basis. The principal transactions during 2014, 2013 and 2012 included: Bank of England facilities and the issue of debt guaranteed by the UK Government discussed below and the Asset Protection Scheme which the Group exited on 18 October 2012 having paid total premiums of £2.5 billion. In addition, the redemption of non-cumulative sterling preference shares and the placing and open offer in April 2009 was underwritten by HM Treasury and, in December 2009, B shares were issued to HM Treasury and a contingent capital agreement concluded with HM Treasury (see Note 27). Other transactions include the payment of: taxes principally UK corporation tax (page 373) and value added tax; national insurance contributions; local authority rates; and regulatory fees and levies (including the bank levy (page 363) and FSCS levies (page 429)) together with banking transactions such as loans and deposits undertaken in the normal course of banker-customer relationships.

#### Bank of England facilities

The Group may participate in a number of schemes operated by the Bank of England in the normal course of business.

Members of the Group that are UK authorised institutions are required to maintain non-interest bearing (cash ratio) deposits with the Bank of England amounting to 0.18% of their eligible liabilities in excess of £600 million. They also have access to Bank of England reserve accounts: sterling current accounts that earn interest at the Bank of England Rate.

#### National Loan Guarantee Scheme

The Group participated in the National Loan Guarantee Scheme (NLGS), providing loans and facilities to eligible customers at a discount of one percent. It did not issue any guaranteed debt under the scheme and consequently, it was not committed to providing a particular volume of reduced rate facilities. At 31 December 2014, the Group had no amounts outstanding under the scheme (2013 - nil; 2012 - £898 million). The NLGS was superseded by the Funding for Lending Scheme.

#### The Funding for Lending Scheme

The Funding for Lending Scheme was launched in July 2012. Under the scheme UK banks and building societies are able to borrow UK treasury bills from the Bank of England at a price that depends on the participant's net lending to the UK non-financial sector. As at 31 December 2014, the Group had no amounts outstanding under the scheme (2013 - nil; 2012 - £749 million).

#### Other related parties

- (a) In their roles as providers of finance, Group companies provide development and other types of capital support to businesses. These investments are made in the normal course of business and on arm's length terms. In some instances, the investment may extend to ownership or control over 20% or more of the voting rights of the investee company. However, these investments are not considered to give rise to transactions of a materiality requiring disclosure under IAS 24.
- (b) The Group recharges The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Pension Fund with the cost of administration services incurred by it. The amounts involved are not material to the Group.
- (c) In accordance with IAS 24, transactions or balances between Group entities that have been eliminated on consolidation are not reported.
- (d) The captions in the primary financial statements of the parent company include amounts attributable to subsidiaries. These amounts have been disclosed in aggregate in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

### 42 Post balance sheet events

There have been no significant events between 31 December 2014 and the date of approval of these accounts which would require a change to or additional disclosure in the accounts.

## Parent company financial statements and notes

### Balance sheet as at 31 December 2014

	Note	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Assets</b>				
Loans and advances to banks	3	24,490	24,574	24,066
Loans and advances to customers	3	299	153	1,266
Debt securities	7	911	1,517	1,522
Investments in Group undertakings	8	54,858	54,813	54,995
Derivatives	6	179	164	511
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets		193	36	20
Assets of disposal groups		—	842	—
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>80,930</b>	<b>82,099</b>	<b>82,380</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Deposits by banks	3	1,202	1,490	1,455
Customer accounts	3	—	740	838
Debt securities in issue	3	7,510	7,015	9,310
Derivatives	6	30	62	7
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities	9	165	49	491
Subordinated liabilities	10	10,708	12,426	11,305
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>19,615</b>	<b>21,782</b>	<b>23,406</b>
<b>Owners' equity</b>		<b>61,315</b>	<b>60,317</b>	<b>58,974</b>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>		<b>80,930</b>	<b>82,099</b>	<b>82,380</b>

The accompanying notes on pages 453 to 458 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The accounts were approved by the Board of directors on 25 February 2015 and signed on its behalf by:

Philip Hampton  
Chairman

Ross McEwan  
Chief Executive

Ewen Stevenson  
Chief Financial Officer

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc  
Registered No. SC45551

## Parent company financial statements and notes

### Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Called-up share capital</b>			
At 1 January	6,714	6,582	15,318
Ordinary shares issued	163	132	197
Share capital sub-division and consolidation	—	—	(8,933)
At 31 December	6,877	6,714	6,582
<b>Paid-in equity</b>			
At 1 January and 31 December	431	431	431
<b>Share premium account</b>			
At 1 January	24,667	24,361	24,001
Ordinary shares issued	385	306	360
At 31 December	25,052	24,667	24,361
<b>Merger reserve</b>			
At 1 January and 31 December	2,341	2,341	2,341
<b>Capital redemption reserve</b>			
At 1 January	9,131	9,131	198
Share capital sub-division and consolidation	—	—	8,933
At 31 December	9,131	9,131	9,131
<b>Contingent capital reserve</b>			
At 1 January	—	(1,208)	(1,208)
Transfer to retained earnings	—	1,208	—
At 31 December	—	—	(1,208)
<b>Retained earnings</b>			
At 1 January	17,033	17,336	18,308
Profit/(loss) attributable to ordinary and B shareholders and other equity owners	1,128	964	(684)
Equity preference dividends paid	(330)	(349)	(273)
Paid-in equity dividends paid, net of tax	(28)	(30)	(15)
Dividend access share dividend	(320)	—	—
Transfer from contingent capital reserve	—	(1,208)	—
Termination of contingent capital agreement	—	320	—
At 31 December	17,483	17,033	17,336
<b>Owners' equity at 31 December</b>	<b>61,315</b>	<b>60,317</b>	<b>58,974</b>

The accompanying notes on pages 453 to 458 form an integral part of these financial statements.

## Parent company financial statements and notes

### Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 December 2014

	Note	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Operating activities</b>				
Operating profit/(loss) before tax		1,101	998	(529)
Adjustments for:				
Profit on disposal of investments in subsidiaries		—	(676)	(157)
Write-down of investment in subsidiaries		16	—	1,785
Interest on subordinated liabilities		641	619	486
(Recoveries)/impairment of loans to Group entities		(15)	(44)	1,409
Elimination of foreign exchange differences		334	(118)	(194)
Other non-cash items		218	(723)	(1)
<b>Net cash flows from trading activities</b>		<b>2,295</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>2,799</b>
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		(5,286)	(2,735)	(3,725)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities before tax</b>		<b>(2,991)</b>	<b>(2,679)</b>	<b>(926)</b>
Income taxes paid		(168)	(186)	(58)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	12	<b>(3,159)</b>	<b>(2,865)</b>	<b>(984)</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>				
Sale and maturity of securities		599	—	—
Investment in subsidiaries		—	—	(2,900)
Disposal of subsidiaries and associates		1,183	1,206	892
<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>		<b>1,782</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>(2,008)</b>
<b>Financing activities</b>				
Issue of ordinary shares		314	264	120
Issue of subordinated liabilities		2,159	2,216	2,747
Issue of exchangeable bonds		—	600	—
Dividends paid		(358)	(379)	(288)
Dividend access share		(320)	—	—
Interest on subordinated liabilities		(655)	(708)	(423)
<b>Net cash flows from financing activities</b>		<b>1,140</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>2,156</b>
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents		(3)	14	(50)
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(240)</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>(886)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		1,345	997	1,883
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	15	<b>1,105</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>997</b>

The accompanying notes on pages 453 to 458 form an integral part of these financial statements.

## Parent company financial statements and notes

### 1 Presentation of accounts

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis (see the Report of the directors, page 99) and in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and interpretations issued by the IFRS Interpretations Committee of the IASB as adopted by the European Union (EU) (together IFRS). The company's financial statements are prepared in accordance with IFRS as issued by the IASB and are presented in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

The company is incorporated in the UK and registered in Scotland. The accounts are prepared on the historical cost basis except that derivative financial instruments are stated at fair value. Recognised financial assets and financial liabilities in fair value hedges are adjusted for changes in fair value in respect of the risk that is hedged.

The accounting policies that are applicable to the company are included in the Group accounting policies which are set out on pages 349 to 359 of the consolidated financial statements, except that it has no policy regarding 'Basis of consolidation' and that the company's investments in its subsidiaries are stated at cost less any impairment.

### 2 Profit dealt with in the accounts of the company

As permitted by section 408(3) of the Companies Act 2006, the primary financial statements of the company do not include an income statement or a statement of comprehensive income. Condensed information is set out below.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Income statement</b>			
Dividends received from banking subsidiary	61	58	58
Dividends received from other subsidiaries	235	19	1,978
Profit on disposal of investment in subsidiaries	—	676	157
	296	753	2,193
Interest receivable from subsidiaries	1,067	1,005	1,097
Interest payable to subsidiaries	(167)	(232)	(378)
Other net interest payable, non-interest income and operating expenses	(94)	(572)	(247)
Write-down of investments in subsidiaries	(16)	—	(1,785)
Recoveries/(impairment) of loans to Group entities	15	44	(1,409)
Operating profit/(loss) before tax	1,101	998	(529)
Tax credit/(charge)	27	(34)	(155)
<b>Profit/(loss) and total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>(684)</b>
<b>Attributable to:</b>			
Preference shareholders	330	349	273
Paid-in equity holders	28	30	15
Dividend access share	320	—	—
Ordinary and B shareholders	450	585	(972)
	<b>1,128</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>(684)</b>

The company did not pay an ordinary dividend in 2014, 2013 or 2012.

## Parent company financial statements and notes

### 3 Financial instruments - classification

The following table shows the company's financial assets and liabilities in accordance with the categories of financial instruments in IAS 39.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>Assets</b>			
Loans and advances to banks (1) - loans and receivables	24,490	24,574	24,066
Loans and advances to customers (1) - loans and receivables	299	153	1,266
Debt securities - loans and receivables	911	1,517	1,522
Investment in Group undertakings	54,858	54,813	54,995
Derivatives (1)			
- held-for-trading	6	60	220
- hedging	173	104	291
	179	164	511
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets - non-financial assets	193	36	20
Assets of disposal groups	—	842	—
	<b>80,930</b>	<b>82,099</b>	<b>82,380</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Deposits by banks (2) - amortised cost	1,202	1,490	1,455
Customer accounts (2) - amortised cost	—	740	838
Debt securities in issue			
- amortised cost	7,365	6,862	9,157
- designated as at fair value through profit or loss	145	153	153
	7,510	7,015	9,310
Derivatives (2)			
- held-for-trading	19	25	7
- hedging	11	37	—
	30	62	7
Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities - non-financial liabilities	165	49	491
Subordinated liabilities - amortised cost	10,708	12,426	11,305
	19,615	21,782	23,406
Owners' equity	61,315	60,317	58,974
	<b>80,930</b>	<b>82,099</b>	<b>82,380</b>

Notes:  
(1) Due from subsidiaries.  
(2) Due to subsidiaries.

### 4 Financial instruments - valuation

#### Fair value of financial instruments not carried at fair value

The following table shows the carrying value and fair value of financial instruments carried at amortised cost on the balance sheet.

	2014				2013			2012	
	Carrying value £bn	Fair value £bn	Fair value of hierarchy level		Carrying value £bn	Fair value £bn	Fair value of hierarchy level Level 2 £bn	Carrying value £bn	Fair value £bn
			Level 2 £bn	Level 3 £bn					
<b>Financial assets</b>									
Loans and advances to banks	24.5	26.0	13.4	12.6	24.6	24.9	24.9	24.1	24.8
Loans and advances to customers	0.3	0.3	0.3	—	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.3	1.3
Debt securities	0.9	1.8	1.8	—	1.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.0
<b>Financial liabilities</b>									
Deposits by banks	1.2	1.2	1.2	—	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5
Customer accounts	—	—	—	—	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Debt securities in issue	7.4	7.5	7.5	—	6.9	6.9	6.9	9.2	8.9
Subordinated liabilities	10.7	11.3	11.3	—	12.4	12.5	12.5	11.3	10.3



## Parent company financial statements and notes

### 5 Financial instruments - maturity analysis

#### Remaining maturity

The following table shows the residual maturity of financial instruments, based on contractual date of maturity.

	2014			2013			2012		
	Less than 12 months £m	More than 12 months £m	Total £m	Less than 12 months £m	More than 12 months £m	Total £m	Less than 12 months £m	More than 12 months £m	Total £m
<b>Assets</b>									
Loans and advances to banks	5,400	19,090	24,490	4,730	19,844	24,574	6,382	17,684	24,066
Loans and advances to customers	296	3	299	150	3	153	—	1,266	1,266
Debt securities	227	684	911	26	1,491	1,517	26	1,496	1,522
Derivatives	23	156	179	33	131	164	296	215	511
<b>Liabilities</b>									
Deposits by banks	331	871	1,202	—	1,490	1,490	320	1,135	1,455
Customer accounts	—	—	—	14	726	740	838	—	838
Debt securities in issue	2,448	5,062	7,510	1,643	5,372	7,015	5,506	3,804	9,310
Derivatives	3	27	30	10	52	62	—	7	7
Subordinated liabilities	1,135	9,573	10,708	699	11,727	12,426	647	10,658	11,305

#### On balance sheet liabilities

The following table shows by contractual maturity, the undiscounted cash flows payable up to a period of 20 years from the balance sheet date, including future payments of interest.

	0-3 months £m	3-12 months £m	1-3 years £m	3-5 years £m	5-10 years £m	10-20 years £m
<b>2014</b>						
Deposits by banks	19	349	927	—	—	—
Debt securities in issue	671	2,021	2,838	2,676	19	2
Subordinated liabilities	1,134	311	963	1,172	7,680	2,321
	1,824	2,681	4,728	3,848	7,699	2,323
<b>2013</b>						
Deposits by banks	2	327	324	988	—	—
Customer accounts	18	1	742	—	—	—
Debt securities in issue	736	1,056	3,649	1,230	1,145	—
Subordinated liabilities	123	1,149	1,804	1,567	5,151	2,114
	879	2,533	6,519	3,785	6,296	2,114
<b>2012</b>						
Deposits by banks	6	338	325	958	—	—
Customer accounts	18	97	742	—	—	—
Debt securities in issue	1,975	3,663	2,406	567	1,194	—
Subordinated liabilities	85	826	1,796	680	3,158	2,314
	2,084	4,924	5,269	2,205	4,352	2,314

For further information on the timing of cash flows to settle financial liabilities, see Note 12 on the consolidated accounts.

## Parent company financial statements and notes

### 6 Derivatives

The following table shows the notional amount and fair value of the company's derivatives.

	2014			2013			2012		
	Notional amount £bn	Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Notional amount £bn	Assets £m	Liabilities £m	Notional amount £bn	Assets £m	Liabilities £m
Exchange rate contracts	—	1	15	1	43	12	3	214	2
Interest rate contracts*	8	178	15	5	117	50	6	297	5
Equity and commodity contracts	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—
		179	30		164	62		511	7
*Held for fair value hedging purposes		173	11		104	37		291	—

### 7 Debt securities

Debt securities comprise the partial repurchase of preferred securities issued by the trusts referred to in Note 27 on the consolidated accounts.

### 8 Investments in Group undertakings

Investments in Group undertakings are carried at cost less impairment. Movements during the year were as follows:

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
At 1 January	54,813	54,995	53,871
Currency translation and other adjustments	49	(23)	(37)
Additional investments in Group undertakings	12	1,222	3,710
Redemption of investments in Group undertakings	—	—	(29)
Disposals	—	(1,381)	(735)
Impairment of investments	(16)	—	(1,785)
At 31 December	54,858	54,813	54,995

The principal subsidiary undertakings of the company are shown below. Their capital consists of ordinary and preference shares which are unlisted with the exception of the common stock of Citizens Financial Group and certain preference shares issued by NatWest and RBS Holdings N.V..

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc and RFS Holdings B.V. are directly owned by the company, and all of the other subsidiary undertakings are owned directly, or indirectly through intermediate holding companies, by these companies. All of these subsidiaries are included in the Group's consolidated financial statements and have an accounting reference date of 31 December.

	Nature of business	Country of incorporation and principal area of operation	Group interest
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	Banking	Great Britain	100%
National Westminster Bank Plc <sup>(1)</sup>	Banking	Great Britain	100%
Citizens Financial Group, Inc. <sup>(2)</sup>	Banking	US	70.5%
Coutts & Company <sup>(3)</sup>	Private banking	Great Britain	100%
RBS Securities Inc.	Broker dealer	US	100%
Ulster Bank Limited <sup>(4)</sup>	Banking	Northern Ireland	100%
RBS Holdings N.V. <sup>(5)</sup>	Banking	The Netherlands	98%

Notes:

(1) The company does not hold any of the NatWest preference shares in issue.

(2) RBS disposed of 29.5% of its interest in Citizens Financial Group, Inc. during the second half of 2014 primarily through an initial public offering in the USA.

(3) Coutts & Company is incorporated with unlimited liability. Its registered office is 440 Strand, London WC2R 0QS.

(4) Ulster Bank Limited and its subsidiaries also operate in the Republic of Ireland.

(5) RFS Holdings B.V. (RFS) owns 100% of the outstanding shares of RBS Holdings N.V. (ABN AMRO Holding N.V. prior to 1 April 2010). RBS Holdings N.V. has one direct subsidiary, The Royal Bank of Scotland N.V. (RBS N.V.), a fully operational bank within the Group. RBS N.V. is independently rated and regulated by the Dutch Central Bank. On the division of an entity by demerger, Dutch law establishes a cross liability between surviving entities in respect of the creditors at the time of the demerger. RBS N.V.'s cross liability is limited by law to the lower of its equity and the debts of ABN AMRO Bank N.V. on 1 April 2010. The likelihood of any cross liability crystallising is considered remote.

The above information is provided in relation to the principal related undertakings only as permitted by Section 410(2) of the Companies Act 2006. Full information on all related undertakings is included in the Annual Return delivered to the Registrar of Companies for Scotland.

## Parent company financial statements and notes

### 9 Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Current tax	—	22	183
Accruals	7	3	1
Other liabilities	158	24	307
	<b>165</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>491</b>

### 10 Subordinated liabilities

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Dated loan capital	9,255	8,797	7,590
Undated loan capital	659	2,878	2,946
Preference shares	794	751	769
	<b>10,708</b>	<b>12,426</b>	<b>11,305</b>

Certain preference shares issued by the company are classified as liabilities; these securities remain subject to the capital maintenance rules of the Companies Act 2006.

2014	Currently £m	2015 £m	2016 £m	2017-2019 £m	2020-2024 £m	Thereafter £m	Perpetual £m	Total £m
- final redemption	—	1,135	—	224	5,585	2,324	1,440	10,708
- call date	959	2,252	389	1,397	4,812	897	2	10,708
2013	Currently £m	2014 £m	2015 £m	2016-2018 £m	2019-2023 £m	Thereafter £m	Perpetual £m	Total £m
- final redemption	—	700	408	211	3,112	4,393	3,602	12,426
- call date	2,743	1,941	408	1,027	3,194	861	2,252	12,426
2012	Currently £m	2013 £m	2014 £m	2015-2017 £m	2018-2022 £m	Thereafter £m	Perpetual £m	Total £m
- final redemption	—	647	618	417	1,601	4,420	3,602	11,305
- call date	767	2,257	1,822	1,225	1,601	1,514	2,119	11,305

### 11 Share capital

Details of the company's share capital are set out in Note 26 on the consolidated accounts.

### 12 Net cash flow from operating activities

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Operating profit/(loss) before tax	1,101	998	(529)
Interest on subordinated liabilities	641	619	486
Increase in accruals and deferred income	143	22	—
(Recoveries)/impairments of loans to Group entities	(15)	(44)	1,409
Profit on disposal of investments in subsidiaries	—	(676)	(157)
Write-down of investment in subsidiaries	16	—	1,785
Elimination of foreign exchange differences	334	(118)	(194)
Other non-cash items	75	(745)	(1)
Net cash inflow from trading activities	2,295	56	2,799
Increase in loans and advances to banks and customers	(4,641)	(225)	(4,737)
(Increase)/decrease in securities in issue	(1)	31	46
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	(233)	9	4
(Increase)/decrease in derivative assets	(15)	347	991
Changes in operating assets	(4,890)	162	(3,696)
Decrease in deposits by banks and customers	(1,028)	(63)	(585)
Increase/(decrease) in debt securities in issue	495	(2,895)	937
Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	169	6	(309)
(Decrease)/increase in derivative liabilities	(32)	55	(72)
Changes in operating liabilities	(396)	(2,897)	(29)
Income taxes paid	(168)	(186)	(58)
Net cash outflow from operating activities	<b>(3,159)</b>	<b>(2,865)</b>	<b>(984)</b>

## Parent company financial statements and notes

### 13 Interest received and paid

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
Interest received	1,159	1,139	1,143
Interest paid	(879)	(884)	(723)
	<u>280</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>420</u>

### 14 Analysis of changes in financing during the year

	Share capital, share premium, paid-in equity and merger reserve			Subordinated liabilities		
	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
At 1 January	34,153	33,715	42,091	12,426	11,305	8,777
Issue of ordinary shares	314	264	120	—	—	—
Issue of subordinated liabilities	—	—	—	2,159	2,216	2,747
Net cash inflow from financing	314	264	120	2,159	2,216	2,747
Share capital sub-division and consolidation	—	—	(8,933)	—	—	—
Ordinary shares issued in respect of employee share schemes	234	174	437	—	—	—
Other adjustments including foreign exchange movements	—	—	—	(3,877)	(1,095)	(219)
At 31 December	<u>34,701</u>	<u>34,153</u>	<u>33,715</u>	<u>10,708</u>	<u>12,426</u>	<u>11,305</u>

### 15 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
At 1 January - cash equivalents	1,345	997	1,883
Net cash (outflow)/inflow	(240)	348	(886)
At 31 December*	<u>1,105</u>	<u>1,345</u>	<u>997</u>

\*Comprises loans and advances to banks

### 16 Directors' and key management remuneration

Directors' remuneration is disclosed in Note 39 on the consolidated accounts. The directors had no other reportable related party transactions or balances with the company.

Additional information

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## Additional information

### Financial summary

RBS's financial statements are prepared in accordance with IFRS. Selected data under IFRS for each of the last five years are presented below.

Summary consolidated income statement	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2010 £m
Net interest income	9,258	9,017	9,356	10,226	11,637
Non-interest income (1,2,3)	5,892	7,720	5,359	11,159	11,599
Total income	15,150	16,737	14,715	21,385	23,236
Operating expenses (4)	(13,859)	(17,466)	(15,757)	(15,167)	(15,279)
Profit/(loss) before insurance net claims and impairment losses	1,291	(729)	(1,042)	6,218	7,957
Insurance net claims	—	—	—	—	(85)
Impairment releases/(losses) (5)	1,352	(8,120)	(5,010)	(8,078)	(8,135)
Operating profit/(loss) before tax	2,643	(8,849)	(6,052)	(1,860)	(263)
Tax charge	(1,909)	(186)	(156)	(914)	(700)
Profit/(loss) from continuing operations	734	(9,035)	(6,208)	(2,774)	(963)
(Loss)/profit from discontinued operations, net of tax (6)	(3,445)	558	318	651	(808)
Loss for the year	(2,711)	(8,477)	(5,890)	(2,123)	(1,771)

### Attributable to:

Non-controlling interests	60	120	(136)	28	(675)
Preference shareholders	330	349	273	—	105
Paid-in equity holders	49	49	28	—	29
Dividend access share	320	—	—	—	—
Ordinary and B shareholders	(3,470)	(8,995)	(6,055)	(2,151)	(1,230)

- Notes:
- (1) Includes profit on strategic disposals of £191 million (2013 - £161 million profit; 2012 - £111 million profit; 2011 - £25 million loss; 2010 - £171 million profit).
- (2) Includes gain on redemption of own debt of £20 million (2013 - £175 million; 2012 - £454 million; 2011 - £255 million; 2010 - £553 million).
- (3) Includes own credit adjustments of £146 million loss (2013 - £120 million loss; 2012 - £4,649 million loss; 2011 - £1,914 million gain; 2010 - £242 million gain).
- (4) Includes write down of goodwill of £130 million (2013 - £1,059 million; 2012 - £18 million; 2011 - £80 million; 2010 - £1 million).
- (5) Includes sovereign debt impairment of £1,099 million and related interest rate hedge adjustments of £169 million in 2011.
- (6) Includes £3,994 million loss provision in 2014 relating to the transfer of Citizens to disposal groups.

Summary consolidated balance sheet	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2010 £m
Loans and advances	421,973	494,793	564,086	598,916	655,778
Debt securities and equity shares	92,284	122,410	172,670	224,263	239,678
Derivatives and settlement balances	358,257	293,630	447,644	537,389	438,682
Other assets	178,249	117,045	127,895	146,299	119,438
Total assets	1,050,763	1,027,878	1,312,295	1,506,867	1,453,576
Owners' equity	57,246	58,742	68,678	75,367	75,680
Non-controlling interests	2,946	473	1,770	686	1,171
Subordinated liabilities	22,905	24,012	26,773	26,319	27,053
Deposits	452,304	534,859	622,684	611,759	609,483
Derivatives, settlement balances and short positions	377,337	318,861	467,802	572,499	478,076
Other liabilities	138,025	90,931	124,588	220,237	262,113
Total liabilities and equity	1,050,763	1,027,878	1,312,295	1,506,867	1,453,576

## Additional information

Other financial data	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Basic and diluted earnings/(loss) per ordinary and equivalent B share from continuing operations - pence (1)	0.5	(85.0)	(58.9)	(19.8)	(7.7)
Share price per ordinary share at year end - £	3.94	3.38	3.25	2.02	3.91
Market capitalisation at year end - £bn	45.2	38.2	36.3	22.3	42.8
Net asset value per ordinary and equivalent B share - £	5.25	5.24	6.31	6.90	7.02
Return on average total assets (2)	(0.3%)	(0.7%)	(0.4%)	(0.1%)	(0.1%)
Return on average owners' equity (3)	(4.6%)	(12.6%)	(7.8%)	(2.8%)	(1.5%)
Return on average ordinary and B shareholders' equity (4)	(6.3%)	(14.5%)	(8.9%)	(3.1%)	(0.9%)
Average owners' equity as a percentage of average total assets	5.9%	5.6%	5.2%	4.9%	4.6%
Risk asset ratio - Tier 1	13.2%	13.1%	12.4%	13.0%	12.9%
Risk asset ratio - Total	17.1%	16.5%	14.5%	13.8%	14.0%
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preference share dividends (5)					
- including interest on deposits	1.52	(0.51)	0.13	0.78	0.95
- excluding interest on deposits	2.61	(5.12)	(3.73)	(0.86)	0.52
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges only (5)					
- including interest on deposits	1.67	(0.55)	0.13	0.78	0.97
- excluding interest on deposits	3.58	(6.95)	(4.80)	(0.86)	0.61

Notes:

- (1) None of the convertible securities had a dilutive effect in the years 2010 to 2014.
- (2) Return on average total assets represents loss attributable to ordinary and B shareholders as a percentage of average total assets.
- (3) Return on average owners' equity represents loss attributable to equity owners expressed as a percentage of average shareholder funds.
- (4) Return on average ordinary and B shareholders' equity represents loss attributable to ordinary and B shareholders expressed as a percentage of average ordinary and B shareholders' equity.
- (5) For this purpose, earnings consist of income before tax and non-controlling interests, plus fixed charges less the unremitted income of associated undertakings (share of profits less dividends received). Fixed charges consist of total interest expense, including or excluding interest on deposits and debt securities in issue, as appropriate, and the proportion of rental expense deemed representative of the interest factor (one third of total rental expenses).



## Additional information

### Financial summary continued

#### Analysis of loans and advances to customers

The following table analyses gross loans and advances to customers by remaining maturity, geographical area (location of office) and type of customer.

	Within 1 year £m	After 1 year but within 5 years £m	After 5 years £m	2014 Total £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2010 £m
<b>UK</b>								
Central and local government	5,853	20	1,792	7,665	6,951	8,087	8,037	5,901
Finance	24,028	5,399	2,335	31,762	28,937	33,955	33,235	34,018
Residential mortgages	9,788	24,497	79,236	113,521	110,515	109,530	100,726	101,593
Personal lending	7,280	4,786	3,857	15,923	17,098	19,692	20,207	23,620
Property	12,212	15,108	10,227	37,547	44,252	53,730	55,751	65,462
Construction	2,586	1,163	349	4,098	4,691	6,507	7,173	9,351
Manufacturing	5,884	2,783	665	9,332	8,739	10,058	10,476	13,810
Service industries and business activities	21,851	19,319	9,451	50,621	52,253	56,435	59,190	70,006
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,130	1,103	978	3,211	2,887	2,699	2,736	2,939
Finance leases and instalment credit	4,051	4,572	2,310	10,933	10,524	10,532	11,216	13,374
Accrued interest	235	12	11	258	136	263	375	513
<b>Total UK</b>	<b>94,898</b>	<b>78,762</b>	<b>111,211</b>	<b>284,871</b>	<b>286,983</b>	<b>311,488</b>	<b>309,122</b>	<b>340,587</b>
<b>Overseas</b>								
US	3,726	5,008	574	9,308	60,440	63,496	72,933	74,598
Rest of the World	23,967	17,201	16,364	57,532	68,555	76,240	91,817	105,618
<b>Total Overseas</b>	<b>27,693</b>	<b>22,209</b>	<b>16,938</b>	<b>66,840</b>	<b>128,995</b>	<b>139,736</b>	<b>164,750</b>	<b>180,216</b>
<b>Reverse repos</b>								
UK	29,228	—	—	29,228	19,777	42,989	42,025	34,234
US	8,216	—	—	8,216	18,603	22,811	17,397	16,154
Rest of World	6,543	—	—	6,543	11,517	4,247	2,072	2,124
<b>Total reverse repos</b>	<b>43,987</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>43,987</b>	<b>49,897</b>	<b>70,047</b>	<b>61,494</b>	<b>52,512</b>
Loans and advances to customers - gross	166,578	100,971	128,149	395,698	465,875	521,271	535,366	573,315
Loan impairment provisions				(17,460)	(25,153)	(21,136)	(19,760)	(18,055)
Loans and advances to customers - net				378,238	440,722	500,135	515,606	555,260
Fixed rate	34,528	23,470	56,666	114,664	117,452	123,941	88,429	95,000
Variable rate	88,063	77,501	71,483	237,047	298,526	327,283	385,443	425,803
Reverse repos	43,987	—	—	43,987	49,897	70,047	61,494	52,512
Loans and advances to customers - gross	166,578	100,971	128,149	395,698	465,875	521,271	535,366	573,315

RBS provides credit facilities at variable rates to its corporate and retail customers. Variable rate credit extended to RBS's corporate and commercial customers includes bullet and instalment loans, finance lease agreements and overdrafts; interest is generally charged at a margin over a benchmark rate such as LIBOR or base rate. Interest on variable rate retail loans may also be based on LIBOR or base rate; other variable rate retail lending is charged at variable interest rates set by RBS such as its mortgage standard variable rate in the UK.

## Additional information

### Loan impairment provisions

For details of the factors considered in determining the amount of provisions, refer to the accounting policy on page 353 and 'Critical accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty' on page 359. The following table shows the movements in loan impairment provisions.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2010 £m
<b>Provisions at the beginning of the year</b>					
UK	11,005	9,754	8,222	8,537	7,004
Overseas	14,211	11,496	11,661	9,645	10,279
	25,216	21,250	19,883	18,182	17,283
<b>Transfer (to)/from disposal groups</b>					
UK	—	—	764	(773)	(25)
Overseas	(553)	(9)	—	—	(47)
	(553)	(9)	764	(773)	(72)
<b>Currency translation and other adjustments</b>					
UK	929	323	635	6	(23)
Overseas	(1,596)	(202)	(945)	(289)	66
	(667)	121	(310)	(283)	43
<b>Disposals</b>					
Overseas	(6)	(77)	(5)	8	(2,172)
<b>Amounts written-off</b>					
UK	(3,570)	(2,547)	(2,127)	(2,408)	(2,270)
Overseas	(1,708)	(1,799)	(2,139)	(2,119)	(3,772)
	(5,278)	(4,346)	(4,266)	(4,527)	(6,042)
<b>Recoveries of amounts previously written-off</b>					
UK	77	78	164	158	151
Overseas	128	178	177	369	260
	205	256	341	527	411
<b>(Released)/charged to income statement - continuing operations (1)</b>					
UK	(110)	3,593	2,351	2,937	3,916
Overseas	(1,254)	4,512	2,703	3,753	4,164
	(1,364)	8,105	5,054	6,690	8,080
<b>Charged to income statement - discontinued operations</b>					
Overseas	194	307	265	543	1,106
<b>Unwind of discount (recognised in interest income)</b>					
UK	(146)	(196)	(255)	(235)	(216)
Overseas	(101)	(195)	(221)	(249)	(239)
	(247)	(391)	(476)	(484)	(455)
<b>Provisions at the end of the year</b>					
UK	8,185	11,005	9,754	8,222	8,537
Overseas	9,315	14,211	11,496	11,661	9,645
	17,500	25,216	21,250	19,883	18,182
<b>Provisions at the end of the year comprise</b>					
Customers	17,460	25,153	21,136	19,760	18,055
Banks	40	63	114	123	127
	17,500	25,216	21,250	19,883	18,182
<b>Gross loans and advances to customers (2)</b>					
UK	284,871	286,983	311,488	309,122	340,587
Overseas	66,840	128,995	139,736	164,750	180,216
	351,711	415,978	451,224	473,872	520,803

For the notes to this table refer to the following page.

## Additional information

### Financial summary continued

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Closing customer provisions as a % of gross loans and advances to customers (2)					
UK	2.9%	3.8%	3.1%	2.6%	2.5%
Overseas	13.9%	11.0%	8.2%	7.1%	5.3%
Total	5.0%	6.0%	4.7%	4.2%	3.5%
Customer (releases)/charge to income statement as a % of gross loans and advances to customers (2)					
UK	—	1.3%	0.8%	1.0%	1.1%
Overseas	(1.9%)	3.5%	1.9%	2.3%	2.3%
Total	(0.4%)	2.0%	1.1%	1.4%	1.6%
Average loans and advances to customers - gross	472,545	509,937	541,588	578,057	610,131
As a % of average loans and advances to customers during the year					
Total customer provisions charged to income statement	(0.3%)	1.6%	0.9%	1.2%	1.3%
Amounts written-off (net of recoveries) - customers	1.1%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%

Notes:  
(1) Includes £10 million release relating to loans and advances to banks (2013 - £15 million release; 2012 - £23 million charge; 2011 - nil; 2010 - £13 million release).  
(2) Excludes reverse repos.

### Analysis of closing customer loan impairment provisions

The following table analyses customer loan impairment provisions by geographical area and type of UK customer.

	2014		2013		2012		2011		2010	
	Closing provision £m	% of total loans %	Closing provision £m	% of total loans %	Closing provision £m	% of total loans %	Closing provision £m	% of total loans %	Closing provision £m	% of total loans %
UK										
Central and local government	1	2.2	2	1.7	—	1.8	—	1.7	—	1.1
Manufacturing	142	2.7	140	2.1	134	2.2	135	2.2	99	2.7
Construction	365	1.2	515	1.1	483	1.4	502	1.5	605	1.8
Finance	65	9.0	73	7.0	104	7.5	64	7.0	97	6.5
Service industries and business activities	1,510	14.4	2,192	12.6	1,480	12.5	1,219	12.5	1,091	13.4
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	33	0.9	45	0.7	34	0.6	36	0.6	26	0.6
Property	3,671	10.7	5,190	10.6	3,944	11.9	2,860	11.8	2,124	12.6
Residential mortgages	191	32.3	319	26.6	457	24.3	397	21.3	313	19.5
Personal lending	1,453	4.5	1,718	4.1	2,152	4.4	1,926	4.3	2,517	4.5
Finance leases and instalment credit	82	3.1	136	2.5	184	2.3	367	2.4	436	2.6
Accrued interest	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	0.1	—	0.1
Total UK	7,513	81.0	10,330	69.0	8,972	69.0	7,506	65.4	7,308	65.4
Overseas	8,931	19.0	12,820	31.0	10,204	31.0	10,268	34.6	8,097	34.6
Impaired book provisions	16,444	100.0	23,150	100.0	19,176	100.0	17,774	100.0	15,405	100.0
Latent book provisions	1,016		2,003		1,960		1,986		2,650	
Total provisions	17,460		25,153		21,136		19,760		18,055	

## Additional information

### Analysis of write-offs

The following table analyses amounts written-off by geographical area and type of UK customer.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2010 £m
<b>UK</b>					
Manufacturing	48	41	61	115	107
Construction	175	159	158	228	110
Finance	28	47	30	24	6
Service industries and business activities	719	422	542	383	410
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3	6	11	4	5
Property	1,917	950	490	493	396
Residential mortgages	76	180	32	25	17
Personal lending	546	681	610	1,007	1,152
Finance leases and instalment credit	58	61	193	129	67
<b>Total UK</b>	<b>3,570</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>2,127</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>2,270</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>1,708</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>2,119</b>	<b>3,772</b>
<b>Total write-offs (1)</b>	<b>5,278</b>	<b>4,346</b>	<b>4,266</b>	<b>4,527</b>	<b>6,042</b>

Note:

(1) Includes £8 million written-off in respect of loans and advances to banks (2013 - £40 million; 2012 - £29 million).

### Analysis of recoveries

The following table analyses recoveries of amounts written-off by geographical area and type of UK customer.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2010 £m
<b>UK</b>					
Manufacturing	2	1	1	4	2
Construction	9	1	10	6	1
Finance	—	—	1	—	—
Service industries and business activities	11	21	16	10	7
Property	29	5	33	8	4
Residential mortgages	—	—	6	9	6
Personal lending	26	48	93	111	128
Finance leases and instalment credit	—	2	4	10	3
<b>Total UK</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Total recoveries</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>411</b>

## Additional information

### Financial summary continued

#### Risk elements in lending

Risk elements in lending (REIL) comprises impaired loans and accruing loans past due 90 days or more as to principal or interest.

Impaired loans are all loans (including loans subject to forbearance) for which an impairment provision has been established; for collectively assessed loans, impairment loss provisions are not allocated to individual loans and the entire portfolio is included in impaired loans.

Accruing loans past due 90 days or more comprises loans past due 90 days where no impairment loss is expected.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2010 £m
<b>Impaired loans (1)</b>					
UK	11,562	17,480	18,412	15,576	15,738
Overseas	13,681	19,691	20,074	23,171	19,963
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,243</b>	<b>37,171</b>	<b>38,486</b>	<b>38,747</b>	<b>35,701</b>
<b>Accruing loans which are contractually overdue 90 days or more as to principal or interest</b>					
UK	1,536	1,962	2,007	1,698	2,374
Overseas	105	259	634	400	523
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,641</b>	<b>2,221</b>	<b>2,641</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>2,897</b>
<b>Total REIL</b>	<b>26,884</b>	<b>39,392</b>	<b>41,127</b>	<b>40,845</b>	<b>38,598</b>
<b>Closing provisions for impairment as a % of total REIL</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>REIL as a % of gross lending to customers excluding reverse repos</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>

Notes:

(1) The write-off of impaired loans affects closing provisions for impairment as a % of total REIL (the coverage ratio). The coverage ratio reduces if the loan written-off carries a higher than average provision and increases if the loan written-off carries a lower than average provision.

(2) Impaired loans at 31 December 2014 include £7,052 million (2013 - £7,687 million; 2012 - £6,009 million) of loans subject to forbearance granted during the year.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2010 £m
<b>Gross income not recognised but which would have been recognised under the original terms of impaired loans</b>					
UK	404	571	665	636	579
Overseas	165	601	805	811	648
	<b>569</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>1,447</b>	<b>1,227</b>
<b>Interest on impaired loans included in net interest income</b>					
UK	146	196	255	235	216
Overseas	101	195	221	249	239
	<b>247</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>455</b>

#### Potential problem loans

Potential problem loans (PPL) are loans for which an impairment event has taken place but no impairment loss is expected. This category is used for advances which are not past due 90 days or revolving credit facilities where identification as 90 days overdue is not feasible.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2010 £m
<b>Potential problem loans</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>633</b>

Both REIL and PPL are reported gross and take no account of the value of any security held which could reduce the eventual loss should it occur, nor of any provision marked. Therefore impaired assets which are highly collateralised, such as mortgages, will have a low coverage ratio of provisions held against the reported impaired balance.

## Additional information

### Forbearance

The table below shows loans granted forbearance during the year. These loans are unimpaired: either the loan was performing before and after the granting of forbearance or the loan was non-performing before but subsequently transferred to the performing book. Loans with impairment provisions subject to forbearance continue to be reported as impaired loans.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m	2011 £m	2010 £m
Loans granted forbearance	6,091	7,901	11,196	7,674	5,758

#### Notes:

- (1) Wholesale loans subject to forbearance include only those arrangements above thresholds set individually by the segments, ranging from nil to £3 million.  
(2) For 2014, wholesale loans subject to forbearance were £3,040 million (2013 - £4,305 million) (refer to page 249) and secured retail loans subject to forbearance were £3,051 million (2013 - £3,596 million) (refer to pages 261 to 273). Unsecured retail loans subject to forbearance are not included. The balance of unsecured retail loans subject to forbearance amounted to £244 million (2013 - £272 million).

### Cross border exposures

Cross border exposures are loans and advances including finance leases and instalment credit receivables and other monetary assets, such as debt securities, including non-local currency claims of overseas offices on local residents. RBS monitors the geographical breakdown of these exposures based on the country of domicile of the borrower or guarantor of ultimate risk. Cross border exposures exclude exposures to local residents in local currencies.

The table below sets out cross border exposures greater than 0.5% of RBS's total assets. None of these countries have experienced repayment difficulties that have required restructuring of outstanding debt.

	Government £m	Banks £m	Other £m	Total £m	Short positions £m	Net of short positions £m
<b>2014</b>						
Germany	15,923	5,111	2,442	23,476	2,166	21,310
France	7,405	11,660	4,240	23,305	2,226	21,079
United States	393	2,576	18,403	21,372	7,029	14,343
Netherlands	5,050	1,308	6,925	13,283	1,392	11,891
Japan	3,093	3,626	2,125	8,844	66	8,778
Italy	3,484	996	769	5,249	3,029	2,220
Spain	813	913	2,449	4,175	566	3,609
Republic of Ireland	180	1,454	1,816	3,450	10	3,440
<b>2013</b>						
Germany	12,308	2,931	4,819	20,058	4,435	15,623
France	4,686	10,234	4,406	19,326	2,352	16,974
United States	9,016	2,062	24,722	35,800	7,984	27,816
Netherlands	4,979	1,685	6,023	12,687	1,192	11,495
Japan	34	4,872	1,876	6,782	2,556	4,226
Italy	5,350	646	1,141	7,137	3,302	3,835
Spain	1,461	5,748	4,814	12,023	801	11,222
Republic of Ireland	170	2,600	2,773	5,543	51	5,492
<b>2012</b>						
Germany	14,678	4,289	6,812	25,779	1,956	23,823
France	6,563	13,285	6,224	26,072	2,157	23,915
United States	18,936	1,736	30,983	51,655	12,080	39,575
Netherlands	5,350	2,227	11,200	18,777	1,124	17,653
Japan	4,338	6,822	1,410	12,570	2,326	10,244
Italy	3,767	373	1,165	5,305	2,301	3,004
Spain	893	4,789	6,328	12,010	515	11,495
Republic of Ireland	217	3,557	3,071	6,845	59	6,786

## Additional information

### Financial summary continued

#### Analysis of deposits - product analysis

The following table analyses deposits excluding repos by geographical area (location of office) and type of deposit.

	2014 £m	2013 £m	2012 £m
<b>UK</b>			
Deposits			
- interest-free	98,582	85,268	73,439
- interest-bearing	243,315	253,980	290,127
<b>Total UK</b>	<b>341,897</b>	<b>339,248</b>	<b>363,566</b>
<b>Overseas</b>			
Deposits			
- interest-free	13,992	38,235	42,250
- interest-bearing	34,205	72,242	84,496
<b>Total overseas</b>	<b>48,197</b>	<b>110,477</b>	<b>126,746</b>
<b>Total deposits</b>	<b>390,094</b>	<b>449,725</b>	<b>490,312</b>
<b>Overseas</b>			
US	1,915	59,046	65,734
Rest of the World	46,282	51,431	61,012
<b>Total overseas</b>	<b>48,197</b>	<b>110,477</b>	<b>126,746</b>
<b>Repos</b>			
UK	42,708	40,018	62,055
US	14,626	38,085	63,744
Rest of the World	4,876	7,031	6,573
<b>Total repos</b>	<b>62,210</b>	<b>85,134</b>	<b>132,372</b>

#### Certificates of deposit and other time deposits

The following table shows certificates of deposit and other time deposits over \$100,000 or equivalent by remaining maturity.

2014	Within 3 months £m	Over 3 months but within 6 months £m	Over 6 months but within 12 months £m	Over 12 months £m	Total £m
<b>UK based companies and branches</b>					
Certificates of deposit	208	351	421	149	1,129
Other time deposits	18,552	1,521	2,995	2,573	25,641
<b>Overseas based companies and branches</b>					
Certificates of deposit	1	—	—	—	1
Other time deposits	4,773	965	875	1,343	7,956
	<b>23,534</b>	<b>2,837</b>	<b>4,291</b>	<b>4,065</b>	<b>34,727</b>



## Additional information

### Short-term borrowings

Short-term borrowings comprise repurchase agreements, borrowings from financial institutions, commercial paper (CP) and certificates of deposit (CD). Derivative collateral received from financial institutions is excluded from the table, as are certain long-term borrowings.

	Repos	Financial institutions (1,2)	Commercial paper	Certificates of deposit	2014 Total	Repos	Financial institutions (1,2)	Commercial paper	Certificates of deposit	2013 Total	2012 Total
<b>At year end</b>											
- balance (£bn)	62	56	1	1	120	84	61	2	2	149	218
- weighted average interest rate	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%	0.3%	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%
<b>During the year</b>											
- maximum balance (£bn)	129	72	2	2	205	172	155	3	3	333	322
- average balance (£bn)	91	59	1	2	153	130	71	3	3	207	251
- weighted average interest rate	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.9%	0.4%	0.5%

Notes:

- (1) Excludes derivative cash collateral of £39 billion at 31 December 2014 (2013 - £26 billion; 2012 - £37 billion); and 2014 average of £30 billion (2013 - £31 billion; 2012 - £38 billion).  
(2) Excludes Federal Home Loan Bank long-term borrowings of nil at 31 December 2014 (2013 - £2 billion; 2012 - £1 billion); and 2014 average of £1 billion (2013 and 2012 - £1 billion).

Balances are generally based on monthly data. Average interest rates during the year are computed by dividing total interest expense by the average amount borrowed. Weighted average interest rates at year end are for a single day and as such may reflect one-day market distortions, which may not be indicative of generally prevailing rates.

### Other contractual cash obligations

The table below summarises other contractual cash obligations by payment date.

	0-3 months £m	3-12 months £m	1-3 years £m	3-5 years £m	5-10 years £m	10-20 years £m
<b>2014</b>						
Operating leases	62	175	424	360	695	1,415
Contractual obligations to purchase goods or services	104	285	703	734	1	—
	<b>166</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>1,415</b>
<b>2013</b>						
Operating leases	90	258	630	513	786	1,358
Contractual obligations to purchase goods or services	107	266	189	588	12	—
	<b>197</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>1,358</b>
<b>2012</b>						
Operating leases	214	185	694	559	910	1,376
Contractual obligations to purchase goods or services	110	334	500	15	—	—
	<b>324</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>1,376</b>

Undrawn formal facilities, credit lines and other commitments to lend were £212,777 million (2013 - £213,046 million; 2012 - £215,808 million). While RBS has given commitments to provide these funds, some facilities may be subject to certain conditions being met by the counterparty. RBS does not expect all facilities to be drawn, and some may lapse before drawdown.

### Exchange rates

The following tables show the Noon Buying Rate in New York for cable transfers in sterling as certified for customs purposes by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

US dollars per £1	January 2015	December 2014	November 2014	October 2014	September 2014	August 2014
<b>Noon Buying Rate</b>						
High	1.5361	1.5743	1.5991	1.6216	1.6502	1.6874
Low	1.5022	1.5517	1.5638	1.5930	1.6088	1.6570
		<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Noon Buying Rate</b>						
Period end rate		1.5578	1.6574	1.6262	1.5537	1.5392
Average rate for the year (1)		1.6461	1.5673	1.5924	1.6105	1.5415
<b>Consolidation rate (2)</b>						
Period end rate		1.5615	1.6542	1.6164	1.5475	1.5524
Average rate for the year		1.6475	1.5646	1.5850	1.6039	1.5455

Notes:

- (1) The average of the Noon Buying Rates on the last US business day of each month during the year.  
(2) The rates used for translating US dollars into sterling in the preparation of the financial statements.  
(3) On 25 February 2015, the Noon Buying Rate was £1.00 = US\$1.5499.

## Additional information

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### Supervision

#### United Kingdom

The home supervisors for RBS are the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). As with all significant banking institutions, the PRA is the consolidated supervisor of RBS. The PRA, an operationally independent subsidiary of the Bank of England, is responsible for promoting the safety and soundness of systemically important financial institutions in the UK. The FCA's overall objective is to ensure financial markets function well. This is supported by its operational objectives of: securing an appropriate degree of protection for consumers; protecting and enhancing the integrity of the UK financial system; and promoting effective competition in the interests of consumers.

As at 31 December 2014, 16 companies in RBS, spanning a range of financial services sectors (banking, insurance and investment business), were authorised to conduct financial activities in the UK. The UK authorised banks in RBS Group include The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, National Westminster Bank Plc, Coutts & Co and Ulster Bank Limited. Wholesale activities, other than Treasury activities, are concentrated in the Corporate & Institutional Banking business, and are undertaken under the names of The Royal Bank of Scotland plc and National Westminster Bank Plc. Retail banking activities in England, Scotland and Wales are managed by the Personal & Business Banking business, and by Ulster Bank Limited in Northern Ireland. The banking service in the Republic of Ireland is provided by Ulster Bank Ireland Limited, which is supervised by the Central Bank of Ireland and the European Central Bank under the Single Supervisory Mechanism.

Investment management business is principally undertaken by companies in the Commercial & Private Banking business, including Coutts & Co, Adam & Company Investment Management Limited, and in the Corporate & Institutional Banking business, through RBS Asset Management Limited and The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.

RBS is subject to extensive regulations that impose obligations on financial institutions to maintain appropriate policies, procedures and controls to ensure compliance with the rules and regulations to which they are subject.

#### United States

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc is both a bank holding company and a financial holding company within the meaning of the US Bank Holding Company Act of 1956. As such, it is subject to the regulation and supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "Federal Reserve"). Among other things, the Group's direct and indirect activities and investments in the United States are limited to those that are 'financial in nature' or 'incidental' or 'complementary' to a financial activity, as determined by the Federal Reserve. The Group is also required to obtain the prior approval of the Federal Reserve before acquiring directly or indirectly, the ownership or control of more than 5% of any class of the voting shares of any US bank or holding company. Under current Federal Reserve policy, the Group is required to act as a source of financial strength for its US bank subsidiaries. Among other things, this source of strength obligation could require the Group to inject capital into any of its US bank subsidiaries if any of them became undercapitalised.

Anti-money laundering, anti-terrorism and economic sanctions regulations are a major focus of the US government for financial institutions and are rigorously enforced by the US government agencies. The Group is in the process of selling down its holding in Citizens Financial Group, but currently retains a sufficient ownership stake as to come under the regulatory arrangements described below.

RBS's US bank and non-bank subsidiaries, and RBS's US branches are also subject to supervision and regulation by a variety of other US regulatory agencies. Citizens Bank, NA is supervised by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which is charged with the regulation and supervision of nationally chartered banks. Citizens Bank, NA owns Citizens Securities, Inc., a US registered broker dealer subject to regulation and supervision by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) with respect to its securities activities. Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania is subject to the regulation and supervision of the US Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Banking. Both banks are subject to supervision and regulation by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Citizens Financial Group, Inc. is under the supervision of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston as a bank holding company. RBS's Connecticut branch is supervised by the Connecticut Department of Banking and the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

The Group's primary US broker dealer, RBS Securities Inc. (RBSSI), formerly known as Greenwich Capital Markets, Inc., is also subject to regulation and supervision mainly by the SEC and FINRA with respect to its securities activities. The futures activities of RBSSI are subject to regulation and oversight mainly by the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), National Futures Association (NFA) and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group (CME). RBSSI is also supervised by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc is a provisionally registered swap dealer; it too is subject to oversight by the CFTC and the NFA.

#### Other jurisdictions

RBS operates in over 40 countries through a network of branches, local banks and non-bank subsidiaries and these activities are subject to supervision in most cases by a local regulator or central bank.

#### Description of property and equipment

RBS operates from a number of locations worldwide, principally in the UK. At 31 December 2014, the Royal Bank and NatWest had 563 and 1,286 retail branches, respectively, in the UK. Ulster Bank has a footprint of 199 branches and an extensive network of business banking offices across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Citizens Financial Group, Inc. had 1,218 retail banking offices (including in-store branches) covering Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. A substantial majority of the UK branches are owned by the Royal Bank, NatWest and their subsidiaries or are held under leases with unexpired terms of over 50 years. RBS's principal properties include its headquarters at Gogarburn, Edinburgh, its principal offices in London at 135 and 280 Bishopsgate and the Drummond House administration centre located at South Gyle, Edinburgh.

Total capital expenditure on premises (excluding investment properties), computers and other equipment in the year ended 31 December 2014 was £433 million (2013 - £571 million; 2012 - £801 million).

## Additional information

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### Major shareholders

In December 2008, The Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury (HM Treasury) acquired 22,854 million ordinary shares of 25p each representing 57.9% of the company's issued ordinary share capital. During 2009, HM Treasury acquired a further 16,791 million ordinary shares of 25p each raising their holding to 70.3% of the company's issued ordinary share capital.

In December 2009, HM Treasury acquired 51 billion B shares in the company representing the entire issued B share capital. As a result of the ordinary share sub-division and consolidation which took place in June 2012, HM Treasury's holding in the company's ordinary shares became 3,964 million ordinary shares of £1 each. At 31 December 2014, HM Treasury's holding in the company's ordinary shares was 62.3%.

As far as the company is aware, there have been no significant changes in the percentage ownership of major shareholders of the company's ordinary shares, B shares or preference shares during the three years ended 25 February 2015. All shareholders within a class of the company's shares have the same voting rights.

As at 31 December 2014, almost all of the company's US\$ denominated preference shares and American Depositary Shares representing ordinary shares were held by shareholders registered in the US. All other shares were predominantly held by shareholders registered outside the US.

### Material contracts

The company and its subsidiaries are party to various contracts in the ordinary course of business. Material contracts include the following:

#### B Share Acquisition and Contingent Capital Agreement

On 26 November 2009, the company and HM Treasury entered into the Acquisition and Contingent Capital Agreement pursuant to which HM Treasury subscribed for the initial B shares and the Dividend Access Share (the "Acquisitions") and agreed the terms of HM Treasury's subscription (the "Contingent Subscription") for an additional £8 billion in aggregate in the form of further B shares (the "Contingent B shares"), which will be issued on the same terms as the initial B shares. The Acquisitions were subject to the satisfaction of various conditions, including the company having obtained the approval of its shareholders in relation to the Acquisitions.

The company and HM Treasury further agreed the terms of the £8 billion Contingent Subscription of the Contingent B shares in the Acquisition and Contingent Capital Agreement. For a period of five years from 22 December 2009 or, if earlier, until the occurrence of a termination event or until the company's decision (with PRA (formerly FSA) consent) to terminate such Contingent Subscription (the "Contingent Period"), if the Core Tier 1 ratio of the company fell below five per cent (and if certain other conditions were met) HM Treasury committed to subscribe for the Contingent B shares in no fewer than two tranches of £6 billion and £2 billion (or such smaller amounts as the company and HM Treasury may agree). Any unused portion of the £8 billion could have been subscribed in one or more further tranches.

On December 16, 2013, the company announced that, having received approval from the PRA, it had terminated the £8 billion Contingent Subscription. RBS was able to cancel the Contingent Subscription as a result of the actions announced in the second half of 2013 to further strengthen its capital position.

On entering into the Contingent Subscription in 2009, the company recognised the present value of the annual fees payable under the agreement (£1,208 million) as a liability and debited a contingent capital reserve within equity. Following termination of the Contingent Subscription, the outstanding final annual fee of £320 million was not payable. The balance sheet liability for this fee was extinguished with a corresponding entry to equity.

The company gave certain representations and warranties to HM Treasury on the date of the Acquisition and Contingent Capital Agreement, on the date the circular was posted to shareholders, on the first date on which all of the conditions precedent were satisfied, or waived, and on the date of the Acquisitions.

The company agreed to reimburse HM Treasury for its expenses incurred in connection with the Acquisitions.

The company agreed to a number of undertakings, including with respect to: (i) restrictions on the payment of dividends or other distributions on, and the redemption of, certain securities; (ii) expectations regarding the repurchase of the B shares by the company; (iii) negotiating in good faith to maintain the status of the B shares and Dividend Access Share as Core Tier 1 capital; and (iv) restrictions in relation to the company's share premium account.

HM Treasury has agreed to waive its statutory pre-emption rights arising out of the B shares and the Dividend Access Share in respect of any future issue of equity securities by the company other than B shares and has agreed to vote its B shares and the Dividend Access Share, as applicable, in favour of each special resolution to disapply its pre-emption rights under the B shares and/or the Dividend Access Share then held by HM Treasury every time they arise in respect of any such future issue. The pre-emption rights arising out of the B shares and the Dividend Access Share have also been disapplied in the Articles of Association.

HM Treasury has agreed that it shall not be entitled to exercise its option to convert B shares into ordinary shares to the extent that it holds more than 75 per cent of the ordinary shares of the company or to the extent that the exercise of such option would result in it holding more than 75 per cent of the ordinary shares of the company.

HM Treasury has agreed that it shall not be entitled to vote the B shares or the Dividend Access Share to the extent that votes cast on such B shares and the Dividend Access Share, together with any other votes which HM Treasury is entitled to cast in respect of any ordinary shares held by or on behalf of HM Treasury, would exceed 75 per cent of the total votes eligible to be cast on a resolution proposed at a general meeting of the company.

For as long as it is a substantial shareholder of the company (within the meaning of the UKLA's Listing Rules), HM Treasury has undertaken not to vote on related party transaction resolutions at general meetings and to direct that its affiliates do not so vote.

## Additional information

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### Material contracts continued

#### DAS Retirement Agreement

The Dividend Access Share ("DAS") was created in 2009 (see B Share Acquisition and Contingent Capital Agreement above). On 9 April 2014, the Company entered into the DAS Retirement Agreement ("DRA") with HMT which was approved by the Company's shareholders on 25 June 2014. Pursuant to the terms of the DRA the company has paid HMT an initial DAS dividend of £320 million. A further £1.18 billion is payable to HMT (together with the initial dividend, the "DAS Retirement Dividend Amount"), in the form of one or more further DAS dividends, at the discretion of the directors of the company. Any unpaid portion of the DAS Retirement Dividend Amount will be subject to an increase of 5 percent. per annum, calculated on a daily accruals basis from 1 January 2016, if such portion has not been paid before 1 January 2016 and an increase of 10 per cent. per annum, calculated on a daily accruals basis from 1 January 2021, on any part of the balance that has not been paid before 1 January 2021. Once the DAS Retirement Dividend Amount (subject to any increase) has been paid, the DAS will lose its enhanced dividend rights and will become a single B share.

#### State Aid Commitment Deed

As a result of the State Aid granted to the company, it was required to work with HM Treasury to submit a State Aid restructuring plan to the European Commission (EC), which was then approved under the State Aid rules. The company agreed a series of measures which supplemented the measures in the company's strategic plan.

RBS entered into a State Aid Commitment Deed with HM Treasury at the time of the initial EC decision and following the European Commission's approval of amendments to the restructuring plan in April 2014 entered into a Revised State Aid Commitment Deed with HM Treasury (together referred to as the "State Aid Commitment Deeds").

These provide that RBS will comply or procure compliance with these measures and behavioural commitments. RBS agreed to do all acts and take all measures to ensure HM Treasury's compliance with its obligations under any EC decision approving State Aid to RBS.

The State Aid Commitment Deeds also provide that if the EC adopts a decision that the UK Government must recover any State Aid (a "Repayment Decision") and the recovery order of the Repayment Decision has not been annulled or suspended by the General Court or the European Court of Justice, then RBS must repay HM Treasury any aid ordered to be recovered under the Repayment Decision.

The State Aid Commitment Deeds also provide for RBS's undertakings in respect of State Aid to be modified in certain limited circumstances. However, HM Treasury has undertaken that it will not, without the consent of RBS, agree modifications to RBS's undertakings with respect to State Aid which are significantly more onerous to RBS than those granted in order to obtain the State Aid approval.

#### State Aid Costs Reimbursement Deed

Under the State Aid Costs Reimbursement Deed, RBS has agreed to reimburse HM Treasury for fees, costs and expenses associated with the State Aid and State Aid approval.

#### Sale of RBS England & Wales and NatWest Scotland branch based business

On 27 September 2013, RBS agreed a £600 million pre-IPO investment with a consortium of investors led by Corsair Capital and Centerbridge Partners, in relation to its RBS England & Wales and NatWest Scotland branch based business. Following completion of the operational and legal separation of the business into a standalone bank to be branded Williams & Glyn, RBS will pursue an Initial Public Offering (IPO). The pre-IPO investment took the form of a £600 million bond, which was issued by the Royal Bank on 21 October 2013, which will be exchangeable for a significant minority interest in Williams & Glyn at the time of the IPO. The bond will convert into Williams & Glyn shares at the IPO price, subject to a minimum ownership level which will be linked to the tangible book value of Williams & Glyn prior to the IPO, and in any case no more than a stake of 49%. To the extent the maximum ownership level is reached, the bond will be partially redeemed in cash such that investors will receive a total value of £600 million of cash and shares at the IPO price. At the IPO, subject to RBS's consent, investors will have the option to acquire up to 10% additionally at the IPO price, subject to their pro forma ownership being no more than 49% in aggregate. RBS provided a £270 million secured financing package to the investor consortium in relation to the investment.

#### Separation and Shareholder Agreement (SSA) with Citizens Financial Group, Inc.

On 26 September 2014, the company entered into an SSA with Citizens Financial Group, Inc. (CFG) immediately prior to the completion of the IPO of CFG. The SSA governs the relationship between the parties during the divestment of the company's shareholding in CFG. The SSA will remain in place until the date on which the company ceases to own at least 4.99% of CFG's issued and outstanding common stock or, if earlier, the date on which the company receives written notice from the Federal Reserve Board that the company is not deemed to control CFG for the purposes of the US Bank Holding Company Act. Certain provisions of the SSA will terminate upon a reduction of the company's ownership of CFG below specified thresholds. The SSA details, inter alia, the governance of CFG (and certain rights of the company relating to the appointment of directors, members of board committees and certain executives of CFG), corporate actions requiring the consent of the company, information rights and rights of access to CFG personnel and compliance covenants. The SSA includes mutual indemnities for breach of the SSA, losses arising from the indemnifying party's business and, in the case of CFG, losses arising from material inaccuracies in CFG's filings with governmental authorities and securities exchanges (excluding any liabilities arising out of information provided by the company for inclusion therein, with respect to which the company has agreed to indemnify CFG).

## Additional information

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### [HMT and UKFI Relationship Deed](#)

On 7 November 2014, in order to comply with an amendment to the UK Listing Rules, the company entered into a Relationship Deed with HM Treasury and UK Financial Investments Limited in relation to the company's obligations under the UK Listing Rules to put in place an agreement with any controlling shareholder (as defined for these purposes in the Listing Rules). The Relationship Deed covers the three independence provisions mandated by the Listing Rules: (i) that contracts between the company and HM Treasury (or any of its subsidiaries) will be arm's length and normal commercial arrangements, (ii) that neither HM Treasury nor any of its associates will take any action that would have the effect of preventing the company from complying with its obligations under the Listing Rules; and (iii) neither HM Treasury nor any of its associates will propose or procure the proposal of a shareholder resolution which is intended or appears to be intended to circumvent the proper application of the Listing Rules.



## Additional information

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### Risk factors

Set out below are certain risk factors which could adversely affect the Group's future results, its financial condition and prospects and cause them to be materially different from what is expected. The factors discussed below and elsewhere in this report should not be regarded as a complete and comprehensive statement of all potential risks and uncertainties facing the Group.

The Group's ability to achieve its capital targets will depend on the success of the Group's plans to further reduce the size of its business through the restructuring of its corporate and institutional banking business and make further divestments of certain of its portfolios and businesses including its remaining stake in Citizens Financial Group. In response to the global economic and financial crisis that began in 2008 and the weak economic environment that followed, the Group engaged in a financial and core business restructuring focused on achieving appropriate risk-adjusted returns under these changed circumstances, reducing reliance on wholesale funding, lowering exposure to capital-intensive businesses and meeting new capital standard requirements. In November 2013, following HM Treasury's assessment of the merits of creating an external "bad bank" to hold certain assets of the Group, the Group committed to take a series of actions to further derisk its business and strengthen its capital position. In order to strengthen its capital position and CET1 ratio, the Group decided to accelerate the divestment of Citizens Financial Group (CFG), the Group's US banking subsidiary, by selling off 28.75% in an initial public offering in September 2014, and fully divesting its interest in CFG by the end of 2016; and to intensify management actions to reduce risk weighted assets (including through an accelerated divestment of certain of the non-core assets transferred to RBS Capital Resolution ("RCR")).

In the first quarter of 2015, the Group announced its intention to restructure its corporate and institutional banking ("CIB") business to focus on UK corporate and financial institutions with a targeted presence in selected western European customer segments. The future CIB model will:

- focus on the Group's leading positions in UK rates, debt capital markets and foreign exchange;
- retain two trading hubs in the US and Singapore to support the main London trading operation;
- exit central and eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and substantially reduce its presence in Asia and in the US; and
- complete the run-down of US asset-backed products.

Following the decision to refine the CIB business model, the Group has decided to lift its capital targets and move to a CET1 ratio of around 13% during the restructuring period (higher than the targets of 11% by 31 December 2015 and above 12% by the end of 2016 previously announced).

In addition, the Group is in the process of implementing the new divisional and functional structure put into place in 2014 and, as a result of the restructuring of its CIB business, is now taking further steps to implement a number of strategic initiatives which will result in a further reduction of the Group's balance sheet as well as the scope of its activities. Implementation by the Group of these initiatives will require significant restructuring of the Group at the same time that it will also be implementing structural changes to comply with regulatory changes including those introduced under the UK Financial Services (Banking Reform) Act 2013 (the "Banking Reform Act 2013"), including its ring-fencing requirements (the "ring-fence"). See also *'Implementation of the ring-fence in the UK which will begin in 2015 will result in material structural changes to the Group's business. These changes could have a material adverse effect on the Group'*. There can be no assurance that the Group will be able to successfully implement this restructuring programme together with other changes required of the Group in the time frames contemplated or at all, and, as a result, the Group may not be able to meet its capital targets.

The Group's ability to dispose of businesses and certain portfolios, including the further disposal of its remaining stake in CFG and potential disposals associated with the restructuring of its CIB business, and the price achieved for such disposals will be dependent on prevailing economic and market conditions, which remain volatile. As a result there is no assurance that the Group will be able to sell or run down (as applicable) the businesses it is now planning to sell or exit or asset portfolios it is seeking to sell either on favourable economic terms to the Group or at all. Material tax or other contingent liabilities could arise on the disposal or run-down of assets or businesses and there is no assurance that any conditions precedent agreed will be satisfied, or consents and approvals required will be obtained in a timely manner, or at all. The Group may be exposed to deteriorations in businesses or portfolios being sold between the announcement of the disposal and its completion, which period may span many months. In addition, the Group may be exposed to certain risks, including risks arising out of ongoing liabilities and obligations, breaches of covenants, representations and warranties, indemnity claims, transitional services arrangements and redundancy or other transaction related costs.

The occurrence of any of the risks described above could negatively affect the Group's ability to implement its strategic plan and achieve its capital targets and could have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, reputation, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. There can also be no assurance that if the Group is able to execute its new strategic plan that the new strategy will ultimately be successful or beneficial to the Group.

## Additional information

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Implementation of the ring-fence in the UK which will begin in 2015 will result in material structural changes to the Group's business. These changes could have a material adverse effect on the Group

The UK Government's White Paper on Banking Reform published in September 2012 outlined material structural reforms in the UK banking industry. The measures were drawn in large part from the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Banking ("ICB"), which in its final report published in 2012, included the implementation of a ring-fence of retail banking operations. The implementation of the ring-fencing of retail banking operations was introduced under the Banking Reform Act 2013. The Banking Reform Act 2013 provided primary enabling legislation in the short term with a view to completing the legislative framework for the ring-fence of retail banking operations by May 2015, requiring compliance as soon as practicable thereafter and setting a final deadline for full implementation by 2019. In June 2014, HM Treasury published two statutory instruments, which were passed by Parliament in July 2014, setting out the detail of the ring-fencing regime, specifying which entities will be "ring-fenced banks" and the activities and services that ring-fenced banks can, and cannot, conduct which came into force on 1 January 2015. In October 2014, the PRA published its first consultation paper (CP19/14) on the PRA's ring-fencing rules, focusing on legal structure, governance and continuity of services and facilities. The PRA requested that all firms expected to be affected by ring-fencing, including the Group, submit a preliminary plan of their anticipated legal and operating structures to their supervisors by 6 January 2015, which the Group has done. The PRA will carry out further consultations during 2015 with the Group and other affected UK banks and is expected publish its final rules and supervisory statements during 2016.

Although final rules and supervisory statements will not be available until later in 2015 and early 2016, based on the proposals put forward by the Group to the PRA and the FCA to implement the ring-fence, the Group has identified a number of material risks associated with such implementation in addition to the uncertainty associated with starting to plan implementation before final rules and guidance are in place. These risks will be exacerbated by the Group's other ongoing restructuring efforts.

- The Group intends to establish a ring-fence bank ("RFB") for its banking services while the non-ring-fence group ("NRFB") will hold the Group's remaining CIB activities, the operations of RBS International and some corporate banking activities that are not permitted activities for the RFB and will be the remaining businesses following completion of the restructuring of the Group's CIB business. The establishment of the RFB and the NRFB will require a significant legal and organisational restructuring of the Group and the transfer of large numbers of customers between legal entities. The scale and complexity of completing this process and the operational and legal challenges that will need to be overcome will pose significant execution risks for the Group. The legal restructuring and migration of customers will have a material impact on how the Group conducts its business and the Group is unable to predict how some customers may react to any requirement to deal with both the RFB and NRFB to obtain certain products and services. Such implementation will be costly and although final implementation is not required until 2019, there is no certainty that the Group will be able to complete the legal restructuring and migration of customers to the RFB or NRFB, as applicable, such that the ring-fence exercise is completed on time or in accordance with future regulatory rules for which there is currently significant uncertainty.
- As part of the establishment of the RFB, it will be necessary for the RFB to operate independently from the NRFB and an entirely new corporate governance structure will need to be put in place by the Group to ensure the RFB's independence. These requirements have implications for how the Group sets up its board and committee corporate governance structure and the Group cannot predict how the Group will function as a public listed company with a subsidiary (the RFB) that will have an independent board and committee structure. In addition, the Group will need to revise its operations infrastructure so as to establish an appropriate level of segregation of the infrastructure of the RFB in areas such as information technology ("IT") infrastructure, human resources and the management of treasury operations, including capital and liquidity. The Group will also need to evaluate, among other things, the tax exposure of each of the RFB and NRFB, as well as the impact of the ring-fence on intra-group funding and the credit ratings and external funding arrangements of each of these entities. As this structure has never been tested, the Group cannot provide any assurances regarding its ability to successfully implement such a structure. Although the intention is to establish corporate governance and operations in accordance with applicable rules (although not yet finalised) that are as cost efficient as possible, the effects of operating the Group, the RFB and the NRFB in this manner could have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, financial condition and results of operations.



## Additional information

### Risk factors continued

- In order to comply with the ring-fence requirements, from 2026 it will not be possible for the RFB and the NRFB to participate in the same pension plan. As a result, it will be necessary for either the RFB or NRFB to leave the pension plan which will trigger certain legal and regulatory obligations. Although the Group will have a number of options available to it to meet its obligations resulting from the separation, it is expected that the costs of separation will be material, including possibly increasing annual cash contributions required to be made into the Group's pension plans. See *'The Group may be required to make further contributions to its pension schemes if the value of pension fund assets is not sufficient to cover potential obligations and to satisfy ring-fencing requirements'*.

Implementation of the ring-fence proposals in the UK will result in major changes to the Group's corporate structure, to the delivery of its business activities conducted in the UK and other jurisdictions where the Group will operate, as well as changes to the Group's business model. The steps required to implement the ring-fence of its retail and certain other core banking activities in the UK from other activities of the Group as well as restructuring other operations within the Group in order to comply with the new rules and regulations are extraordinarily complex and will take an extended period of time to put into place. Implementation will be costly and there can be no assurance that the ring-fence of the RFB and the NRFB will be completed on time to meet the regulatory deadline in 2019. As a result, the implementation of the ring-fence could have a material adverse effect on the Group's reputation, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

The Group continues to implement certain divestment and restructuring activities announced in 2013 and 2014 as part of its 2013/2014 Strategic Plan but will now enter a further period of major restructuring through the implementation of the regulatory regime relating to the ring-fence of financial institutions by 2019 and the restructuring of the Group's CIB business. Although the goals of this long period of restructuring are to emerge as a less complex and safer bank there can be no assurance that the final results will be successful and that the Group will be a viable, competitive, customer focused and profitable bank

In the third quarter of 2013 and in 2014, the Group revised its strategic plan by implementing its new divisional and functional structure and embarked on a major investment program to upgrade the Group's operations and IT infrastructure (the "2013/2014 Strategic Plan"). The 2013/2014 Strategic Plan built on the core business restructuring implemented by the Group after the financial crisis which initially focused on reducing the size of the Group's balance sheet, disposing of the "higher risk and capital intensive assets" in RCR and strengthening the Group's capital position, including though the full divestment of the Group's interest in CFG. The 2013/2014 Strategic Plan was intended to reduce the size of the Group's business, mainly within the Markets division, and further strengthen its capital position in response to continuing regulatory change and simplifying the Group by replacing the previous divisional structure with three customer facing franchises focused on the UK and a smaller group of UK based customers.

The 2013/2014 Strategic Plan, the restructuring of the Group's CIB business, the implementation of a ring-fence compliant structure and the IT and operational investment programme (as described below) hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Transformation Plan". With the implementation of the Transformation Plan, and in particular the restructuring of the Group's CIB business and implementation of the regulatory ring-fence regime coming into force in the UK, the Group is entering a further period of major restructuring, that will require significant resource and management attention over the next four years, with the intent to continue simplifying the Group's business, making the bank safer by narrowing its business focus, further strengthening its capital position and improving its customer offering.

Each aspect of the implementation of the Transformation Plan carries material risks. See also *'Implementation by the Group of the various initiatives and programmes which form part of the Group's Transformation Plan subjects the Group to increased and material execution risk'*. In addition, although the goal is to emerge as a simpler, safer, customer focused and profitable bank, the aggregate business of the Group will be materially smaller and different than the institution that entered the financial crisis as one of the largest and most diverse financial institutions in the world. On completion of the Transformation Plan in 2019 the Group will be primarily a UK and Western Europe focused bank with a much less diverse group of businesses, products and services. It will service a much smaller group of customers, including large corporate and financial institutions, with its focus and its potential for profitability and growth largely dependent on its success with its retail and SME customers in the UK.

This smaller customer base and geographic concentration also carry material business risks. As a result, in addition to the execution risks associated with completion of the Transformation Plan there can be no assurance that even if the Group executes the Transformation Plan it will prove to be a successful strategy or that the Group, on completion of the Transformation Plan, will be a viable, competitive, customer focused and profitable bank. For a further description of the risks associated with the various initiatives comprised in the Transformation Plan, see *'The Group's ability to achieve its capital targets will depend on the success of the Group's plans to further reduce the size of its business through the restructuring of its corporate and institutional banking business and make further divestments of certain of its portfolios and businesses including its remaining stake in Citizens Financial Group'*, *'Implementation of the ring-fence in the UK which will begin in 2015 will result in material structural changes to the Group's business. These changes could have a material adverse effect on the Group'*, *'The Group is currently implementing a number of significant investment and rationalisation initiatives as part of the Group's IT and operational investment programme. Should such investment and rationalisation initiatives fail to achieve the expected results, it could have a material adverse impact on the Group's operations and its ability to retain or grow its customer business'*. Failure of the Transformation Plan to result in a viable, competitive, customer focused and profitable bank would have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, results of operations and financial condition.

## Additional information

The Group is currently implementing a number of significant investment and rationalisation initiatives as part of the Group's IT and operational investment programme. Should such investment and rationalisation initiatives fail to achieve the expected results, it could have a material adverse impact on the Group's operations and its ability to retain or grow its customer business

The intent of the 2013/2014 Strategic Plan and of the restructuring of the Group's CIB business is to further simplify and downsize the Group with an increased focus on service to its customers. Such initiatives are being combined and supplemented with significant investments in technology and more efficient support functions intended to contribute to delivering significant improvements in the Group's Return on Equity and costs: income ratio in the longer term as well as improve the resilience, accessibility and product offering of the Group.

The Group started implementing an investment programme of £750 million in 2013 expected to run through 2015 to materially upgrade its IT capability in the UK, to enhance the digital services provided to its bank customers and also improve the reliability and resilience of the IT systems following a number of system failures in the past couple of years. This investment in the Group's IT capability is intended to address the material increase in customer use of online and mobile technology for banking over the past few years as well as provide the capability to continue to grow such services in the future. Increasingly many of the products and services offered by the Group are, and will become, technology intensive and the Group's ability to develop such services has become increasingly important to retaining and growing the Group's customer business in the UK.

If the Group is unable to offer competitive, attractive and innovative products that are also profitable, it could lose market share, incur losses on some or all of its activities and lose opportunities for growth. In addition to upgrading its current IT infrastructure, the Group is also undertaking a major project to rationalise its legacy IT infrastructure, aiming to lower costs and improve resilience. With the implementation of the ring-fence regulatory regime there will be further need to manage the Group's IT infrastructure to comply with the regulatory requirements of such regime.

As with any project of comparable size and complexity, there can be no assurance that the Group will be able to implement all of the initiatives forming part of its investment plan, including the IT investment programme on time or at all, and it may experience unexpected cost increases and delays. Any failure by the Group to realise the benefits of this investment programme, whether on time or at all, could have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, results of operations and its ability to retain or grow its customer business.

Implementation by the Group of the various initiatives and programmes which form part of the Group's Transformation Plan subjects the Group to increased and material execution risk

The level of structural change intended to be implemented within the Group over the medium term as a result of the Transformation Plan, taken together with the overall scale of change to make the Group a smaller, more focused financial institution, will be disruptive and is likely to increase operational and people risks for the Group and to impact its revenues and business. As a result of the material restructuring plans that make up the Transformation Plan, the Group is subject to increased and material execution risk in many areas including:

- Implementation of the Transformation Plan is expected to result in significant costs, mainly in connection with the Group's restructuring of its CIB business, which costs will be incremental to current plans and exclude potential losses on the sale of financial assets and transfer of financial liabilities. Due to material uncertainties and factors outside the Group's control, the costs of implementation could be materially higher than currently contemplated. One of the objectives of the Transformation Plan is also to achieve a medium-term reduction in annual underlying costs (i.e., excluding restructuring and conduct-related charges). Due to material uncertainties and factors outside the Group's control, this level of cost saving may not be achieved within the planned timescale or at any time.
- The Transformation Plan includes assumptions on levels of customer retention and revenue generation from the new business model. Due to material uncertainties and factors outside the Group's control, including normal levels of market fluctuation, this level of revenue may not be achieved in the timescale envisaged or at any time.
- The Group will be reliant on attracting and retaining qualified employees to manage the implementation of the Transformation Plan and, in particular, the restructuring of the Group's CIB business and to oversee the implementation of the ring-fence and operate in the new ring-fence environment. No assurance can be given that it will be able to attract and retain such employees. See also *'The Group may be unable to attract or retain senior management (including members of the board) and other skilled personnel of the appropriate qualification and competence. The Group may also suffer if it does not maintain good employee relations'*.
- The significant reorganisation and restructuring resulting from the combined initiatives constituting the Transformation Plan will fundamentally change the Group's business. Implementation will be disruptive and will increase operational risk. See *'Operational risks are inherent in the Group's businesses and these risks could increase as the Group implements its Transformation Plan'*.
- The Transformation Plan makes certain assumptions about future regulation including, but not limited to, the rules to be issued by PRA and FCA in connection with the ring-fence regime. Material differences between the rules ultimately adopted and the assumptions made in the plan proposed to implement the ring-fence could make it impossible to execute the ring-fence as currently envisaged. The Transformation Plan is also intended to improve the Group's control environment, particularly in its remaining CIB franchise. Due to material uncertainties, factors beyond the Group's control, and the increased operational risk described above, there can be no guarantee that such improvements will be achieved in the timescale envisaged or at any time or that it will not result in further regulatory scrutiny.

If any of the risks outlined above were to occur, singly or in the aggregate, they could have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, results of operations and financial condition.

## Additional information

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### **Risk factors continued**

The Group is subject to a number of legal, regulatory and governmental actions and investigations. Unfavourable outcomes in such actions and investigations could have a material adverse effect on the Group's operations, operating results, investor confidence and reputation

The Group's operations are diverse and complex, and it operates in legal and regulatory environments that expose it to potentially significant litigation, regulatory and governmental investigations and other regulatory risk. As a result, the Group has recently settled a number of legal and regulatory investigations and is, and may in the future be, involved in a number of legal and regulatory proceedings and investigations in the UK, the EU, the US and other jurisdictions.

The Group is involved in ongoing class action litigation, investigations into foreign exchange trading and rate setting activities, continuing LIBOR related litigation and investigations, securitisation and securities related litigation, and anti-money laundering, sanctions, mis-selling and compliance related investigations, in addition to a number of other matters. In November 2014, the Group announced that it had reached a settlement with the FCA in the United Kingdom and with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) in the US in relation to investigations into failings in RBS's foreign exchange business within its Corporate and Institutional Banking division. The Group agreed to pay penalties of £217 million to the FCA and \$290 million to the CFTC to resolve the investigations. The Group continues to cooperate with these and other governmental and regulatory authorities and remains in discussion with these authorities on these issues including settlement discussions regarding the criminal investigation being conducted by the anti-trust and criminal division of the US Department of Justice and certain other financial regulatory authorities. Settlements in relation to these ongoing investigations may result in additional financial, non-monetary penalties, and collateral consequences, which may be material, and may give rise to additional legal claims being asserted against the Group. The Group entered into a deferred prosecution agreement in 2013 in connection with the settlement of the charges relating to the LIBOR investigation (the "LIBOR DPA"). Findings of misconduct by the US Department of Justice relating to the Group, its subsidiaries or employees, may result in a breach of the terms of the LIBOR DPA which may lead to an extension of its terms or further prosecution.

Legal, governmental and regulatory proceedings and investigations are subject to many uncertainties, and their outcomes, including the timing and amount of fines or settlements, which may be material, are often difficult to predict, particularly in the early stages of a case or investigation. It is expected that the Group will continue to have a material exposure to legacy litigation and governmental and regulatory proceedings and investigations in the medium term. For more detail on certain of the Group's ongoing legal, governmental and regulatory proceedings, see pages 430 to 439. Adverse regulatory, governmental or law enforcement proceedings or adverse judgements in litigation could result in restrictions or limitations on the Group's operations or have a significant effect on the Group's reputation, results of operations and capital position.

The Group may be required to make new or increase existing provisions in relation to legal proceedings, investigations and governmental and regulatory matters. In Q3 2014, the Group booked a provision of £400 million relating to penalties incurred in connection with the investigations and reviews relating to foreign exchange trading settled with the FCA and the CFTC and during 2014 the Group booked additional provisions of £650 million for Payment Protection Insurance (resulting in total provisions made for this matter of £3.7 billion, of which £2.9 billion had been utilised at 31 December 2014). The provision for interest rate hedging products redress and administration costs was also increased by £185 million in 2014, with total provisions relating to this matter totalling £1.4 billion, of which £1.0 billion had been utilised at 31 December 2014. Significant increases in provisions relating to ongoing investigations may have an adverse effect on the Group's reputation as well as its financial condition and results of operations.

The Group, like many other financial institutions, has come under greater regulatory scrutiny in recent years and expects heightened levels of regulatory supervision to continue for the foreseeable future, particularly as it relates to compliance with historical, new and existing corporate governance, employee compensation, conduct of business, consumer protection regimes, anti-money laundering and antiterrorism laws and regulations, as well as the provisions of applicable sanctions programmes. Past, current or future failures to comply with any one or more of these laws or regulations could have a material adverse effect on the Group's reputation, financial condition and results of operations.

### **The Group is subject to political risks**

Ahead of the upcoming UK election in May 2015, there is uncertainty around how the policies of the elected government may impact the Group, including a possible referendum on the UK's membership of the EU. The implementation of these policies, including the outcome of the EU referendum, could significantly impact the environment in which the Group operates and the fiscal, monetary, legal and regulatory requirements to which it is subject, and in turn could have a material adverse effect on its business, financial condition and results of operations.

### **The Group may be unable to attract or retain senior management (including members of the board) and other skilled personnel of the appropriate qualification and competence. The Group may also suffer if it does not maintain good employee relations**

Implementation of the Group's strategy and its future success depends on its ability to attract, retain and remunerate highly skilled and qualified personnel, including senior management (which include directors and other key employees), in a highly competitive labour market. This cannot be guaranteed, particularly in light of heightened regulatory oversight of banks and the increasing scrutiny of, and (in some cases) restrictions placed upon, employee compensation arrangements, in particular those of banks in receipt of Government support (such as the Group). Following the implementation in the UK of provisions of CRD IV relating to compensation in the financial sector and taking into account the views of UKFI, the Group is restricted from paying variable remuneration to individuals for a particular year in an amount higher than the level of his or her fixed remuneration which may place the Group at a competitive disadvantage.

## Additional information

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The Group's directors as well as members of its executive committee and certain other senior managers and employees will also be subject to the new responsibility regime introduced under the Banking Reform Act 2013 which will impose greater responsibility on such individuals. The new rules include (i) a senior managers' regime which will require such senior managers to be pre-approved either by the PRA or FCA whilst the new rules themselves also introduce a "presumption of responsibility" for those approved as such - where contraventions of a relevant regulatory requirement occur, the accountable senior manager will be presumed guilty of misconduct unless he or she shows to the satisfaction of the relevant regulator that he or she took all reasonable steps to prevent the contravention occurring (or continuing), (ii) a certification regime which will require the Group to assess the fitness and propriety of certain of its employees (other than senior managers), who are considered to pose a risk of significant harm to the Group or its customers and (iii) a conduct rules regime (which as currently proposed would apply regulatory prescribed conduct rules to most employees of the Group with a UK nexus).

The rules implementing the new regime are still under consultation by the PRA and the FCA and there remains uncertainty as to the final scope of the new rules and any transitional arrangements. Final rules are expected to enter into force in late 2015 (and early 2016 for the new certification regime). The new regulatory regime may contribute to reduce the pool of candidates for key management and non-executive roles, including non-executive directors with the right skills, knowledge and experience, or increase the number of departures of existing employees, given concerns over the reverse burden of proof as well as the allocation of responsibilities introduced by the new rules.

In addition to the effects of such measures on the Group's ability to retain non-executive directors, senior management and other key employees, the market for skilled personnel is increasingly competitive, thereby raising the cost of hiring, training and retaining skilled personnel.

The Group's changing strategy, particularly as a result of the Group's 2013/2014 Strategic Plan, including the accelerated disposal of the Group's interest in CFG, led to the departure of many experienced and capable employees. The continuing restructuring of the Group, including as a result of the restructuring of the Group's CIB business and the implementation of the ring-fence regulatory regime, is expected to lead to the departure of additional experienced and capable employees. The lack of continuity of senior management and the loss of important personnel coordinating certain or several aspects of the Transformation Plan could have an adverse impact on the implementation of the Group's Transformation Plan and regulatory commitments. The failure to attract or retain a sufficient number of appropriately skilled personnel to manage the complex restructuring required to implement the Transformation Plan, and in particular the implementation of the ring-fence and the restructuring of the Group's CIB business could prevent the Group from successfully implementing its strategy. This could have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, certain of the Group's employees in the UK, continental Europe and other jurisdictions in which the Group operates are represented by employee representative bodies, including trade unions. Engagement with its employees and such bodies is important to the Group and a breakdown of these relationships could adversely affect the Group's business, reputation and results.

[Operational risks are inherent in the Group's businesses and these risks could increase as the Group implements its Transformation Plan](#)

Operational risk is the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems, or from external events. The Group has complex and geographically diverse operations and operational risk and losses can result from internal and external fraud, errors by employees or third parties, failure to document transactions properly or to obtain proper authorisations, failure to comply with applicable regulatory requirements and conduct of business rules (including those arising out of anti-bribery, anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism legislation, as well as the provisions of applicable sanctions programmes), equipment failures, business continuity and data security system failures, natural disasters or the inadequacy or failure of systems and controls, including those of the Group's suppliers or counterparties. Operational risks will be heightened as a result of the Group's implementation of its Transformation Plan as described in more detail under *'Implementation by the Group of the various initiatives and programmes which form part of the Group's Transformation Plan subjects the Group to increased and material execution risk'*. Although the Group has implemented risk controls and loss mitigation actions and significant resources and planning have been devoted to plans to mitigate operational risk associated with the Group's activities as well as the implementation of the Group's Transformation Plan, it is not possible to be certain that such actions have been or will be effective in controlling each of the operational risks faced by the Group. Ineffective management of operational risks, including the material operational risks that will arise in implementing the Transformation Plan, could have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, financial condition and results of operations.

[The Group operates in highly competitive markets that are subject to intense scrutiny by the competition authorities. Its business and results of operations may be adversely affected by increasing competitive pressures and competition rulings and other government measures](#)

The competitive landscape for banks and other financial institutions in the UK, the US and throughout the rest of Europe is changing rapidly. Recent regulatory and legal changes are likely to result in new market participants and changed competitive dynamics in certain key areas, such as in retail banking in the UK. The UK retail banking sector has been subjected to intense scrutiny by the UK competition authorities and by other bodies in recent years, including market reviews conducted by the Competition & Markets Authority (CMA) and its predecessor the Office of Fair Trading regarding SME banking and Personal Current Accounts (PCAs), the ICB, whose final report was published in 2012 and the Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards whose report was published in 2013. These reviews raised significant concerns about the effectiveness of competition in the banking sector.



## Additional information

### Risk factors continued

In 2014, the CMA published two market studies about SME banking and PCAs. On the basis of its findings and following consultation, the CMA made a market investigation reference (MIR) in relation to both SME banking and PCAs. An MIR can be made only if the CMA has reasonable grounds for suspecting that any feature, or combination of features, of a market in the UK for goods or services prevents, restricts or distorts competition. Such investigations typically last between 15-24 months and the CMA currently expects to publish provisional findings in September 2015. While it is too early to assess the potential impact on the Group of these reviews and investigations, the competitive landscape in which the Group operates may be significantly affected as a result and this impact will become more significant as the Group implements its Transformation Plan and its business is increasingly concentrated in the UK on retail activities.

The wholesale banking sector has also been the subject of recent scrutiny. In 2014, the FCA launched a review of competition in the wholesale sector (primarily relating to competition in wholesale securities and investment markets and related activities such as corporate banking) to identify areas which might merit in-depth market study and in February 2015 announced that it would be launching a market study to investigate competition in investment and corporate banking services. Adverse findings resulting from this study may result in the imposition of fines or restrictions on mergers and consolidations within the UK financial sector and the FCA may also refer the matter further to the CMA, which has extensive powers to take measures to restore effective competition.

The competitive landscape in the UK is also likely to be affected by the UK Government's implementation of the ring-fence regime and other customer protection measures introduced by the Banking Reform Act 2013. Although final ring-fence rules will not be available until 2016, firms (including the Group) have submitted plans for their legal and operational structures to implement the new ring-fence regime to the PRA. The implementation of such plans may result in the consolidation of newly separated businesses or assets of certain financial institutions with those of other parties to realise new synergies or protect their competitive position. This consolidation, in combination with the introduction of new entrants into the markets in which the Group operates which is being actively encouraged by the UK Government is likely to increase competitive pressures on the Group.

In addition, certain competitors may have more efficient operations, including better IT systems allowing them to implement innovative technologies for delivering services to their customers, and may have access to lower cost funding and/or be able to attract deposits on more favourable terms than the Group. Furthermore, the Group's competitors may be better able to attract and retain clients and key employees, which may negatively impact the Group's relative performance and future prospects. In addition, recent and future disposals and restructurings by the Group in the context of its Transformation Plan as well as constraints imposed on the Group's compensation structure and its ability to compensate its employees at the same level as its competitors may also have an impact on its ability to compete effectively.

These and other changes to competition could have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, margins, profitability, financial condition and prospects.

The Group's businesses and performance can be negatively affected by actual or perceived global economic and financial market conditions and other global risks although the Group will be increasingly impacted by developments in the UK as its operations become gradually more focused on the UK

On completion of the Group's Transformation Programme its business focus will be preponderantly in the UK. However, the Group's businesses and many of its customers are, and will be, affected by global economic conditions, perceptions of those conditions and future economic prospects. The outlook for the global economy over the near to medium-term is increasingly uncertain due to a number of factors including geopolitical risks, concerns around global growth and deflation. Risks to growth and stability stem mainly from continued imbalances in many countries in Europe and elsewhere, slowing growth in emerging markets and China and the potential consequences of continued sanctions and depressed oil prices on the Russian economy. Further instability may result from uncertainty as to how economies and counterparties will be affected, directly or indirectly, by lower oil prices and other commodity prices as well as to the impact of monetary policy measures adopted by the ECB, the US Federal Reserve and the Swiss Central Bank. There remains considerable uncertainty about when the Bank of England and the Federal Reserve will begin to raise policy interest rates. The Group's businesses and performance are also affected by financial market conditions. Although capital and credit markets around the world have been relatively stable since 2012, financial markets, in particular equity markets, experienced higher volatility in the last quarter of 2014 which has continued into 2015. This volatility is attributable to many of the factors noted above.

In addition, the Group is exposed to risks arising out of geopolitical events, such as trade barriers, exchange controls and other measures taken by sovereign governments that can hinder economic or financial activity levels. Furthermore, unfavourable political, military or diplomatic events, armed conflict, pandemics and terrorist acts and threats, and the responses to them by governments could also adversely affect economic activity and have an adverse effect upon the Group's business, financial condition and results of operations.

The challenging operating environment for the Group's businesses, created by uncertain economic and market conditions is characterised by:

- reduced activity levels, additional write-downs and impairment charges and lower profitability, which either alone or in combination with regulatory changes or the activities of other market participants may restrict the ability of the Group to access capital, funding and liquidity;
- prolonged periods of low interest rates resulting from ongoing central bank measures to foster economic growth which constrain, through margin compression and low returns on assets, the interest income earned by the Group; and
- the risk of increased volatility in yields and asset valuations as central banks start or accelerate looser monetary policies or tighten or unwind historically unprecedented loose monetary policy or extraordinary measures. The resulting environment of uncertainty for the market and consumers could lead to challenging trading and market conditions.

## Additional information

Developments relating to current economic conditions and the risk of a return to a volatile financial environment, including those discussed above, could have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

As the Group refocuses on its operations in the UK as a result of its Transformation Plan, and in particular the restructuring of the Group's ClB business, it is increasingly exposed to the UK economy. Although the prospects for the UK and the US remain the strongest among the G-7 and Ireland's economy continues to improve, actual or perceived difficult global economic conditions, failure to meet economic growth projections, particularly in the UK and the Group's key markets, the worsening of the scope and severity of the weak economic conditions currently experienced by a number of EU member states and elsewhere, potential volatility in the UK housing market and restrictions on mortgage lending as well as increased competition, particularly in the UK, would create challenging economic and market conditions and a difficult operating environment for the Group's businesses.

### [The Group is exposed to any weakening of the European economy and the renewed threat of default by certain countries in the Eurozone](#)

With few exceptions, countries in Europe have not yet recovered from the effects of the financial crisis. Consensus forecasts of growth in 2015 and 2016 for some of the largest European economies such as France and Italy are low. In addition, the possibility of a European sovereign default has risen due to the recent election in Greece and the outcome and impact of ongoing negotiations by the new Greek government with respect to its outstanding debt is uncertain. The risk that the effect of any sovereign default spreads by contagion to other EU economies and the UK economy remains. The euro could be abandoned as a currency by one or more countries, or in an extreme scenario, the abandonment of the euro could result in the dissolution of the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). While the European Central Bank announced in January 2015 a €1.1 trillion quantitative easing programme designed to improve confidence in Eurozone equities and encourage more private bank lending, there remains considerable uncertainty as to whether such measures will be successful.

The effects on the UK, European and global economies of any potential dissolution of the EMU or exit of one or more EU member states from the EMU and the resulting redenomination of financial instruments from the euro to a different currency, are impossible to predict fully. However, if any such events were to occur they would likely:

- result in significant market dislocation;
- heighten counterparty risk;
- result in downgrades of credit ratings for European borrowers, giving rise to increases in credit spreads and decreases in security values;
- disrupt and adversely affect the economic activity of the UK and other European markets; and
- adversely affect the management of market risk and in particular asset and liability management due, in part, to redenomination of financial assets and liabilities and the potential for mismatches.

The occurrence of any of these events would have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

### [The Group is subject to a variety of risks as a result of implementing the State Aid restructuring plan](#)

The Group obtained State Aid approval for the aid given to the Group by the UK Government as part of the placing and open offer undertaken by the Group in December 2008. RBS announced on 9 April 2014 that it had entered into an agreement ("DAS Retirement Agreement") with HM Treasury for the future retirement of the Dividend Access Share ("DAS"). The EC concluded that these new arrangements did not constitute new State aid and approved changes to RBS's restructuring plan in its State Aid Amendment Decision of 9 April 2014. RBSG also entered into a Revised State Aid Commitment Deed with HMT under which it undertook to do all acts and things necessary to ensure that HMT is able to comply with the revised State aid commitments made by HMT to the EC, which mainly relate to the deadline for the Group's divestment of the Williams & Glyn business and the divestment of the rest of the Group's interest in CFG.

Implementation of the State Aid restructuring plan exposes the Group to a number of risks. The most significant risks relate to required asset disposals, a number of which are now completed. The Group completed an initial public offering of CFG's common stock in September 2014. The divestment of Williams & Glyn continues to progress following the announcement of a pre-IPO investment by a consortium of investors in September 2013. The Group is required, pursuant to the terms of the State Aid Amendment Decision, to dispose of its remaining interest in CFG by the end of 2016 (with a possible 12 month extension) and must divest its interest in Williams & Glyn by way of an initial public offering by the end of 2016 with the disposal of the remainder of its interest by the end of 2017. Under the terms of the State Aid Amendment Decision, a divestiture trustee may be empowered to conduct these disposals, with the mandate to complete the disposal at no minimum price, if the Group fails to complete such required disposals within agreed or renegotiated time frames, which may result in the Group achieving less than the full value of its investment due to then prevailing market conditions. Furthermore, if the Group is unable to comply with the terms of the State Aid Amendment Decision, including the required divestments, it might constitute a misuse of aid which could have a material adverse impact on the Group.

The occurrence of any of the risks described above could have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, results of operations, financial condition, capital position and competitive position.

## Additional information

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### Risk factors continued

HM Treasury (or UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI) on its behalf) may be able to exercise a significant degree of influence over the Group and any proposed offer or sale of its interests may affect the price of securities issued by the Group

The UK Government, through HM Treasury, currently holds 62.3% of the issued ordinary share capital of the Group. On 22 December 2009, the Group issued £25.5 billion of B Shares to the UK Government. The B Shares are convertible, at the option of the holder at any time, into ordinary shares. The UK Government has agreed that it shall not exercise the rights of conversion in respect of the B Shares if and to the extent that following any such conversion it would hold more than 75% of the total issued shares in the Group. Any breach of this agreement could result in the delisting of RBSG from the Official List of the UK Listing Authority and potentially other exchanges where its securities are currently listed and traded. HM Treasury (or the UKFI on its behalf) may sell all or a part of its holding of ordinary shares at any time. Any offers or sale of a substantial number of ordinary shares or securities convertible or exchangeable into ordinary shares by or on behalf of HM Treasury, or an expectation that it may undertake such an offer or sale, could negatively affect prevailing market prices for securities issued by the Group.

In addition, UKFI manages HM Treasury's shareholder relationship with the Group and, although HM Treasury has indicated that it intends to respect the commercial decisions of the Group and that the Group will continue to have its own independent board of directors and management team determining its own strategy, should HM Treasury's intentions change, its position as a majority shareholder (and UKFI's position as manager of this shareholding) means that HM Treasury or UKFI might be able to exercise a significant degree of influence over, among other things, the election of directors and appointment of senior management, dividend policy, remuneration policy, or limiting the Group's operations. The manner in which HM Treasury or UKFI exercises HM Treasury's rights as majority shareholder could give rise to conflict between the interests of HM Treasury and the interests of other shareholders. The Board has a duty to promote the success of the Group for the benefit of its members as a whole.

The Group's business performance could be adversely affected if its capital is not managed effectively or as a result of changes to capital adequacy requirements

Effective management of the Group's capital is critical to its ability to operate its businesses, and to pursue its strategy of returning to standalone strength. The Group is required by regulators in the UK, the EU, the US and other jurisdictions in which it undertakes regulated activities to maintain adequate capital resources. Adequate capital also gives the Group financial flexibility in the face of continuing turbulence and uncertainty in the global economy and specifically in its core UK, US and European markets. From 2016, in accordance with the provisions of the Capital Requirements Regulation ("CRR"), a minimum level of capital adequacy will be required to meet new regulatory capital requirements allowing the Group to make certain discretionary payments relating to CET1 (dividends), variable remuneration and payments on additional tier 1 instruments.

The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision's package of reforms to the regulatory capital framework ("Basel III") raised the quantity and quality of capital required to be held by a financial institution with an emphasis on Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital and introduces an additional requirement for both a capital conservation buffer and a countercyclical buffer to be met with CET1 capital. Global systemically important banks (GSIBs) will be subject to an additional CET1 capital requirement, depending on a bank's systemic importance. The Group has been identified by the Financial Stability Board (FSB) as a GSIB. The FSB list of GSIBs is updated annually, based on new data and changes to methodology. The November 2014 update placed the Group in the second from bottom category of GSIBs, subjecting it to more intensive oversight and supervision and requiring the Group to have additional loss absorption capacity of 1.5% in CET1, to be phased in from the beginning of 2016.

In addition, regulatory proposals relating to domestically systemically important banks (DSIBs) continue to be progressed and could impact the level of CET1 that is required to be held by the Group. The EBA published in December 2014 a quantitative methodology as to how European regulators could quantify which firms would qualify as DSIBs. In addition the Financial Policy Committee ("FPC") of the Bank of England intends to consult with firms in the UK on the UK framework.

Basel III has been implemented in the EU with a new Directive and Regulation (collectively known as "CRD IV") which became effective from 1 January 2014, subject to a number of transitional provisions and clarifications. A number of the requirements introduced under CRD IV have been and continue to be further supplemented through the Regulatory and Implementing Technical Standards ("RTSs"/"ITSs") produced by the European Banking Authority (EBA) and to be adopted by the European Commission which are not yet all finalised. The EU rules deviate from the Basel III rules in certain aspects, and provide national flexibility to apply more stringent prudential requirements than set out in the Basel framework.

Under CRD IV, the Group is required, on a consolidated basis, to hold a minimum amount of regulatory capital of 8% of risk weighted assets of which at least 4.5% must be CET1 capital and at least 6% must be tier 1 capital (together, the "Pillar 1 requirements"). In addition, national supervisory authorities may add extra capital requirements to cover risks they believe are not covered or insufficiently covered by the Pillar 1 requirements (the "Pillar 2A guidance"). The PRA requires that Pillar 2A risks should be met with at least 56% CET1 capital, no more than 44% additional tier 1 capital and at most 25% tier 2 capital. CRD IV also introduces five new capital buffers that are in addition to the Pillar 1 and Pillar 2A requirements and are to be met with CET1 capital: (i) the capital conservation buffer, (ii) the institution-specific counter-cyclical buffer, (iii) the global systemically important institutions buffer, (iv) the other systemically important institutions buffer and (v) the systemic risk buffer. Some or all of these buffers may be applicable to the Group as determined by the PRA.



## Additional information

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The combination of the capital conservation buffer, the institution-specific counter-cyclical capital buffer and the higher of (depending on the institution), the systemic risk buffer, the global systemically important institutions buffer and the other systemically important institution buffer, in each case (as applicable to the institution) is referred to as the “combined buffer requirement”. The PRA has also introduced a firm specific Pillar 2B buffer (“Pillar 2B buffer”) which is based on various factors including firm-specific stress test results and is to be met with CET1. The PRA will assess the Pillar 2B buffer annually and UK Banks are required to meet the higher of the combined buffer requirement or Pillar 2B requirement. The PRA published a consultation in January 2015 suggesting certain changes to its Pillar 2A framework which will introduce new methodologies for determining Pillar 2A capital as well as the PRA’s approach to operating the Pillar 2A buffer.

In addition, under the provisions of the CRR, which took effect from 1 January 2014, deferred tax assets that rely on future profitability (for example, deferred tax assets related to trade losses) and do not arise from temporary differences must be deducted in full from CET1 capital. Other deferred tax assets which rely on future profitability and arise from temporary differences are subject to a threshold test and only the amount in excess of the threshold is deducted from CET1 capital. The regulatory treatment of such deferred tax assets is dependent on there being no adverse changes to regulatory requirements.

Under Article 141 (Restrictions on distribution) of the CRD IV Directive, member states of the EU must require that institutions that fail to meet the “combined buffer requirement” will be subject to restricted “discretionary payments” (which are defined broadly by CRD IV as payments relating to CET1 (dividends), variable remuneration and payments on additional tier 1 instruments). The restrictions will be scaled according to the extent of the breach of the “combined buffer requirement” and calculated as a percentage of the profits of the institution since the last distribution of profits or “discretionary payment”. Such calculation will result in a “maximum distributable amount” (or “MDA”) in each relevant period. As an example, the scaling is such that in the bottom quartile of the “combined buffer requirement”, no “discretionary distributions” will be permitted to be paid. In the event of a breach of the combined buffer requirement, the Group will be required to calculate its maximum distributable amount, and as a consequence it may be necessary for the Group to reduce discretionary payments.

In October 2014 the FPC published its recommendation on the overall leverage ratio framework for the UK banking system. The FPC recommended a minimum leverage ratio requirement of 3% (to be met 75% by CET1 and a maximum of 25% by additional tier 1 capital), a supplementary leverage buffer applied to G-SIBs equal to 35% of the corresponding risk weighted systemic risk buffer (to be met by CET1) and a countercyclical buffer equal to 35% of the risk weighted countercyclical capital buffer (also to be met by CET1). Transition timings have been aligned to those laid out in Basel III and the exposure measure will follow that laid out by the Basel Committee for Banking Supervision. The FPC explicitly ruled out a breach of the leverage ratio resulting in an automatic constraint to capital distributions via the “maximum distributable amount”, preferring to leave this linked to risk weighted assets for the purposes of simplicity.

However, if a breach of the leverage buffers (both G-SIB and countercyclical) were to occur then a recovery plan would need to be discussed with the PRA. The current Group leverage ratio is 4.2% fully met through CET1 leaving it above the minimum requirement while the countercyclical buffer is close to zero.

In addition to the capital requirements under CRD IV, the bank resolution and recovery directive (“BRRD”) introduces requirements for banks to maintain at all times a sufficient aggregate amount of own funds and “eligible liabilities” (that is, liabilities that may be bailed in using the bail-in tool), known as the minimum requirements for eligible liabilities (“MREL”). The aim is that the minimum amount should be proportionate and adapted for each category of bank on the basis of their risk or the composition of their sources of funding. The UK Government has transposed the BRRD’s provisions into law with a requirement that the Bank of England implements further secondary legislation to implement MREL requirements by 2016 which will take into account the regulatory technical standards to be developed by the EBA specifying the assessment criteria that resolution authorities should use to determine the minimum requirement for own funds and eligible liabilities for individual firms. The EBA noted that the technical standards would be compatible with the proposed term sheet published by the FSB on total loss absorbing capacity (“TLAC”) requirements for GSIBs but there remains a degree of uncertainty as to the extent to which MREL and TLAC requirements may differ. As the implementation of capital and loss absorption requirements under BRRD in the UK is subject to adoption of secondary legislation and subject to PRA supervisory discretion in places, and the implementation and scope of TLAC remains subject to significant uncertainty, the Group is currently unable to predict the impact such rules would have on its overall capital and loss absorption requirements or its ability to comply with applicable capital or loss absorbency requirements or to make certain discretionary distributions.

Building on changes made to requirements in relation to the quality and aggregate quantity of capital that banks must hold, the Basel Committee and other agencies are increasingly focussed on changes that will increase, or re-calibrate, measures of risk weighted assets as the key measure of the different categories of risk in the denominator of the risk-based capital ratio. There is no current global consensus regarding the key objectives of this further evolution of the international capital framework. One extreme position advocated by some regulators would materially deemphasise the role of a risk-based capital ratio. A more broadly held opinion among regulators seeks to retain the ratio but also reform it, in particular by addressing perceived excessive complexity and variability between banks and banking systems. In particular, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision published a consultation paper in December 2014, in which it recommended reduced reliance on external credit ratings when assessing risk weighted assets and to replace such ratings with certain risk drivers based on the particular type of exposure of each asset. While they are at different stages of maturity, a number of initiatives across risk types and business lines are in progress that will impact RWAs at their conclusion. While the quantum of impacts is uncertain owing to lack of clarity of definition of the changes and the timing of their introduction, the likelihood of an impact resulting from each initiative is high and such impacts could result in higher levels of risk weighted assets.

## Additional information

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### Risk factors continued

The Basel Committee changes and other future changes to capital adequacy and loss absorbency and liquidity requirements in the European Union, the UK, the US and in other jurisdictions in which the Group operates, including the Group's ability to satisfy the increasingly stringent stress case scenarios imposed by regulators and the adoption of the MREL and TLAC proposals, may require the Group to issue Tier 1 capital (including CET1), Tier 2 capital and certain loss absorbing debt securities, and may result in existing Tier 1 and Tier 2 securities issued by the Group ceasing to count towards the Group's regulatory capital. The requirement to increase the Group's levels of CET1 and Tier 2 capital, or loss absorbing debt securities, which could be mandated by the Group's regulators, could have a number of negative consequences for the Group and its shareholders, including impairing the Group's ability to pay dividends on, or make other distributions in respect of, ordinary shares and diluting the ownership of existing shareholders of the Group. If the Group is unable to raise the requisite amount of Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital, or loss absorbing debt securities it may be required to reduce further the amount of its risk weighted assets or total assets and engage in the disposal of core and other non-core businesses, which may not occur on a timely basis or achieve prices which would otherwise be attractive to the Group.

On a fully loaded Basel III basis, the Group's CET1 ratio was 11.2% at December 31, 2014. The Group's Transformation Plan targets a fully loaded Basel III CET1 ratio of 13% over the restructuring period. The Group's ability to achieve such targets depends on a number of factors, including the implementation of the ring-fence, the execution of the restructuring of the Group's CIB business and the implementation of the 2013/2014 Strategic Plan, which includes plans for a further significant restructuring of the Group as well as further sales of its remaining stake in CFG in the U.S. *See 'Forward looking Statements' and 'The Group's ability to achieve its capital targets will depend on the success of the Group's plans to further reduce the size of its business through the restructuring of its corporate and institutional banking business and make further divestments of certain of its portfolios and businesses including its remaining stake in Citizens Financial Group'.*

Any change that limits the Group's ability to implement its capital plan, to access funding sources or to manage effectively its balance sheet and capital resources (including, for example, reductions in profits and retained earnings as a result of write-downs or otherwise, increases in risk-weighted assets, regulatory changes, actions by regulators, delays in the disposal of certain key assets or the inability to syndicate loans as a result of market conditions, a growth in unfunded pension exposures or otherwise) could have a material adverse effect on its business, financial condition and regulatory capital position.

*The Group's borrowing costs, its access to the debt capital markets and its liquidity depend significantly on its credit ratings and, to a lesser extent, on the rating of the UK Government*

The credit ratings of RBSG, RBS and other Group members directly affect the cost of, access to and sources of their financing and liquidity. A number of UK and other European financial institutions, including RBSG, the Royal Bank and other Group members, have been downgraded multiple times in recent years in connection with rating methodology changes, a review of systemic support assumptions incorporated into bank ratings and the likelihood, in the case of UK banks, that the UK Government is more likely in the future to make greater use of its resolution tools that allow burden sharing with debt holders. In 2014 credit ratings of RBSG, the Royal Bank and other Group members were downgraded in connection with the Group's creation of RCR, coupled with concerns about execution risks, litigation risk and the potential for conduct related fines. RBSG's long-term and short-term credit ratings were further downgraded by two notches in 2015 by Standard & Poor's Rating Services ("S&P") to reflect S&P's view that extraordinary government support would now be unlikely in the case of UK non-operating bank holding companies and is likely to become less predictable for bank operating companies in the UK under the newly enacted legislation implementing the bail-in provisions of the BRRD. Rating agencies continue to evaluate the rating methodologies applicable to UK and European financial institutions and any change in such rating agencies' methodologies could materially adversely affect the credit ratings of Group companies.

Any further reductions in the long-term or short-term credit ratings of RBSG or one of its principal subsidiaries (particularly the Royal Bank) would increase borrowing costs, require the Group to replace funding lost due to the downgrade, which may include the loss of customer deposits, and might also limit the Group's access to capital and money markets and trigger additional collateral requirements in derivatives contracts and other secured funding arrangements. At 31 December 2014, a simultaneous one notch long-term and associated short-term downgrade in the credit ratings of RBSG and the Royal Bank by the three main ratings agencies would have required the Group to post estimated additional collateral of £4.5 billion, without taking account of mitigating action by management.

Any downgrade in the UK Government's credit ratings could adversely affect the credit ratings of Group companies and may have the effects noted above. Credit ratings of RBSG, the Royal Bank, The Royal Bank of Scotland N.V. (RBS N.V.) and Ulster Bank Limited are also important to the Group when competing in certain markets, such as over-the-counter derivatives. As a result, any further reductions in RBSG's long-term or short-term credit ratings or those of its principal subsidiaries could adversely affect the Group's access to liquidity and its competitive position, increase its funding costs and have a material adverse impact on the Group's earnings, cash flow and financial condition.

## Additional information

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[The Group's ability to meet its obligations including its funding commitments depends on the Group's ability to access sources of liquidity and funding](#)

Liquidity risk is the risk that a bank will be unable to meet its obligations, including funding commitments, as they fall due. This risk is inherent in banking operations and can be heightened by a number of factors, including an over reliance on a particular source of wholesale funding (including, for example, short-term and overnight funding), changes in credit ratings or market-wide phenomena such as market dislocation and major disasters. Credit markets worldwide, including interbank markets, have experienced severe reductions in liquidity and term-funding during prolonged periods in recent years. Although credit markets continued to improve during 2014 and such markets remain accommodating in the early part of 2015 (in part as a result of measures taken by central banks around the world, including the ECB), and the Group's overall liquidity position remained strong, certain European banks, in particular in the peripheral countries of Spain, Portugal, Greece, Italy and Ireland, remained reliant on central banks as one of their principal sources of liquidity. Although the measures taken by Central Banks have had a positive impact, the risk of volatility returning to the global credit markets remains.

The market view of bank credit risk has changed radically as a result of the financial crisis and banks perceived by the market to be riskier have had to issue debt at significant spreads. Any uncertainty relating to the credit risk of financial institutions may lead to reductions in levels of interbank lending and may restrict the Group's access to traditional sources of funding or increase the costs of accessing such funding. The ability of the Group's regulator to bail-in senior and subordinated debt under the provisions of BRRD implemented in the UK since January 2015 may also increase investors' perception of risk and hence affect the availability and cost of funding for the Group.

Management of the Group's liquidity and funding focuses, among other things, on maintaining a resilient funding strategy for its assets in line with the Group's wider strategic plan. Although conditions have improved, there have been recent periods where corporate and financial institution counterparties have reduced their credit exposures to banks and other financial institutions, limiting the availability of these sources of funding. Under certain circumstances, the Group may need to seek funds from alternative sources potentially at higher costs than has previously been the case, and/or with higher collateral or may be required to consider disposals of other assets not previously identified for disposal to reduce its funding commitments. The Group has, at times, been required to rely on shorter-term and overnight funding with a consequent reduction in overall liquidity, and to increase its recourse to liquidity schemes provided by central banks. Such schemes require assets to be pledged as collateral. Changes in asset values or eligibility criteria can reduce available assets and consequently available liquidity, particularly during periods of stress when access to the schemes may be needed most.

The Group relies on customer deposits to meet a considerable portion of its funding and it has targeted maintaining a loan to deposit ratio of around 100%. The level of deposits may fluctuate due to factors outside the Group's control, such as a loss of confidence, increasing competitive pressures for retail customer deposits or the repatriation of deposits by foreign wholesale or central bank depositors, which could result in a significant outflow of deposits within a short period of time. An inability to grow, or any material decrease in, the Group's deposits could, particularly if accompanied by one of the other factors described above, have a material adverse impact on the Group's ability to satisfy its liquidity needs.

The occurrence of any of the risks described above could have a material adverse impact on the Group's financial condition and results of operations.

[The Group's businesses are subject to substantial regulation and oversight. Significant regulatory developments and increased scrutiny by the Group's key regulators has had and is likely to continue to increase compliance risks and could have a material adverse effect on how the Group conducts its business and on its results of operations and financial condition](#)

The Group is subject to extensive financial services laws, regulations, corporate governance requirements, administrative actions and policies in each jurisdiction in which it operates. Many of these have changed recently and are subject to further material changes. Among others, the adoption of rules relating to ring-fencing, prohibitions on proprietary trading, the entry into force of CRD IV and the BRRD and certain other measures in the UK, the EU and the US has considerably affected the regulatory landscape in which the Group operates and will operate in the future. Increasing regulatory focus in certain areas and ongoing and possible future changes in the financial services regulatory landscape (including requirements imposed by virtue of the Group's participation in government or regulator-led initiatives), have resulted in the Group facing greater regulation and scrutiny in the UK, the US and other countries in which it operates.

Although it is difficult to predict with certainty the effect that the recent regulatory changes, developments and heightened levels of public and regulatory scrutiny will have on the Group, the enactment of legislation and regulations in the UK and the EU, the other parts of Europe in which the Group operates and the US has resulted in increased capital, funding and liquidity requirements, changes in the competitive landscape, changes in other regulatory requirements and increased operating costs and has impacted, and will continue to impact, products offerings and business models. See also *'Implementation of the ring-fence in the UK which will begin in 2015 will result in material structural changes to the Group's business. These changes could have a material adverse effect on the Group'*. Such changes may also result in an increased number of regulatory investigations and proceedings and have increased the risks relating to the Group's ability to comply with the applicable body of rules and regulations in the manner and within the timeframes required.

## Additional information

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### Risk factors continued

Any of these developments (including failures to comply with new rules and regulations) could have an impact on how the Group conducts its business, its authorisations and licences, the products and services it offers, its reputation, the value of its assets, and could have a material adverse effect on its business, funding costs and its results of operations and financial condition. See *'Implementation by the Group of the various initiatives and programmes which form part of the Group's Transformation Plan subjects the Group to increased and material execution risk'*.

Areas in which, and examples of where, governmental policies, regulatory and accounting changes and increased public and regulatory scrutiny could have an adverse impact (some of which could be material) on the Group include those set out above as well as the following:

- requirements to separate retail banking from investment banking (ring-fencing);
- restrictions on proprietary trading and similar activities within a commercial bank and/or a group which contains a commercial bank;
- the implementation of additional or conflicting capital, loss absorption or liquidity requirements, including those mandated under MREL or by the Financial Stability Board's recommendations on TLAC;
- restructuring certain of the Group's non-retail banking activities in jurisdictions outside the UK in order to satisfy local capital, liquidity and other prudential requirements;
- the monetary, fiscal, interest rate and other policies of central banks and other governmental or regulatory bodies;
- the design and implementation of national or supra-national mandated recovery, resolution or insolvency regimes;
- additional rules and requirements adopted at the European level relating to the separation of certain trading activities from retail banking operations;
- further investigations, proceedings or fines either against the Group in isolation or together with other large financial institutions with respect to market conduct wrongdoing;
- the imposition of government imposed requirements and/or related fines and sanctions with respect to lending to the UK SME market and larger commercial and corporate entities and residential mortgage lending;
- additional rules and regulatory initiatives and review relating to customer protection, including the FCA's Treating Customers Fairly regime;
- requirements to operate in a way that prioritises objectives other than shareholder value creation;
- the imposition of restrictions on the Group's ability to compensate its senior management and other employees and increased responsibility and liability rules applicable to senior and key employees;
- regulations relating to, and enforcement of, anti-bribery, anti-money laundering, anti-terrorism or other similar sanctions regimes;
- rules relating to foreign ownership, expropriation, nationalisation and confiscation of assets;
- other requirements or policies affecting the Group's profitability, such as the imposition of onerous compliance obligations, further restrictions on business growth, product offering, or pricing;
- changes to financial reporting standards (including accounting standards), corporate governance requirements, corporate structures and conduct of business rules;
- reviews and investigations relating to the retail banking sector in the UK, including with respect to SME banking and PCAs;
- the introduction of, and changes to, taxes, levies or fees applicable to the Group's operations (such as the imposition of a financial transaction tax or changes in tax rates or to the treatment of carry-forward tax losses that reduce the value of deferred tax assets and require increased payments of tax); and
- the regulation or endorsement of credit ratings used in the EU (whether issued by agencies in EU member states or in other countries, such as the US).

Changes in laws, rules or regulations, or in their interpretation or enforcement, or the implementation of new laws, rules or regulations, including contradictory laws, rules or regulations by key regulators in different jurisdictions, or failure by the Group to comply with such laws, rules and regulations, may have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, uncertainty and lack of international regulatory coordination as enhanced supervisory standards are developed and implemented may adversely affect the Group's ability to engage in effective business, capital and risk management planning.

## Additional information

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The Group is subject to resolution procedures under resolution and recovery schemes which may result in various actions being taken in relation to the Group and any securities of the Group, including the write off, write-down or conversion of the Group's securities

In the EU, the UK and the US regulators have or are in the process of implementing resolution regimes to ensure the timely and orderly resolution of financial institutions and limit the systemic risks resulting from the failure of global and complex financial groups. In the EU and the UK, the BRRD which came into force on 1 January 2015, sets out a harmonised legal framework governing the tools and powers available to national authorities to address the failure of banks and certain other financial institutions. These tools and powers include preparatory and preventive measures, early supervisory intervention powers and resolution tools. In July 2014, the PRA published a paper on the implementation of the BRRD in the UK and in December 2014 HM Treasury published final versions of the statutory instruments transposing the BRRD which came into effect in January 2015. The PRA published its final rules and requirements implementing the BRRD in January 2015. The EBA also published final draft regulatory technical standards in December 2014 on the content of resolution plans and final guidelines on measures to reduce or remove impediments to resolvability. The implementation of the BRRD in the UK may also continue to evolve over time to ensure continued consistency with the FSB recommendations on resolution regimes and resolution planning for GSIBs, in particular with respect to TLAC requirements.

As a result of its status as a GSIB and in accordance with the PRA's resolution and recovery schemes then in place in the UK, the Group was required to meet certain resolution planning requirements by the end of 2012 and 2013. The Group's US businesses and CFG made their required submissions to the Federal Reserve and the FDIC by their 1 July 2014 due dates. The US supervisory agencies subsequently announced that, beginning in 2015, banks would be required to submit their annual resolution plans by 31 December of each year instead of by 1 July. Similar to other major financial institutions, both the Group and its key subsidiaries remain engaged in a constructive dialogue on resolution and recovery planning with key national regulators and other authorities.

In addition to the preventive measures set out above, the UK resolution authority now has available a wide range of powers to deal with failing financial institutions. As a result of the implementation of BRRD in the UK in January 2015, the provisions of the Banking Act 2009 have been substantially amended to enable the relevant authorities to deal with and stabilise certain deposit-taking UK incorporated institutions that are failing, or are likely to fail. In addition to the existing stabilisation options available under the Banking Act 2009 being (i) the transfer of all or part of the business of the relevant entity and/or the securities of the relevant entity to a private sector purchaser, (ii) the transfer of all or part of the business of the relevant entity to a 'bridge bank' wholly owned by the Bank of England and (iii) temporary public ownership (nationalisation) of the relevant entity, the resolution entity will now be able to rely on an asset separation tool which will enable the Bank of England to use property transfer powers to transfer assets, rights and liabilities of a failing bank to an asset management vehicle. In addition, the new rules have transposed the BRRD requirement that the government stabilisation options may only be used once there has been a contribution to loss absorption and recapitalisation of at least 8% of the total liabilities of the institution under resolution.

Among the changes introduced by the Banking Reform Act 2013, the Banking Act 2009 was amended to insert a bail-in option as part of the powers available to the UK resolution authority. The bail-in option was introduced as an additional power available to the Bank of England to enable it to recapitalise a failed institution by allocating losses to its shareholders and unsecured creditors in a manner that seeks to respect the hierarchy of claims in liquidation. The BRRD also includes a "bail-in" tool, which gives the relevant supervisory authorities the power to write down or write off claims (including debt securities issued by the Group and its subsidiaries) of certain unsecured creditors of a failing institution and/or to convert certain debt claims to equity or to other securities of the failing institution or to alter the terms of an existing liability. The UK Government amended the provisions of the Banking Act 2009, as amended by the Banking Reform Act 2013, to ensure the consistency of these provisions with the bail-in provisions under the BRRD which came into effect on 1 January 2015, subject to certain transition provisions effective for debt instruments as of 19 February 2015 and with the exception of provisions relating to MREL and Article 55 of the BRRD which relates to liabilities within the scope of the bail-in powers but governed by the law of a third country. Such bail-in mechanism, pursuant to which losses would be imposed on shareholders and, as appropriate, creditors (including senior creditors) of the Group (through write-down or conversion into equity of liabilities including debt securities) would be used to recapitalise and restore the Group to solvency. The bail-in regime adopted under the BRRD (and implemented in the UK) also provides that shareholders and creditors should not be left worse off as a result of the exercise of the stabilisation powers than they would have been had the bank not been resolved, but instead placed into insolvency. The exercise of the bail-in option will be determined by the resolution authority which will have discretion to determine whether the Group has reached a point of non-viability. Because of this inherent uncertainty, it will be difficult to predict when, if at all, the exercise of the bail-in power may occur.

The methods for implementation of any resolution and recovery scheme remain the subject of debate, particularly with respect to banking group companies and for GSIBs with complex cross border activities. Such debate includes whether the bail-in tool may be exercised through a single point of entry at the holding company or at various levels of the corporate structure of a GSIB.

The potential impact of these resolution and recovery powers may include the total loss of value of securities issued by the Group and, in addition for debt holders, the possible conversion into equity securities, and under certain circumstances the inability of the Group to perform its obligations under its securities. The possible application of bail-in to the Group's or certain of its subsidiaries' debt securities and additional Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital securities may also make it more difficult to issue such securities in the capital markets and the cost of raising such funds may be higher than has historically been the case.



## Additional information

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### Risk factors continued

The Group's operations are highly dependent on its IT systems and is increasingly exposed to cyber security threats

The Group's operations are dependent on the ability to process a very large number of transactions efficiently and accurately while complying with applicable laws and regulations where it does business. The proper functioning of the Group's payment systems, financial and sanctions controls, risk management, credit analysis and reporting, accounting, customer service and other IT systems, as well as the communication networks between its branches and main data processing centres, are critical to the Group's operations. In June 2012, computer system failures prevented NatWest, RBS and Ulster Bank customers from accessing accounts in both the UK and Ireland. Ongoing issues relating to the failure continued for several months, requiring the Group to set aside a provision for compensation to customers who suffered losses as a result of the system failure. In addition, in November 2014, the Group reached a settlement with the FCA and the PRA in relation to this incident and agreed a penalty of £42 million with the FCA and £14 million with the PRA. Ulster Bank, one of the Group's subsidiaries, was also fined €3.5m by the Central Bank of Ireland in relation to the IT incident and IT governance failures which occurred in 2012. The vulnerabilities of the Group's IT systems are due to the complexity of the Group's IT infrastructure attributable in part to overlapping multiple legacy systems resulting from the Group's acquisitions and the consequential gaps in how the IT systems operate, and insufficient investments in IT infrastructure in the past, creating challenges in recovering from system breakdowns. Critical system failure, any prolonged loss of service availability or any material breach of data security, particularly involving confidential customer data, could cause serious damage to the Group's ability to service its customers, could result in significant compensation costs, could breach regulations under which the Group operates and could cause long-term damage to the Group's reputation, business and brands. The Group is also currently implementing a significant IT investment programme which involves execution risks and may not be successful. See *'The Group is currently implementing a number of significant investment and rationalisation initiatives as part of the Group's IT and operational investment programme. Should such investment and rationalisation initiatives fail to achieve the expected results, it could have a material adverse impact on the Group's operations and its ability to retain or grow its customer business'*.

In addition, the Group is subject to cyber-security threats which have targeted financial institutions as well as governments and other institutions and have increased in the recent years. Failure to protect the Group's operations from cyber-attacks could result in the loss of customer data or other sensitive information. During 2013, the Group experienced a number of IT failures following a series of deliberate attacks which temporarily prevented RBS, CFG and NatWest customers from accessing their accounts or making payments. The Bank of England, the FCA and HM Treasury have identified cyber security as a systemic risk to the UK financial sector and highlighted the need for financial institutions to improve resilience to cyber-attacks and the Group expects greater regulatory engagement on cyber security in the future. Although the Group has been implementing remedial actions to improve its resilience to the increasing intensity and sophistication of cyber-attacks, the Group expects to be the target of continued attacks in the future and there can be no assurance that the Group will be able to prevent all threats.

### The Group's operations have inherent reputational risk

Reputational risk, meaning the risk of brand damage and/or financial loss due to a failure to meet stakeholders' expectations of the Group's conduct and performance, is inherent in the Group's business.

Stakeholders include customers, investors, rating agencies, employees, suppliers, government, politicians, regulators, special interest groups, consumer groups, media and the general public. Brand damage can be detrimental to the business of the Group in a number of ways, including its ability to build or sustain business relationships with customers, low staff morale, regulatory censure or reduced access to, or an increase in the cost of, funding. In particular, negative public opinion resulting from the actual or perceived manner in which the Group conducts its business activities, the Group's financial performance, ongoing investigations and proceedings and the settlement of any such investigations and proceedings, the level of direct and indirect government support or actual or perceived practices in the banking and financial industry may adversely affect the Group's ability to keep and attract customers and, in particular, corporate and retail depositors. Reputational risks may be increased as a result of the implementation of the Group's Transformation Plan. Modern technologies, in particular online social networks and other broadcast tools which facilitate communication with large audiences in short time frames and with minimal costs, may significantly enhance and accelerate the impact of damaging information and allegations. The Group cannot ensure that it will be successful in avoiding damage to its business from reputational risk, which could result in a material adverse effect on the Group's business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

### The Group may suffer losses due to employee misconduct

The Group's businesses are exposed to risk from potential non-compliance with policies, regulatory rules, employee misconduct or negligence and fraud, which could result in regulatory sanctions and serious reputational or financial harm to the Group. In recent years, a number of multinational financial institutions, including the Group, have suffered material losses due to the actions of employees, including, for example, in connection with the LIBOR and foreign exchange investigations. It is not always possible to deter employee misconduct and the precautions the Group takes to prevent and detect this activity may not always be effective.

### The Group's earnings and financial condition have been, and its future earnings and financial condition may continue to be, materially affected by depressed asset valuations resulting from poor market conditions

In previous years, severe market events resulted in the Group recording large write-downs on its credit market exposures. Any deterioration in economic and financial market conditions or weak economic growth could lead to further impairment charges and write-downs. Moreover, market volatility and illiquidity (and the assumptions, judgements and estimates in relation to such matters that may change over time and may ultimately not turn out to be accurate) make it difficult to value certain of the Group's exposures. Valuations in future periods, reflecting, among other things, the then prevailing market conditions and changes in the credit ratings of certain of the Group's assets, may result in significant changes in the fair values of the Group's exposures, such as credit market exposures and the value ultimately realised by the Group may be materially different from the current or estimated fair value.

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As part of the Group's previous restructuring and capital initiatives, including the 2013/2014 Strategic Plan, it has already materially reduced the size of its balance sheet mainly through the sale and run-off of non-core assets. The assets transferred to RCR (which included assets formerly part of the Group's Non-Core division together with additional assets identified as part of a HM Treasury review), became part of the Group's Capital Resolution Group ("CRG") as of 1 January 2014. In connection with the establishment of CRG, the Group indicated its aspiration to remove the vast majority, if not all of the assets comprising RCR within three years which resulted in increased impairments of £4.5 billion which were recognised in Q4 2013. The value of the assets in RCR, excluding derivatives, was £14.9 billion at 31 December 2014 following significant reductions during 2014. Although the Group to date has successfully reduced the size of the RCR portfolio, the remaining assets in RCR may be difficult to sell and could be subject to further write downs or, when sold, realised losses. The CRG also includes the Group's stake in the Williams & Glyn business as well as its remaining stake in CFG. In addition, as part of the restructuring of the Group's CIB business, the Group will be exiting or disposing of substantial parts of that business. The Group's interest in these businesses may be difficult to sell due to unfavourable market conditions for such assets or businesses. See also *'The Group's ability to achieve its capital targets will depend on the success of the Group's plans to further reduce the size of its business through the restructuring of its corporate and institutional banking business and make further divestments of certain of its portfolios and businesses including its remaining stake in Citizens Financial Group'*. Any of these factors could require the Group to recognise further significant write-downs, realise increased impairment charges or goodwill impairments, all of which may have a material adverse effect on its financial condition, results of operations and capital ratios.

[The Group may be required to make further contributions to its pension schemes if the value of pension fund assets is not sufficient to cover potential obligations and to satisfy ring-fencing requirements](#)

The Group maintains a number of defined benefit pension schemes for certain former and current employees. Pension risk is the risk that the assets of the Group's various defined benefit pension schemes do not fully match the timing and amount of the schemes' liabilities which are long-term in nature, and as a result of which, the Group is required or chooses to make additional contributions to the schemes. Pension scheme liabilities vary with changes to long-term interest rates, inflation, pensionable salaries and the longevity of scheme members as well as changes in applicable legislation. The funded schemes hold assets to meet projected liabilities to the scheme members. Risk arises from the schemes because the value of the asset portfolios, together with any additional future contributions to the schemes, may be less than expected and because there may be greater than expected increases in the estimated value of the schemes' liabilities.

In these circumstances, the Group could be obliged, or may choose, to make additional contributions to the schemes. Given the economic and financial market difficulties that arose out of the financial crisis and the risk that such conditions may occur again over the near and medium term, the Group has experienced and may continue to experience increasing pension deficits or be required or elect to make further contributions to its pension schemes. Such deficits and contributions could be significant and have an adverse impact on the Group's results of operations or financial condition. In May 2014, the triennial funding valuation of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Pension Fund was agreed which showed that the value of the liabilities exceeded the value of assets by £5.6 billion at 31 March 2013, a ratio of 82%. To eliminate this deficit, RBS will pay annual contributions of £650 million from 2014 to 2016 and £450 million (indexed in line with inflation) from 2017 to 2023. These contributions are in addition to regular annual contributions of approximately £270 million in respect of the ongoing accrual of benefits as well as contributions to meet the expenses of running the scheme.

The Banking Reform Act 2013 requires banks to ring-fence specific activities (principally retail and small business deposits) from certain other activities. Ring-fencing will require changes to the structure of the Group's existing defined benefit pension schemes as ring-fenced banks may not be liable for debts to pension schemes that might arise as a result of the failure of another entity of the ring-fenced bank's group, which could affect assessments of the Group's schemes deficits. The draft Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Banking Reform Pensions) Regulations 2015 requires that ring-fence banks ensure that they cannot become liable for the pension schemes of the rest of their group, or anyone else after 1 January 2026. The Group is developing a strategy to meet the requirements of these regulations, which has been discussed with the PRA. The implementation of this strategy will require the agreement of pension scheme trustees. Discussions with the pension trustee will be influenced by the Group's overall ring-fence strategy and its pension funding and investment strategies. If agreement is not reached with the pension trustee, alternative options less favourable to the Group will need to be developed to meet the requirements of the pension regulations. The costs associated with the restructuring of the Group's existing defined benefit pension schemes could be material and could result in higher levels of additional contributions than those described above and currently agreed with the pension trustee.



## Additional information

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### Risk factors continued

The financial performance of the Group has been, and may continue to be, materially affected by counterparty credit quality and deterioration in credit quality could arise due to prevailing economic and market conditions and legal and regulatory developments

The Group has exposure to many different industries and counterparties, and risks arising from actual or perceived changes in credit quality and the recoverability of monies due from borrowers and counterparties are inherent in a wide range of the Group's businesses. In particular, the Group has significant exposure to certain individual counterparties in weaker business sectors and geographic markets and also has concentrated country exposure in the UK, the US and across the rest of Europe (principally Germany, The Netherlands, Ireland and France) (at 31 December 2014 credit risk assets (excluding personal finance) in the UK were £180.8 billion, in North America £81.8 billion and in Western Europe (excluding the UK) £76.3 billion); and within certain business sectors, namely personal finance, financial institutions, commercial real estate, shipping and the oil and gas sector (at 31 December 2014 personal finance lending amounted to £180.8 billion, lending to financial institutions was £91.5 billion, commercial real estate lending was £43.3 billion, lending to the oil and gas sector was £10.7 billion and lending against ocean going vessels was £10.4 billion). As the Group implements its new strategy and withdraws from many geographic markets and materially scales down its activities in the United States, the Group's relative exposure to the UK will increase significantly as its business becomes more concentrated in the UK.

The credit quality of the Group's borrowers and counterparties is impacted by prevailing economic and market conditions and by the legal and regulatory landscape in their respective markets.

Credit quality has improved in certain of the Group's core markets, in particular the UK and Ireland, as these economies have improved. However, a further deterioration in economic and market conditions or changes to legal or regulatory landscapes could worsen borrower and counterparty credit quality and also impact the Group's ability to enforce contractual security rights. In addition, the Group's credit risk is exacerbated when the collateral it holds cannot be realised or is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount of the loan or derivative exposure that is due to the Group, which is most likely to occur during periods of illiquidity and depressed asset valuations, such as those experienced in recent years. This has been particularly the case with respect to large parts of the Group's commercial real estate portfolio. Any such losses could have an adverse effect on the Group's results of operations and financial condition.

Concerns about, or a default by, one financial institution could lead to significant liquidity problems and losses or defaults by other financial institutions, as the commercial and financial soundness of many financial institutions may be closely related as a result of credit, trading, clearing and other relationships. Even the perceived lack of creditworthiness of, or questions about, a counterparty may lead to market-wide liquidity problems and losses for, or defaults by, the Group. This systemic risk may adversely affect financial intermediaries, such as clearing agencies, clearing houses, banks, securities firms and exchanges with which the Group interacts on a daily basis, all of which could have a material adverse effect on the Group's access to liquidity or could result in losses which could have a material adverse effect on the Group's financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

In certain jurisdictions in which the Group does business, particularly Ireland, additional constraints have been imposed in recent years on the ability of certain financial institutions to complete foreclosure proceedings in a timely manner (or at all), including as a result of interventions by certain states and local and national governments. These constraints have lengthened the time to complete foreclosures, increased the backlog of repossessed properties and, in certain cases, have resulted in the invalidation of purported foreclosures.

The EU, the ECB, the International Monetary Fund and various national authorities have proposed and implemented certain measures intended to address systemic financial stresses in the Eurozone, including the creation of a European Banking Union which, through a Single Resolution Mechanism (SRM) will apply the substantive rules of bank recovery and resolution set out in the BRRD. Current expectations are that the SRM will apply from 1 January 2016, subject to certain provisions which came into effect from 1 January 2015 relating to the cooperation between national resolution authorities and the financial stability board. The effectiveness of these and other actions proposed and implemented at both the EU and national level to address systemic stresses in the Eurozone is not assured.

The trends and risks affecting borrower and counterparty credit quality have caused, and in the future may cause, the Group to experience further and accelerated impairment charges, increased repurchase demands, higher costs, additional write-downs and losses for the Group and an inability to engage in routine funding transactions.

Changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates, credit spreads, bond, equity and commodity prices, basis, volatility and correlation risks and other market factors have significantly affected and will continue to affect the Group's business and results of operations

Some of the most significant market risks the Group faces are interest rate, foreign exchange, credit spread, bond, equity and commodity prices and basis, volatility and correlation risks. Changes in interest rate levels (or extended periods of low interest rates such as experienced over the past several years), yield curves (which remain depressed) and spreads may affect the interest rate margin realised between lending and borrowing costs, the effect of which may be heightened during periods of liquidity stress. Changes in currency rates, particularly in the sterling-US dollar and sterling-euro exchange rates, affect the value of assets, liabilities, income and expenses denominated in foreign currencies and the reported earnings of the Group's non-UK subsidiaries and may affect the Group's reported consolidated financial condition or its income from foreign exchange dealing. Such changes may result from the decisions of Central Banks in Europe and of the Federal Reserve in the US and lead to sharp and sudden variations in foreign exchange rates. For accounting purposes, the Group carries some of its issued debt, such as debt securities, at the current market price on its balance sheet. Factors affecting the current market price for such debt, such as the credit spreads of the Group, may result in a change to the fair value of such debt, which is recognised in the income statement as a profit or loss.

## Additional information

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The performance and volatility of financial markets affects bond and equity prices, has caused, and may in the future cause, changes in the value of the Group's investment and trading portfolios. Financial markets experienced significant volatility towards the end of 2014 and this trend has continued in early 2015, resulting in further short term changes in the valuation of certain of the Group's assets. In addition, during the last quarter of 2014, oil prices fell significantly against their historical levels and other commodity prices also decreased. The Group is exposed to oil prices through its exposure to counterparties in the energy sector and oil producing countries. Further or sustained decreases in oil prices could negatively impact counterparties and the value of the Group's trading portfolios. As part of its on-going derivatives operations, the Group also faces significant basis, volatility and correlation risks, the occurrence of which are also impacted by the factors noted above.

While the Group has implemented risk management methods to mitigate and control these and other market risks to which it is exposed, it is difficult to predict with accuracy changes in economic or market conditions and to anticipate the effects that such changes could have on the Group's financial performance and business operations.

[The value or effectiveness of any credit protection that the Group has purchased depends on the value of the underlying assets and the financial condition of the insurers and counterparties](#)

The Group has credit exposure arising from over-the-counter derivative contracts, mainly credit default swaps (CDSs), and other credit derivatives, each of which are carried at fair value. The fair value of these CDSs, as well as the Group's exposure to the risk of default by the underlying counterparties, depends on the valuation and the perceived credit risk of the instrument against which protection has been bought. Many market counterparties have been adversely affected by their exposure to residential mortgage linked and corporate credit products, whether synthetic or otherwise, and their actual and perceived creditworthiness may deteriorate rapidly. If the financial condition of these counterparties or their actual or perceived creditworthiness deteriorates, the Group may record further credit valuation adjustments on the credit protection bought from these counterparties under the CDSs. The Group also recognises any fluctuations in the fair value of other credit derivatives. Any such adjustments or fair value changes may have a material adverse impact on the Group's financial condition and results of operations.

[In the UK and in other jurisdictions, the Group is responsible for contributing to compensation schemes in respect of banks and other authorised financial services firms that are unable to meet their obligations to customers](#)

In the UK, the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) was established under the FSMA and is the UK's statutory fund of last resort for customers of authorised financial services firms. The FSCS can pay compensation to customers if a firm is unable, or likely to be unable, to pay claims against it and may be required to make payments either in connection with the exercise of a stabilisation power or in exercise of the bank insolvency procedures under the Banking Act 2009.

The FSCS is funded by levies on firms authorised by the FCA, including the Group. In the event that the FSCS raises funds from the authorised firms, raises those funds more frequently or significantly increases the levies to be paid by such firms, the associated costs to the Group may have an adverse impact on its results of operations and financial condition.

In addition, the BRRD requires Member States to establish financing arrangements for the purpose of ensuring the effective application by national resolution authorities of the resolution tools and powers, which will require national resolution funds to raise "ex ante" contributions on banks and investment firms in proportion to their liabilities and risk profiles as well as "ex post" funding contributions. Following the adoption of the European delegated regulation on "ex-ante" contributions, the UK government confirmed that it would implement the "ex post" funding requirements through the UK bank levy of the Finance Act 2011.

To the extent that other jurisdictions where the Group operates have introduced or plan to introduce similar compensation, contributory or reimbursement schemes (such as in the US with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), the Group may make further provisions and may incur additional costs and liabilities, which may have an adverse impact on its financial condition and results of operations.

[The value of certain financial instruments recorded at fair value is determined using financial models incorporating assumptions, judgements and estimates that may change over time or may ultimately not turn out to be accurate](#)

Under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), the Group recognises at fair value: (i) financial instruments classified as held-for-trading or designated as at fair value through profit or loss; (ii) financial assets classified as available-for-sale; and (iii) derivatives.

Generally, to establish the fair value of these instruments, the Group relies on quoted market prices or, where the market for a financial instrument is not sufficiently active, internal valuation models that utilise observable market data. In certain circumstances, the data for individual financial instruments or classes of financial instruments utilised by such valuation models may not be available or may become unavailable due to prevailing market conditions. In such circumstances, the Group's internal valuation models require the Group to make assumptions, judgements and estimates to establish fair value, which are complex and often relate to matters that are inherently uncertain. These assumptions, judgements and estimates also need to be updated to reflect changing facts, trends and market conditions. The resulting change in the fair values of the financial instruments has had and could continue to have a material adverse effect on the Group's earnings, financial condition and capital position.

## Additional information

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### **Risk factors continued**

The Group relies on valuation, capital and stress test models to conduct its business and anticipate capital and funding requirements. Failure of these models to provide accurate results or accurately reflect changes in the micro and macro economic environment in which the Group operates could have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, capital and results

Given the complexity of the Group's business, strategy and capital requirements, the Group relies on analytical models to assess the value of its assets and its risk exposure and anticipate capital and funding requirements. The Group's valuation, capital and stress test models and the parameters and assumptions on which they are based need to be constantly updated to ensure their accuracy. Failure of these models to accurately reflect changes in the environment in which the Group operates or the failure to properly input any such changes could have an adverse impact on the modelled results or could fail to accurately capture the risk profile of the Group's financial instruments. Some of the analytical models used by the Group are predictive in nature. The use of predictive models has inherent risks and may incorrectly forecast future behaviour, leading to flawed decision making and potential losses. The Group also uses valuation models that rely on market data inputs. If incorrect market data is input into a valuation model, it may result in incorrect valuations or valuations different to those which were predicted and used by the Group in its forecasts or decision making. Should such models prove to be incorrect or misleading, decisions made by the Group in reliance thereon could expose the Group to business, capital and funding risk.

### **The Group's results could be adversely affected in the event of goodwill impairment**

The Group capitalises goodwill, which is calculated as the excess of the cost of an acquisition over the net fair value of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities acquired. Acquired goodwill is recognised initially at cost and subsequently at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. As required by IFRS, the Group tests goodwill for impairment annually, or more frequently when events or circumstances indicate that it might be impaired. An impairment test involves comparing the recoverable amount (the higher of the value in use and fair value less cost to sell) of an individual cash generating unit with its carrying value. At 31 December 2014, the Group carried goodwill of £6.3 billion on its balance sheet.

The value in use and fair value of the Group's cash generating units are affected by market conditions and the performance of the economies in which the Group operates. Where the Group is required to recognise a goodwill impairment, it is recorded in the Group's income statement, although it has no effect on the Group's regulatory capital position. Further impairments of the Group's goodwill could have an adverse effect on the Group's results and financial condition.

Any significant write-down of goodwill could have a material adverse effect on the Group's results of operations.

### **The recoverability of certain deferred tax assets recognised by the Group depends on the Group's ability to generate sufficient future taxable profits and may be affected by changes to tax legislation**

In accordance with IFRS, the Group has recognised deferred tax assets on losses available to relieve future profits from tax only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered. The deferred tax assets are quantified on the basis of current tax legislation and accounting standards and are subject to change in respect of the future rates of tax or the rules for computing taxable profits and offsetting allowable losses. Failure to generate sufficient future taxable profits or changes in tax legislation (including rates of tax) or accounting standards may reduce the recoverable amount of the recognised deferred tax assets. At 31 December 2014, the value of the Group's deferred tax assets was £1.5 billion. In December 2014 the UK Government announced a proposed restriction on the use of certain brought forward tax losses of banking companies to 50% of relevant profits from 1 April 2015 which may also affect the recoverable amount of recognised deferred tax assets. In addition, the implementation of the rules relating to ring-fencing and the resulting restructuring of the Group may further restrict the Group's ability to recognise tax losses within the Group as deferred tax assets.

## Shareholder information

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## Shareholder information

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### Financial calendar

<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	23 June 2015 RBS Conference Centre RBS Gogarburn Edinburgh EH12 1HQ
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<b>Interim results</b>	30 July 2015
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### Shareholder enquiries

Shareholdings in the company may be checked by visiting the Shareholder centre section of our website, [www.rbs.com](http://www.rbs.com). You will need the shareholder reference number printed on your share certificate or tax voucher to gain access to this information.

Listed below are the most commonly used features on the website:

- holding enquiry - view balances, values, history, payments and reinvestments;
- address change - change your registered address;
- e-Comms sign-up - choose to receive email notification when your shareholder communications become available instead of paper communications;
- outstanding payments - reissue any uncashed payments using our online replacement service; and
- downloadable forms - including stock transfer and change of address forms.

You may also check your shareholding by contacting our Registrar:

Computershare Investor Services PLC  
The Pavilions  
Bridgwater Road  
Bristol BS99 6ZZ  
Telephone: +44 (0)870 702 0135  
Fax: +44 (0)870 703 6009  
Website: [www.investorcentre.co.uk/contactus](http://www.investorcentre.co.uk/contactus)

### Dividends

#### Payment dates

Cumulative preference shares	31 May and 31 December 2015
Non-cumulative preference shares	31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2015

#### Ex-dividend date

Cumulative preference shares	30 April 2015
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#### Record date

Cumulative preference shares	1 May 2015
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For further information on the payment of dividends, see page 498.

### Braille and audio Strategic report with additional information

Shareholders requiring a Braille or audio version of the Strategic report with additional information should contact the Registrar on +44 (0)870 702 0135.

### ShareGift

The company is aware that shareholders who hold a small number of shares may be retaining these shares because dealing costs make it uneconomical to dispose of them. ShareGift, the charity share donation scheme, is a free service operated by The Orr Mackintosh Foundation (registered charity 1052686) to enable shareholders to donate shares to charity.

Donating your shares in this way will not give rise to either a gain or a loss for UK capital gains tax purposes and you may be able to reclaim UK income tax on gifted shares. Further information can be obtained from HM Revenue & Customs.

Should you wish to donate your shares to charity in this way you should contact ShareGift for further information:

ShareGift, The Orr Mackintosh Foundation  
17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7930 3737  
Website: [www.sharegift.org](http://www.sharegift.org)

## Shareholder information

### Share fraud warning

Fraudsters use persuasive and high-pressure tactics to lure investors into scams. They may offer to sell shares that turn out to be worthless or non-existent, or to buy shares at an inflated price in return for an upfront payment. While high profits are promised, if you buy or sell shares in this way you will probably lose your money.

- Keep in mind that firms authorised by the FCA are unlikely to contact you out of the blue with an offer to buy or sell shares.
- Do not get into a conversation, note the name of the person and firm contacting you and then end the call.
- Check the Financial Services Register at [www.fca.org.uk](http://www.fca.org.uk) to see if the person and firm contacting you is authorised by the FCA.
- Beware of fraudsters claiming to be from an authorised firm, copying its website or giving you false contact details.
- Use the firm's contact details listed on the Register if you want to call it back.

- Call the FCA on 0800 111 6768 if the firm does not have contact details on the Register or you are told they are out of date.
- Search the list of unauthorised firms to avoid at [www.fca.org.uk/scams](http://www.fca.org.uk/scams)
- Consider that if you buy or sell shares from an unauthorised firm you will not have access to the Financial Ombudsman Service or Financial Services Compensation Scheme.
- Think about getting independent financial and professional advice before you hand over any money.
- Remember if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

### Report a scam

If you are approached by fraudsters please tell the FCA using the share fraud reporting form at [www.fca.gov.uk/scams](http://www.fca.gov.uk/scams), where you can find out more about investment scams. You can also call the FCA Consumer Helpline on 0800 111 6768. If you have already paid money to share fraudsters you should contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

### Analyses of ordinary shareholders

At 31 December 2014	Shareholdings	Number of shares - millions	%
Individuals	194,957	112.1	1.8
Banks and nominee companies	10,181	6,189.9	97.2
Investment trusts	97	0.7	—
Insurance companies	90	0.3	—
Other companies	903	16.9	0.3
Pension trusts	28	0.9	—
Other corporate bodies	85	45.1	0.7
	<b>206,341</b>	<b>6,365.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Range of shareholdings:			
1 - 1,000	178,446	44.6	0.7
1,001 - 10,000	26,206	59.3	0.9
10,001 - 100,000	1,050	29.4	0.5
100,001 - 1,000,000	412	143.2	2.2
1,000,001 - 10,000,000	182	579.0	9.1
10,000,001 and over	45	5,510.4	86.6
	<b>206,341</b>	<b>6,365.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Shareholder information

### Trading market

#### Non-cumulative dollar preference shares

The following series of American Depositary shares (ADSs) representing non-cumulative preference shares issued in the US were outstanding at 31 December 2014:

Date of issue	Series of ADS	Number of ADSs/non-cumulative preference shares in issue	Number of registered holders
26 March 1997	F	6,255,408	48
8 February 1999	H	9,687,654	30
30 September 2004	L	30,027,877	17
26 August 2004	M	23,125,869	6
19 May 2005	N	22,113,160	10
9 November 2005	P	9,883,307	19
25 May 2006	Q	20,646,938	6
27 December 2006	R	10,163,932	3
28 June 2007	S	26,449,040	2
27 September 2007	T	51,245,839	14
4 October 2007	U	10,130	1

Each of the respective ADSs set out above represents the right to receive one corresponding preference share, and is evidenced by an American Depositary Receipt (ADR) and is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, a subsidiary of NYSE Euronext (NYSE).

The ADRs evidencing the ADSs above were issued pursuant to Deposit Agreements, among the company, The Bank of New York, as depository, and all holders from time-to-time of ADRs issued thereunder. Currently, there is no non-United States trading market for any of the non-cumulative dollar preference shares. All of the non-cumulative dollar preference shares are held by the depository, as custodian, in bearer form.

#### PROs

In August 2001, the company issued US\$1.2 billion perpetual regulatory tier one securities (PROs) which are listed on the NYSE.

#### ADSs representing ordinary shares

In October 2007, the company listed ADSs, each representing one ordinary share nominal value 25p each (or a right to receive one ordinary share), and evidenced by an ADR or uncertificated securities, on the NYSE. With effect from 7 November 2008, the ratio of one ADS representing one ordinary share changed to one ADS representing 20 ordinary shares.

Following a sub-division and one-for-ten consolidation of RBS's ordinary shares in June 2012, the ratio of one ADS representing 20 ordinary shares was adjusted to one ADS representing two ordinary shares. As at 31 December 2014, 30.7 million ordinary ADSs were outstanding.

The ordinary ADSs were issued pursuant to a Deposit Agreement, among the company, The Bank of New York Mellon, as depository, and all owners and holders from time to time of ordinary ADSs issued thereunder. The ordinary shares of the company are listed and traded on the London Stock Exchange. All ordinary shares are deposited with the principal London office of The Bank of New York Mellon, as custodian for the depository.



## Shareholder information

The following table shows the high and low sales prices for each of the outstanding ADSs representing non-cumulative dollar preference shares, PROs, ordinary shares and ADSs representing ordinary shares.

		Series F ADSs (1) US\$	Series H ADSs (1) US\$	Series L ADSs (1) US\$	Series M ADSs (1) US\$	Series N ADSs (1) US\$	Series P ADSs (1) US\$	Series Q ADSs (1) US\$	Series R ADSs (1) US\$	Series S ADSs (1) US\$	Series T ADSs (1) US\$	Series U ADSs (1) US\$	PROs (1,2) US\$	Ordinary shares (3) £	Ordinary ADSs (4) US\$
<b>By month</b>															
Jan 2015	High	26.24	25.80	24.00	24.91	25.06	24.82	25.30	24.51	25.28	25.66	107.75	119.09	3.944	11.93
	Low	25.65	25.45	23.50	24.68	24.76	24.11	25.09	23.90	24.88	25.35	104.25	117.04	3.624	10.86
Dec 2014	High	26.19	25.79	23.92	24.84	24.90	24.49	25.35	24.32	25.07	25.60	105.50	117.51	4.035	12.57
	Low	25.39	25.13	23.18	24.15	24.08	23.77	24.81	23.58	24.48	25.05	104.00	116.99	3.637	11.32
Nov 2014	High	26.16	25.92	24.05	24.93	24.99	24.58	25.39	24.52	25.06	25.80	105.88	117.44	3.953	12.34
	Low	25.78	25.56	23.57	24.66	24.61	24.10	25.22	24.01	24.91	25.37	104.38	116.84	3.738	11.63
Oct 2014	High	26.06	25.55	23.49	24.58	24.61	24.02	25.13	24.04	24.82	25.35	106.13	117.28	3.880	12.43
	Low	25.78	25.13	23.10	24.20	24.03	23.63	24.70	23.48	24.40	25.12	105.00	116.68	3.377	10.85
Sep 2014	High	25.95	25.70	23.74	24.90	24.95	24.38	25.43	24.34	25.01	25.68	106.50	118.58	3.682	11.93
	Low	25.29	25.15	22.40	23.78	23.83	23.42	24.45	23.34	23.96	24.90	103.50	116.88	3.422	11.01
Aug 2014	High	26.07	25.69	23.78	24.89	24.94	24.35	25.38	24.27	25.03	25.68	105.75	119.20	3.664	12.14
	Low	25.58	25.36	23.05	24.38	24.13	23.54	24.90	23.43	24.41	25.14	103.50	117.98	3.374	11.28
<b>By quarter</b>															
2014: Q4	High	26.19	25.92	24.05	24.93	24.99	24.58	25.39	24.52	25.07	25.80	106.13	117.51	4.035	12.57
	Low	25.39	25.13	23.10	24.15	24.03	23.63	24.70	23.48	24.40	25.05	104.00	116.68	3.377	10.85
2014: Q3	High	26.07	25.70	23.78	24.90	24.95	24.38	25.43	24.34	25.03	25.68	107.00	121.97	3.682	12.38
	Low	25.29	25.15	22.40	23.78	23.83	23.42	24.45	23.34	23.96	24.90	103.50	116.88	3.141	10.75
2014: Q2	High	26.44	25.65	23.40	24.29	24.08	23.84	24.99	23.80	24.63	25.57	107.13	121.92	3.466	11.59
	Low	25.35	24.93	21.35	22.74	22.53	22.18	23.63	21.93	23.17	24.90	101.75	107.64	2.955	9.91
2014: Q1	High	25.59	25.15	21.66	22.84	22.75	22.33	23.73	22.26	23.16	25.12	101.50	107.72	3.750	12.40
	Low	24.93	24.23	19.89	20.86	20.68	20.39	21.85	20.06	21.68	24.17	97.25	105.04	2.991	9.86
2013: Q4	High	25.24	24.85	20.25	21.88	21.75	21.40	22.95	21.18	22.49	24.76	97.50	105.16	3.849	12.35
	Low	24.32	23.83	19.13	20.23	20.07	19.88	21.16	19.70	20.72	23.05	92.50	102.20	3.159	10.25
2013: Q3	High	24.95	24.70	20.42	21.16	21.08	20.89	22.24	20.71	21.82	23.84	95.00	102.80	3.727	11.97
	Low	24.16	23.64	18.46	19.58	19.46	19.29	20.57	19.26	20.23	22.28	89.00	91.38	2.700	8.23
2013: Q2	High	25.86	25.55	23.87	24.03	23.72	23.92	24.63	23.70	24.45	25.44	98.50	106.76	3.519	10.81
	Low	24.07	23.52	18.99	20.21	20.16	20.00	21.05	19.79	20.49	21.83	84.00	90.27	2.661	8.15
2013: Q1	High	25.62	25.41	24.00	23.87	23.69	23.71	24.54	23.47	24.21	25.03	97.00	107.70	3.678	11.84
	Low	24.77	24.70	22.39	22.24	22.20	21.92	23.32	21.77	23.03	24.19	89.00	100.24	2.755	8.37
<b>By year</b>															
2014	High	26.44	25.92	24.05	24.93	24.99	24.58	25.43	24.52	25.07	25.80	107.13	121.97	4.035	12.57
	Low	24.93	24.23	19.89	20.86	20.68	20.39	21.85	20.06	21.68	24.17	97.25	105.04	2.955	9.86
2013	High	25.86	25.55	24.00	24.03	23.72	23.92	24.63	23.70	24.45	25.44	98.50	107.70	3.849	12.35
	Low	24.07	23.52	18.46	19.58	19.46	19.29	20.57	19.26	20.23	21.83	84.00	90.27	2.661	8.15
2012	High	25.35	24.96	23.57	23.09	22.98	22.83	23.40	22.96	23.31	24.50	90.00	100.59	3.250	10.79
	Low	17.60	16.76	15.46	11.63	11.53	11.41	12.24	11.41	11.83	13.08	53.63	66.58	1.966	6.09
2011	High	25.05	23.95	19.40	18.80	18.82	18.40	19.40	18.35	18.88	20.60	84.00	96.69	4.900	15.83
	Low	16.21	15.35	13.87	10.21	10.11	9.97	10.62	9.98	10.22	11.43	46.00	63.58	1.734	5.36
2010	High	23.97	23.85	19.88	17.75	17.73	17.77	17.91	17.75	17.73	18.64	78.25	97.06	5.804	17.30
	Low	16.57	15.10	13.35	10.95	10.91	10.75	11.24	10.80	10.99	11.90	53.00	67.13	3.125	9.89

### Notes:

- (1) Prices as reported on the NYSE or NASDAQ.
- (2) Price quoted as a % of US\$1,000 nominal.
- (3) Prices as reported in the Daily Official List of the London Stock Exchange. Following the sub-division and one-for-ten consolidation of ordinary shares in June 2012, prices prior to that date were restated accordingly.
- (4) Prices as reported on the NYSE composite tape. Following the sub-division and one-for-ten consolidation of ordinary shares in June 2012, the ratio of one ADS representing 20 ordinary shares was adjusted to one ADS representing two ordinary shares.

On 25 February 2015, the closing price of the ordinary shares on the London Stock Exchange was £4.033 equivalent to \$6.251 per ordinary share translated at the Noon Buying Rate of \$1.5499 per £1.00, and the closing price of the ordinary ADSs on the NYSE was \$12.43.

## Shareholder information

### Dividend history

#### Preference dividends

Amount per share	2014 \$	2014 £	2013 £	2012 £	2011 £	2010 £
Non-cumulative preference shares of US\$0.01						
- Series F (1)	1.91	1.16	1.16	1.21	1.19	1.06
- Series H (1)	1.81	1.10	1.10	1.14	1.13	1.03
- Series L (1)	1.44	0.87	0.87	0.91	0.90	0.86
- Series M (2)	1.60	0.97	1.03	0.75	—	0.26
- Series N (2)	1.59	0.96	1.03	0.74	—	0.26
- Series P (2)	1.56	0.95	1.01	0.73	—	0.25
- Series Q (2)	1.69	1.02	1.09	0.79	—	0.27
- Series R (2)	1.53	0.93	0.99	0.72	—	0.25
- Series S (2)	1.65	1.00	1.07	0.77	—	0.27
- Series T (2)	1.81	1.10	1.17	0.85	—	0.29
- Series U (2)	7,640	4,637	4,881	2,406	—	2,474
Non-cumulative convertible preference shares of US\$0.01						
- Series 1 (1)	91.18	55.34	55.12	57.86	56.87	59.98
Non-cumulative preference shares of €0.01						
- Series 1 (2)	73.02	44.32	45.76	44.65	—	—
- Series 2 (2)	69.70	42.31	44.83	42.25	—	—
- Series 3 (2)	4,667	2,833	3,027	2,813	—	—
Non-cumulative convertible preference shares of £0.01						
- Series 1 (1)	121.70	73.87	73.87	73.87	73.87	73.87
Non-cumulative preference shares of £1						
- Series 1 (2)	47.80	29.01	28.42	89.62	—	—

#### Notes:

(1) Classified as subordinated liabilities.

(2) Classified as equity.

On 26 November 2009, RBS entered into a State Aid Commitment Deed with HM Treasury containing commitments and undertakings that were designed to ensure that HM Treasury was able to comply with the commitments to be given by it to the European Commission for the purposes of obtaining approval for the State aid provided to RBS. As part of these commitments and undertakings, RBS agreed not to pay discretionary coupons and dividends on its existing hybrid capital instruments for a period of two years. This period commenced on 30 April 2010 for RBS Group instruments and ended on 30 April 2012; the two year deferral period for RBS Holdings N.V. instruments commenced on 1 April 2011 and ended on 1 April 2013.

On 4 May 2012, RBS determined that it was in a position to recommence payments on RBS Group instruments. In June 2013 RBS Holdings N.V. resumed payments on its hybrid capital instruments. Future coupons and dividends on hybrid capital instruments will only be paid subject to, and in accordance with, the terms of the relevant instruments.

For further information, see Note 7 on the consolidated accounts.

#### Ordinary dividends

The company has not paid an ordinary dividend since 2007. In 2008, the company issued new ordinary shares by way of a capitalisation issue rather than paying an interim dividend.

## Shareholder information

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### Taxation for US Holders

The following discussion summarises certain US federal and UK tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of ordinary shares, ADSs representing ordinary shares (ordinary ADSs), ADSs representing non-cumulative dollar preference shares (preference ADSs) or PROs by a beneficial owner that is a citizen or resident of the United States or that otherwise will be subject to US federal income tax on a net income basis in respect of the ordinary shares, ordinary ADSs, preference ADSs or PROs (a "US Holder"). This summary assumes that a US Holder is holding ordinary shares, ordinary ADSs, preference ADSs or PROs, as applicable, as capital assets. This summary does not address the tax consequences to a US Holder (i) that is resident in the UK for UK tax purposes, (ii) that carries on a trade, profession or vocation through a branch, agency or permanent establishment in the UK in connection with which their ordinary shares, ordinary ADSs, preference ADSs or PROs are held, used or acquired, or (iii) generally, that is a corporation which alone or together with one or more associated companies, controls, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the voting stock of the company, nor does this summary address all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a US Holder in light of its particular circumstances, including alternative minimum tax and Medicare contribution tax consequences, as well as differing tax consequences that may apply to US Holders subject to special rules, such as certain financial institutions, dealers or traders in securities who use a mark-to-market method of tax accounting, persons holding ordinary shares, ordinary ADSs, preference ADSs or PROs as part of a hedging transaction, straddle, wash sale, conversion transaction or integrated transaction or persons entering into a constructive sale with respect to such securities, persons whose functional currency for US federal income tax purposes is not the US dollar, entities classified as partnerships for US federal income tax purposes, tax-exempt entities or persons that own or are deemed to own 10% or more of the voting stock of the company.

The statements and practices set forth below regarding US and UK tax laws, including the US/UK double taxation convention relating to income and capital gains which entered into force on 31 March 2003 (the "Treaty") and the US/UK double taxation convention relating to estate and gift taxes (the "Estate Taxation Treaty"), are based on those laws and practices as in force and as applied in practice on the date of this report. This summary is not exhaustive of all possible tax considerations and holders are advised to satisfy themselves as to the overall tax consequences, including specifically the consequences under US federal, state, local and other laws, and possible changes in taxation law, of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of ordinary shares, ordinary ADSs, preference ADSs or PROs by consulting their own tax advisers.

The following discussion assumes that the company was not for the taxable year ended 31 December 2014, and will not become in the foreseeable future, a passive foreign investment company - see 'Passive Foreign Investment Company (PFIC) considerations' on page 502.

### Ordinary shares, ordinary ADSs and preference ADSs

#### Taxation of dividends

For the purposes of the Treaty, the Estate Taxation Treaty and the US Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended (the "Code"), US Holders of ordinary ADSs and preference ADSs should be treated as owners of the respective ordinary shares and the non-cumulative dollar preference shares underlying such ADSs.

The US Treasury has expressed concerns that parties to whom depositary receipts are released before shares are delivered to the depositary, or intermediaries in the chain of ownership between US holders and the issuer of the security underlying the depositary receipts, may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits for US holders of depositary receipts. Such actions would also be inconsistent with the claiming of the favourable US tax rates applicable to dividends received by certain non-corporate US holders (described below). Accordingly, the availability of the favourable tax rates for dividends received by certain non-corporate US holders could be affected by actions taken by such parties or intermediaries.

The company is not required to withhold UK tax at source from dividend payments it makes or from any amount (including any amounts in respect of accrued dividends) distributed by the company. US Holders who are not resident in the UK and who do not carry on a trade, profession or vocation in the UK through a branch, agency or permanent establishment in connection with which their ordinary shares, ordinary ADSs or preference ADSs are held, used or acquired will not be subject to UK tax in respect of any dividends received on the relevant shares or ADSs.

Distributions by the company (other than certain pro-rata distributions of ordinary shares or rights to receive such shares) will constitute foreign source dividend income for US federal income tax purposes to the extent paid out of the current or accumulated earnings and profits of the company, as determined under US federal income tax principles. Because the company does not maintain calculations of its earnings and profits under US federal income tax principles, it is expected that distributions will be reported to US Holders as dividends. Payments will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction generally allowed to corporate US holders.

Subject to applicable limitations that vary depending upon a US Holder's particular circumstances and the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the US Treasury, dividends paid to certain non-corporate US Holders may be taxable at the favourable rates applicable to long-term capital gain. Non-corporate US Holders should consult their own tax advisers to determine whether they are subject to any special rules that limit their ability to be taxed at these favourable rates.

Dividends will be included in a US Holder's income on the date of the US Holder's (or in the case of ADSs, the depositary's) receipt of the dividend. The amount of any dividend paid in pounds sterling to be included in income by a US Holder will be the US dollar amount calculated by reference to the relevant exchange rate in effect on the date of such receipt regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into US dollars. If the dividend is converted into US dollars on the date of receipt, the US Holder generally should not be required to recognise foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. If the amount of such dividend is converted into US dollars after the date of receipt, the US Holder may have foreign currency gain or loss.

## Shareholder information

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### Taxation for US Holders *continued*

#### Taxation of capital gains

A US Holder that is not resident in the UK will not normally be liable for UK tax on capital gains realised on the disposition of an ordinary share, an ordinary ADS or a preference ADS unless at the time of the disposal, in the case of a corporate US Holder, such US Holder carries on a trade in the UK through a permanent establishment or, in the case of any other US Holder, such US Holder carries on a trade, profession or vocation in the UK through a branch or agency and, in each case, such ordinary share, ordinary ADS or preference ADS is or has been used, held or acquired by or for the purposes of such trade (or profession or vocation), carried on through such permanent establishment, branch or agency. Special rules apply to individuals who are temporarily not resident in the UK.

A US Holder will, upon the sale or other disposition of an ordinary share, an ordinary ADS or a preference ADS, or upon the redemption of preference ADS, generally recognise capital gain or loss for US federal income tax purposes (assuming that in the case of a redemption of a preference ADS, such US Holder does not own, and is not deemed to own, any ordinary shares or ordinary ADSs of the company) in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realised (excluding in the case of a redemption any amount treated as a dividend for US federal income tax purposes, which will be taxed accordingly) and the US Holder's tax basis in such share or ADS. This capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the US Holder held the share or ADS so sold, disposed or redeemed for more than one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

A US Holder who is liable for both UK and US tax on a gain recognised on the disposal of an ordinary share, an ordinary ADS or a preference ADS may be entitled, subject to certain limitations, to credit the UK tax against its US federal income tax liability in respect of such gain.

#### Estate and gift tax

Subject to the discussion of the Estate Tax Treaty in the following paragraph, ordinary shares, ordinary ADSs or preference ADSs beneficially owned by an individual may be subject to UK inheritance tax (subject to exemptions and reliefs) on the death of the individual or in certain circumstances, if such shares or ADSs are the subject of a gift (including a transfer at less than market value) by such individual. Inheritance tax is not generally chargeable on gifts to individuals made more than seven years before the death of the donor. Ordinary shares, ordinary ADSs or preference ADSs held by the trustees of a settlement may also be subject to UK inheritance tax. Special rules apply to such settlements.

An ordinary share, an ordinary ADS or a preference ADS beneficially owned by an individual, whose domicile is determined to be the United States for purposes of the Estate Tax Treaty and who is not a national of the UK, will not be subject to UK inheritance tax on the individual's death or on a lifetime transfer of such share or ADS, except in certain cases where the share or ADS (i) is comprised in a settlement (unless, at the time of the settlement, the settlor was domiciled in the United States and was not a national of the UK); (ii) is part of the business property of a UK permanent establishment of an enterprise; or (iii) pertains to a UK fixed base of an individual used for the performance of independent personal services.

The Estate Tax Treaty generally provides a credit against US federal estate or gift tax liability for the amount of any tax paid in the UK in a case where the ordinary share, ordinary ADS or preference ADS is subject to both UK inheritance tax and US federal estate or gift tax.

#### UK stamp duty and stamp duty reserve tax (SDRT)

The following is a summary of the UK stamp duty and SDRT consequences of transferring an ADS (otherwise than to the custodian on cancellation of the ADS) or of transferring an ordinary share. A transfer of an ADS executed and retained in the United States will not give rise to a liability to pay stamp duty and an agreement to transfer an ADS will not give rise to SDRT. Stamp duty or SDRT will normally be payable on or in respect of transfers of ordinary shares and accordingly any holder that acquires or intends to acquire ordinary shares is advised to consult its own tax adviser in relation to stamp duty and SDRT.

### PROs

#### United States

Payments of interest on a PRO (including any UK withholding tax, as to which see below) will constitute foreign source dividend income for US federal income tax purposes to the extent paid out of the current or accumulated earnings and profits of the company, as determined under US federal income tax principles. Because the company does not maintain calculations of its earnings and profits under US federal income tax principles, it is expected that distributions will be reported to US Holders as dividends. Payments will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction generally allowed to corporate US holders. A US Holder who is entitled under the Treaty to a refund of UK tax, if any, withheld on a payment will not be entitled to claim a foreign tax credit with respect to the refundable tax. Subject to applicable limitations that vary depending upon a US Holder's particular circumstances and the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the US Treasury, dividends paid to certain non-corporate US Holders may be taxable at the favourable rates applicable to long-term capital gain. Non-corporate US Holders should consult their own tax advisers to determine whether they are subject to any special rules that limit their ability to be taxed at these favourable rates.

A US Holder will, upon the sale, exchange or redemption of a PRO, generally recognise capital gain or loss for US federal income tax purposes (assuming that in the case of a redemption, such US Holder does not own, and is not deemed to own, any ordinary shares or ordinary ADSs of the company) in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realised (excluding any amount in respect of mandatory interest and any missed payments which are to be satisfied on a missed payment satisfaction date, which would be treated as ordinary income) and the US Holder's tax basis in the PRO. This capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the US Holder held the PRO so sold, disposed or redeemed for more than one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

A US Holder who is liable for both UK and US tax on gain recognised on the disposal of PROs may be entitled, subject to certain limitations, to credit the UK tax against all or a portion of its US federal income tax liability in respect of such gain.

## Shareholder information

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### United Kingdom

#### Taxation of payments on the PROs

Payments on the PROs will constitute interest rather than dividends for UK withholding tax purposes. The PROs are not expected to fall within the exemption from withholding tax provided for in the Taxation of Regulatory Capital Securities Regulations 2013 which apply to securities which qualify (or have qualified) as Additional Tier 1 instruments under Article 52 of the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 575/2013 or Tier 2 instruments under Article 63 of that regulation and which form (or have formed) a component of Additional Tier 1 capital or Tier 2 capital. However, the PROs constitute 'quoted eurobonds' within the meaning of section 987 of the Income Tax Act 2007 and therefore payments of interest will not be subject to withholding or deduction for or on account of UK tax as long as the PROs remain at all times listed on a 'recognised stock exchange' within the meaning of section 1005 of the Income Tax Act 2007, such as the main market of the New York Stock Exchange. In all other cases, an amount must be withheld on account of UK income tax at the basic rate (currently 20%) subject to any direction to the contrary by HM Revenue & Customs under the Treaty and except that the withholding obligation does not apply to payments to persons who the company reasonably believes are within the charge to corporation tax or fall within various categories enjoying a special tax status (including charities and pension funds), or are partnerships consisting of such persons (unless HM Revenue & Customs directs otherwise). Where interest has been paid under deduction of UK withholding tax, US Holders may be able to recover the tax deducted under the Treaty.

HM Revenue & Customs have powers in certain circumstances to obtain information in relation to interest and payments derived from securities. HM Revenue & Customs may communicate this information to the tax authorities of other jurisdictions.

HM Revenue & Customs confirmed at around the time of the issue of the PROs that interest payments would not be treated as distributions for UK tax purposes by reason of (i) the fact that interest may be deferred under the terms of issue; or (ii) the undated nature of the PROs, provided that at the time an interest payment is made, the PROs are not held by a company which is 'associated' with the company or by a 'funded company'. A company will be associated with the company if, broadly speaking, it is part of the same group as the company. A company will be a 'funded company' for these purposes if there are arrangements involving that company being put in funds (directly or indirectly) by the company, or an entity associated with the company. In this respect, HM Revenue & Customs has confirmed that a company holding an interest in the PROs which incidentally has banking facilities with any company associated with the company will not be a 'funded company' by virtue of such facilities.

Interest on the PROs constitutes UK source income for UK tax purposes and, as such, may be subject to income tax by direct assessment even where paid without withholding. However, interest with a UK source received without deduction or withholding on account of UK tax will not be chargeable to UK tax in the hands of a US Holder unless, in the case of a corporate US Holder, such US Holder carries on a trade in the UK through a UK permanent establishment or in the case of other US Holders, such persons carry on a trade, profession or vocation in the UK through a branch or agency in each case in connection with which the interest is received or to which the PROs are attributable. There are also exemptions for interest received by certain categories of agents (such as some brokers and investment managers).

#### EU Directive on taxation of savings income

Under the European Union Council Directive 2003/48/EC on the taxation of savings income, member states of the European Union are required to provide to the tax authorities of other member states details of payments of interest and other similar income paid by a person to an individual or certain other persons resident in another member state, except that Austria (and, prior to 1 January 2015, Luxembourg) may instead impose a withholding system for a transitional period unless during such period they elect otherwise.

An amending directive has been adopted which will, when implemented, amend and broaden the scope of the above requirements. It will expand the range of payments covered by the European Union Council Directive 2003/48/EC, in particular to include additional types of income payable on securities, and the circumstances in which payments must be reported or paid subject to withholding. The amending directive requires member states to adopt implementing legislation by 1 January 2016 to take effect from 1 January 2017.

#### Disposal (including redemption)

A disposal (including redemption) of PROs by a non-corporate US Holder will not give rise to any liability to UK tax on capital gains unless the US Holder carries on a trade (which for this purpose includes a profession or a vocation) in the UK through a branch or agency and the PROs are, or have been, held or acquired for the purposes of that trade, carried on through such branch or agency.

A transfer of PROs by a US Holder will not give rise to a charge to UK tax on accrued but unpaid interest payments, unless the US Holder is an individual or other non-corporate taxpayer and at any time in the relevant year of assessment or accounting period carries on a trade, profession or vocation in the UK through a branch or agency to which the PROs are attributable.

#### Annual tax charges

Corporate US Holders of PROs may be subject to UK tax charges (or tax relief) by reference to fluctuations in exchange rates and in respect of profits, gains and losses arising from the PROs (including on a disposal or redemption), but only if such corporate US Holders carry on a trade in the UK through a UK permanent establishment to which the PROs are attributable.



## Shareholder information

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### Taxation for US Holders *continued*

#### Inheritance tax

In relation to PROs held through Depository Trust Company (or any other clearing system), the UK inheritance tax position is not free from doubt in respect of a lifetime transfer, or death of, a US Holder who is not domiciled nor deemed to be domiciled in the UK for inheritance tax purposes; HM Revenue & Customs is known to consider that the situs of securities held in this manner is not necessarily determined by the place where the securities are registered. In appropriate circumstances, there may be a charge to UK inheritance tax as a result of a lifetime transfer at less than market value by, or on the death of, such US Holder. Inheritance tax is not generally chargeable on gifts to individuals made more than seven years before the death of the donor. However, exemption from, or a reduction of, any such UK tax liability may be available under the Estate Tax Treaty (see below). US Holders should consult their professional advisers in relation to such potential liability. PROs beneficially owned by an individual, whose domicile is determined to be the United States for the purposes of the Estate Tax Treaty and who is not a national of the UK, will not be subject to UK inheritance tax on the individual's death or on a lifetime transfer of the PRO, except in certain cases where the PRO (i) is comprised in a settlement (unless, at the time of the settlement, the settlor was domiciled in the United States and was not a national of the UK); (ii) is part of the business property of a UK permanent establishment of an enterprise; or (iii) pertains to a UK fixed base of an individual used for the performance of independent personal services.

The Estate Tax Treaty generally provides a credit against US federal estate or gift tax liability for the amount of any tax paid in the UK in a case where the PRO is subject to both UK inheritance tax and US federal estate or gift tax.

#### Stamp duty and SDRT

No stamp duty, SDRT or similar tax is imposed in the UK on the issue, transfer or redemption of the PROs.

#### Passive Foreign Investment Company (PFIC) considerations

In general, a foreign corporation will be a PFIC for any taxable year in which, after taking into account the income and assets of the corporation and certain subsidiaries pursuant to applicable 'look-through rules', either (i) at least 75% of its gross income is 'passive income' or (ii) at least 50% of the average quarterly value of its assets is attributable to assets that produce passive income or are held for the production of passive income. The company does not believe that it was a PFIC for its 2014 taxable year. Although interest income is generally passive income, a special rule allows banks to treat their banking business income as non-passive. To qualify for this rule, a bank must satisfy certain requirements regarding its licensing and activities. The company's possible status as a PFIC is determined annually, however, and may be subject to change if the company fails to qualify under this special rule for any year in which a US Holder owned ordinary shares, ordinary ADSs, preference ADSs or PROs. If the company were to be treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during which a US Holder owns ordinary shares, ordinary ADSs, preference ADSs or PROs, US Holders would generally be subject to adverse US federal income tax consequences and certain reporting obligations. Holders should consult their own tax advisers as to the potential application of the PFIC rules to the ownership and disposition of the company's ordinary shares, ordinary ADSs, preference ADSs or PROs.

#### Information reporting and backup withholding

Payments on, and proceeds from the sale of, ordinary shares, ordinary ADSs, preference ADSs or PROs that are made within the United States or through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding unless (i) the US Holder is an exempt recipient or (ii) in the case of backup withholding, the US Holder provides a correct taxpayer identification number and certifies that it is not subject to backup withholding. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a US Holder will be allowed as a credit against the US Holder's US federal income tax liability and may entitle it to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

#### Foreign financial assets reporting

Certain US Holders who are individuals (and under proposed regulations, certain entities) may be required to report information relating to the company's securities, subject to certain exceptions (including an exception for securities held in accounts maintained by US financial institutions). US Holders are urged to consult their tax advisers regarding the application of these rules in the US Holders' particular circumstances.

#### Exchange controls

The company has been advised that there are currently no UK laws, decrees or regulations which would prevent the import or export of capital, including the availability of cash or cash equivalents for use by the Group, or the remittance of dividends, interest or other payments to non-UK resident holders of the company's securities.

There are no restrictions under the Articles of Association of the company or under UK law, as currently in effect, which limit the right of non-UK resident owners to hold or, when entitled to vote, freely to vote the company's securities.

#### Memorandum and Articles of Association

The company's Memorandum and Articles of Association as in effect at the date of this annual report are registered with the Registrar of Companies of Scotland. The Articles of Association were last amended on 30 May 2012. Copies can be obtained from Companies House in the UK or from the Group's website (rbs.com).

#### Incorporation and registration

The company was incorporated and registered in Scotland under the Companies Act 1948 as a limited company on 25 March 1968 under the name National and Commercial Banking Group Limited, and changed its name to The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited on 3 September 1979. On 10 March 1982 it was re-registered under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1980 as a public company with limited liability. The company is registered under Company No. SC45551.

## Forward-looking statements

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Certain sections in this document contain 'forward-looking statements' as that term is defined in the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, such as statements that include the words 'expect', 'estimate', 'project', 'anticipate', 'believe', 'should', 'intend', 'plan', 'could', 'probability', 'risk', 'Value-at-Risk (VaR)', 'target', 'goal', 'objective', 'may', 'endeavour', 'outlook', 'optimistic', 'prospects' and similar expressions or variations on these expressions.

In particular, this document includes forward-looking statements relating, but not limited to: The Royal Bank of Scotland Group's (RBS) Transformation Plan (which includes RBS's 2013/2014 strategic plan relating to the implementation of its new divisional and functional structure and the continuation of its balance sheet reduction programme including its proposed divestments of Williams & Glyn and CFG, RBS's information technology and operational investment plan, the proposed restructuring of RBS's CIB business and the restructuring of the Group as a result of the implementation of the regulatory ring-fencing regime), as well as restructuring, capital and strategic plans, divestments, capitalisation, portfolios, net interest margin, capital and leverage ratios, liquidity, risk-weighted assets (RWAs), RWA equivalents (RWAE), Pillar 2A, Maximum Distributable Amount (MDA), total loss absorbing capital (TLAC), minimum requirements for eligible liabilities (MREL) return on equity (ROE), profitability, cost:income ratios, loan:deposit ratios, funding and risk profile; litigation, government and regulatory investigations including investigations relating to the setting of interest rates and foreign exchange trading and rate setting activities; costs or exposures borne by RBS arising out of the origination or sale of mortgages or mortgage-backed securities in the US; RBS's future financial performance; the level and extent of future impairments and write-downs; and RBS's exposure to political risks, credit rating risk and to various types of market risks, such as interest rate risk, foreign exchange rate risk and commodity and equity price risk. These statements are based on current plans, estimates, targets and projections, and are subject to inherent risks, uncertainties and other factors which could cause actual results to differ materially from the future results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. For example, certain market risk disclosures are dependent on choices relying on key model characteristics and assumptions and are subject to various limitations. By their nature, certain of the market risk disclosures are only estimates and, as a result, actual future gains and losses could differ materially from those that have been estimated.

Other factors that could adversely affect our results and the accuracy of forward looking statements in this document include the risk factors and other uncertainties discussed in Appendix 5 to this document. These include the significant risks for the Group presented by the execution of the Transformation Plan; RBS's ability to successfully implement the various initiatives that are comprised in the Transformation Plan, particularly the balance sheet reduction programme including the divestment of Williams & Glyn and its remaining stake in CFG, the proposed restructuring of its CIB business and the significant restructuring undertaken by the Group as a result of the implementation of the ring fence; whether RBS will emerge from implementing the Transformation Plan as a viable, competitive, customer focussed and profitable bank; RBS' ability to achieve its capital targets which depend on RBS' success in reducing the size of its business; the cost and complexity of the implementation of the ring-fence and the extent to which it will have a material adverse effect on RBS; the risk of failure to realise the benefit of RBS's substantial investments in its information technology and operational infrastructure and systems, the significant

changes, complexity and costs relating to the implementation of the Transformation Plan, the risks of lower revenues resulting from lower customer retention and revenue generation as the Group refocuses on the UK as well as increasing competition. In addition, there are other risks and uncertainties. These include RBS's ability to attract and retain qualified personnel; uncertainties regarding the outcomes of legal, regulatory and governmental actions and investigations that the Group is subject to and any resulting material adverse effect on the Group of unfavourable outcomes;; heightened regulatory and governmental scrutiny and the increasingly regulated environment in which the Group operates; uncertainty relating to how policies of the new government elected in the May 2015 UK election may impact RBS including a possible referendum on the UK's membership of the EU; operational risks that are inherent in RBS's business and that could increase as RBS implements its Transformation Plan; the potential negative impact on RBS's business of actual or perceived global economic and financial market conditions and other global risks; how RBS will be increasingly impacted by UK developments as its operations become gradually more focussed on the UK; uncertainties regarding RBS exposure to any weakening of economies within the EU and renewed threat of default by certain countries in the Eurozone; the risks resulting from RBS implementing the State Aid restructuring plan including with respect to the disposal of certain assets and businesses as announced or required as part of the State Aid restructuring plan; the achievement of capital and costs reduction targets; ineffective management of capital or changes to regulatory requirements relating to capital adequacy and liquidity; the ability to access sufficient sources of capital, liquidity and funding when required; deteriorations in borrower and counterparty credit quality; the extent of future write-downs and impairment charges caused by depressed asset valuations; the value and effectiveness of any credit protection purchased by RBS; the impact of unanticipated turbulence in interest rates, yield curves, foreign currency exchange rates, credit spreads, bond prices, commodity prices, equity prices; basis, volatility and correlation risks; changes in the credit ratings of RBS; changes to the valuation of financial instruments recorded at fair value; competition and consolidation in the banking sector; regulatory or legal changes (including those requiring any restructuring of RBS's operations); changes to the monetary and interest rate policies of central banks and other governmental and regulatory bodies; changes in UK and foreign laws, regulations, accounting standards and taxes; impairments of goodwill; the high dependence of RBS' operations on its information technology systems and its increasing exposure to cyber security threats; the reputational risks inherent in RBS' operations; the risk that RBS may suffer losses due to employee misconduct; pension fund shortfalls; the recoverability of deferred tax assets by the Group; HM Treasury exercising influence over the operations of RBS; ; limitations on, or additional requirements imposed on, RBS's activities as a result of HM Treasury's investment in RBS; and the success of RBS in managing the risks involved in the foregoing.

The forward-looking statements contained in this document speak only as of the date of this announcement, and RBS does not undertake to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

The information, statements and opinions contained in this document do not constitute a public offer under any applicable legislation or an offer to sell or solicitation of any offer to buy any securities or financial instruments or any advice or recommendation with respect to such securities or other financial instruments.



## Abbreviations and acronyms

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ABS	Asset-Backed Securities	ICAAP	Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process
AFS	Available-For-Sale	IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
AQ	Asset Quality	IOC	Integrated Oil Companies
AT1	Additional Tier 1	IPV	Independent Price Verification
BCBS	Basel Committee on Banking Supervision	IRC	Incremental Risk Charge
C&RA	Conduct & Regulatory Affairs	ISDA	International Swaps and Derivatives Association
CD	Certificate Of Deposit	LAR	Loans and Receivables
CDO	Collateralised Debt Obligation	LCR	Liquidity coverage ratio
CDPC	Credit Derivative Product Company	LGD	Loss Given Default
CDS	Credit Default Swap	LIBOR	London Interbank Offered Rate
CET1	Common Equity Tier 1	LTIP	Long Term Incentive Plan
CFG	Citizens Financial Group Inc	LTV	Loan-To-Value
CIB	Corporate & Institutional Banking	MBS	Mortgage-Backed Securities
CLO	Collateralised Loan Obligation	MDA	Maximum Distributable Amount
CMBS	Commercial mortgage-backed securities	MIRA	Material Integrated Risk Assessment
CPB	Commercial & Private Banking	NI	Northern Ireland
CRA	Credit Risk Assets	NOC	National Oil Companies
CRC	Credit Risk Committee	NSFR	Net Stable Funding Ratio
CRD	Capital Requirements Directive	NYSE	New York Stock Exchange
CRE	Commercial Real Estate	OFT	Office of Fair Trading
CRO	Chief Risk Officer	PBB	Personal & Business Banking
CRR	Capital Requirements Regulation	PD	Probability of Default
CVA	Credit Valuation Adjustment	PFIC	Passive Foreign Investment Company
DFV	Designated as at Fair Value through profit or loss	PPI	Payment Protection Insurance
EAD	Exposure At Default	PRA	Prudential Regulation Authority
EBA	European Banking Authority	RBSG	The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc
EC	European Commission	RCR	RBS Capital Resolution
EMEA	Europe, the Middle East and Africa	REIL	Risk Elements In Lending
ERF	Executive Risk Forum	RFS	RFS Holdings B.V.
EU	European Union	RMBS	Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities
FCA	Financial Conduct Authority	RNIV	Risks Not In VaR
FI	Financial Institution	ROI	Republic of Ireland
FINRA	Financial Industry Regulatory Authority	RoW	Rest of the World
FLB3	Fully Loaded Basel III	RWA	Risk-Weighted Asset
FSA	Financial Services Authority	SE	Structured Entity
FSCS	Financial Services Compensation Scheme	SEC	US Securities and Exchange Commission
FVTPL	Fair Value Through Profit or Loss	SEPA	Single European Payments Area
G-SIB	Global-Systemically Important Bank	SFT	Securities Financing Transaction
GCCO	Group Chief Credit Officer	SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	SVaR	Stressed Value-at-Risk
HFT	Held-For-Trading	TLAC	Total Loss Absorbing Capacity
HMT	HM Treasury	TSR	Total Shareholder Return
HTM	Held-to-maturity	UK	United Kingdom
IAS	International Accounting Standards	UKFI	UK Financial Investments Limited
IASB	International Accounting Standards Board	US/USA	United States of America
		VaR	Value-at-Risk

## Glossary of terms

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**Arrears** - the aggregate of contractual payments due on a debt that have not been met by the borrower. A loan or other financial asset is said to be 'in arrears' when payments have not been made.

**Asset-backed commercial paper (ABCP)** - a form of asset-backed security generally issued by a commercial paper conduit.

**Asset-backed securities (ABS)** - securities that represent interests in specific portfolios of assets. They are issued by a structured entity following a securitisation. The underlying portfolios commonly comprise residential or commercial mortgages but can include any class of asset that yields predictable cash flows. Payments on the securities depend primarily on the cash flows generated by the assets in the underlying pool and other rights designed to assure timely payment, such as guarantees or other credit enhancements. Collateralised debt obligations, collateralised loan obligations, commercial mortgage backed securities and residential mortgage backed securities are all types of ABS.

**Asset quality (AQ) band** - probability of default banding for all counterparties on a scale of 1 to 10.

**Assets under management** - assets managed by the Group on behalf of clients.

**Back-testing** - statistical techniques that assess the performance of a model, and how that model would have performed had it been applied in the past.

**Basel II** - the capital adequacy framework issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision in June 2006 in the form of the 'International Convergence of Capital Measurement and Capital Standards'.

**Basel III** - in December 2010, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision issued final rules: 'Basel III: A global regulatory framework for more resilient banks and banking systems' and 'Basel III: International framework for liquidity risk measurement, standards and monitoring'.

**Basis point** - one hundredth of a per cent i.e. 0.01 per cent. 100 basis points is 1 per cent. Used when quoting movements in interest rates or yields on securities.

**Bear steepener** - a steepening of the yield curve caused by long-term rates increasing faster than short term rates.

**BIPRU** - the prudential sourcebook for banks, building societies and investment firms. The part of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) Handbook that sets out detailed prudential requirements for the banks that they regulate.

**Bull flattener** - a flattening of the yield curve in which long term rates are decreasing faster than short term rates.

**Buy-to-let mortgages** - mortgages to customers for the purchase of residential property as a rental investment.

**Capital requirements regulation (CRR)** - see CRD IV.

**Central counterparty (CCP)** - an intermediary between a buyer and a seller (generally a clearing house).

**Certificates of deposit (CDs)** - bearer negotiable instruments acknowledging the receipt of a fixed term deposit at a specified interest rate.

**Collateralised debt obligations (CDOs)** - asset-backed securities for which the underlying asset portfolios are debt obligations: either bonds (collateralised bond obligations) or loans (collateralised loan obligations) or both. The credit exposure underlying synthetic CDOs derives from credit default swaps. The CDOs issued by an individual vehicle are usually divided in different tranches: senior tranches (rated AAA), mezzanine tranches (AA to BB), and equity tranches (unrated). Losses are borne first by the equity securities, next by the junior securities, and finally by the senior securities; junior tranches offer higher coupons (interest payments) to compensate for their increased risk.

**Collateralised loan obligations (CLOs)** - asset-backed securities for which the underlying asset portfolios are loans, often leveraged loans.

**Collectively assessed loan impairment provisions** - impairment loss provisions in respect of impaired loans, such as credit cards or personal loans, that are below individual assessment thresholds. Such provisions are established on a portfolio basis, taking account of the level of arrears, security, past loss experience, credit scores and defaults based on portfolio trends.

**Commercial mortgage backed securities (CMBS)** - asset-backed securities for which the underlying asset portfolios are loans secured on commercial real estate.

**Commercial paper (CP)** - unsecured obligations issued by a corporate or a bank directly or secured obligations (asset-backed CP), often issued through a commercial paper conduit, to fund working capital. Maturities typically range from two to 270 days. However, the depth and reliability of some CP markets means that issuers can repeatedly roll over CP issuance and effectively achieve longer term funding. CP is issued in a wide range of denominations and can be either discounted or interest-bearing.

**Commercial paper conduit** - a structured entity that issues commercial paper and uses the proceeds to purchase or fund a pool of assets. The commercial paper is secured on the assets and is redeemed either by further commercial paper issuance, repayment of assets or liquidity drawings.

**Commercial real estate** - freehold and leasehold properties used for business activities. Commercial real estate includes office buildings, industrial property, medical centres, hotels, retail stores, shopping centres, agricultural land and buildings, warehouses, garages etc.

**Common Equity Tier 1 capital** - the highest quality form of regulatory capital under Basel III comprising common shares issued and related share premium, retained earnings and other reserves excluding the cash flow hedging reserve, less specified regulatory adjustments.

## Glossary of terms

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**Constant currency** - reported results for the current reporting period are compared to results for comparative periods retranslated at exchange rates for the current period.

**Contractual maturity** - the date in the terms of a financial instrument on which the last payment or receipt under the contract is due for settlement.

**Core Tier 1 capital** - under Basel 2 called-up share capital and eligible reserves plus equity non-controlling interests, less intangible assets and other regulatory deductions.

**Core Tier 1 capital ratio** - Core Tier 1 capital as a percentage of risk-weighted assets.

**Cost:income ratio** - operating expenses as a percentage of total income.

**Counterparty credit risk** - the risk that a counterparty defaults before the maturity of a derivative or sale and repurchase contract. In contrast to non-counterparty credit risk, the exposure to counterparty credit risk varies by reference to a market factor (e.g. interest rate, exchange rate, asset price).

**Coverage ratio** - impairment provisions as a percentage of impaired loans.

**Covered bonds** - debt securities backed by a portfolio of mortgages that are segregated from the issuer's other assets solely for the benefit of the holders of the covered bonds.

**CRD IV** - the European Union has implemented the Basel III capital proposals through the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) and the Capital Requirements Directive (CRD), collectively known as CRD IV. CRD IV was implemented on 1 January 2014. The European Banking Authority's technical standards are still to be finalised through adoption by the European Commission and implemented within the UK.

**Credit default swap (CDS)** - a contract where the protection seller receives premium or interest-related payments in return for contracting to make payments to the protection buyer upon a defined credit event in relation to a reference financial asset or portfolio of financial assets. Credit events usually include bankruptcy, payment default and rating downgrades.

**Credit derivative product company (CDPC)** - a structured entity that sells credit protection under credit default swaps or certain approved forms of insurance policies. Sometimes they can also buy credit protection. CDPCs are similar to monoline insurers. However, unlike monoline insurers, they are not regulated as insurers.

**Credit derivatives** - contractual agreements that provide protection against a credit event on one or more reference entities or financial assets. The nature of a credit event is established by the protection buyer and protection seller at the inception of a transaction, and such events include bankruptcy, insolvency or failure to meet payment obligations when due. The buyer of the credit derivative pays a periodic fee in return for a payment by the protection seller upon the occurrence, if any, of a credit event. Credit derivatives include credit default swaps, total return swaps and credit swap options.

**Credit enhancements** - techniques that improve the credit standing of financial obligations; generally those issued by a structured entity in a securitisation. External credit enhancements include financial guarantees and letters of credit from third party providers. Internal enhancements include excess spread - the difference between the interest rate received on the underlying portfolio and the coupon on the issued securities; and over-collateralisation - on securitisation, the value of the underlying portfolio is greater than the securities issued.

**Credit grade** - a rating that represents an assessment of the creditworthiness of a customer. It is a point on a scale representing the probability of default of a customer.

**Credit risk** - the risk of financial loss due to the failure of a customer, or counterparty, to meet its obligation to settle outstanding amounts.

**Credit risk mitigation** - reducing the credit risk of an exposure by application of techniques such as netting, collateral, guarantees and credit derivatives.

**Credit valuation adjustment (CVA)** - the CVA is the difference between the risk-free value of a portfolio of trades and its market value, taking into account the counterparty's risk of default. It represents the market value of counterparty credit risk, or an estimate of the adjustment to fair value that a market participant would make to reflect the creditworthiness of its counterparty.

**Currency swap** - an arrangement in which two parties exchange specific principal amounts of different currencies at inception and subsequently interest payments on the principal amounts. Often, one party will pay a fixed rate of interest, while the other will pay a floating rate (though there are also fixed-fixed and floating-floating arrangements). At the maturity of the swap, the principal amounts are usually re-exchanged.

**Customer accounts** - money deposited with the Group by counterparties other than banks and classified as liabilities. They include demand, savings and time deposits; securities sold under repurchase agreements; and other short term deposits. Deposits received from banks are classified as deposits by banks.

**Debit valuation adjustment (DVA)** - an adjustment made by an entity to the valuation of OTC derivative liabilities to reflect within fair value the entity's own credit risk.

**Debt securities** - transferable instruments creating or acknowledging indebtedness. They include debentures, bonds, certificates of deposit, notes and commercial paper. The holder of a debt security is typically entitled to the payment of principal and interest, together with other contractual rights under the terms of the issue, such as the right to receive certain information. Debt securities are generally issued for a fixed term and redeemable by the issuer at the end of that term. Debt securities can be secured or unsecured.

**Debt securities in issue** - unsubordinated debt securities issued by the Group. They include commercial paper, certificates of deposit, bonds and medium-term notes.

## Glossary of terms

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**Deferred tax asset** - income taxes recoverable in future periods as a result of deductible temporary differences (temporary differences between the accounting and tax base of an asset or liability that will result in tax deductible amounts in future periods) and the carry-forward of tax losses and unused tax credits.

**Deferred tax liability** - income taxes payable in future periods as a result of taxable temporary differences (temporary differences between the accounting and tax base of an asset or liability that will result in taxable amounts in future periods).

**Defined benefit obligation** - the present value of expected future payments required to settle the obligations of a defined benefit plan resulting from employee service.

**Defined benefit plan/scheme** - pension or other post-retirement benefit plan other than a defined contribution plan.

**Defined contribution plan/scheme** - pension or other post-retirement benefit plan where the employer's obligation is limited to its contributions to the fund.

**Deposits by banks** - money deposited with the Group by banks and recorded as liabilities. They include money-market deposits, securities sold under repurchase agreements, federal funds purchased and other short term deposits. Deposits received from customers are recorded as customer accounts.

**Derivative** - a contract or agreement whose value changes with changes in an underlying index such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates, share prices or indices and which requires no initial investment or an initial investment that is smaller than would be required for other types of contracts with a similar response to market factors. The principal types of derivatives are: swaps, forwards, futures and options.

**Discontinued operation** - a component of the Group that either has been disposed of or is classified as held for sale. A discontinued operation is either: a separate major line of business or geographical area of operations or part of a single co-ordinated plan to dispose of a separate major line of business or geographical area of operations; or a subsidiary acquired exclusively with a view to resale.

**Economic capital** - an internal measure of the capital required by the Group to support the risks to which it is exposed.

**Economic profit** - the difference between the return on shareholders funds and the cost of that capital. Economic profit is usually expressed as a percentage.

**Effective interest rate method** - the effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset or financial liability (or group of financial assets or liabilities) and of allocating the interest income or interest expense over the expected life of the asset or liability. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash flows to the instrument's initial carrying amount. Calculation of the effective interest rate takes into account fees payable or receivable that are an integral part of the instrument's yield, premiums or discounts on acquisition or issue, early redemption fees and transaction costs. All contractual terms of a financial instrument are considered when estimating future cash flows.

**Encumbrance** - an interest in an asset held by another party. Encumbrance usually impacts the transferability of the asset and can restrict its free use until the encumbrance is removed.

**Equity risk** - the risk of changes in the market price of the equities or equity instruments arising from positions, either long or short, in equities or equity-based financial instruments.

**Eurozone** - the 17 European Union countries that have adopted the euro: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

**Expected loss (EL)** - expected loss represents the anticipated loss on an exposure over one year. It is determined by multiplying probability of default, loss given default and exposure at default and can be calculated at individual, credit facility, customer or portfolio level.

**Exposure** - a claim, contingent claim or position which carries a risk of financial loss.

**Exposure at default (EAD)** - an estimate of the extent to which the bank will be exposed under a specific facility, in the event of the default of a counterparty.

**FICO score** - a credit score calculated using proprietary software developed by the Fair Isaac Corporation in the US from a consumer's credit profile. The scores range between 300 and 850 and are used in credit decisions made by banks and other providers of credit.

**Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)** - the statutory body responsible for conduct of business regulation and supervision of UK authorised firms from 1 April 2013. The FCA also has responsibility for the prudential regulation of firms that do not fall within the PRA's scope.

**Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)** - the UK's statutory fund of last resort for customers of authorised financial services firms. It pays compensation if a firm is unable to meet its obligations. The FSCS funds compensation for customers by raising management expenses levies and compensation levies on the financial services industry.

**First/second lien** - a lien is a charge such as a mortgage held by one party, over property owned by a second party, as security for payment of some debt, obligation, or duty owed by that second party. The holder of a first lien takes precedence over all other encumbrances on that property i.e. second and subsequent liens.

**Forbearance** - forbearance takes place when a concession is made on the contractual terms of a loan in response to a customer's financial difficulties.

**Forward contract** - a contract to buy (or sell) a specified amount of a physical or financial commodity, at an agreed price, at an agreed future date.

**Fully loaded Basel III basis** - capital ratios based on the rules that will apply at the end of the Basel III transition period.

## Glossary of terms

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**Futures contract** - a contract which provides for the future delivery (or acceptance of delivery) of some type of financial instrument or commodity under terms established at the outset. Futures differ from forward contracts in that they are traded on recognised exchanges and rarely result in actual delivery; most contracts are closed out prior to maturity by acquisition of an offsetting position.

**G10** - the Group of Ten comprises the eleven industrial countries (Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States) that have agreed to participate in the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) General Arrangements to Borrow.

**Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs)** - a group of financial services corporations created by the US Congress. Their function is to improve the efficiency of capital markets and to overcome statutory and other market imperfections which otherwise prevent funds from moving easily from suppliers of funds to areas of high loan demand. They include the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and the Federal National Mortgage Association.

**Gross yield** - the interest rate earned on average interest-earning assets i.e. interest income divided by average interest-earning assets.

**Haircut** - a downward adjustment to collateral value to reflect its nature, any currency or maturity mismatches between a credit risk mitigant and the underlying exposure to which it is being applied.

**Hedge funds** - pooled investment vehicles that are not widely available to the public; their assets are managed by professional asset managers who participate in the performance of the fund.

**Impaired loans** - all loans for which an impairment provision has been established; for collectively assessed loans, impairment loss provisions are not allocated to individual loans and the entire portfolio is included in impaired loans.

**Impairment allowance** - see Loan impairment provisions.

**Impairment losses** - (a) for impaired financial assets measured at amortised cost, impairment losses - the difference between carrying value and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate - are recognised in profit or loss and the carrying amount of the financial asset reduced by establishing a provision (allowance) (b) for impaired available-for-sale financial assets, the cumulative loss that had been recognised directly in equity is removed from equity and recognised in profit or loss as an impairment loss.

**Individual liquidity guidance (ILG)** - guidance from the PRA on a firm's required quantity of liquidity resources and funding profile.

**Individually assessed loan impairment provisions** - impairment loss provisions for individually significant impaired loans assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the financial condition of the counterparty and any guarantor and the realisable value of any collateral held.

**Interest rate swap** - a contract under which two counterparties agree to exchange periodic interest payments on a predetermined monetary principal, the notional amount.

**Interest spread** - the difference between the gross yield and the interest rate paid on average interest-bearing liabilities.

**Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP)** - the Group's own assessment, as part of Basel II requirements, of its risks, how it intends to mitigate those risks and how much current and future capital is necessary having considered other mitigating factors.

**Internal funding of trading business** - the internal funding of the trading book comprises net banking book financial liabilities that fund financial assets in the Group's trading portfolios. Interest payable on these financial liabilities is charged to the trading book.

**International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)** - the independent standard-setting body of the IFRS Foundation. Its members are responsible for the development and publication of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and for approving Interpretations of IFRS as developed by the IFRS Interpretations Committee.

**International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) master agreement** - a standardised contract developed by ISDA for bilateral derivatives transactions. The contract grants legal rights of set-off for derivative transactions with the same counterparty.

**Investment grade** - generally represents a risk profile similar to a rating of BBB-/Baa3 or better, as defined by independent rating agencies.

**Key management** - members of the RBS Executive Committee.

**Latent loss provisions** - loan impairment provisions held against impairments in the performing loan portfolio that have been incurred as a result of events occurring before the balance sheet date but which have not been identified as impaired at the balance sheet date.

**Level 1** - level 1 fair value measurements are derived from quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

**Level 2** - level 2 fair value measurements use inputs, other than quoted prices included within level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

**Level 3** - level 3 fair value measurements use one or more unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

**Leverage ratio** - a measure prescribed under Basel III. It is the ratio of Tier 1 capital to total exposures. Total exposures include on-balance sheet items, off-balance sheet items and derivatives, and generally follow the accounting measure of exposure.



## Glossary of terms

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**Leveraged finance** - funding (leveraged finance) provided to a business resulting in an overall level of debt in relation to cash flow that exceeds that which would be considered usual for the business or for the industry in which it operates. Leveraged finance is commonly employed to achieve a specific, often temporary, objective: to make an acquisition, to effect a buy-out or to repurchase shares.

**Liquidity and funding risk** - the risk that the Group is unable to meet its financial liabilities when they fall due.

**Liquidity coverage ratio (LCR)** - the ratio of the stock of high quality liquid assets to expected net cash outflows over the following 30 days. High quality liquid assets should be unencumbered, liquid in markets during a time of stress and, ideally, central bank eligible.

**Loan:deposit ratio** - the ratio of loans and advances to customers net of provision for impairment losses and excluding reverse repurchase agreements to customer deposits excluding repurchase agreements.

**Loan impairment provisions** - loan impairment provisions are established to recognise incurred impairment losses on a portfolio of loans classified as loans and receivables and carried at amortised cost. It has three components: individually assessed loan impairment provisions, collectively assessed loan impairment provisions and latent loss provisions.

**Loan-to-value ratio** - the amount of a secured loan as a percentage of the appraised value of the security e.g. the outstanding amount of a mortgage loan as a percentage of the property's value.

**London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)** - the benchmark interest rate at which banks can borrow funds from other banks in the London interbank market.

**Loss given default (LGD)** - an estimate of the amount that will not be recovered by the Group in the event of default, plus the cost of debt collection activities and the delay in cash recovery.

**Market risk** - the risk of loss arising from fluctuations in interest rates, credit spreads, foreign currency rates, equity prices, commodity prices and other risk-related factors such as market volatilities that may lead to a reduction in earnings, economic value or both.

**Master netting agreement** - an agreement between two counterparties that have multiple derivative contracts with each other that provides for the net settlement of all contracts through a single payment, in a single currency, in the event of default on, or termination of, any one contract.

**Maximum distributable amount (MDA)** - a restriction on distributions which may be made by a bank which does not meet the combined buffer requirements as set out in the PRA Supervisory Statement SS6/14 'Implementing CRD IV: capital buffers'.

**Medium term notes (MTNs)** - debt securities usually with a maturity of five to ten years, but the term may be less than one year or as long as 50 years. They can be issued on a fixed or floating coupon basis or with an exotic coupon; with a fixed maturity date (non-callable) or with embedded call or put options or early repayment triggers. MTNs are generally issued as senior unsecured debt.

**Monoline insurers (monolines)** - entities that specialise in providing credit protection against the notional and interest cash flows due to the holders of debt instruments in the event of default. This protection is typically in the form of derivatives such as credit default swaps.

**Mortgage-backed securities** - asset-backed securities for which the underlying asset portfolios are loans secured on property. See Residential mortgage backed securities and Commercial mortgage backed securities.

**Mortgage servicing rights** - the rights of a mortgage servicer to collect mortgage payments and forward them, after deducting a fee, to the mortgage lender.

**Negative equity mortgages** - mortgages where the value of the property mortgaged is less than the outstanding balance on the loan.

**Net interest income** - the difference between interest receivable on financial assets classified as loans and receivables or available-for-sale and interest payable on financial liabilities carried at amortised cost.

**Net interest margin** - net interest income as a percentage of average interest-earning assets.

**Net stable funding ratio (NSFR)** - the ratio of available stable funding to required stable funding over a one year time horizon, assuming a stressed scenario. Available stable funding includes items such as equity capital, preferred stock with a maturity of over one year and liabilities with an assessed maturity of over one year.

**Non-performing loans** - loans classified as Risk elements in lending and potential problem loans. They have a 100% probability of default and have been assigned an AQ10 internal credit grade.

**Operational risk** - the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed processes, people, systems or from external events.

**Option** - an option is a contract that gives the holder the right but not the obligation to buy (or sell) a specified amount of the underlying physical or financial commodity, at a specific price, at an agreed date or over an agreed period. Options can be exchange-traded or traded over-the-counter.

**Over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives** - derivatives with tailored terms and conditions negotiated bilaterally, in contrast to exchange traded derivatives that have standardised terms and conditions.

**Own credit adjustment (OCA)** - the effect of the Group's own credit standing on the fair value of financial liabilities.

**Past due** - a financial asset such as a loan is past due when the counterparty has failed to make a payment when contractually due.

**Pillar 1** - the part of Basel II that sets out the process by which regulatory capital requirements should be calculated for credit, market and operational risk.

## Glossary of terms

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**Pillar 2** - Pillar 2 is intended to ensure that firms have adequate capital to support all the relevant risks in their business and is divided into capital held against risks not captured or not fully captured by the Pillar 1 regulations (Pillar 2A) and risks to which a firm may become exposed over a forward-looking planning horizon (Pillar 2B). Capital held under Pillar 2A, in addition to the Pillar 1 requirements, is the minimum level of regulatory capital a bank should maintain at all times to cover adequately the risks to which it is or might be exposed, and to comply with the overall financial adequacy rules. Pillar 2B is a capital buffer which helps to ensure that a bank can continue to meet minimum requirements during a stressed period, and is determined by the PRA evaluating the risks to which the firm may become exposed (e.g. due to changes to the economic environment) during the supervisory review and evaluation process. All firms will be subject to a PRA buffer assessment and the PRA will set a PRA buffer only if it judges that the CRD IV buffers are inadequate for a particular firm given its vulnerability in a stress scenario, or where the PRA has identified risk management and governance failings, which the CRD IV buffers are not intended to address.

**Pillar 3** - the part of Basel II that sets out the information banks must disclose about their risks, the amount of capital required to absorb them, and their approach to risk management. The aim is to strengthen market discipline.

**Position risk requirement** - a capital requirement applied to a position treated under BIPRU 7 (Market risk) as part of the calculation of the market risk capital requirement.

**Potential future exposure** - is a measure of counterparty risk/credit risk. It is calculated by evaluating existing trades done against the possible market prices in future during the lifetime of the transactions.

**Potential problem loans (PPL)** - loans for which an impairment event has taken place but no impairment loss is expected. This category is used for advances which are not past due 90 days or revolving credit facilities where identification as 90 days overdue is not feasible.

**Private equity investments** - equity investments in operating companies not quoted on a public exchange. Capital for private equity investment is raised from retail or institutional investors and used to fund investment strategies such as leveraged buyouts, venture capital, growth capital, distressed investments and mezzanine capital.

**Probability of default (PD)** - the likelihood that a customer will fail to make full and timely repayment of credit obligations over a one year time horizon.

**Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA)** - the statutory body responsible, from 1 April 2013, for the prudential supervision of banks, building societies, insurers and a small number of significant investment firms in the UK. The PRA is a subsidiary of the Bank of England.

**Regular way purchase or sale** - a purchase or sale of a financial asset under a contract whose terms require delivery of the asset within the time frame established generally by regulation or convention in the marketplace concerned.

**Regulatory capital** - the amount of capital that the Group holds, determined in accordance with rules established by the PRA for the consolidated Group and by local regulators for individual Group companies.

**Repurchase agreement (Repo)** - see Sale and repurchase agreements.

**Residential mortgage** - a loan to purchase a residential property where the property forms collateral for the loan. The borrower gives the lender a lien against the property and the lender can foreclose on the property if the borrower does not repay the loan per the agreed terms. Also known as a home loan.

**Residential mortgage backed securities (RMBS)** - asset-backed securities for which the underlying asset portfolios are residential mortgages. RBS RMBS classifications, including prime, non-conforming and sub-prime, reflect the characteristics of the underlying mortgage portfolios. RMBS are classified as prime RMBS where the loans have low default risk and are made to borrowers with good credit records and reliable payment histories and there is full documentation. Non-conforming RMBS include US Alt-A RMBS, together with RMBS-in jurisdictions other than the US where the underlying mortgages are not classified as either prime or sub-prime. Classification of RMBS as subprime or Alt-A is based on Fair Isaac Corporation scores (FICO), level of documentation and loan-to-value ratios of the underlying mortgage loans. US RMBS are classified as sub-prime if the mortgage portfolio comprises loans with FICO scores between 500 and 650 with full or limited documentation. Mortgages in Alt-A RMBS portfolios have FICO scores of 640 to 720, limited documentation and an original LTV of 70% to 100%. In other jurisdictions, RMBS are classified as sub-prime if the mortgage portfolio comprises loans with one or more high risk characteristics such as: unreliable or poor payment histories; high loan-to-value ratios; high debt-to-income ratio; the loan is not secured on the borrower's primary residence; or a history of delinquencies or late payments on the loan.

**Retail loans** - loans made to individuals rather than institutions. The loans may be for car purchases, home purchases, medical care, home repair, holidays and other consumer uses.

**Return on equity** - profit attributable to ordinary and B shareholders divided by average shareholders' equity as a percentage.

**Reverse repurchase agreement (Reverse repo)** - see Sale and repurchase agreements.

**Risk appetite** - an expression of the maximum level of risk that the Group is prepared to accept to deliver its business objectives.

**Risk asset ratio (RAR)** - total regulatory capital as a percentage of risk-weighted assets.

**Risk elements in lending (REIL)** - impaired loans and accruing loans which are contractually overdue 90 days or more as to principal or interest.

**Risk-weighted assets (RWAs)** - assets adjusted for their associated risks using weightings established in accordance with the Basel Capital Accord as implemented by the PRA. Certain assets are not weighted but deducted from capital.

**Sale and repurchase agreements** - in a sale and repurchase agreement one party, the seller, sells a financial asset to another party, the buyer, at the same time the seller agrees to reacquire and the buyer to resell the asset at a later date. From the seller's perspective such agreements are repurchase agreements (repos) and from the buyer's reverse repurchase agreements (reverse repos).



## Glossary of terms

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**Securitisation** - a process by which assets or cash flows are transformed into transferable securities. The underlying assets or cash flows are transferred by the originator or an intermediary, typically an investment bank, to a structured entity which issues securities to investors. Asset securitisations involve issuing debt securities (asset-backed securities) that are backed by the cash flows of income-generating assets (ranging from credit card receivables to residential mortgage loans).

**Settlement balances** - payables and receivables that result from purchases and sales of financial instruments recognised on trade date. Asset settlement balances are amounts owed to the Group in respect of sales and liability settlement balances are amounts owed by the Group in respect of purchases.

**Sovereign exposures** - exposures to governments, ministries, departments of governments and central banks.

**Standardised approach** - a method used to calculate credit risk capital requirements under Pillar 1 of Basel II. In this approach the risk weights used in the capital calculation are determined by regulators. For operational risk, capital requirements are determined by multiplying three years' historical gross income by a percentage determined by the regulator. The percentage ranges from 12 to 18%, depending on the type of underlying business being considered.

**Standstill** - is an agreement, usually for a specified period of time, not to enforce the Bank's rights as a result of a customer breaching the terms and conditions of their facilities. This is a concession to the customer. A standstill is most commonly used in a complex restructuring of a company's debts, where a group of creditors agree to delay enforcement action to give the company time to gather information and formulate a strategy with a view to establishing a formal restructuring.

**Stress testing** - a technique used to evaluate the potential effects on an institution's financial condition of an exceptional but plausible event and/or movement in a set of financial variables.

**Stressed value-at-risk (SVaR)** - a VaR measure using historical data from a one year period of stressed market conditions. For the purposes of calculating regulatory SVaR, a time horizon of ten trading days is assumed at a confidence level of 99%. See also Value-at-risk below.

**Structured credit portfolio (SCP)** - a portfolio of certain of the Group's illiquid assets - principally CDO super senior positions, negative basis trades and monoline exposures - held within Non-Core division.

**Structured entity (SE)** - an entity that has been designed such that voting or similar rights are not the dominant factor in deciding who controls the entity, for example when any voting rights relate to administrative tasks only and the relevant activities are directed by means of contractual arrangements. SEs are usually established for a specific, limited purpose, they do not carry out a business or trade and typically have no employees. They take a variety of legal forms - trusts, partnerships and companies - and fulfil many different functions.

**Structured notes** - securities that pay a return linked to the value or level of a specified asset or index. Structured notes can be linked to equities, interest rates, funds, commodities and foreign currency.

**Subordinated liabilities** - liabilities which, in the event of insolvency or liquidation of the issuer, are subordinated to the claims of depositors and other creditors of the issuer.

**Super senior CDO** - the most senior class of instrument issued by a CDO vehicle. They benefit from the subordination of all other instruments, including AAA rated securities, issued by the CDO vehicle.

**Supervisory slotting approach** - a method of calculating regulatory capital, specifically for lending exposures in project finance and income producing real estate, where the PD estimates do not meet the minimum IRB standards. Under this approach, the bank classifies exposures from 1 to 5, where 1 is strong and 5 is default. Specific risk-weights are assigned to each classification.

**Tier 1 capital** - a component of regulatory capital, comprising common equity tier 1 and additional tier 1. Additional tier 1 capital includes eligible non-common equity capital securities and any related share premium. Under Basel II, Tier 1 capital comprises Core Tier 1 capital plus other Tier 1 securities in issue, less certain regulatory deductions.

**Tier 1 capital ratio** - a component of regulatory capital, comprising eligible capital securities and any related share premium. Under Basel II, qualifying subordinated debt and other Tier 2 securities in issue, eligible collective impairment allowances, unrealised gains arising on the fair valuation of equity instruments held as available-for-sale, less certain regulatory deductions.

**Tier 2 capital** - qualifying subordinated debt and other Tier 2 securities in issue, eligible collective impairment allowances, unrealised available-for-sale equity gains and revaluation reserves less certain regulatory deductions.

**Total loss absorbing capacity (TLAC)** - an FSB proposal for global systemically important banks to have a sufficient amount of specific types of liabilities which can be used to absorb losses and recapitalise a bank in resolution. These proposals are intended to facilitate an orderly resolution that minimises any impact on financial stability, ensures the continuity of critical functions, and avoids exposing taxpayers to loss.

**Unaudited** - financial information that has not been subjected to the audit procedures undertaken by the Group's auditors to enable them to express an opinion on the Group's financial statements.

**US Federal Agencies** - are independent bodies established by the US Government for specific purposes such as the management of natural resources, financial oversight or national security. A number of agencies, including, the Government National Mortgage Association, issue or guarantee publicly traded debt securities.

**Value-at-risk (VaR)** - a technique that produces estimates of the potential loss in the market value of a portfolio over a specified time period at a given confidence level.

**Wholesale funding** - wholesale funding comprises Deposits by banks, Debt securities in issue and Subordinated liabilities.

**Write-down** - a reduction in the carrying value of an asset to record a decline in its fair value or value in use.

**Wrong-way risk** - the risk of loss when the risk factors driving the exposure to a counterparty or customer are positively correlated with the creditworthiness of that counterparty i.e. the size of the exposure increases at the same time as the risk of the counterparty or customer being unable to meet that obligation, increases.

## EDTF recommendations

The Enhanced Disclosure Taskforce (EDTF), established by the Financial Stability Board, published its report 'Enhancing the Risk Disclosures of Banks' in October 2012. The report suggests improvements to address the quality, comparability and transparency of risk disclosures in areas of risk governance, capital adequacy, liquidity and funding, credit risk and market risk.

RBS implemented the majority of the EDTF recommendations in its 2012 Annual Report and Accounts and Pillar 3 Report, and the remainder in its 2013 reports. All EDTF recommendations are also reflected in the 2014 reports.

The table below sets out the EDTF recommendations and the related locations in the 2014 Annual Report and Accounts and Pillar 3 Report.

Risk type	Recommendation	Page reference	
		Report & Accounts	Pillar 3
General	1 Present all risk information together. Where this is not practicable, provide an index.	1,36-37,62-70,166-167,168-334,474-492,504,512	
	2 Risk terminology, risk measures and key parameter values used.	167-334,504,512	✓
	3 Top and emerging risks.	37,174-175	
	4 Key future regulatory ratios.	2,11,171-172,196-197,202,204, 217-218,220	
Risk governance and risk management strategies/business model	5 Summarise risk management organisation, processes and key functions.	64-68,176-179,185,186,188,192,194,197-203,217-219	
	6 Risk culture and risk appetite.	64-68,180-183,186,189,192,194,196,202,217,233,303,324,331,333	
	7 Key risks arising from business models and activities.	12-13,170-173	
	8 Stress testing.	196-197,199-203,218-220,310-314,322,332	
Capital adequacy and risk-weighted assets	9 Pillar 1 minimal capital requirements.	162,190,196-197	✓
	10 Composition of capital and reconciliation between accounting and regulatory balance sheet.	196-197,206-208,212-213,214-215	
	11 Regulatory capital flow statement.	208	
	12 Capital planning and management.	196-205	
	13 Risk-weighted assets (RWAs) and business activities.	3,14,127,170,211-213	✓
	14 Capital requirements and RWAs.	127,170,196-197,202-205, 206-213	✓
	15 Credit risk in the banking book for major portfolios.	210,212-213,246,251-273,275-278,290-292	✓
	16 RWA flow statements.	210-211	
	17 Back-testing of models.	200,307-308, 315	✓
Liquidity	18 Liquid assets and their management.	217-220	
Funding	19 Encumbered assets.	228-230,423	
	20 Contractual maturity of assets, liabilities and off-balance sheet commitments.	223-227,393-395,428-429	
	21 Funding strategy including key sources.	172,217-218, 221-225,228-230	
Market risk	22 Linkages the balance sheet and market risk portfolios.	301-302	
	23 Significant trading and non-trading market risk factors.	304-314,316-318	
	24 Model limitations, assumptions and validation procedures	305-307,316, 380-381,387-388	
	25 Stress testing and scenario analysis.	310,318,320	
Credit risk	26 Credit risk exposures, including linkage to balance sheet.	215,237,238, 246,260,275-278,281-292,326-327	✓
	27 Policies for impaired loans and forbearance.	243-245,258-259,353-354,359	
	28 Flow statements for impaired loans and allowance for loan losses.	288-296	
	29 Counterparty credit risk that arises from derivatives transactions.	257,285-287	✓
	30 Credit risk mitigation.	243,257-258, 254,261,265, 269,271,275-278, 285,325-326	✓
Other risks	31 Other risk types.	36,170-175,184-194,323-334,417-492	
	32 Discussion of publicly known risk events.	4,36,43,53,62,65-67,71,73,124,171,175, 185,188,190,192,194, 430-439	

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