

## PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release

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### Thomas Murray rates HSBC 'AA' for Global Custody

LONDON – Thomas Murray, the specialist custody rating, risk management and research firm, has awarded Global Investor Services (GIS), a division of HSBC Bank plc and part of HSBC Securities Services (HSS), a public global custody rating as follows:

Global Custody Rating	Core Services												
	Overall Rating	Credentials	Settlements	Safekeeping	Income Collection	Corporate Actions	Corporate Governance	Cash/FX Management	Active Cash Mgmt	Taxation	Securities Lending	Internal Operations	Risks
HSBC Bank plc Global Custody Rating:	AA	AA	AA	AA+	AA-	AA-	AA-	AA	AA	AA	AA	A+	AA

GIS demonstrates a very strong global custody offering, and has been upgraded to AA overall (with a stable outlook) by Thomas Murray as a result of the improvements made over the last year.

The improvements made include, at a strategic level, initiating the creation of a global business line for custody services across the HSBC Group, and developing a common internet portal for information delivery to clients. There is now significantly better client protection against asset servicing risks; expansion in the number of markets (58) in which contractual settlement is offered; enlargement to 66 contractual income markets, with 44 at pay date; and query turnaround times tightened to 24 hours. There have also been improvements in corporate action information delivery and the monitoring of the sub-custodian network.

Simon Thomas, CEO and Chief Ratings Officer of Thomas Murray said: “Thomas Murray is delighted to be able to announce the public global custody rating of HSBC. This rating challenges other major global custodians to objectively demonstrate that they are able to offer an equivalent level of risk minimisation to their institutional investors, coupled with a very strong level of service.”

Mike Martin, Co-Head of HSS Europe said: “HSBC is pleased to be associated with Thomas Murray and its custody rating programme. We have found the thorough examination and feedback invaluable in assisting our product development in the market and the AA rating is a clear, external endorsement of the strength of our offering to clients. It is very important to

our clients and prospective clients that the promises made by HSBC are substantiated by the independent assessment of Thomas Murray.”

The global custody rating is a business rating that assesses the operational performance of global custodians – financial institutions that hold securities in safekeeping on behalf of institutional and banking clients. The methodology considers the business credentials and service capabilities of global custodians, and the quality and effectiveness of their operational infrastructure. It also assesses the global custodian’s willingness and ability to protect their clients from losses and incorporates a risk analysis of the custodian. The ratings are on a consistent global scale, using the familiar AAA to C ratings methodology. Once the rating is assigned there is an ongoing surveillance process to monitor the custodian.

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**Thomas Murray**

Thomas Murray is a specialist custody rating, risk management and research firm specialising in the global securities services industry. Thomas Murray was established in 1994. The Company tracks and analyses over 250 custodians globally and monitors the risk of over 100 capital market infrastructures. The Company has a strong position as a provider of public and private ratings and risk assessments on global custodians, domestic custodian banks and capital market infrastructures.

[www.thomasmurray.com](http://www.thomasmurray.com)

**HSBC Securities Services**

HSBC Securities Services (HSS) is a division within Global Transaction Banking, part of the Corporate Investment Banking and Markets business line of the HSBC Group.

HSS provides comprehensive global, regional and domestic custody services as well as corporate trusteeship, cash management, foreign exchange, issue and paying agency services and securities lending. HSS also provides a full range of investment administration and performance consultancy services to institutional and corporate clients worldwide.

HSBC Bank plc is a principal member of the HSBC Group, one of the world’s largest banking and financial services organisations with more than 9,500 offices in 79 countries and territories.

[www.hsbc.com](http://www.hsbc.com)