

# **Ulster Bank reports H1 operating profit of £131m, New Lending to Business up 57%, Mortgage drawdowns up 45%**

**30<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

Royal Bank of Scotland today announced its H1 2015 Results, including those for Ulster Bank. Ulster Bank H1 2015 highlights include:

- An operating profit of £131m (€178m), (H1 2014: £55m/ €67m)
- Total income of £368m (€502m), (H1 2014 £412m/ €502m)
- Operating expenses of £289m (€395m), (H1 2014: £300m/ €365m)
- Net impairment release of £52m (€71m), (H1 2014: loss of £57m/ €69m)

**Ulster Bank Chief Executive Jim Brown said: “Today’s Results show continued progress and a strong capital and funding position for Ulster Bank as it supports the economic recovery across the island of Ireland. While today’s results were impacted by a weakened euro, we see an increased profit, reduced operating expenses and a continued trend of impairment releases driven by proactive debt management and the improving economic conditions.**

**“Our focus on our ambition to become number one for customer service, trust and advocacy has seen a range of new services and product enhancements for business and personal customers. Our campaign for new and existing customers ‘A mortgage you can live with’ saw a 45% increase in mortgage drawdowns compared to H1 2014. Through this campaign, we are encouraging existing customers to speak to us to ensure that they avail of some of the most competitive rates in the market.**

**“Ulster Bank has increased lending to SME and Corporate customers by 57% in the first half of the year and has £1.5bn (€1.9bn) available for business customers in 2015. We have recently launched new business propositions for companies operating in the agri, food and drink and international business sectors and our 2015 Business Achievers programme is well underway across the island of Ireland to recognise and encourage businesses of all sizes and sectors.**

**“RCR (RBS Capital Resolution) has materially concluded its work in Ireland ahead of time. Since its establishment in 2014, net assets have reduced from £4.8bn to £1bn, as of 30 June 2015, with a further reduction of £0.5bn expected to complete in Q3 following the announcements earlier this month.**

**“We look forward to bringing further improvements to our customers, for example Apple Pay, through closer alignment in Northern Ireland with the rest of the Bank in the UK. Ulster Bank will remain focussed on our customers and continue to enhance the service we provide to them.”**

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