

## NatWest launches in Sweden

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc (RBS) branch based in Stockholm will now operate as a branch of National Westminster Bank Plc (NatWest), as NatWest becomes the main customer-facing brand for the customers of our Western European branches.

New passported banking licences were granted by the UK Prudential Regulatory Authority in January 2017 to allow NatWest to open eight branches in Sweden, Finland, Norway, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Spain. Following completion of local regulatory procedures, NatWest will be moving its Corporate Coverage and Structured Finance teams from RBS to the newly established NatWest branches.

Recent progress in the Bank's strategy has allowed NatWest to re-focus its brands: NatWest in Western Europe, England and Wales; The Royal Bank of Scotland in Scotland; and Ulster Bank in Ireland. NatWest believes that it is through investing in its customer-facing brands that it will grow its business and meet its target to become number one for customer service, trust and advocacy.

The new NatWest branch network in Western Europe will be more focused on serving its customers and making doing business with them a lot simpler. The launch of NatWest branches in Western Europe reflects its commitment to provide a high standard of service for its customers and better reflects a bank that is focused on its customers, whilst at the same time ensuring we meet our legal and regulatory obligations.

Our business in Western Europe continues uninterrupted and there is no material change to the products and services that we currently offer to the local client base. We remain committed to a strong local presence, supporting our long-standing relationships with our clients.

**Alison Rose, CEO for Commercial and Private Banking for NatWest said:** "Over the last few years we have made progress in our strategy to build financial strength, simplify the bank, and focus on customers. We have a long history of supporting our Western European customers and Western Europe is a key area of strategic growth for the Bank. Bringing the NatWest brand to Sweden and the Nordic region is an exciting step forward in our ambition to be the number one bank for customers and means that we can source regionally, distribute globally and leverage off our UK home market expertise and products."

Caroline Bertlin is the Legal Representative of the newly established NatWest branch in Sweden, alongside her role as CEO of NatWest-owned Nordisk Renting in the Nordic region, Martin Arnborg is the Head of Corporate Coverage for Sweden, Finland and Denmark and Johan Hultner is the Head of Sponsor Coverage in the Nordic region.

Ends

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NatWest supports large corporates in Western Europe through 8 branches supporting clients in 14 countries. Germany: covering clients in Germany, Austria and Switzerland; Netherlands: covering clients in the Netherlands and Belgium; France: covering clients in France and Luxembourg; Spain: covering clients in Spain and Portugal; Italy; Norway; Finland and Sweden, covering clients in Sweden and Denmark

NatWest leverages off a strong UK head office, UK clients and products made in London. NatWest is a regional Western European bank with global distribution through NatWest Markets in London and our trading hubs in Tokyo, Singapore, Hong Kong and the U.S. Through NatWest Markets, our financing, risk management and trading solutions help our customers address a range of risk management and financing challenges specific to their individual circumstances and challenges.

NatWest also serves customers in England and Wales, supporting them with their personal, private, and business banking needs. Alongside a wide range of banking services, NatWest offers businesses specialist sector knowledge in areas such as manufacturing and technology, as well as access to specialist entrepreneurial support.