

6 June 2008

Bank of Ireland celebrates Liverpool expansion

Bank of Ireland has celebrated the significant expansion of its Liverpool office and team with a launch party at its prestigious 20 Chapel Street premises. The move marks the latest chapter in the Bank's growth strategy in the North, which has also seen the bank expand its teams in Manchester and Chester.

Almost 200 guests joined hosts, Bank of Ireland's Northwest regional director, Ciaran McGivern, Group chief executive Brian Goggin and UK chief executive Des Crowley, whose arrival in a fleet of Bank of Ireland branded taxis was an impressive sight as they pulled up outside the award winning new building.

The event, which took place in the building's marketing suite, occupying the entire eighth floor, gave guests spectacular views across the Mersey and plenty of space to enjoy the evening of networking and entertainment. Among those who attended were high profile local business customers and connections from the city and beyond including lawyers, accountants, surveyors and property consultants.

Council leader Warren Bradley, who gave a short speech to the audience on the night, said: "2008 is an important year for Liverpool and marks the city's rebirth as one of the UK's most prominent commercial and cultural centres. Investment in Liverpool by Bank of Ireland is obviously great news for the ongoing growth of the city and demonstrates the Bank's commitment to our region."

Regional director Ciaran McGivern, said: "The move to the premises in the heart of the commercial quarter marks the beginning of a new phase of growth for Bank of Ireland both in Liverpool and across the North West region. The 24-strong team in the city has enjoyed a particularly successful year and is committed to continuing this development. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped to make the launch so memorable."

ENDS

Legal Information

Bank of Ireland – incorporated in Ireland with limited liability.
Authorised by the Irish Financial Regulator and authorised and subject to limited regulation by the Financial Services Authority.
Details about the extent of our authorisation and regulation by the Financial Services Authority are available from us on request.

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Notes to Editors

Bank of Ireland UK Financial Services (UKFS) combines the sterling denominated businesses within the Bank of Ireland Group, incorporating Business Banking, Personal Lending and Consumer Financial Services, representing joint ventures with the UK Post Office. The Bank of Ireland in Northern Ireland, part of Business Banking, is a leading player in both personal financial services and in corporate and business banking.

Bank of Ireland UKFS operates its businesses out of London, Belfast, Bristol and Reading with a workforce of approximately 3,600 staff. The division generates in excess of £352m profits before tax, similar to companies listed in the FTSE top 70, with annual growth over 18% achieved. UKFS manages about £45bn of quality customer loans and over £16bn of customer deposits with strong growth demonstrated within each book. Customer numbers with the Post Office relationship have reached almost 1.5 million in four years and continue to grow strongly.

Bank of Ireland Business Banking UK

Financial results to 31 March 2008 show another full year of growth across the board for Bank of Ireland Business Banking UK. As one of the fastest growing business banks in the UK, its profit before tax is up 21%; its loan book has increased by 27% to £16.6bn and its resources by 12% to £12.8bn.

Bank of Ireland Business Banking UK offers tailored banking services and financing solutions of between £1m and £200m to companies of all sizes and across all sectors. Recruiting the best business bankers in the UK is core to its growth strategy, and it has particular strength in the provision of finance to businesses in the property, healthcare and hotel sectors.

Bank of Ireland has an extensive business banking network across the UK and has dedicated, specialist regional teams in London, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Reading and Thames Valley, Bristol, Belfast, Glasgow and Edinburgh. It offers a full range of business banking services, including commercial lending, interest rate management, foreign exchange, debtor finance and asset finance. As well as offering its clients a relationship-driven service, Bank of Ireland prides itself on its flexible financing solutions, its fast decision making process and its competitive terms.

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