

**EIGHTH SUPPLEMENT TO THE BASE PROSPECTUS IN RESPECT OF THE
LAUNCHPAD PROGRAMME FOR THE ISSUANCE OF OPEN END CERTIFICATES**



The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

(incorporated under the laws of Scotland with limited liability under the Companies Act 1948 to 1980, with registered number SC090312))
(the **Issuer**)

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc LaunchPAD Programme

1. This Supplement dated 24 March 2011 (the **Supplement**) constitutes the eighth supplement to the base prospectus dated 28 May 2010 in relation to the Issuer's LaunchPAD Programme for the Issuance of Open End Certificates, approved by the Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets (*Stichting Autoriteit Financiële Markten*, the **AFM**) on 28 May 2010 (the **Base Prospectus**).
2. The Base Prospectus was approved as a base prospectus pursuant to Directive 2003/71/EC by the AFM. This Supplement constitutes a supplemental prospectus to the Base Prospectus for the purposes of Article 5:23 of the Financial Supervision Act (*Wet op het financieel toezicht*).
3. This Supplement is supplemental to, and should be read in conjunction with, the Base Prospectus and any other supplements thereto issued by the Issuer.
4. In accordance with Article 5:23(6) of the Financial Supervision Act (*Wet op het financieel toezicht*), investors who have agreed to purchase or subscribe for securities issued under the Base Prospectus before the Supplement is published have the right, exercisable before the end of the period of two working days beginning with the working day after the date on which this Supplement was published, to withdraw their acceptances.
5. The Issuer accepts responsibility for the information contained in this Supplement. To the best of the knowledge of the Issuer (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this Supplement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

6. The Issuer proposes to amend the **General Conditions** Section beginning on page 68 of the Base Prospectus, by deleting the Substitution provision in Section 8 on page 73 and replacing it with the text below. The full, amended text of the General Conditions Section, is set out in Annex A, attached hereto.

8. SUBSTITUTION

- (a) Substitution of Issuer. The Issuer may at any time without the consent of the Holders substitute for itself as issuer of the Securities with regard to any and all rights, obligations and liabilities under and in connection with the Securities:

- (A) any entity which (i) acquires all or substantially all of the undertaking and/or assets of the Issuer or (ii) acquires the beneficial ownership of the whole of the issued voting stock and/or share capital of the Issuer or (iii) into which the Issuer is amalgamated, merged or reconstructed and where the Issuer is not the continuing company (such entity, a “**Successor in Business**” or the “**Substitute**”) subject to the Issuer having given at least 30 days prior notice of the date of such substitution to the Holders in accordance with General Condition 4; or
- (B) the holding company of the Issuer (the holding company currently being The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, company number SC045551) (the “**Holding Company**” or the “**Substitute**”) subject to the Issuer having given at least 30 days’ prior notice of the date of such substitution to the Holders in accordance with General Condition 4; or
- (C) any entity other than a Successor in Business or the Holding Company (also, the “**Substitute**”), subject to: the Issuer having given at least 30 days’ prior notice of the date of such substitution to the Holders in accordance with General Condition 4; and the Issuer having issued a legal, valid and binding guarantee of the obligations and liabilities of the Substitute under the Securities for the benefit of each and any of the Holders;

and in each case subject to all actions, conditions and things required to be taken, fulfilled and done (including the obtaining of any necessary consents) to ensure that the Securities represent legal, valid and binding obligations of the Substitute having been taken, fulfilled and done and being in full force and effect.

In the event of any substitution of the Issuer, any reference in the Conditions to the Issuer shall from such time be construed as a reference to the Substitute.

- (b) Substitution of Office. The Issuer shall have the right upon notice to the Holders in accordance with General Condition 4 to change the office through which it is acting and shall specify the date of such change in such notice.
7. A copy of this Supplement, the Base Prospectus and all other supplements thereto and copies of all documents incorporated by reference in the Base Prospectus, are accessible on <http://markets.rbs.com/EN/Showpage.aspx?pageID=1028>, on the London Stock Exchange plc's website at www.londonstockexchange.com/exchange/prices-and-news/news/market-news/market-news-home.html and can be obtained from the registered office of the Issuer at 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB, United Kingdom, telephone +44 131 523 3636.
8. If the documents which are incorporated by reference in the Base Prospectus by virtue of this Supplement themselves incorporate any information or other documents therein, either expressly or implicitly, such information or other documents will not form part of the Base Prospectus for the purposes of the Prospectus Directive except where such information or other documents are specifically incorporated by reference in, or attached to, the Base Prospectus by virtue of this Supplement.
9. To the extent that there is any inconsistency between (a) any statement in this Supplement or any statement incorporated by reference into the Base Prospectus by this Supplement and (b) any other statement in or incorporated by reference in the Base Prospectus, the statements in (a) above will prevail.
10. Save as disclosed in this Supplement, there has been no other significant new factor, material mistake or inaccuracy relating to information included in the Base Prospectus since the publication of the Base Prospectus.

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

Annex A

CONDITIONS: GENERAL CONDITIONS

The General Conditions which follow relate to the Securities and must be read in conjunction with, and are subject to, the Product Conditions and the Final Terms. The Final Terms, the Product Conditions and the General Conditions together constitute the Conditions of the Securities and will be printed on any Definitive Securities or attached to any Global Security representing the Securities.

1. DEFINITIONS

Terms in capitals which are not defined in these General Conditions shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Product Conditions or the applicable Final Terms and, if not so defined, shall be inapplicable. References in these General Conditions to interest and Coupons (and related expressions) shall be ignored in the case of Securities which do not bear interest. References in these General Conditions to the Conditions shall mean these General Conditions and, in relation to any Securities, the Product Conditions applicable to those Securities.

2. STATUS

The Securities constitute unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Issuer and rank *pari passu* among themselves and with all other present and future unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Issuer save for those preferred by mandatory provisions of law.

3. EARLY TERMINATION

The Issuer shall have the right to terminate the Securities if it shall have determined in its absolute discretion that its performance thereunder shall have become unlawful in whole or in part as a result of compliance in good faith by the Issuer with any applicable present or future law, rule, regulation, judgement, order or directive of any governmental, administrative, legislative or judicial authority or power (“**Applicable Law**”). In such circumstances the Issuer will, however, if and to the extent permitted by the Applicable Law, pay to each Holder in respect of each Security held by such Holder an amount calculated by it as the fair market value of the Security immediately prior to such termination (ignoring such illegality) less the cost to the Issuer of unwinding any related hedging arrangements. Payment will be made to

the Holder in such manner as shall be notified to the Holder in accordance with General Condition 4.

4. NOTICES

- (a) Notices to Holders shall be given by the delivery of the relevant notice to the Clearing Agent(s) with an instruction from the Issuer to the Clearing Agent(s) to communicate such notice to the Holders. The Issuer shall also ensure that notices are duly published, to the extent required, in a manner which complies (i) with the rules of any stock exchange or other relevant authority on which the Securities are for the time being listed or in the country in which such Securities have been admitted to trading and (ii) with any relevant legislation.
- (b) Any such notice issued pursuant to General Condition 4(a) by being delivered to the Clearing Agent(s) will be deemed to have been given on the date of the delivery of such notice to the Clearing Agent(s). Any such notice issued pursuant to General Condition 4(a) by being published will be deemed to have been given on the date of the first publication (for the avoidance of doubt, such notice having been published by any valid means) or, where required to be published in more than one newspaper, on the date of the first publication in all required newspapers.

5. HEDGING DISRUPTION

- (a) Notification. The Issuer shall as soon as reasonably practicable give instructions to the Calculation Agent to notify the Holders in accordance with General Condition 4(a): (i) if it determines that a Hedging Disruption Event has occurred; and (ii) of the consequence of such Hedging Disruption Event as determined by the Issuer pursuant to General Condition 5(c).
- (b) Hedging Disruption Event. A “**Hedging Disruption Event**” shall occur if the Issuer, acting in good faith and in a commercially reasonable manner, determines that it is or has become not reasonably practicable or it has otherwise become undesirable, for any reason, for the Issuer or any Hedge Provider wholly or partially to (i) hold, acquire, establish, re-establish, substitute, maintain, unwind or dispose of a relevant hedging transaction (a “**Relevant Hedging Transaction**”) or asset it deems necessary, appropriate or desirable to hedge the Issuer’s obligations in respect of the Securities or (ii) realise, recover or remit the proceeds of any such transaction(s) or asset(s). The reasons for such determination by the Issuer may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (i) the Issuer or any Hedge Provider will, whether directly or indirectly, incur a

material increase (as compared with circumstances existing on the Issue Date) in the amount of tax, duty, expense (including, without limitation, due to any increase in tax liability, decrease in tax benefit or other adverse effect on its tax position) or fee (other than brokerage commissions) provided that any such materially increased amount that is incurred solely due to the deterioration of the creditworthiness of the Issuer or the Hedge Provider shall not be considered for the purposes of this sub-paragraph (i); or

- (ii) any material illiquidity in the market for, or any mandatory redemption in whole or in part of, the relevant instruments (the “**Disrupted Instrument**”) which from time to time are included in the reference asset to which the Securities relate; or
- (iii) a change in any applicable law or regulation (including, without limitation, any tax law) or the promulgation of, or change in, the interpretation by any court, tribunal or regulatory authority with competent jurisdiction of any applicable law or regulation (including any action taken by a taxing authority); or
- (iv) a material decline in the creditworthiness of a party with whom the Issuer has entered into any such Relevant Hedging Transaction; or
- (v) the general unavailability of: (A) market participants who will agree to enter into a Relevant Hedging Transaction; or (B) market participants who will so enter into a Relevant Hedging Transaction on commercially reasonable terms.

In the Conditions:

“**Hedge Position**” means any purchase, sale, entry into or maintenance of one or more (i) positions or contracts in reference assets to which the Securities relate, securities, options, futures, derivatives or foreign exchange, (ii) securities lending transactions or (iii) other instruments or arrangements (however described) by the Issuer in order to hedge the Issuer’s risk of issuing, and performing its obligations with respect to, the Securities; and

“**Hedge Provider**” includes but is not limited to the Issuer, any associate, subsidiary or affiliate thereof and/or any other party(ies) and/or any special purpose vehicle(s) holding or entering into a Hedge Position in connection with the Issuer’s hedging arrangements in respect of the Securities.

- (c) Consequences. The Issuer, in the event of a Hedging Disruption Event, may determine to:

- (i) terminate the Securities. In such circumstances the Issuer will, however, if and to the extent permitted by the Applicable Law, pay to each Holder in respect of each Security held by such Holder an amount calculated by it as the fair market value of the Security immediately prior to such termination less the cost to the Issuer of unwinding any related hedging arrangements. Where the Securities contain provisions which provide a minimum assured return of principal, howsoever expressed, on the Settlement Date or Maturity Date as applicable, or a minimum assured return of interest or coupons, howsoever expressed, on a relevant Interest Payment Date (if applicable), any such amount to be paid under this General Condition shall not be less than the present value of such minimum assured return of principal and/or interest or coupons having regard to prevailing market rates, credit spreads and market liquidity, such present value being determined by the Calculation Agent. Payment will be made to the Holder in such manner as shall be notified to the Holder in accordance with General Condition 4;
- (ii) make an adjustment in good faith to the relevant reference asset by removing the Disrupted Instrument at its fair market value (which may be zero). Upon any such removal the Issuer may: (A) hold any notional proceeds (if any) arising as a consequence thereof and adjust the terms of payment and/or delivery in respect of the Securities; or (B) notionally reinvest such proceeds in other reference asset(s) if so permitted under the Conditions (including the reference asset(s) to which the Securities relate);
- (iii) make any other adjustment to the Conditions as it considers appropriate in order to maintain the theoretical value of the Securities after adjusting for the relevant Hedging Disruption Event. Where the Securities contain provisions which provide a minimum assured return of principal, howsoever expressed, on the Settlement Date or Maturity Date as applicable, or a minimum assured return of interest or coupons, howsoever expressed, on a relevant Interest Payment Date, any such adjustment will in no way affect the Issuer's obligations to make payment to the Holders not less than the minimum assured return of principal and/or interest or coupons on the relevant Settlement Date or Maturity Date, or Interest Payment Date, as applicable.
- (d) The Issuer may also make adjustments to the Conditions if it determines that an event has occurred which, whilst not a Hedging Disruption Event or other disruption event as specified in Product Condition 4, is likely to have a material adverse effect on the Issuer's Hedge Position. Where the Issuer makes adjustments to the Conditions

pursuant to this General Condition 5(d), the Issuer shall notify the Holders thereof and shall offer to purchase from Holders for a period of not less than 10 days any Securities held by them at their fair market value (as determined by the Calculation Agent acting in good faith and in a commercially reasonable manner and taking into account the proposed adjustment) less the cost to the Issuer of unwinding any related hedging arrangements.

6. PURCHASES, FURTHER ISSUES BY THE ISSUER AND PRESCRIPTION

- (a) Purchases. The Issuer or any affiliate may purchase Securities at any price in the open market or by tender or private treaty. Any Securities so purchased may be held, surrendered for cancellation or reissued or resold, and Securities so reissued or resold shall for all purposes be deemed to form part of the original series of Securities.
- (b) Further Issues. The Issuer shall be at liberty from time to time without the consent of the Holders or any of them to create and issue further securities so as to be consolidated with and form a single series with the Securities.
- (c) Prescription. Any Security or Coupon which is capable of presentation and is not so presented by its due date for presentation shall be void, and its value reduced to zero, if not so presented within five years of such due date. For the avoidance of doubt, any Securities which are subject to provisions relating to their exercise shall be void, and their value shall be zero, if not exercised in accordance with their provisions.

7. DETERMINATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

- (a) Determinations.
 - (i) In making any determinations and calculations under these Conditions, the Issuer and the Calculation Agent shall act at all times in good faith and in a commercially reasonable manner. All such determinations and calculations by the Issuer and the Calculation Agent shall, in the absence of manifest error, be final and binding.
 - (ii) Whilst it is intended that the Issuer and the Calculation Agent will employ the methodology described in the Conditions to make determinations in respect of the Securities, no assurance can be given that market, regulatory, judicial or fiscal circumstances or, without limitation, any other circumstances will not arise that would necessitate a modification or change in such methodology in order that the Securities replicate as closely as possible investments in the assets underlying the Securities and its components. The Issuer and the Calculation Agent may make any such modification or change

to such methodology that it considers necessary to reflect such circumstances.

- (iii) Calculations made by the Issuer or the Calculation Agent in respect of the Securities shall be made on the days specified herein; however, notwithstanding the foregoing or anything else contained in these Conditions, should the Issuer or the Calculation Agent determine that in order to give effect to the methodology described in these Conditions it is necessary to make calculations on a day or days other than that specified, then each of the Issuer and the Calculation Agent is permitted to make such calculations on such calendar day or days as it shall determine.
- (iv) Due to timing considerations, process requirements and other matters that would, in the opinion of the Issuer or the Calculation Agent, be relevant in relation to the implementation of asset allocation models, the Issuer or the Calculation Agent may need to make appropriate adjustments to the methodology set out in the terms and conditions as it considers necessary in order to reflect the timing and amounts that would be applicable were the Issuer or the Calculation Agent physically implementing the methodology set out in the Securities.
- (b) Modifications. The Issuer may, without the consent of the Holders or any of them, modify any provision of the Conditions which is: (i) of a formal, minor or technical nature; (ii) made to correct a manifest error; or (iii) in its absolute discretion, not materially prejudicial to the interests of the Holders. Notice of any such modification will be given to the Holders in accordance with General Condition 4 but failure to give, or non-receipt of, such notice will not affect the validity of any such modification.

8. SUBSTITUTION

- (a) Substitution of Issuer. The Issuer may at any time without the consent of the Holders substitute for itself as issuer of the Securities with regard to any and all rights, obligations and liabilities under and in connection with the Securities:
 - (A) any entity which (i) acquires all or substantially all of the undertaking and/or assets of the Issuer or (ii) acquires the beneficial ownership of the whole of the issued voting stock and/or share capital of the Issuer or (iii) into which the Issuer is amalgamated, merged or reconstructed and where the Issuer is not the continuing company (such entity, a **“Successor in Business”** or the **“Substitute”**) subject to the Issuer having given at least 30 days prior notice of

the date of such substitution to the Holders in accordance with General Condition 4; or

- (B) the holding company of the Issuer (the holding company currently being The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, company number SC045551) (the “**Holding Company**” or the “**Substitute**”) subject to the Issuer having given at least 30 days’ prior notice of the date of such substitution to the Holders in accordance with General Condition 4; or
- (C) any entity other than a Successor in Business or the Holding Company (also, the “**Substitute**”), subject to: the Issuer having given at least 30 days’ prior notice of the date of such substitution to the Holders in accordance with General Condition 4; and the Issuer having issued a legal, valid and binding guarantee of the obligations and liabilities of the Substitute under the Securities for the benefit of each and any of the Holders;

and in each case subject to all actions, conditions and things required to be taken, fulfilled and done (including the obtaining of any necessary consents) to ensure that the Securities represent legal, valid and binding obligations of the Substitute having been taken, fulfilled and done and being in full force and effect.

In the event of any substitution of the Issuer, any reference in the Conditions to the Issuer shall from such time be construed as a reference to the Substitute.

- (b) Substitution of Office. The Issuer shall have the right upon notice to the Holders in accordance with General Condition 4 to change the office through which it is acting and shall specify the date of such change in such notice.

9. TAXATION

The Issuer shall not be liable for or otherwise obliged to pay any tax, duty, withholding or other similar payment which may arise as a result of the ownership, transfer or exercise of any Securities. In relation to each Security the relevant Holder shall pay all Expenses as provided in the Product Conditions. All payments or, as the case may be, deliveries in respect of the Securities will be subject in all cases to all applicable fiscal and other laws and regulations (including, where applicable, laws requiring the deduction or withholding for, or on account of, any tax duty or other charge whatsoever). The Holder shall be liable for and/or pay any tax, duty or charge in connection with the ownership of and/or any transfer, payment or delivery in respect of the Securities held by such Holder. The Issuer shall have the right, but shall not be obliged, to withhold or deduct from any amount payable such amount, as shall be necessary to account for or to pay any such tax, duty, charge, withholding or other payment.

10. REPLACEMENT OF SECURITIES AND COUPONS

If any Security or Coupon is lost, stolen, mutilated, defaced or destroyed it may be replaced at the specified office of the Principal Agent (or such other place of which notice shall have been given to Holders in accordance with General Condition 4) upon payment by the claimant of the expenses incurred in connection therewith and on such terms as to evidence and indemnity as the Issuer may reasonably require. Mutilated or defaced Securities and Coupons must be surrendered before replacements will be issued. This General Condition will not apply to Securities issued in dematerialised form.

11. ADJUSTMENTS FOR EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION

- (a) Redenomination. The Issuer may, without the consent of any Holder, on giving notice to the Holders in accordance with General Condition 4 elect that, with effect from the Adjustment Date specified in such notice, certain terms of the Securities shall be redenominated in euro. The election will have effect as follows:
 - (i) where the Settlement Currency is the National Currency Unit of a country which is participating in the third stage of European Economic and Monetary Union pursuant to the Treaty, such Settlement Currency shall be deemed to be an amount of euro converted from the original Settlement Currency into euro at the Established Rate, subject to such provisions (if any) as to rounding as the Issuer may decide and as may be specified in the notice, and after the Adjustment Date, all payments in respect of the Securities will be made solely in euro as though references in the Securities to the Settlement Currency were to euro;
 - (ii) where the Conditions contain a rate of exchange or any of the Conditions are expressed in a National Currency Unit (the “**Original Currency**”) of a country which is participating in the third stage of European Economic and Monetary Union pursuant to the Treaty, such rate of exchange and/or any other terms of the Conditions shall be deemed to be expressed in or, in the case of a rate of exchange, converted for or, as the case may be into, euro at the Established Rate; and
 - (iii) such other changes shall be made to the Conditions as the Issuer may decide to conform them to conventions then applicable to instruments expressed in euro.
- (b) Adjustment to Conditions. The Issuer may, without the consent of the Holders, on giving notice to the Holders in accordance with General Condition 4 make such

adjustments to the Conditions as the Issuer may determine to be appropriate to account for the effect of the third stage of European Economic and Monetary Union pursuant to the Treaty on the Conditions.

- (c) Euro Conversion Costs. Notwithstanding General Condition 11(a) and/or General Condition 11(b), none of the Issuer, the Calculation Agent nor any Agent shall be liable to any Holder or other person for any commissions, costs, losses or expenses in relation to or resulting from the transfer of euro or any currency conversion or rounding effected in connection therewith.
- (d) Definitions Relating to European Economic and Monetary Union. In this General Condition, the following expressions have the meanings set out below.

“**Adjustment Date**” means a date specified by the Issuer in the notice given to the Holders pursuant to this Condition which falls on or after the date on which the country of the Original Company or, as the case may be, the Settlement Currency first participates in the third stage of European Economic and Monetary Union pursuant to the Treaty;

“**Established Rate**” means the rate for the conversion of the Original Currency or, as the case may be, the Settlement Currency (including compliance with rules relating to rounding in accordance with applicable European community regulations) into euro established by the Council of the European Union pursuant to Article 123 of the Treaty;

“**National Currency Unit**” means the unit of the currency of a country as those units are defined on the day before the country first participates in the third stage of European Economic and Monetary Union pursuant to the Treaty; and

“**Treaty**” means the treaty establishing the European Community, as amended.

12. AGENTS

- (a) Principal Agent and Agents. The Issuer reserves the right at any time to vary or terminate the appointment of any Agent and to appoint further or additional Agents, provided that no termination of appointment of the principal agent (the “**Principal Agent**”) shall become effective until a replacement Principal Agent shall have been appointed and provided that, if and to the extent that any of the Securities are listed on any stock exchange or publicly offered in any jurisdiction, there shall be an Agent having a specified office in each country required by the rules and regulation of each such stock exchange and each such jurisdiction and provided further that, if and to the extent that any of the Securities are in registered form, there shall be a Registrar and a

Transfer Agent (which may be the Registrar), if so specified in the relevant Product Conditions. Notice of any appointment, or termination of appointment, or any change in the specified office, of any Agent will be given to Holders in accordance with General Condition 4. Each Agent acts solely as agent of the Issuer and does not assume any obligation or duty to, or any relationship of agency or trust for or with, the Holders or any of them. Any calculations or determinations in respect of the Securities made by an Agent shall (save in the case of manifest error) be final, conclusive and binding on the Holders.

- (b) Calculation Agent. The Issuer or such other Calculation Agent as specified in the applicable Final Terms, shall undertake the duties of calculation agent (the “**Calculation Agent**” which expression shall include any successor calculation agent or assignee as approved by the Issuer) in respect of the Securities unless the Issuer decides to appoint a successor Calculation Agent in accordance with the provisions below.

The Issuer reserves the right at any time to appoint another institution as the Calculation Agent provided that no termination of appointment of the existing Calculation Agent shall become effective until a replacement Calculation Agent shall have been appointed. Notice of any termination or appointment will be given to the Holders in accordance with General Condition 4.

The Calculation Agent acts solely as agent of the Issuer and does not assume any obligation or duty to, or any relationship of agency or trust for or with, the Holders. Any calculations or determinations in respect of the Securities made by the Calculation Agent (whether or not the Issuer) shall (save in the case of manifest error) be final, conclusive and binding on the Holders.

The Calculation Agent may, with the consent of the Issuer (if it is not the Issuer), delegate any of its obligations and functions to a third party as it deems appropriate.

13. SURRENDER OF UNMATURED COUPONS

Each Security should be presented for redemption, where applicable, together with all unmatured Coupons relating to it. Upon the due date for redemption of any Security, where applicable, all unmatured Coupons relating thereto (whether or not attached) shall become void and no payment shall be made in respect thereof. This General Condition will not apply to Securities issued in dematerialised form.

14. CONTRACTS (RIGHTS OF THIRD PARTIES) ACT 1999

No rights are conferred on any person under the English Contracts (Rights of Third Parties)

Act 1999 to enforce any Condition. The preceding sentence shall not affect any right or remedy of any person which exists or is available apart from that Act.

15. GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

- (a) The Securities and any non-contractual obligations arising out of or in connection with the Securities, are governed by and shall be construed in accordance with English law.
- (b) The courts of England have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute (including any dispute relating to any non-contractual obligations) (a "**Dispute**") arising from or in connection with the Securities.
- (c) Subparagraph (b) is for the benefit of the Holders only. As a result, nothing prevents any Holder from taking proceedings relating to a Dispute ("**Proceedings**") in any other courts with jurisdiction. To the extent allowed by law, Holders may take concurrent Proceedings in any number of jurisdictions.
- (d) The Issuer agrees that the courts of England are the most appropriate and convenient courts to settle any Dispute and, accordingly, that it will not argue to the contrary.

16. METHOD OF PAYMENT

For purposes of any payment on a Security (other than an equity certificate issued in registered form), the Clearing Agents may not be United States persons, as defined for United States Federal income tax purposes, and their respective specified offices may not be located in the United States or any of its possessions. No payment on a Security (other than an equity certificate issued in registered form) shall be made by transfer to an account in the United States (including its possessions) or by cheque mailed to an address in the United States (including its possessions).

17. COMMISSIONS, FEES AND REBATES

From time to time, the Issuer may make payments or receive the benefit of payments in relation to the issue of Securities including the following:

- (a) The Issuer may pay to a distributor, sales agent or other intermediary fees or commissions. Such fees or commissions are generally required to be disclosed by distributors, sales agents or intermediaries which, in each case, are EEA investment firms or credit institutions to their clients. Each potential investor in the Securities should satisfy itself as to the amount of any fees or commissions received by intermediaries;
- (b) The Issuer may receive or pay management or other fees from or to third parties. Where such fees are payable, further details of them will be set out in the relevant Final Terms; and

- (c) The Issuer may make payments to or receive the benefit of generic commission, discount and rebate arrangements from Hedge Providers and other transaction counterparties. Such arrangements will be as agreed between the Issuer and the third parties.

The Issuer reserves the right to retain any amounts received without any obligation to pass the benefit of the rebates to investors in the Securities.

18. EVENTS OF DEFAULT

If any one or more of the following events (each an "**Event of Default**") shall occur and be continuing:

- (a) default is made for more than 30 days in the payment of interest or principal in respect of the Securities; or
- (b) the Issuer fails to perform or observe any of its other obligations under the Securities and such failure has continued for the period of 60 days next following the service on the Issuer of notice requiring the same to be remedied; or
- (c) an order is made or an effective resolution is passed for the winding up of the Issuer (excluding a solvent winding up solely for the purposes of a reconstruction, amalgamation, reorganisation, merger or consolidation in connection with which The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc or any of its subsidiaries assumes the obligations of the Issuer as principal debtor in respect of the Securities),

then any Holder may, by written notice to the Issuer at the specified office of the Principal Agent, effective upon the date of receipt thereof by the Principal Agent, declare the Security held by the holder to be forthwith due and payable whereupon the same shall become forthwith due and payable at the Early Redemption Amount (as defined below), together with accrued interest (if any) to the date of repayment, without presentment, demand, protest or other notice of any kind.

"Early Redemption Amount" means an amount calculated by the Calculation Agent as the fair market value of the Security immediately prior to such Event of Default. Where the Securities contain provisions which provide a minimum assured return of principal, howsoever expressed, on the Settlement Date or Maturity Date as applicable, or a minimum assured return of interest or coupons having regard to prevailing market rates, credit spreads and market liquidity, howsoever expressed, on a relevant Interest Payment Date (if applicable), any such amount to be paid under this General Condition shall not be less than the present value of such minimum assured return of principal and/or interest or coupons, such present value being determined by the Calculation Agent.