

ABSA GROUP LIMITED
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
(Registration number: 1986/003934/06)
ISIN: ZAE000067237
JSE share code: ASA
(Absa Group)

ABSA BANK LIMITED
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
Registration number: 1986/004794/06
Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa
ISIN: ZAE000079810
JSE share code: ABSP
(Absa Bank)

REFERENCE TO BARCLAYS PLC INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Shareholders of Absa Group are advised that Barclays PLC (Barclays) released its 2012 Quarter One interim management statement on 26 April 2012.

Although it makes no specific reference to our financial performance, part of Absa Group is included in the Africa Retail and Business Banking segment Barclays disclosed in the statement.

We draw shareholders' attention to the following excerpt from the abovementioned statement relating to Barclays Group's results:

"Income declined 4% to £830m driven by currency movements partially offset by increased fees and commissions income in local currency. Credit impairment charges decreased by 26% to £107m reflecting continued improvement in delinquency trends and recoveries. Operating expenses reduced by 5% to £548m driven by currency movements, with underlying cost growth managed at lower than inflationary levels."

Shareholders should note that Absa's contribution to Barclays Africa Retail and Business Banking excludes Absa Card and Absa Capital, was prepared in terms of Barclays accounting policies and includes Barclays consolidation adjustments, so it does not reflect Absa Group's performance for the period.

Johannesburg
26 April 2012

Enquiries:

Alan Hartdegen
Head: Investor Relations
Tel: (+2711) 350 2598
Email: Alan.Hartdegen@absa.co.za

Lead Independent Sponsor
J.P. Morgan Equities Limited

Joint Sponsor
Absa Capital (the investment banking division of Absa Bank
Limited, affiliated with Barclays)