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HSBC HOLDINGS PLC
Form 6-K
February 16, 2007

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rule 13a - 16 or 15d - 16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of February, 2007

HSBC Holdings plc

42nd Floor, 8 Canada
Square, London E14 5HQ, England

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F).

Form 20-F Form 40-F

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934).

Yes No

(If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-

The following is the text of an announcement which is to be published in the press in Malta on 17 February 2007 by HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c., a 70.03 per cent indirectly held subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.

HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. Preliminary Profit Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2006

The preliminary profit statement is published pursuant to Listing Rule 9.39 of the MFSA Listing Authority and Article 4 (2) (b) of the Prevention of Financial Markets Abuse (Disclosure and Notification) Regulations, 2005. Figures have been extracted from HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c.'s Annual Report and Accounts which have been audited by KPMG.

These financial statements have been prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of the Banking Act, 1994 and the Companies Act, 1995 which requires adherence to International Financial Reporting Standards.

All figures are stated in Maltese lira, the functional currency of HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. The euro exchange rate ruling on 31 December 2006 was EUR1 = Lm0.4293. The US dollar and sterling exchange rates ruling on the same day were

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US\$1 = Lm0.3258 and GBP1 = Lm0.6397. Average exchange rates for 2006 for euro, US dollar and sterling were EUR1 = Lm0.4293, US\$1= Lm0.3418 and GBP1 = Lm0.6296.

Review of Performance

During the year ended 31 December 2006, HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. and its subsidiaries generated a profit before tax on ordinary activities of Lm41.4 million, an increase of Lm4.7 million, or 12.8 per cent compared with 2005.

Profit attributable to shareholders was Lm26.8 million, an increase of Lm2.8 million, or 11.4 per cent, over prior year figures.

Earnings per share increased to 9.2 cents from a 2005 figure of 8.2 cents, with the pre-tax return on average shareholders' funds increasing to 32.1 per cent from 27.6 per cent in 2005.

Net interest income grew by 5.4 per cent over the prior year and contributed Lm47.0 million to total operating income driven by growth in lending volumes of 10 per cent. Principal areas of growth in the lending portfolios were in the higher yielding personal and non-public sector customer segments and with a reduction in lower yielding public sector debt. This was partly offset by a higher interest rate environment for new customer deposits which pushed up interest payable costs.

Non-interest income levels grew by 18.8 per cent, contributing Lm28.6 million to total operating income. Net fees and commissions grew by 14.7 per cent as transactional activity on credit card payments and debit card EPOS machine usage grew substantially; funds under management, stockbroking sales and life assurance business also grew significantly.

Against a background of stronger income flows, operating expenses were Lm34.3 million, an increase of Lm2.3 million over prior year figures. Employee compensation grew by 5.5 per cent, driven largely by performance-related pay benefits due to the higher sales and profits of the bank. Whilst general expenses increased by Lm1.0 million, there were significant investments in infrastructure and branch network, which substantially improved automation and operational efficiencies. This has enabled the bank to absorb larger volumes of business and positioned it for future growth.

As a result, the group's cost to income ratio improved to 45.5 per cent from 46.7 per cent in 2005.

Total assets increased by Lm231.4 million to Lm1,887.3 million.

Loans and advances to customers increased by Lm110.0 million, supported by growth in both the personal and commercial sectors. New product lines were introduced with a diversification in mortgage product choice as well as new financing proposals for the SME and larger corporate markets. Credit quality remained sound.

Advances to deposits ratio increased to 76.3 per cent from a prior year end level of 74.3 per cent.

Amounts owed to customers increased by Lm108.2 million to Lm1,475.5 million driven by competitive pricing and the investment in automated bank channels which strengthened the growth in deposit volumes and contributed to significantly higher transaction activity.

The capital solvency ratio was at 10.9 per cent.

Shaun Wallis, Director and Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. said: "2006 has been a record year for HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. with record sales

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volumes across all product groups, record customer service satisfaction levels and strong staff engagement levels, all contributing to improved financial results.

"We achieved this by having a clear customer focus, by investing in our staff and upgrading our systems. We have also benefited from being able to leverage the HSBC brand.

"With good customer relationships, strong, recurrent business streams, excellent resources and the backing of the HSBC Group, we are confident we will continue to grow our business successfully and in a sustainable manner and remain Malta's leading provider of financial services."

The Board is recommending to the Annual General Meeting to be held on 19 April 2007 a final ordinary dividend of 5.3 cents gross per share and a special dividend of 5.3 cents gross per share, giving a total final dividend of 10.6 cents gross per share scheduled to be paid on 21 April 2007. The total final dividend will be payable to shareholders on the bank's register as at 2 March 2007. This, together with the interim dividend of 5.3 cents gross, produces a total dividend for the year of 15.9 cents gross.

HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. is a member of the HSBC Group, whose ultimate parent company is HSBC Holdings plc. Headquartered in London, HSBC Holdings plc is one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world. The HSBC Group's international network comprises over 9,500 offices in 81 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa.

Income Statement for the year 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006

| | Group | | Bank | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 |
| | Lm000 | Lm000 | Lm000 | Lm000 |
| Interest receivable and similar income | | | | |
| - on loans and advances, balances with Central Bank of Malta and Treasury Bills | 72,103 | 60,994 | 71,285 | 58,048 |
| - on debt and other fixed income instruments | 8,772 | 10,890 | 9,209 | 12,196 |
| Interest payable | (33,913) | (27,327) | (34,378) | (27,648) |
| Net interest income | 46,962 | 44,557 | 46,116 | 42,596 |
| Fees and commissions receivable | 13,848 | 11,866 | 10,831 | 9,342 |
| Fees and commissions payable | (1,175) | (814) | (987) | (686) |
| Net fee and commission income | 12,673 | 11,052 | 9,844 | 8,656 |
| Dividend income | 113 | 142 | 2,169 | 22,604 |
| Trading profits | 7,335 | 7,206 | 7,335 | 7,215 |
| Net income from insurance financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss | 4,768 | 11,169 | - | - |
| Net gains on sale of financial investments | 2,719 | 1,204 | 2,719 | 1,266 |
| Net earned insurance premium | 16,536 | 16,236 | - | - |
| Other operating income | 2,308 | 723 | 715 | 24 |
| Total operating income | 93,414 | 92,289 | 68,898 | 82,361 |
| Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholders' liabilities | (17,846) | (23,661) | - | - |
| Net operating income | 75,568 | 68,628 | 68,898 | 82,361 |
| Employee compensation and benefits | (21,249) | (20,132) | (20,357) | (19,203) |

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| | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| General and administrative expenses | (10,036) | (9,075) | (9,543) | (8,527) |
| Depreciation | (2,406) | (2,197) | (2,388) | (2,157) |
| Amortisation of intangible assets | (547) | (635) | (464) | (556) |
| Other operating charges | (109) | (26) | (9) | (6) |
| Net operating income before impairment reversals and provisions | 41,221 | 36,563 | 36,137 | 51,912 |
| Net impairment reversals | 181 | 142 | 141 | 121 |
| (Provisions)/reversals of provisions for liabilities and other charges | (7) | 1 | (7) | 1 |
| Profit before tax | 41,395 | 36,706 | 36,271 | 52,034 |
| Tax expense | (14,572) | (12,642) | (12,366) | (17,854) |
| Profit for the year | 26,823 | 24,064 | 23,905 | 34,180 |
| Profit attributable to shareholders of the bank | 26,810 | 24,057 | 23,905 | 34,180 |
| Profit attributable to minority interest | 13 | 7 | - | - |
| Earnings per share | 9.2c | 8.2c | 8.2c | 11.7c |

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2006

| | Group | | Bank | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2006 Lm000 | 2005 Lm000 | 2006 Lm000 | 2005 Lm000 |
| Assets | | | | |
| Balances with Central Bank of Malta, Treasury Bills and cash | 130,569 | 77,121 | 130,569 | 77,118 |
| Cheques in course of collection | 10,535 | 9,727 | 10,535 | 9,727 |
| Financial assets held for trading | 10,396 | 3,907 | 10,399 | 3,907 |
| Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss | 112,476 | 93,131 | - | - |
| Financial investments | 168,138 | 224,500 | 168,123 | 254,468 |
| Loans and advances to banks | 256,060 | 162,882 | 256,042 | 202,332 |
| Loans and advances to customers | 1,126,126 | 1,016,084 | 1,126,126 | 937,813 |
| Shares in subsidiary companies | - | - | 9,682 | 20,350 |
| Intangible assets | 10,899 | 9,433 | 794 | 829 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 28,612 | 29,746 | 28,632 | 29,755 |
| Investment property | 3,417 | 961 | 2,456 | - |
| Assets held for sale | 3,978 | 4,918 | 4,042 | 5,864 |
| Current tax recoverable | 806 | 1,895 | 780 | 1,607 |
| Deferred tax assets | - | - | 724 | - |
| Other assets | 10,713 | 8,701 | 2,984 | 2,699 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 14,589 | 12,868 | 13,630 | 12,945 |
| Total assets | 1,887,314 | 1,655,874 | 1,765,518 | 1,559,414 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Financial liabilities held for trading | 10,643 | 4,050 | 10,693 | 4,050 |
| Amounts owed to banks | 126,328 | 22,667 | 126,328 | 22,667 |
| Amounts owed to customers | 1,475,450 | 1,367,214 | 1,487,906 | 1,381,683 |
| Debt securities in issue | - | 12 | - | - |
| Deferred tax liabilities | 4,606 | 3,843 | - | 349 |
| Liabilities to customers under investment contracts | 9,153 | 8,297 | - | - |
| Liabilities under insurance contracts issued | 102,770 | 86,275 | - | - |

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|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Other liabilities | 13,816 | 16,755 | 13,003 | 16,192 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 18,147 | 15,035 | 17,936 | 14,942 |
| Provisions for liabilities and other charges | 32 | 25 | 32 | 25 |
| Total liabilities | 1,760,945 | 1,524,173 | 1,655,898 | 1,439,908 |
| Equity | | | | |
| Called up share capital | 36,480 | 9,120 | 36,480 | 9,120 |
| Revaluation reserves | 10,629 | 13,105 | 10,629 | 13,041 |
| Other reserve | 242 | 4,242 | 227 | 4,242 |
| Retained earnings | 79,018 | 104,906 | 62,284 | 93,103 |
| Equity attributable to shareholders | 126,369 | 131,373 | 109,620 | 119,506 |
| Minority interest | - | 328 | - | - |
| Total equity | 126,369 | 131,701 | 109,620 | 119,506 |
| Total liabilities and equity | 1,887,314 | 1,655,874 | 1,765,518 | 1,559,414 |
| Memorandum items | | | | |
| Contingent liabilities | 59,578 | 51,513 | 59,588 | 51,523 |
| Commitments | 456,899 | 401,216 | 456,899 | 412,044 |

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006

| | Attributable to shareholders of the bank | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Called up share capital Lm000 | Revaluation reserves Lm000 | Other reserve Lm000 | Retained earnings Lm000 | Total interest Lm000 | Minority interest Lm000 |
| Group | | | | | | |
| At 1 January 2005 | 9,120 | 11,473 | 4,242 | 109,419 | 134,254 | - |
| Release of net gains on available-for-sale assets transferred to the income statement on disposal | - | (783) | - | - | (783) | - |
| Net fair value adjustments on investments | - | 757 | - | - | 757 | - |
| Release of revaluation reserve on disposal of property | - | 30 | - | (45) | (15) | - |
| Movement in deferred tax on revaluation of property | - | 1,628 | - | - | 1,628 | - |
| Income and expenses recognised directly in equity | - | 1,632 | - | (45) | 1,587 | - |
| Share capital of subsidiary | - | - | - | - | - | 321 |
| Profit for the year | - | - | - | 24,057 | 24,057 | 7 |
| Dividends | - | - | - | (28,525) | (28,525) | - |
| At 31 December 2005 | 9,120 | 13,105 | 4,242 | 104,906 | 131,373 | 328 |
| At 1 January 2006 | 9,120 | 13,105 | 4,242 | 104,906 | 131,373 | 328 |
| Release of net gains on available-for-sale assets transferred to the income statement on disposal | - | (796) | - | (973) | (1,769) | - |

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| | | | | | | |
|--|--------|---------|---------|----------|----------|-------|
| Net fair value adjustments on investments | - | (1,668) | - | - | (1,668) | - |
| Release of revaluation reserve on disposal of property | - | (12) | - | 18 | 6 | - |
| Income and expenses recognised directly in equity | - | (2,476) | - | (955) | (3,431) | - |
| Share capital of subsidiary | - | - | - | - | - | 91 |
| Disposal of subsidiary company | - | - | - | - | - | (432) |
| Bonus share issue | 27,360 | - | (4,242) | (23,118) | - | - |
| Profit for the year | - | - | - | 26,810 | 26,810 | 13 |
| Share-based payments | - | - | 242 | 493 | 735 | - |
| Dividends | - | - | - | (29,118) | (29,118) | - |
| At 31 December 2006 | 36,480 | 10,629 | 242 | 79,018 | 126,369 | - |

| | Called up share capital Lm000 | Revaluation reserves Lm000 | Other reserve Lm000 | Retained earnings Lm000 | Total equity Lm000 |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bank | | | | | |
| At 1 January 2005 | 9,120 | 11,479 | 4,242 | 87,493 | 112,334 |
| Release of net gains on available-for-sale assets transferred to the income statement on disposal | - | (823) | - | - | (823) |
| Net fair value adjustments on investments | - | 727 | - | - | 727 |
| Release of revaluation reserve on disposal of properties | - | 30 | - | (45) | (15) |
| Movement in deferred tax on revaluation of property | - | 1,628 | - | - | 1,628 |
| Income and expenses recognised directly in equity | - | 1,562 | - | (45) | 1,517 |
| Profit for the year | - | - | - | 34,180 | 34,180 |
| Dividends | - | - | - | (28,525) | (28,525) |
| At 31 December 2005 | 9,120 | 13,041 | 4,242 | 93,103 | 119,506 |
| At 1 January 2006 | 9,120 | 13,041 | 4,242 | 93,103 | 119,506 |
| Release of net gains on available-for-sale assets transferred to the income statement on disposal | - | (796) | - | (973) | (1,769) |
| Net fair value adjustments on investments | - | (1,604) | - | - | (1,604) |
| Release of revaluation reserve on disposal of properties | - | (12) | - | 18 | 6 |
| Income and expenses recognised directly in equity | - | (2,412) | - | (955) | (3,367) |
| Bonus share issue | 27,360 | - | (4,242) | (23,118) | - |
| Effect of amalgamation of subsidiary | - | - | - | (1,995) | (1,995) |
| Profit for the year | - | - | - | 23,905 | 23,905 |

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| | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------|-----|----------|----------|
| Share-based payments | - | - | 227 | 462 | 689 |
| Dividends | - | - | - | (29,118) | (29,118) |
| At 31 December 2006 | 36,480 | 10,629 | 227 | 62,284 | 109,620 |

Cash Flow Statement for the year 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006

| | Group | | Bank | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2006 Lm000 | 2005 Lm000 | 2006 Lm000 | 2005 Lm000 |
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | | |
| Interest and commission receipts | 112,416 | 103,910 | 87,824 | 77,419 |
| Interest and commission payments | (36,601) | (30,381) | (33,491) | (28,359) |
| Payments to employees and suppliers | (31,952) | (29,547) | (28,770) | (27,938) |
| Operating profit before changes in operating assets/liabilities | 43,863 | 43,982 | 25,563 | 21,122 |
| (Increase)/decrease in operating assets: | | | | |
| Trading instruments | (19,451) | (11,329) | (724) | 419 |
| Reserve deposit with Central Bank of Malta | (6,618) | (1,823) | (6,618) | (1,823) |
| Loans and advances to customers and banks | (198,898) | (46,366) | (203,229) | (59,490) |
| Treasury Bills with contractual maturity of over three months | (12,089) | 42,144 | (12,089) | 42,144 |
| Other receivables | (1,035) | (5,475) | (1,070) | (5,511) |
| Increase/(decrease) in operating liabilities: | | | | |
| Customer accounts and amounts owed to banks | 198,053 | 44,564 | 196,360 | 50,963 |
| Other payables | (2,397) | 2,444 | (2,674) | 3,002 |
| Net cash from/(used in) operating activities before tax | 1,428 | 68,141 | (4,481) | 50,826 |
| Tax paid | (10,976) | (9,784) | (10,840) | (8,953) |
| Net cash flows (used in)/from operating activities | (9,548) | 58,357 | (15,321) | 41,873 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | | |
| Dividends received | 74 | 93 | 1,874 | 14,798 |
| Interest received from financial investments | 11,333 | 11,799 | 11,752 | 13,149 |
| Proceeds from sale and maturity of financial investments | 88,891 | 57,205 | 118,877 | 57,061 |
| Proceeds on sale of property, plant | | | | |

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| | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| and equipment and intangible assets | 80 | 264 | 80 | 255 |
| Purchase of financial investments | (37,851) | (37,330) | (37,851) | (37,330) |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets | (2,311) | (2,855) | (2,289) | (1,974) |
| Proceeds on sale of shares in subsidiary company | 450 | - | 450 | - |
| Purchase of shares in subsidiary companies | - | - | - | (1,500) |
| Net cash flows from investing activities | 60,666 | 29,176 | 92,893 | 44,459 |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | | | |
| Dividends paid | (29,118) | (28,525) | (29,118) | (28,525) |
| Decrease in debt securities in issue | (12) | - | - | - |
| Maturity of subordinated loan stock | - | (19,914) | - | (20,000) |
| Issue of units to minority interest | 91 | 321 | - | - |
| Cash used in financing activities | (29,039) | (48,118) | (29,118) | (48,525) |
| Effect of amalgamation of subsidiary company on cash and cash equivalents | - | - | (65,840) | - |
| Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 22,079 | 39,415 | (17,386) | 37,807 |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | (7,014) | 2,558 | (7,014) | 2,558 |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 29,093 | 36,857 | (10,372) | 35,249 |
| | 22,079 | 39,415 | (17,386) | 37,807 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 136,468 | 97,053 | 175,915 | 138,108 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year | 158,547 | 136,468 | 158,529 | 175,915 |

Segmental Information

a Class of business

| Personal Financial Services | | Commercial Banking | | Corporate, Investment Banking and Markets | | Total |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| 2006 Lm000 | 2005 Lm000 | 2006 Lm000 | 2005 Lm000 | 2006 Lm000 | 2005 Lm000 | 2006 Lm000 |
| | | | | | | |

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Group

Profit before tax
for the year
ended 31
December

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|------|
| Segment operating income | 38,552 | 33,732 | 26,592 | 23,517 | 10,424 | 11,379 | 75,568 | 68 |
| Segment impairment allowances | (144) | (507) | 325 | 649 | - | - | 181 | (32) |
| Common costs | | | | | | | (34,354) | |
| Profit before tax | | | | | | | 41,395 | 36 |

Assets at 31
December

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Segment total assets | 679,457 | 582,512 | 651,948 | 610,844 | 555,909 | 462,518 | 1,887,314 | 1,655 |
| Average total assets | 630,984 | 526,728 | 631,396 | 631,983 | 509,214 | 466,209 | 1,771,594 | 1,624 |
| Total equity at 31 December | 37,191 | 38,261 | 77,605 | 79,806 | 11,573 | 13,634 | 126,369 | 131 |

b Geographical segments

The group's activities are carried out within Malta. There are no identifiable geographical segments or other material concentrations.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

HSBC Holdings plc

By:
Name: P A Stafford
Title: Assistant Group Secretary
Date: 16 February 2007