

06 February 2013

WOSSKOW BROWN SOLICITORS SIGN UP TO FUNDING WITH HSBC

Sheffield-based Wosskow Brown Solicitors, which specialises in handling personal injury claims, today announced it is moving its banking arrangements to HSBC Commercial Banking in South Yorkshire.

The new banking relationship, led by Chris Alsop, HSBC Senior Commercial Manager, will see Wosskow Brown receive banking facilities worth nearly £2 million. Wosskow Brown will use the funding to grow their operations.

The company will open two new offices during the first quarter of the year, including Aberdale Road in Sheffield by the end of this month and an office in Harrow, north London, in March. The new offices will be in an open 'shop' style, encouraging customers to walk-in for legal advice.

The business employs 70 people at its existing two offices in Sheffield and the expansion will create five new jobs. Wosskow Brown expects its current £3.5 million turnover to increase by around 15% as a result of the growth.

Wosskow Brown's partners have over 100 years of experience between them in their field and specialises in personal injury claims, while also operating across many legal services for businesses and individuals as well as carrying out property transactions.

Mark Tompkinson, HSBC's Deputy Area Commercial Director for South Yorkshire, said: "Wosskow Brown have taken a forward-thinking approach by investing in the business to achieve future growth. We are looking forward to supporting the business as it expands its operations."

Ian Brown, Managing Partner at Wosskow Brown, said: "When the time came to review our banking options, HSBC was the obvious choice for the firm as the support and flexibility available was second-to-none. We believe the HSBC South Yorkshire Commercial Banking team represents the perfect fit as we look to expand our operations and build our customer base across the UK."

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

HSBC Bank plc: HSBC serves 16.1 million customers in the UK and employs approximately 50,000 people. In the UK, HSBC offers a complete range of personal, premier and private banking services including <u>bank accounts</u> and <u>mortgages</u>. It also provides commercial banking for small to medium businesses and corporate and institutional banking services. HSBC Bank plc is a wholly owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.

HSBC Holdings plc

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from around 6,900 offices in over 80 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, North and Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa. With assets of US\$2,652bn at 30 June 2012, the HSBC Group is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.