

## **BLME Holdings plc<sup>1</sup> appoints David Williams as an Independent Non-Executive Director and Chairman of the Risk Committee**

**London/Dubai, 18 October, 2015** – The Board of Directors (the "Board") of BLME Holdings plc and BLME plc has today announced the appointment of David Williams<sup>2</sup> as an Independent Non-Executive Director with effect from 15 October 2015 and Risk Committee Chairman with effect from 16 October 2015.

David has extensive experience in banking at both an executive and board level in the Middle East, Europe and Asia. Most significantly, he spent over 27 years with Barclays PLC in a number of roles, including Wholesale Credit Risk Director of the Barclays Group and Chief Credit Officer at Barclays Capital. David was a Non-Executive Board Director for LCH Clearnet Group Ltd and is currently a Trustee of the Haig Housing Trust.

### **Adel Al Majed, Chairman of BLME, said:**

“David’s extensive expertise in senior risk management means that he brings with him a firm understanding of the risk issues affecting banks. The depth of David’s global experience will enhance the BLME Holdings Board and be highly beneficial as the Group expands and develops our strategy and business.”

The UK Prudential Regulation Authority (“PRA”), with consent from the UK Financial Conduct Authority (“FCA”) has approved David Williams to perform Controlled Functions with effect from 15 October 2015. David is an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers.

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<sup>1</sup> In this press release, the expression “the Company” refers to BLME Holdings plc which is the ultimate parent company of the BLME Group and is listed on Nasdaq Dubai. The expression “the Group” or “the BLME Group” refers to BLME Holdings plc and its subsidiaries and the expression “BLME” refers to Bank of London and The Middle East Plc, the main operating company within the BLME Group.

<sup>2</sup> There is no family connection between Michael Williams (CEO), Richard Williams (CFO) and David Williams.

## Notes to Editors:

### David Williams Biography

David joined the Bank in October 2015 as an Independent Non-Executive Director and Chairman of the Risk Committee. He is a senior credit risk professional with 27 years of experience in international banking operating at executive and board level in the Middle East, Europe and Asia. Over a career with Barclays PLC his executive roles included Wholesale Credit Risk Director of the Barclays Group and Chief Credit Officer at Barclays Capital. David was a Non-Executive Board Director of LCH Clearent Group Ltd. David is a former British Army officer and is currently a Trustee of Haig Housing Trust, a major services charity.

### The Board of BLME Holdings plc as at 15 October 2015:

Name	Date of Appointment to BLME plc	Date of Appointment to BLME Holdings plc	Board Committee Memberships
<b>Adel Abdul Wahab Al-Majed</b> Chairman of the Board	6 December 2012	26 April 2013	
<b>Sheikh Abdullah Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah</b> Vice Chairman of the Board	22 October 2007	26 April 2013	Audit Remuneration Risk
<b>Michael Williams</b> Chief Executive Officer	2 March 2012	26 April 2013	
<b>Richard Williams</b> Chief Financial Officer	28 November 2006	24 April 2013	
<b>Neil Holden</b> <b>(Senior Independent Director)</b> Chairman of the Nominations and Remuneration Committees	1 November 2006	26 April 2013	Audit Nominations Remuneration Risk
<b>Frank Vermeulen</b> <b>(Independent)</b> Chairman of the Audit Committee	1 January 2007	26 April 2013	Audit Nominations Remuneration Risk
<b>Zeyad Al-Mukhaizeem</b> Chairman of the Risk Committee	18 October 2013	7 February 2014	Audit Remuneration Risk
<b>David Williams</b> <b>(Independent)</b>	15 October 2015	15 October 2015	Risk

### About BLME

BLME is an independent wholesale Sharia'a compliant bank based in London and is a leading provider of finance to the UK mid-market. BLME received FSA authorisation in July 2007 and is the largest of its peers in Europe. BLME is led by a management team that brings together a combination of experienced international bankers and leading experts in Islamic finance. BLME has three key business areas; Corporate Banking, Treasury and Wealth Management, providing a wide range of financing solutions and investment opportunities.

- **Corporate Banking** consists of four business units, Property Finance, which includes the funding of investment and development properties; Leasing which provides finance primarily for the UK market; Corporate and Structured Finance which funds corporate growth and acquisition; and Asset Backed Finance which includes ABL structured facilities and trade finance.

- **Wealth Management** consists of Private Client Services and Asset Management.
- **Treasury** which funds the financing activities in Corporate Banking and Wealth Management, provides BLME's Premier Deposit Accounts and manages the Group's capital and liquidity.

BLME is dedicated to offering innovative Islamic investment and financing products to businesses and high net-worth individuals in the European, US, Asian and MENA regions. To ensure that BLME's services and operations are wholly Sharia'a compliant, the Bank has a dedicated Sharia'a Supervisory Board ("SSB"). The SSB's role is to review contracts and agreements relating to all transactions ensuring that they are consistent with the principles of Islamic jurisprudence.

Website: [www.blme.com](http://www.blme.com)

### **About Islamic banking**

Islamic finance upholds the principles of fairness, integrity and transparency. The principle of fairness is reflected in the risk and reward-sharing element that forms the foundation of every Islamic financial transaction.

Islamic finance aims to create business activities that generate a fair and equitable profit from transactions that are backed by real assets. This method of financing avoids speculation, short selling and excessive credit creation whilst encouraging sound risk management procedures.

Islamic banking has a robust system of risk management and self-regulation to ensure that each transaction is transparent and that the appropriate due diligence and higher standards of disclosure required are observed. To ensure compliance with these requirements each transaction and agreement is reviewed and approved by a Sharia'a Supervisory Board. This Sharia'a specific regulation and governance is in addition to the conventional regulation that applies to all UK based financial institutions.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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