

Edgar Filing: HSBC HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

HSBC HOLDINGS PLC  
Form 6-K  
March 29, 2006

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 March, 2006

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- .....) .

HSBC HOLDINGS PLC

FOURTH INTERIM DIVIDEND FOR 2005

SCRIP DIVIDEND ALTERNATIVE

On 6 March 2006, the Directors of HSBC Holdings plc declared a fourth interim dividend for 2005 of US\$0.31 per ordinary share payable on 11 May 2006 to shareholders on the Register on 24 March 2006. The dividend is payable in cash in United States dollars, sterling or Hong Kong dollars, or a combination of these currencies, with a scrip dividend alternative. The "Market Value" for the issue of new shares under the scrip dividend alternative is:

US\$16.8175 for each new share

The "Market Value" is the United States dollar equivalent of GBP9.621 being the average of the middle market quotations for the ordinary shares on the London Stock Exchange as derived from the Daily Official List for the five business days beginning on 22 March 2006 (the day on which the shares were first quoted ex-dividend).

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Dividends payable in cash in sterling or Hong Kong dollars on 11 May 2006 will be converted from United States dollars at the forward exchange rates quoted by HSBC Bank plc in London at or about 11.00 am on 2 May 2006. These exchange rates will be announced to the London, Hong Kong, New York, Paris and Bermuda stock exchanges.

Particulars of the dividend arrangements will be mailed to shareholders on or about 4 April 2006, and elections must be received by the Registrars by 27 April 2006.

R G Barber

Group Company Secretary

HSBC Holdings plc

29 March 2006

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: 29 March 2006