

Closure of Geneva canton investigation into HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA

Geneva, 4 June 2015

The investigation conducted by the Public Prosecutor of the canton of Geneva into HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA ('the Bank') has been formally closed today. The investigation found that neither the Bank nor its employees are suspected of any current criminal offences.

As part of the agreement to close the investigation, the Bank will pay CHF 40 million in compensation to the Geneva authorities for past organisational deficiencies. The Bank has fully cooperated with the investigation throughout and will not face criminal charges.

The Geneva investigation was launched in February 2015, in the wake of media reports about some past practices at the Swiss Private Bank. HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA has acknowledged that the compliance culture and standards of due diligence in place in the Bank in the past were not as robust as they are today.

In recent years the Bank has undergone a radical transformation. It has implemented numerous initiatives designed to prevent its banking services being used to evade taxes or launder money. The strategic repositioning has also strengthened the Bank's focus on core markets and reduced its client base by almost 70%, from about 30,000 accounts in 2007 to some 10,000 in 2014.

The Geneva Prosecutor acknowledges the progress the Bank has made in recent years, including the improvements in its compliance function, internal processes and technology.

For more information:

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HSBC Private Bank

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