

NOTICE IN RELATION TO THE IRAN (FINANCIAL SANCTIONS) ORDER 2007

24 May 2007

HM Treasury has today issued a number of licences allowing Bank Sepah International Plc to make payments due under certain letters of credit that were issued by the bank prior to its designation on 24 March 2007.

Paragraph 15 of the United Nations Security Council 1737(2006) allows a state to licence payments due under prior contracts where the state has determined that:

(a) the contract is not related to any of the prohibited items, materials, equipment, goods, technologies, assistance, training, financial assistance, investment, brokering or services referred to in paragraphs 3, 4 and 6 of UNSCR 1737(2006);

(b) the payment is not directly or indirectly received by a designated person or entity.

In order to determine that payments are not connected with proliferation or with designated persons, the Government is vetting letters of credit issued by Bank Sepah International Plc prior to 24 March 2007.

The vetting process is being operated on a rolling basis, with the intention being to give priority to considering letters of credit under which payment is due or shortly to become due. The vetting process for a number of these letters of credit is now complete and HM Treasury has licensed Bank Sepah International Plc to make payments due under these letters of credit.

Other letters of credit issued by Bank Sepah International Plc before 24 March are still in the process of being vetted. As and

when the Treasury has determined that these contracts are not connected with proliferation or with designated persons, further licences will be issued.

Parties holding letters of credit with Bank Sepah International Plc should contact either Bank Sepah International Plc or HM Treasury to determine whether their payments have been licensed and to alert us to any urgent payments that are becoming due.

HM Treasury's Financial Sanctions Unit can be contacted at the following address:

Financial Sanctions Unit
Financial Crime Team
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

Email: fsu@hm-treasury.gsi.gov.uk