

THIS DOCUMENT IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. If you are in any doubt about the course of action to take, you should immediately consult your stockbroker, solicitor, accountant or other independent financial adviser (being, in the case of Stockholders in Ireland, an adviser who is authorised or exempted pursuant to the European Communities (Markets in Financial Instruments) Regulations, 2007 (as amended) or the Investment Intermediaries Act, 1995 or the Stock Exchange Act, 1995 (as amended) and, in the case of Stockholders in the United Kingdom, an independent investment adviser authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000) or if you are resident in a territory outside Ireland and the United Kingdom, another appropriately authorised independent financial adviser.

If you have sold or transferred all your Ordinary Stock in Bank of Ireland please forward this document and the accompanying Form of Proxy to the purchaser or transferee, or to the stockbroker or other agent through whom the sale or transfer was effected.

**GOVERNOR'S LETTER TO
HOLDERS OF ORDINARY STOCK**

and

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL COURT

on

Tuesday, 24 April 2012 at 9.30 a.m.

in the

O'Reilly Hall, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4

Notice of the Annual General Court of Bank of Ireland is set out on pages 5 and 6 of this document.

A Form of Proxy relating to the meeting accompanies this document. To be valid, **Forms of Proxy** for use at the Annual General Court **must be completed and returned** either electronically at **www.eproxyappointment.com** or to the Registrar, Computershare Investor Services (Ireland) Limited, P.O. Box 954, Heron House, Corrig Road, Sandyford Industrial Estate, Dublin 18, Ireland as soon as possible, **so as to reach the Registrar, Computershare Investor Services (Ireland) Limited, no later than 48 hours before the meeting.**

Governor

Head Office
40 Mespil Road
Dublin 4

15 March 2012

Dear Stockholder,

Notice of the Annual General Court (“AGC”) to be held at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 24 April 2012, at the O’Reilly Hall, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4 is set out on pages 5 and 6 of this document.

The Court of Directors (the “Court”) is recommending for your approval all the resolutions that will be proposed at the meeting. I will comment on the resolutions as follows:

Resolution 1 is to receive the Report of the Directors and the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011.

Resolution 2 is to receive the Report on Directors’ Remuneration as set out on pages 157 to 169 of the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2011.

Items 3(i) and (ii) relate to the election and the re-election of Directors as outlined below, each by separate resolution.

In accordance with best practice in relation to the re-election of Directors and subject to the Bank’s Bye-Laws, all Directors are retiring at the AGC, with the exception of Tom Considine and Joe Walsh, who were nominated to the Court by the Minister for Finance.

Jerome Kennedy is not offering himself for re-election and will retire from the Court at the conclusion of the AGC. The following Directors, being eligible, are offering themselves for election: Kent Atkinson, Patrick Butler, Patrick Haren, Andrew Keating and Patrick Mulvihill and the following Directors, being eligible, are offering themselves for re-election: Pat Molloy, Richie Boucher, Patrick Kennedy and Patrick O’Sullivan.

A biographical note in respect of each Director standing for election or re-election is contained on pages 149 to 155 in the Annual Report.

Following evaluation, the Court has concluded that each Director standing for re-election makes a valued contribution to the deliberations of the Court, continues to be effective and demonstrates continuing commitment to the role.

Resolution 4 seeks the usual authority from Stockholders to enable the Directors to determine the remuneration of the auditors.

Apart from the ordinary business outlined above, there are five items of special business as follows:

Resolution 5 – Renewal of authority to re-issue units of stock

Resolution 5 seeks to determine the re-issue price range at which stock purchased and held as treasury stock may subsequently be re-issued off-market. In accordance with Bye-Law 41, the re-issue price of treasury stock for the purposes of any employee stock scheme will be the price provided for in such scheme and the re-issue price in all other circumstances will be in the range 95% to 120% of the average closing price of the stock on the Irish Stock Exchange for the five business days immediately preceding the day on which the stock is re-issued.

Resolution 6 and Resolution 7 – Renewal of authority to allot Ordinary Stock on a non-pre-emptive basis

Under resolution 6, the Directors are seeking authority to allot up to the equivalent of 5% of the issued Ordinary Stock *for cash* on a non-pre-emptive basis (i.e. other than on a pro rata basis to Stockholders). This approximates to a nominal amount of €75 million.

Under resolution 7, the Directors are seeking a general authority to allot and issue Ordinary Stock *otherwise than for cash*. This authority shall be for a nominal amount not exceeding, at the date of the passing of the resolution, the lesser of 10% of the issued Ordinary Stock or the authorised but unissued Ordinary Stock in the capital of the Bank.

As a result of the passing of these resolutions, Stockholders will have granted two distinct and separate authorisations empowering the Directors to allot and issue Ordinary Stock on a non-pre-emptive basis.

The authorities being sought will remain in force until 23 July 2013 or the date of the AGC in 2013, whichever is the earlier. **There are currently no plans to issue any Ordinary Stock on foot of either of these authorisations.**

Resolution 8 – Renewal of authority to call an Extraordinary General Court on 14 clear days’ notice for the passing of an ordinary resolution

Resolution 8, if passed, will maintain the existing authority in the Bye-Laws which permits the Bank to convene an Extraordinary General Court on 14 clear days’ notice in writing, where the purpose of the meeting is to consider an ordinary resolution.

Resolution 9 – Deletion of Bye-Law 76(a)

Stockholders will be aware that the membership of the Court of Directors has changed significantly in the past year, such that 4 Directors of the 9 Directors presenting themselves for election or re-election are resident outside the State. Additionally, on foot of the Bank’s significant capital-raising activity in 2011 and subsequent market transactions, there are many new investors in the Bank, with major representation from the US, Canada and other market centres, in addition to our Irish investors.

The current Bye-Law 76(a) imposes restraints on the residency of the Governor, Deputy Governor and Directors, such that the Governor or Deputy Governor and a majority of the other Directors are required to be resident in the State. These protective measures and restraints survive from an earlier period of the Bank’s history when the Bank enjoyed certain special characteristics and protections by reason of its status as banker to the Government. The Directors believe that these protective measures are no longer relevant or appropriate; markets have changed materially, there is no equivalent restriction on the residency of directors under Irish company law and the model articles for a public limited company set out in the Companies Act, 1963 do not contain any similar restriction.

Accordingly, the Directors propose in resolution 9 to delete Bye-Law 76(a) and renumber Bye-Law 76(b), Bye-Law 76(c) and Bye-Law 76(d) as Bye-Law 76(a), Bye-Law 76(b) and Bye-Law 76(c) respectively. The effect of the deletion of Bye-Law 76(a) is that there will be no restriction on the residency of Directors of the Bank.

Recommendation

The Directors believe that the above resolutions proposed to the AGC are in the best interests of the Bank and its Stockholders as a whole and accordingly recommend that you vote in favour of them, as they intend to do in respect of their own beneficial holdings amounting to 3,883,423 units of Ordinary Stock.

Action to be taken

You will find a Form of Proxy accompanying this document for use in connection with the AGC. The Form of Proxy (together with any power of attorney or other authority under which it is executed, or a notarially certified copy thereof) should be completed and returned as soon as possible to the Registrar, Computershare Investor Services (Ireland) Limited, P.O. Box 954, Heron House, Corrig Road, Sandyford Industrial Estate, Dublin 18, Ireland or by submitting your proxy details electronically at www.eproxyappointment.com and in any event, in order to be valid, so as to arrive not later than 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, 22 April 2012. Stockholders voting electronically will need their 5-digit PIN Number, Stockholder Reference Number and the Control Number, which are all printed on the enclosed Form

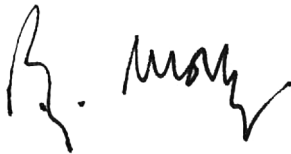
of Proxy. The appointment of a proxy will not preclude a Stockholder from attending and voting in person at the AGC.

If you would like to submit a question in advance of the AGC, please send it by email to **agcquestions@boi.com** or send it in writing with your Form of Proxy to the Registrar by no later than four days in advance of the AGC. I will respond to questions raised when the item of business to which they relate is under consideration by the meeting. Any other questions submitted, that are not relevant to the meeting, will be responded to subsequently by an appropriate executive.

Finally, in the interests of protecting the environment and promoting efficiency in our company, I would ask you to consider electing, through our Registrar at www.computershare.com/ie/ecomms, to receive your Stockholder documentation on-line as soon as it is published on our website. As well as being speedier and less bulky, you can access some or all of the information at your convenience.

If you wish to attend the Annual General Court, please detach your Attendance Card from your Form of Proxy and bring it with you to the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Molloy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick J Molloy
Governor

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL COURT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Court of The Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland (the "Bank") will be held on Tuesday, 24 April 2012, at 9.30 a.m. in the O'Reilly Hall, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland, for the following purposes:-

Ordinary Business

1. To receive the Report of the Directors and the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011.
2. To receive the Report on Directors' Remuneration for the year ended 31 December 2011.
3. (i) To elect the following Directors, by separate resolutions:
 - (a) Kent Atkinson
 - (b) Patrick Butler
 - (c) Patrick Haren
 - (d) Andrew Keating
 - (e) Patrick Mulvihill
- (ii) To re-elect the following Directors, by separate resolutions:
 - (a) Pat Molloy
 - (b) Richie Boucher
 - (c) Patrick Kennedy
 - (d) Patrick O'Sullivan

Biographical information in respect of each Director is provided on pages 149 to 155 in the Annual Report. Please also refer to the Governor's Letter to Stockholders.

4. To authorise the Directors to determine the remuneration of the auditors.

Special Business

5. To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution as a special resolution:-

"THAT, for the purposes of Section 209 of the Companies Act, 1990 (the "1990 Act"), the re-issue price range at which any units of treasury stock for the time being held by the Bank may be re-issued off-market shall be determined in accordance with Bye-Law 41 of the Bye-Laws of the Bank.

This resolution shall take effect and the authority hereby conferred shall be effective immediately and shall expire at the close of business on the earlier of the date of the next Annual General Court of the Bank after the passing of this resolution or 23 October 2013 unless previously varied or renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 209 of the 1990 Act."

6. To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution as an ordinary resolution:-

"THAT the Directors be and are hereby generally empowered to issue, allot, grant options over or otherwise dispose of Ordinary Stock of the Bank on a non-pre-emptive basis for cash (including the issue of securities convertible into Ordinary Stock) or to agree to do any of the foregoing acts;

PROVIDED THAT the power conferred by this resolution shall:

- (i) be limited to the issue, allotment, grant of options over or other disposal of Ordinary Stock of a nominal amount of €75 million; and
- (ii) expire on 23 July 2013 or on the date of the Annual General Court of the Bank in 2013, whichever is the earlier; and

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT any Ordinary Stock which may be issued pursuant to any employee stock issue or stock option scheme approved by a General Court shall be disregarded for the purpose of both the maximum limit and the expiry date set out above."

7. To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution as an ordinary resolution:-

"THAT the Directors be and are hereby generally empowered to issue, allot, grant options over or otherwise dispose of Ordinary Stock of the Bank on a non-pre-emptive basis otherwise than for cash (including the issue of securities convertible into Ordinary Stock) or to agree to do any of the foregoing acts;

PROVIDED THAT the power conferred by this resolution shall:

- (i) be limited to the issue, allotment, grant of options over or other disposal of Ordinary Stock of a nominal amount, at the date of the passing of the resolution, of the lesser of (a) 10% of the issued Ordinary Stock or (b) the authorised but unissued Ordinary Stock in the capital of the Bank; and
- (ii) expire on 23 July 2013 or on the date of the Annual General Court of the Bank in 2013, whichever is the earlier; and

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT any Ordinary Stock which may be issued pursuant to any employee stock issue or stock option scheme approved by a General Court shall be disregarded for the purpose of both the maximum limit and the expiry date set out above.”

8. To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution as a special resolution:-

“THAT a General Court, other than an Annual General Court and other than a General Court called for the passing of a special resolution, may be called by not less than 14 clear days’ notice in writing.”

9. To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following as a special resolution:

“THAT Bye-Law 76(a) be deleted and that Bye-Law 76(b), Bye-Law 76(c) and Bye-Law 76(d) be re-designated as Bye-Law 76(a), Bye-Law 76(b) and Bye-Law 76(c) respectively”

**By Order
Helen Nolan, Secretary
Bank of Ireland
Head Office
40 Mespil Road
Dublin 4**

15 March 2012

Notes

Entitlement to attend and vote

1. Only those Stockholders who are holders of fully paid units of capital stock of the Bank and are registered on the Bank's register of members at:
 - 6 p.m. on 22 April 2012 (being the record date specified by the Bank for eligibility for voting pursuant to section 134A of the Companies Act 1963 and Regulation 14 of the Companies Act 1990 (Uncertificated Securities) Regulations, 1996); or
 - if the Annual General Court is adjourned, at 6 p.m. on the day two days prior to the adjourned Annual General Court,shall be entitled to participate and vote at the Annual General Court.

Website giving information regarding the Annual General Court

2. Information regarding the Annual General Court, including the information required by section 133A(4) of the Companies Act, 1963, is available from www.bankofireland.com/investor.

Attending in person

3. The Annual General Court will be held at 9.30 a.m. If you wish to attend the Annual General Court in person, you are recommended to attend at least 15 minutes before the time appointed for holding of the Annual General Court to allow time for registration. Please bring the Attendance Card attached to your Form of Proxy and present it at the Stockholder registration desk before the commencement of the Annual General Court.

Electronic Participation

4. Stockholders can appoint a proxy and give voting instructions electronically by logging on to the website of the Bank's Registrars, Computershare Investor Services (Ireland) Limited: www.eproxyappointment.com. Stockholders will need their 5-digit PIN Number, Stockholder Reference Number and the Control Number, which are all printed on the enclosed Form of Proxy.

Voting by Corporate Representatives

5. Any corporation sole or body corporate which is a member of the Bank may, by a document executed by or on behalf of such corporation sole or resolution of its Directors or other governing body of such body corporate, authorise such individual as it thinks fit to act as its representative at any General Court of the Bank.

Any individual so authorised shall not be entitled to appoint a proxy but shall otherwise be entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the corporation sole or body corporate which he represents as that representative could exercise if he were an individual member of the Bank present in person.

Appointment of proxies

6. A Stockholder who is entitled to attend, speak, ask questions and vote at the Annual General Court is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend, speak, ask questions and vote instead of him. A Stockholder may appoint more than one proxy to attend, speak, ask questions and vote at the Annual General Court in respect of stock held in different securities accounts. A Stockholder acting as an intermediary on behalf of one or more clients may grant a proxy to each of its clients or their nominees provided each proxy is appointed to exercise rights attached to different stock held by that Stockholder. A proxy need not be a Stockholder of the Bank. If you wish to appoint more than one proxy then please contact the Bank's Registrars, Computershare Investor Services (Ireland) Limited, on +353 1 247 5414 or via electronic means by sending an email to the Registrars at clientservices@computershare.ie.
7. A Form of Proxy for use by Stockholders is enclosed with this Notice of Annual General Court (or is otherwise being delivered to Stockholders). Completion of a Form of Proxy (or submission of proxy instructions electronically) will not prevent a Stockholder from attending the Annual General Court and voting in person should they wish to do so.

Completion of a Form of Proxy

8. To be valid, a Form of Proxy and any power or other authority under which it is executed (or a duly certified copy of any such power or authority) must be lodged with the Bank's Registrars, Computershare Investor Services (Ireland) Limited, P.O. Box 954, Heron House, Corrig Road, Sandymount Industrial Estate, Dublin 18, Ireland not later than 48 hours before the Annual General Court or adjourned Annual General Court or (in the case of a poll taken otherwise than at or on the same day as the Annual General Court or adjourned Annual General Court) at least 48 hours before the taking of the poll at which it is to be used.

Appointment of a proxy by a CREST Member

9. CREST Members who wish to appoint a proxy or proxies by utilising the CREST electronic proxy appointment service may do so for the Annual General Court and any adjournment(s) thereof by following the procedures laid down in the CREST Manual. CREST Personal Members or other CREST Sponsored Members, and those CREST Members who have appointed a voting service provider(s) should refer to their CREST Sponsor or voting service provider(s), who will be able to take appropriate action on their behalf.
10. In order for a proxy appointment or instruction made by means of CREST to be valid, the appropriate CREST message (a "CREST Proxy Instruction") must be properly authenticated in accordance with Euroclear's specifications and must contain the information required for such instructions, as described in the CREST Manual. The message (whether it constitutes the appointment of a proxy or an amendment to the instruction given to a previously appointed proxy) must be transmitted so as to be received by the Bank's Registrars, Computershare Investor Services (Ireland) Limited, (ID Number 3RA50) by the latest time(s) for receipt of proxy appointments specified in this Notice of Annual General Court or adjourned Annual General Court. For this purpose, the time of receipt will be taken to be the time (as determined by the time stamp applied to the message by the CREST Applications Host) from which Computershare Investor Services (Ireland) Limited is able to retrieve the message by enquiry to CREST in the manner prescribed by CREST.
11. CREST Members and, where applicable, their CREST Sponsors or voting service providers, should note that Euroclear does not make available special procedures in CREST for any particular messages. Normal system timings and limitations will therefore apply in relation to the input of CREST Proxy Instructions. It is the responsibility of the CREST Member concerned to take (or, if the CREST Member is a CREST Personal Member or Sponsored Member or has appointed a voting service provider(s), to procure that his CREST Sponsor or voting service provider(s) take(s)) such action as shall be necessary to ensure that a message is transmitted by means of the CREST system by any particular time. In this connection, CREST Members and, where applicable, their CREST Sponsors or voting service providers are referred, in particular, to those sections of the CREST Manual concerning practical limitations of the CREST system and timings. The Bank may treat as invalid a CREST Proxy Instruction in the circumstances set out in Regulation 35(5)(a) of the Companies Act, 1990 (Uncertificated Securities) Regulations, 1996.

Questions at the Annual General Court

12. Under section 134C of the Companies Act, 1963, the Bank must (subject to any reasonable measures the Bank may take to identify Stockholders) answer any question you ask relating to the business being dealt with at the Annual General Court unless:
 - (i) answering the question would interfere unduly with the preparation for the Annual General Court or the confidentiality and business interests of the Bank; or
 - (ii) the answer has already been given on a website in the form of an answer to a question; or
 - (iii) it appears to the Chairman of the Annual General Court that it is undesirable in the interests of the good order of the meeting that the question be answered.

Submission of questions

13. If you wish to submit a question in advance of the Annual General Court, please send your question(s) in writing by email to agcquestions@boi.com or send it in writing with your Form of Proxy to the Registrar by no later than 4 days in advance of the Annual General Court.

Stockholders' right to table draft resolutions

14. Stockholders holding 3% or more of the units of Ordinary Stock may table a draft resolution for an item on the agenda in accordance with the terms of section 133B of the Companies Act, 1963, subject to any contrary provision in company law. In order to exercise this right, the full text of the draft resolution and the agenda item to which it relates (or, if supporting a draft resolution tabled by another shareholder, clearly identifying the draft resolution and agenda item which is being supported) must be received by the Secretary no later than 42 days in advance of the Annual General Court. Furthermore, Stockholders are reminded that there are provisions in company law which impose other conditions on the right of Stockholders to propose resolutions at any General Court of the Bank.
15. Stockholders holding 3% or more of the units of Ordinary Stock may put an item on the agenda of the AGC in accordance with Section 133B of the Companies Act, 1963. In order to exercise this right, written details of the item the Stockholders wish to have included in the Annual General Court agenda together with a written explanation as to why the item is to be included in the agenda must be received by the Secretary no later than 42 days in advance of the Annual General Court.

Voting on a Poll

16. Pursuant to Section 138 of the Companies Act, 1963 where a poll is taken at the Annual General Court, a Stockholder, present in person or by proxy, holding more than one unit of stock need not cast all his/her votes in the same way.

Outstanding Stock Options

17. As at 12 March 2012 (being the latest practicable date prior to publication of this Notice), the outstanding stock options issued by the Bank would result in the issue of 3,113,513 new units of Ordinary Stock if such stock options were to be exercised.

1992 Preference Stockholders

18. Holders of the Sterling Preference Stock and euro Preference Stock (other than the 2009 Preference Stock), although entitled to receive copies of the Annual Report and Notice of any General Court, are not entitled to attend and vote at this meeting in respect of their holding of such stock.

Availability of amended Bye-Laws

19. Paper copies of the amended Bye-Laws will be available for inspection at the following addresses during normal business hours on each business day from the date of this Notice up to and including the date of the Annual General Court:
 - the office of the Bank at 40 Mespil Road, Dublin 4, Ireland; and
 - the Bank's offices at Bow Bell's House, 1 Bread Street, London EC4M 9BE, England.

They will be available for inspection at O'Reilly Hall, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland from at least 15 minutes prior to the Annual General Court until the conclusion of that meeting.

LOCATION MAP

The O'Reilly Hall is situated inside the main entrance to the campus of University College Dublin, Belfield. Located four miles on the south side of Dublin city centre, the campus is accessible from the Stillorgan Dual Carriageway. Car parking is available.

