

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND PLC

Form 424B5

January 31, 2011

Filed under Rule 424(b)(5), Registration Statement Nos. 333-162219, 333-162219-01

Preliminary Pricing Supplement No. 16 – dated January 31, 2011 (to: Prospectus dated May 18, 2010 and Prospectus Supplement dated September 20, 2010)

| CUSIP Number | Aggregate Price | | Selling Commission | Net Proceeds | Coupon Type | Coupon Rate | Coupon Frequency | Maturity Date | 1st Coupon | | Survivor's Option | Rate |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|------------|--------|-------------------|------|
| | Principal Amount | to Public | | | | | | | Date | Date | | |
| 78011RAR4 | \$ | 100% | 1.50% | \$ | FIXED | 4.00% | MONTHLY | 02/15/2016 | 03/15/2011 | \$3.89 | NO | SE |

(Per Annum)

Redemption Information: Non-Callable/Non-Puttable

Lead Manager and Lead Agent: RBS Securities Inc.

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|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>The Royal Bank of Scotland plc</p> | <p>Offering Dates: 01/31/2011 through 02/07/2011 Trade Date: 02/07/2011 @ 12:00 PM ET Settlement Date: 02/10/2011 Minimum Denomination/Increments: \$1,000.00/\$1,000.00 Guaranteed in full by The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc Initial trades settle flat and clear SDFS: DTC Book-Entry only DTC Number 2230 via RBS Securities Inc.</p> | <p>Royal Bank of Scotland plc Retail Corporate Notes Prospectus dated May 18, 2010 and Prospectus Supplement dated September 20, 2010</p> |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|

If the maturity date or an interest payment date for any note is not a business day (as that term is defined in the prospectus supplement), principal, premium, if any, and interest for that note is paid on the next business day, and no interest will accrue from, and after, the maturity date or interest payment date.