



MARKET RELEASE

28 February 2012

QBE Insurance Group Limited

TRADING HALT

The securities of QBE Insurance Group Limited (the "Company") will be placed in Trading Halt Session State at the request of the Company, pending the release of an announcement by the Company. Unless ASX decides otherwise, the securities will remain in Trading Halt Session State until the earlier of the commencement of normal trading on Thursday, 1 March 2012 or when the announcement is released to the market.

Security Code: QBE

Kim-Ly Nguyen
Principal Adviser, Listings (Sydney)



28 February 2012

Ms K Nguyen
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Dear Ms Nguyen,

re: REQUEST FOR TRADING HALT

I request a trading halt in the ordinary shares of QBE Insurance Group Limited (**QBE**) (ASX Code: QBE) from the commencement of trading on Tuesday, 28 February 2012 and that the trading halt remains in place until QBE undertakes a capital raising to replace US\$500 million of our current Tier 2 convertible debt. This Tier 2 convertible debt is being replaced as it may not be treated as regulatory capital under APRA's new proposals.

The capital raising will involve a placement of shares to institutional investors and a Share Purchase Plan for retail investors.

The trading halt is requested to facilitate an announcement by QBE before the commencement of trading on Wednesday, 29 February 2012 regarding such a raising.

For the purposes of Listing Rule 17.1, QBE provides the following information:

1. the trading halt is necessary as otherwise trading in QBE ordinary shares would continue on an uninformed basis; and
2. QBE is not aware of any reason why the trading halt should not be granted.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D Ramsay', written over a light grey circular stamp.

Duncan Ramsay
Company Secretary