



**Senior Manager New Business in the East Midlands
28th February 2004**

Allied Irish Bank (GB), voted Britain's Best Business Bank for the fifth consecutive time*, is delighted to announce the appointment of James Hunt as Senior Manager – New Business based at the Pegasus Business Park, near East Midlands Airport.

James joins Allied Irish Bank (GB) after nearly twenty years with HSBC as a Commercial Banking Manager. He will use his business banking expertise to further grow the Bank's market share in the East Midlands.

"I am thrilled to join the team here at Allied Irish Bank (GB)," said Hunt. "I firmly believe Allied Irish Bank (GB) provides a real alternative to the usual 'high street' style of banking. Those of you running businesses in the East Midlands need banking managers who are empowered to make decisions and who can deliver outstanding customer service. This is why I've chosen to work for Britain's Best Business Bank," he concluded.

Commenting on the appointment, John Wall, Area Director – Midlands, said: "We are delighted to have such an experienced business banker join us. James' local knowledge and existing contacts in the Midlands will help drive our business forward.

"The East Midlands is a vital area for expansion for Allied Irish Bank (GB). We always take a long-term view, which means that when a business banker joins us they can look forward to a long and rewarding career with Britain's Best Business Bank. I look forward to working closely with James and to announcing further expansion plans within our East Midlands team over the coming months". James' appointment is part of Allied Irish Bank (GB)'s ongoing nation-wide recruitment drive aimed at attracting experienced business bankers to work for Britain's best business bank. Those interested in a career with Allied Irish Bank (GB), who can demonstrate a successful track-record in helping small and medium-sized companies achieve their potential, should contact our Human Resources department or go to the careers section of our website, www.aibgb.co.uk/careers for further details.

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Notes to editors

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***It has five times been voted "Best Business Bank" - 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002 by the Forum of Private Business.** This biennial survey looks at the relationship between businesses and their banks. Allied Irish Bank (GB) performed best in 12 of the 18 categories in the most recent survey. Allied Irish Bank (GB) has proved best in a wide number of categories.

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