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ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND PLC

Form 424B5

April 25, 2011

Filed under Rule 424(b)(5), Registration Statement Nos. 333-162219, 333-162219-01  
Preliminary Pricing Supplement No. 48 – dated April 25, 2011 (to: Prospectus dated May 18, 2010 and Prospectus Supplement dated September 20, 2010)

| CUSIP<br>Number | Aggregate Price     |              | Selling<br>Commission | Net<br>Proceeds | Coupon<br>Type | Coupon<br>Rate | Coupon<br>Frequency | Maturity<br>Date | 1st Coupon<br>Date | 1st<br>Coupon<br>Amount | Survivor's Pr<br>Option | Ra |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|
|                 | Principal<br>Amount | to<br>Public |                       |                 |                |                |                     |                  |                    |                         |                         |    |
| 78011RBT9       | \$                  | 100%         | 1.80%                 | \$              | FIXED          | 4.50%          | MONTHLY             | 11/15/2018       | 06/15/2011         | \$5.00                  | NO                      | SE |

(Per  
Annum)

Redemption Information: Non-Callable/Non-Putable

Lead Manager and Lead Agent: RBS Securities Inc.

The Royal Bank of  
Scotland plc

Offering Dates: 04/25/2011 through 05/02/2011

Trade Date: 05/02/2011 @ 12:00 PM ET

Settlement Date: 05/05/2011

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.

Royal Bank of Scotland plc

Retail Corporate Notes

Prospectus dated May 18,  
2010

and Prospectus Supplement  
dated September 20, 2010

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.