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STANDARD CHARTERED GREAT CITY RACE 2015 COUNTDOWN – ONE WEEK TO GO

A week today, the streets of London's Square Mile will be filled by over 5,000 runners from 385 companies as they take part in the Standard Chartered Great City Race 2015 in aid of Seeing is Believing. At 7:15pm city workers, representing the industries of banking, accountancy, insurance, law and media will battle it out along the 5km course.

To help support Seeing is Believing, the Standard Chartered Great City Race ambassadors will encourage all 5,000 runners. The team of ambassadors include current triple jump world record holder, Olympic Gold medallist and BBC commentator **Jonathan Edwards**, Standard Chartered Bank's CEO for Europe, **Richard Holmes**, five-time Paralympic Gold medallist **Noel Thatcher** and two-time Paralympic Silver medallist **Libby Clegg**.

Seeing is Believing is a charitable initiative that aims to tackle avoidable blindness throughout the world. £10 from each runner's entry fee will go to the official race beneficiary and Standard Chartered Bank will match this and all other funds raised and donated, thereby doubling the impact.

The intention is to earmark the funds raised through the race to the East Africa Seeing is Believing Child Eye Health programme. It is estimated between 8,500-10,000 children are blind in the East Africa region. The impact of blindness and visual impairment on children is far greater than for adults. In terms of the impact on reducing years lived with disability, curing a child of blindness is, on average, equivalent to curing 10 adults with cataract blindness. Blindness and visual impairment have serious effects on the educational and employment opportunities of children (less than 10% of blind children attend school).

ENDS

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Standard Chartered Bank Notes to Editors

We are a leading international banking group, with more than 86,000 employees and a 150-year history in some of the world's most dynamic markets. We bank the people and companies driving investment, trade and the creation of wealth across Asia, Africa and the Middle East, where we earn around 90 per cent of our income and profits. Our heritage and values are expressed in our brand promise, Here for good.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong Stock Exchanges as well as the Bombay and National Stock Exchanges in India.

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About Seeing is Believing

Seeing is Believing is a global initiative to help tackle avoidable blindness, and is a collaboration between Standard Chartered and the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and leading eye care organisations. It raises funds for investment in eye care projects that have long-term impact in areas of high need.

Seeing is Believing contributes to 'VISION 2020: The Right to Sight', the global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the IAPB. To date, Seeing is Believing has raised over USD75 million for blindness initiatives and plans to raise a further USD25 million by 2020.

Seeing is Believing is the largest cash contributor to VISION 2020 through IAPB. As part of the Seeing is Believing programme, Standard Chartered pledges to match all donations until the target of USD100 million is reached.

The Standard Chartered Great City Race

Standard Chartered has been the main sponsor of the Great City Race since its launch in 2005. The race is the leading 5km corporate city based running challenge, and over 5,000 runners from 350 corporate teams participate (made up of four or more runners).



This year the Standard Chartered Great City Race will take place on Thursday 9 July, starting at 19:15 at the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC). During the race the streets in London's financial district are closed and the route takes runners past some of the most iconic buildings and landmarks within the City of London.

It is a not for profit race and Seeing is Believing is the official 2015 beneficiary.

For further information please visit www.cityrace.co.uk

Follow the race on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/StandardCharteredGreatCityRace> and on Twitter <https://twitter.com/greatcityrace>

