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BARCLAYS PLC
Form 6-K
July 19, 2007

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13A-16 OR 15D-16
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

July, 2007

Barclays PLC and
Barclays Bank PLC
(Names of Registrants)

1 Churchill Place
London E14 5HP
England
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b):

This Report is a joint Report on Form 6-K filed by Barclays PLC and Barclays Bank PLC. All of the issued ordinary share capital of Barclays Bank PLC is owned by Barclays PLC.

This Report comprises:

Information given to The London Stock Exchange and furnished pursuant to General Instruction B to the General Instructions to Form 6-K.

EXHIBIT INDEX

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Statement re Recommended Merger - 19 July 2007

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, each of the registrants has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BARCLAYS PLC
(Registrant)

Date: July 19, 2007

By: /s/ Patrick Gonsalves

Patrick Gonsalves
Deputy Secretary

BARCLAYS BANK PLC
(Registrant)

Date: July 19, 2007

By: /s/ Patrick Gonsalves

Patrick Gonsalves
Joint Secretary

This document shall not constitute an offer to sell or buy or the solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any securities, nor shall there be any sale or purchase of securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction. The availability of Barclays offer to persons not resident in the United States, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom may be affected by the laws of the relevant jurisdictions (the "Restricted Jurisdictions"). Such persons should inform themselves about and observe any applicable requirements.

19th July 2007

BARCLAYS PLC

Barclays Recommended Merger with ABN AMRO - Update on Offer

In their announcement of 2 July 2007, Barclays PLC ("Barclays") and ABN AMRO Holding N.V. ("ABN AMRO") indicated that an announcement on the availability of the formal Barclays' offer documentation was to take place on or before 23 July 2007. Good progress continues to be made in relation to the pre-conditions, documentation and regulatory change of control approvals. Since the regulatory review processes relating to the documentation, including with the SEC, are not yet completed, the AFM has agreed an extension so that an announcement on the formal offer documentation being available can be made on or before 6 August 2007.

Launch of the Barclays' offer will be subject to the satisfaction of the pre-conditions referred to in the original press release dated 23 April 2007. In

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relation to the offer, Barclays is considering possible alternative offer structures, including introduction of a partial cash consideration element into the Offer. No decision has yet been taken but Barclays will make further announcements as, if and when due under applicable rules and regulations. If any changes to Barclays' offer were made they would be consistent with its prior public statements regarding the strict financial criteria it applies to merger and acquisition transactions and ensuring that the terms of any transaction are in the interests of its existing shareholders.

This is an announcement within the meaning of article 9b paragraph 1 of the Dutch Securities Market Supervision Decree (Besluit toezicht effectenverkeer 1995).

Enquiries:

ANALYSTS AND INVESTORS

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MEDIA

| | |
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Other Information

This document shall not constitute an offer to sell or buy or the solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any securities, nor shall there be any sale or purchase of securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction. The availability of Barclays offer to persons not resident in the United States, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom may be affected by the laws of the relevant jurisdictions (the "Restricted Jurisdictions"). Such persons should inform themselves about and observe any applicable requirements.

The offer will not be made, directly or indirectly, in any Restricted Jurisdiction unless by means of lawful prior registration or qualification under the applicable laws of the Restricted Jurisdiction, or under an exemption from such requirements including, in the case of the US, except by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10 of the US Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Accordingly, copies of this announcement are not being, and must not be, mailed or otherwise distributed or sent in, into or from such Restricted Jurisdiction. Persons receiving this announcement (including, without limitation, custodians, nominees and trustees) must not distribute, mail or send it in, into or from any Restricted Jurisdiction, and so doing may render any purported acceptance of the offer invalid.

SEC Filings and this Filing: Important Information

In connection with the proposed business combination transaction between ABN AMRO and Barclays, Barclays has filed with the SEC a Registration Statement on Form F-4 ("Form F-4"), which includes a preliminary version of the Barclays offer document/prospectus. The Form F-4 has not yet become effective. Barclays expects that it will also file with the SEC a Statement on Schedule TO and other relevant materials. In addition, ABN AMRO expects that it will file with the SEC a Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9 and other relevant materials. Following the Form F-4 being declared effective by the SEC, Barclays intends to mail the final offer document/prospectus to ABN AMRO shareholders.

Such final documents, however, are not currently available. INVESTORS ARE URGED TO READ THE FINAL OFFER DOCUMENT/PROSPECTUS AND ANY DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE

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POTENTIAL TRANSACTION IF AND WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE, BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

Investors will be able to obtain a free copy of the Form F-4, the final offer document/prospectus and other filings without charge, at the SEC's website (www.sec.gov) if and when such documents are filed with the SEC. Copies of such documents may also be obtained from ABN AMRO and Barclays without charge, if and when they are filed with the SEC.

Forward Looking Statements

This document contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 27A of the US Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with respect to certain of ABN AMRO's and Barclays plans and their current goals and expectations relating to their future financial condition and performance and which involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Barclays caution readers that no forward-looking statement is a guarantee of future performance and that actual results could differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate only to historical or current facts. Forward-looking statements sometimes use words such as 'aim', 'anticipate', 'target', 'expect', 'estimate', 'intend', 'plan', 'goal', 'believe', or other words of similar meaning. Examples of forward-looking statements include, among others, statements regarding the consummation of the business combination between ABN AMRO and Barclays within the expected timeframe and on the expected terms (if at all), the benefits of the business combination transaction involving ABN AMRO and Barclays, including the achievement of synergy targets, ABN AMRO's and Barclays future financial position, income growth, impairment charges, business strategy, projected costs and estimates of capital expenditure and revenue benefits, projected levels of growth in the banking and financial markets, the combined group's future financial and operating results, future financial position, projected costs and estimates of capital expenditures, and plans and objectives for future operations of ABN AMRO, Barclays and the combined group and other statements that are not historical fact. Additional risks and factors are identified in ABN AMRO and Barclays filings with the SEC including ABN AMRO and Barclays Annual Reports on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006, which are available on ABN AMRO's website at www.abnamro.com and Barclays website at www.barclays.com respectively, and on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

Any forward-looking statements made herein speak only as of the date they are made. Barclays does not undertake to update forward-looking statements to reflect any changes in expectations with regard thereto or any changes in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based. The reader should, however, consult any additional disclosures that ABN AMRO and Barclays have made or may make in documents they have filed or may file with the SEC.