

Overbury to fit out new city offices for Mazars

Tamlyn Jones

Business Correspondent

OFFICE fit-out contractor Overbury has won the brief for Mazars' new home in Birmingham city centre.

The financial services firm will relocate 200 staff from its current base in Church Street early next year to a 12,000 sq ft space in Two Chamberlain Square at the £700 million Paradise project.

The brand new office will have a range of desk styles with staff able to choose from a combination of more than 30 agile working spaces.

There will also be meeting rooms, booths, breakout spaces, board room and other collaborative working areas, a wellbeing lounge, coffee bar and lockable storage.

Michele Clifton, office design account manager with Overbury, said: "We're thrilled to be delivering such a dynamic and collaborative working environment on behalf of Mazars. The design is based on creating the very best workplace for now and the future and has been shaped by input from Mazars' diverse local team and our learning in developing post-covid spaces.

"We want to create a truly exceptional experience through a workplace that will be an academy for learning, somewhere that allows for choice and autonomy, encouraging social interaction and striking a balance between work and wellbeing.

"We're looking forward to delivering a fully inclusive fit out that places the user at its very heart, giving people a choice of where and how they want to work."

Ian Holder, office managing part-



> Two Chamberlain Square, right, sits near Birmingham Town Hall. Below: Plans for the interior fit-out for Mazars



ner for Mazars in Birmingham, added: "Our new office reinforces our commitment to remaining part of the fabric of the vibrant Birmingham

business community and underscores our confidence in the continued growth of the team. Our new office space reflects the firm's

new global brand identity - it is designed for modern ways of working, reflecting the needs of a dynamic and diverse team and client base."

Flotation of Mailbox is postponed

THE flotation of Birmingham's Mailbox has been postponed.

The shopping, office and leisure complex was due to be the first asset to launch an initial public offering (IPO) on the new International Property Securities Exchange (IPsx) on December 14.

But the newly formed Mailbox REIT, which will own the building, has announced it will be delayed due to the potential acquisition of M7 Real Estate by an unnamed real estate investor.

M7 Real Estate bought the Mailbox in 2019 and will continue to be the building's asset manager and a major shareholder in Mailbox REIT following the IPO.

A statement said: "While both the board and M7 Real Estate's management team remain fully committed to the IPO and the investor is supportive of it, all parties feel it is prudent and fair to prospective shareholders in the company to wait until there is certainty regarding any potential transaction before continuing.

"It is anticipated there will be clarity regarding the transaction in January. Any subscriptions received to date will be returned in full pending that announcement."

IPsx is a new stock exchange on which shares will be traded in companies owning single real estate assets. Former BBC Dragons' Den star James Caan is a shareholder in both IPsx and also the Mailbox REIT as revealed by the *Post* last week.

Mailbox's intention to float was confirmed in October and the following month it announced a major management contract with co-working specialist Spaces to run 50,000 sq ft of flexible offices on the building's ground floor, removing an entire level of retail space on one go.

Many changes over 15 years of success for Hawkins Hatton



Colin Rodrigues

SITTING at my desk and reflecting with Harminster Sandhu sitting opposite me, I cannot believe it has been 15 years since the inception of Hawkins Hatton - with the very first deal in my first month being the management buyout of Welconstruct Group on January 31, 2006.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since and we have seen a lot of changes, not to mention the financial crash and now the Covid crisis.

Fifteen years are usually symbolised by crystal... I wish I had been given a crystal ball but even then, I know I would never

have predicted the times that we are now in, no matter how much I pretend to be a soothsayer when not practising as a lawyer!

With any reflection, time seems to be encapsulated by certain key historical events, and to me, I still recall a very small low-key party where Digby Jones (aka the Baron Jones of Birmingham) helped launch the firm.

I know that this year is not a time for celebration and we have cancelled some key events where we always look to catch up with friends and clients alike, both locally at Weston Park and also in London, but we are undeterred and remain positive about the future.

I know when this reflection is published, Christmas will soon be upon us and 2020 will certainly be a time ingrained in all of our minds for years to come.

I have always been the optimist and I can say that I never thought when I first started Hawkins

Hatton with Harminster at my side, it would be the success that it has now become.

We have, in the last 15 years, received praise from both our peers and those who would comment on the profession.

This has given Hawkins Hatton the recognition it deserves as a niche corporate practice and a bank panel firm within both the Legal 500 and Chamber and Partners.

I have also thought about the clients that we have worked with and people we have helped.

I can honestly say that if I had my time again, there would not be many things that I would change as from the experience that I have had, I have learned valuable lessons which, in turn, have created different opportunities and outcomes - and I would never want to change this.

I have always strived to work hard knowing that success should follow. I appreciate a sprinkling of

good fortune always helps create the aura of confidence that enables self-belief to flourish. I want to thank each and every one of you who have been part of Hawkins Hatton, whether as clients, professional contacts, colleagues and those who we regard as our friends, for all of the help and support that has been afforded to us and allowed us to stay true to the niche corporate practice vision we envisaged when we first started.

We wish everyone a peaceful and safe time over Christmas and warm wishes and prosperity for the New Year.

Colin Rodrigues, Corporate Partner of Hawkins Hatton

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