### **Research Report**

# Central London office briefing



Q4 2012



Patrick O'Keeffe 020 7911 2768 pok@gva.co.uk

#### West End occupier market

- During Q4 2012, 822,027 sq ft was let, 3.9% up on Q3 2012 and 20% up on the five-year quarterly average. Despite the strong end to the year, take up for 2012 was still 10.2% down on 2011 at 2.8 million sq ft, although it was 3.0% up on the five-year annual average.
- The two largest deals of the quarter were both pre-lets with Publicis taking 63,000 sq ft at Lazari Investments' 82 Baker Street (W1) scheme and Coca Cola taking 60,000 sq ft at 1a Wimpole Street (W1).
- The vacancy rate has increased slightly from 4.6% to 4.7% over the quarter with 3.8 million sq ft now available across the West End.
- As of the end of Q4 2012 there was 2.5 million sq ft under construction across the West End with the 198,000 sq ft Ashdown House (SW1) and 190,000 sq ft Park House (W1) both completing, and construction starting at Derwent's refurbishment of 125,000 sq ft 1 Page Street (SW1).
- Prime rents in Mayfair remain at £95.00 per sq ft with 17 months rent free due to the continued lack of supply in the market. Superprime rents are still at £110 per sq ft, with 12 months rent free.
- Prime rents across the West End sub-areas rose 2.0% during the quarter and are 7.4% up for the year



#### Tony Joyce 020 7911 2861 tony.joyce@gva.co.uk

### City occupier market

- Take up for Q4 2012 totalled 1.5 million sq ft, up 42.7% on the previous quarter, and 29.6% up on the five-year quarterly average. The very strong final quarter meant that take up for 2012 totalled 4.7 million sq ft, 19% up on 2011 and 2.7% up on the five-year annual average.
- The largest deal of the quarter was Jardine Lloyd Thompson's letting of 281,000 sq ft over 8 floors at Minerva's St Botolph Building (EC3) at £45 per sq ft. Elsewhere, Nabarro took 126,000 sq ft at Alban Gate (EC2), paying £45 per sq ft and Miller Insurance took an 84,000 sq ft pre-let at 70 Mark Lane (EC3).
- 7.3 million sq ft is currently under construction across the City. During the quarter, construction completed at the 580,000 sq ft Shard (SE1).
- The vacancy rate is now at 7.6% of total stock with 7.0 million sq ft available across the City.
- Prime rents in the City core remain at £57.50 per sq ft with 27 months rent free on a ten year lease.
- Prime rents across all City sub-areas increased 1.3% during the quarter, with rents up 6.0% on the same time last year.



Rod Parker 020 7911 2875 rod.parker@gva.co.uk

# • Take up for the fourth quarter of the year totalled only 75,126 sq ft, 59.3% down on the previous quarter and 75.4% down on the five-year quarterly average. This means that take up for 2012 totalled 418,300 sq ft, the lowest annual take up since 2009.

**Docklands occupier market** 

- The largest deal of the quarter was Clearstream taking 22,500 sq ft at 11 Westferry Circus (E14) over two floors.
- The Docklands vacancy rate is now 8.1% with 1.6 million sq ft available.
- The only space currently under construction remains the part pre-let 542,000 sq ft at 25 Churchill Place (E14) which started on site in Q1 2012 and is due to complete in 2014.
- Prime rents in Canary Wharf remain at £37.50 per sq ft, with rent free periods at 30 months.



Nick Swabey 020 7911 2860 nick.swabey@gva.co.uk

#### **Central London investment market**

- Investment transactions in central London for Q4 2012 totalled £3.1 billion, 12.1% up on the £2.8 billion measured in Q3 2012, and 45.6% up on the five-year quarterly average of £2.2 billion.
- Central London investment during 2012 totalled £13.0 billion, the highest annual investment since 2007, and 80.3% up on total investment for 2011.
- The high volume of overseas investment remains the main story with overseas money making up 79% of investment in the West End for the quarter, and 60% in the City. Overseas investment made up 67% of total investment across central London during 2012.
- The largest deal of the quarter in the City was lvanhoe Cambridge purchasing Woolgate Exchange (EC2) for £265 million at a yield of 5.97%.
- In Docklands, Legal & General purchased the West Tower, Millharbour (E14) for £41 million at a yield of 5.75%.
- The largest deal in the West End was the purchase of 1-11 John Adam Street (WC2) for £260 million by Blackstone at a yield of 7.5%. The largest occupier is DWO, who occupy 165,000 sq ft, and is due to move out in 2013.
- Prime yields are still 5.0% in the City and 4.0% in the West End.



	West End		City		Docklands	
Take up, quarter 4 2012	(sq ft)	Change on last quarter	(sq ft)	Change on last quarter	(sq ft)	Change on last quarter
Entire	822,027	up	1,203,043	up	75,126	down
New Build/refurb (pre-construction)	62,986	up	1,484,186	up	-	-
New Build/Refurb (under construction)	149,009	up	53,958	up	-	-
New Build/Refurb (existing)	153,931	up	240,213	up	-	-
Second Hand Grade A	286,023	down	474,879	up	37,733	down
Second Hand Grade B	170,078	down	349,992	up	37,393	up
100,000 sq ft+	0	-	406,684	up	0	-
50,000-99,999 sq ft	122,540	up	144,979	up	0	down
10,000-49,999 sq ft	366,041	up	474,399	up	22,500	up
5,000-9,999 sq ft	333,446	down	458,124	down	52,626	up
Supply, quarter 4 2012	West End		City		Docklands	
Total available space	3,838,062	up	6,974,337	up	1,580,793	up
Vacancy rate (%)	4.7%	up	7.6%	up	8.1%	up
Core	980,654	down	3,485,122	down	1,305,130	up
Fringe	2,857,408	ир	3,489,215	up	275,663	down
Future supply	West End		City		Docklands	
Under construction	2,527,634	down	7,257,398	ир	542,000	-

Principal office occupier transactions, quarter 4 2012			
Address	Size (sq ft)	Tenant Rent	
Alban Gate, EC2	125,541	Nabarro LLP	£45.00
The St Botolph Building, EC3	281,143	Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group plc	£45.00
The Walbrook Building, EC4	60,978	Gallagher Heath	£57.50
82 Baker Street, W1	62,986	Publicis Limited	
70 Mark Lane, EC3	84,001	Miller Insurance Services Limited £55.00	

Prime rents, quarter 4 2012				
Sub area	Headline rent (£ psf)	Rent free		
West End				
Covent Garden	£65.00	18 months		
Fitzrovia	£62.50	18 months		
Holborn WC1	£55.00	20 months		
Mayfair	£95.00	17 months		
Mayfair Super-Prime	£110.00	12 months		
North of Oxford St	£85.00	18 months		
Paddington	£57.50	20 months		
Soho	£80.00	18 months		
St James's	£95.00	17 months		
Victoria	£67.50	20 months		
City				
Central City Core	£57.50	27 months		
Chancery Lane / Midtown	£55.00	24 months		
City Eastern Fringe	£35.00	24 months		
City Northern Fringe	£47.50	24 months		
Insurance Sector	£55.00	24 months		
West City	£55.00	24 months		
Waterloo/Bankside	£47.50	21 months		
London Bridge/More London	£45.00	24 months		
Docklands				
Canary Wharf	£37.50	30 months		
Other Docklands	£27.50	30 months		

Prime yields, quarter 4 2012		
Sub area	Yield (%)	
Mayfair / St James's	4.00	
Victoria	5.25	
North Oxford Street / Fitzrovia	5.25	
Soho / Covent Garden	5.25	
Paddington	5.75	
City Core	5.00	
City Eastern Fringe	6.25	
City Northern Fringe	5.75	
Southwark	5.75	
Holborn	5.25	

Principal office investment transactions, quarter 4 2012

Address	Price (£ million)		Purchaser
Woolgate Exchange, EC2	£265	5.97	Ivanhoe Cambridge
1-11 John Adam Street, WC2	£260	7.50	Blackstone Real Estate
1 Great Winchester Street, EC2	£245	5.50	China Investment Corp
78 St James's Street, SW1	£177	5.10	SOFAZ (Azerbaijan)
160 Tooley Street, SE1	£170	4.25	London Bor of Southwark

Investment transactions, quarter 4 2012 (& million)		
West End	£1,214	
City	£1,870	
Docklands	£55	
Central London	£3,139	

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