

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Thursday 10 September 2015

Subject: **Mayor of Bristol unveils plaque at Computershare's offices in South Bristol to commemorate building's listing**

Bristol, Thursday 10 September 2015: The Mayor of Bristol today unveiled a plaque at Computershare's offices in South Bristol to commemorate the building's listing by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Thanks to its unique architectural character, The Pavilions was recommended for protected status by Historic England (formerly English Heritage) earlier this year, and a blue, triangular plaque in the entrance to the financial services company's building on Bridgwater Road now marks its protected status.

George Ferguson, The Mayor of Bristol, said: "It's wonderful that The Pavilions has been recognised for its high quality architecture and adopted by the people of Bristol, who relate to its special character, so thank you Computershare for everything you do for this city.

"It's important that companies are willing to engage with Bristol, and Computershare is vitally important to us; a key partner in helping to make Bristol, and South Bristol particularly, a better place and a healthy community."

Naz Sarkar, Chief Executive Officer for Computershare in the UK, said: " Next month it will have been 20 years since we first moved into the Pavilions, and we're immensely proud of this building.

"Our multi-million pound renovation scheme is ongoing, and we're committed to continuing our investment both in The Pavilions and in our local community, particularly in helping to manage transport to and from the office as sustainably as possible.

"We're really looking forward to building on our ongoing partnerships with Bristol City Council and our new friends at Historic England to ensure The Pavilions can accommodate the needs of a growing, modern business whilst keeping and replenishing the character that makes it so special."

Before the unveiling, The Mayor, Mr Sarkar and Deborah Williams from Historic England, addressed a group of invitees from local government and business as well as the architectural and heritage sectors.

Don Ferguson, one of the two original architects of the building, was a special guest, having travelled down from Scotland to attend the event.

Attendees also took part in a tour of The Pavilions, which included areas recently renovated by Computershare as part of a £13 million program, as well as usually inaccessible and disused areas that the firm says it aims to overhaul and fill with new recruits.

On Saturday 12 September members of the general public will be able to access the building as part of the national Heritage Open Days and Bristol Doors Open Day events.

The building tours were designed in conjunction with experts from Historic England, who recommended The Pavilions for protection.

Computershare is also running a programme of tours for staff members over Thursday 10 and Friday 11 September to help employees understand the building's unique history.

Historic England has described The Pavilions as "an excellent example of a low-energy commercial building of the 1970s", and said that Computershare's vision for the building "recognises the unique architectural qualities which have led to its listing, allowing the past to be part of the future."

Enjoying views over the surrounding countryside and towards Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge, it was one of 14 post-war buildings to be recognised nationally.

The environmentally-friendly building was designed by Arup Associates and was influenced by principles of architect Frank Lloyd Wright and the Arts and Crafts Movement.

Originally housing the former Central Electricity Generating Board, the building was built between 1975 and 1978.

Computershare is a global financial services firm and the second largest private sector employer in the Bristol City Council local authority area, with over 1,500 people working at The Pavilions.

Computershare says it has plans for further improvements to The Pavilions, with future refurbishments creating even more jobs in the area.

The firm recently introduced new, larger bike sheds for employees and operates allotments and bee hives in its grounds.

A few spaces remain on Saturday's public tours, which will take place every 45 minutes between 11am and 3pm, each with a capacity of 25 people.

Visitors must book a place on a tour in advance via www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/open-doors-at-the-pavilions-public-tours-tickets-17952107236.

ENDS

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Notes

1. Photo caption: (Left to right) George Ferguson, Mayor of Bristol, Deborah Williams, of Historic England, Naz Sakar, Chief Executive Officer at Computershare UK, and Don Ferguson, one of the Pavilions original architects
2. For high resolution images of spokespeople, visit <http://cpu.vg/spokespeople>

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