

Welsh Secretary accepts keys to new UK Government hub in Cardiff

- New base in central Cardiff will open doors to 4,000 UK Government civil servants in late 2020
- Part of UK Government's commitment to the Union and levelling up Civil Service resources across the whole of the United Kingdom
- One of 16 UK Government hub buildings currently being created

The Secretary of State for Wales has been handed the keys to a new UK Government hub building in Cardiff city centre.

Rightacres Property Company formally presented the keys to the Right Honourable Simon Hart MP today (Friday 10 January). Contractors ISG will now prepare the building, in Central Square, for more than 4,000 civil servants from several UK Government departments and agencies to start work in late 2020.

The Cardiff building is one of 16 UK Government hubs currently being created across the UK's nations and regions. It forms part of the UK Government's commitment to the Union by building the capacity of the civil service across the whole of the United Kingdom and levelling up resources.

The new development follows the UK Government's recent announcement of up to £58 million to upgrade Cardiff Central railway station and a £5 billion investment in improving journeys through electrifying the Great Western Mainline between South Wales and London.

The Cardiff building has been named Tŷ William Morgan – William Morgan House, to recognise Bishop William Morgan's role in maintaining the strength of the Welsh language through his 1588 translation of the Bible into Welsh.

Secretary of State for Wales Simon Hart said:

This investment shows the UK Government's commitment to Wales and to strengthening the Union, as well as growing the capacity of the civil service outside London.

Today's event signals an exciting milestone in the construction of Tŷ William Morgan – William Morgan House which will provide a modern, flexible working environment in the heart of Cardiff for thousands of our civil servants.

Minister for Implementation at the Cabinet Office, Jeremy Quin, said:

Moving thousands of civil servants into the heart of city centres

across the UK is helping to boost local economies and ensure that the UK Government is not just centred in London.

This development in Cardiff will bring a real boost to the area, complementing the fantastic government investments that have already been announced for the city.

HMRC Director General for Customer Compliance in HMRC, Penny Ciniewicz said:

This is a significant milestone for HMRC, which will bring together more than 3,600 colleagues into Central Square. The department has a large and long-established presence in Wales and the new regional centre in Cardiff demonstrates our commitment to Wales and its economy.

This modern building will bring teams together, so they have the opportunity to work differently and more effectively.

The £100 million 270,000 square foot development has been delivered by Rightacres, Cardiff Council and funders Legal & General (LGIM Real Assets). Designed by architects Gensler and constructed by Sir Robert McAlpine, the 12-storey office building will house staff from a number of UK Government departments in Wales and will also have capacity to host full UK Cabinet meetings. HMRC is the largest occupier – the hub will be its regional centre and bring around 3,600 of its staff to Central Square.

Paul McCarthy, Chief Executive of Rightacres, added:

This is a team effort as we work with our partners to transform the heart of our capital city with a new gateway to Wales that we can all be proud of.

As one of the most successful regeneration projects in the UK, Central Square is a catalyst for the creation of new civic space and a city centre that is people-friendly, easily accessible, flexible and safe. From the brilliant strategic creativity of the masterplan to the laying of each individual paving slab, the delivery of this iconic development on time and on budget is testament to all involved.

Tom Roberts, Head of Strategic Investment at LGIM Real Assets, said:

The delivery of the new Government hub on time and to such a high standard is testament to the collaborative approach adopted on this successful development. The new Government hub is a wonderful

example of a modern fit-for-purpose building that is surrounded by excellent amenities and infrastructure. We are excited to see it come to life later this year with employees as Cardiff Central Square enters its final stages of development.

Construction of phase one of the Central Square project commenced in 2014, with One Central Square completed in March 2016 followed by Two Central Square in the summer of 2017. The new headquarters for BBC Cymru Wales was completed in April 2018 and work begun on the new bus interchange in July 2019.

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