

## **Computershare Investor Services PLC**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

Date:	Monday 10 August 2015
Subject:	Computershare to open doors to its listed South Bristol headquarters to the public for guided tours

Bristol, Monday 10 August 2015 – Bristol-based financial services company Computershare has announced that it will open its doors to the public for guided tours of its recently listed headquarters, The Pavilions on Bridgwater Road, on Saturday 12 September 2015.

Every year thousands of people across the country can visit otherwise inaccessible buildings of architectural interest across the country as part of annual Heritage Open Days, and this year Computershare's offices will join several others across the city taking part in 'Bristol Opening Doors', organised by the Architecture Centre.

Naz Sarkar, Chief Executive Officer for Computershare in the UK, said: "We're really pleased to be working with Historic England to offer members of the public a chance to have a closer look at this iconic architectural treasure.

"We know it has played a significant role in the lives of many local people, with so many telling us they have worked here, were involved in its construction or have visited over the years.

"We've worked hard at retaining the building's unique attributes whilst adapting it to the needs of a growing, modern business, and we expect visitors will get a glimpse of its fascinating past – as well as its dynamic future as our national and regional headquarters."

Deborah Williams, West Team Leader at Historic England, said: "The former Central Electricity Generating Board office is one of a very small number of outstanding office buildings of the twentieth century.

"Built to the designs of Arup Associates, the building successfully combines energy efficiency with outstanding design to create a modern office setting which provides an attractive and positive working environment for employees as well as conveying a strong corporate image.

"Set within a carefully designed landscape by Peter Swann, the 'campus-style' offices are now home to Computershare whose vision for the building recognises the unique architectural qualities which have led to its listing, allowing the past to be part of the future."

The Pavilions were given listed status by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in January 2015 following a recommendation from Historic England (formerly English Heritage).

In its report, Historic England described the building as "an excellent example of a low-energy commercial building of the 1970's."

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

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, the Arts and Crafts Movement.

Construction began in 1975 and took three years to finish.

Originally housing the former Central Electricity Generating Board, owners Computershare recently invested £13 million in a refurbishment that created local jobs and ensured the building is fit for modern working practices while remaining sympathetic to its original design.

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.

Tours will take place every 45 minutes between 11am and 3pm, each with a capacity of 25 people.

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

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## Notes

1. For high resolution images of spokespeople, visit <u>http://cpu.vg/spokespeople</u>

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