

Staycity Aparthotels opens in Manchester's 'Lazy S'



Manchester's modernist Gateway House - also known as the 'Lazy S' - will open today, 8 May, as a Staycity Aparthotel, creating 50 new jobs.

The building, which sits alongside Piccadilly Station, was built in the 60s as offices and retail space but has remained empty since 2010. Staycity Aparthotels has signed a 25-year lease on the building, which is owned by LaSalle Investment Management, and will occupy all seven floors with retail space remaining underneath.

Staycity Manchester Piccadilly offers 182 short-let apartments made up of one-, two-, and three-bed units each with an open-plan sitting room, kitchen and dining area and en-suite bathroom. Additional facilities include a café, lounge area, gym, car park for 56 vehicles and a 24-hour reception service as well as four separate meeting rooms offering a total space of 42m² available for bookings from guests or local companies.

'This is an important opening for Staycity as the building is a well-known landmark in Manchester - the first sight of the city visitors have when they arrive by train to Manchester Piccadilly. We are delighted to be part of the regeneration of this unusual and striking building,' commented Staycity Aparthotels CEO Tom Walsh.

Dublin-based Staycity is one of the fastest-growing European aparthotel providers. Its well-equipped apartments are popular with both business and leisure travellers as an alternative to hotel accommodation.

'Our apartments offer guests a freedom that they don't get from a hotel. Business and leisure travellers either on short or long-stays are discovering the more home-from-home feel of an aparthotel, where they are free to cook their own food when they want and have the space to relax, work or meet colleagues or friends,' added Walsh.

Staycity operates over 3,000 apartments across 10 European cities including Birmingham, Dublin, Edinburgh, London, Paris, Lyon and Marseille. The company intends to grow to 15,000 apartments by 2022, reinforcing its position as one of the leading aparthotel operators. www.staycity.com [ends]

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EDITOR'S NOTES

About Staycity Aparthotels

Staycity Aparthotels is a privately held company based in Dublin offering quality short-term and long-term apartment and aparthotel lettings in central city locations. These include Dublin (179 apartments), Edinburgh (146), Manchester (84), Liverpool (56), Birmingham Arcadian Centre (79), Birmingham Newhall Square (170), London Heathrow (269), London Greenwich (166), Paris (50), York (197), Marseille (108) and Lyon (144).

The company was founded in 2004 by Tom Walsh and his brother Ger starting with a an apartment in Dublin's Temple Bar, a former recording studio used by the likes of U2.

With its active expansion across Europe Staycity Aparthotels has quickly established itself as one of the leading serviced apartment operators. In 2015 it secured capital funding from Swedish finance house Proventus Capital Partners. The company has a projected annual turnover of ?60m (2017).

Seven of the company's properties have become Laterooms.com Simply The Guest Top Rated (STG) winners for 2016, based on guest review scores of over 80%. In 2015 Staycity Aparthotels was inducted into the TripAdvisor Hall of Fame, having won a Certificate of Excellence award for its Birmingham (Arcadian Centre) and Dublin (Saint Augustine Street) locations for five consecutive years. www.staycity.com