

# WELCOME

Welcome to the Q3 2025 edition of SHW's South East Office Focus.

2025 take up to date across the South East office market has continued to be slow with very few transactions happening over 5,000 sq ft which is the size which we start to capture our data.

Where there has been activity, the majority of take up is linked to a 'flight to quality' move, with businesses wanting to provide the best quality office space they can afford for their staff. Global uncertainty is holding back a number of occupiers moves which is resulting in low levels of takeup, albeit there are a few buildings under offer and so we expect the back end of 2025 to show more activity.

As business and employment costs increase, occupiers are starting to look hard at property costs and push back on rental aspirations. As a result, buildings offering competitive rents and/ or larger incentives are likely to see higher letting activity. Successful lettings will continue to encourage investors to spend on refurbishment and repositioning of suitable stock.

The following report reviews recent activity and market trends across the South East region, comparing this with past take-up and availability.

For more information, please contact any member of the SHW team.



**TIM HARDWICKE** Partner Head of Agency





# **HIGHEST RENT ACHIEVED**



**GRADE A RENTS PER SQ FT** 

Average Average Average Average Average Average Average £85 per sq ft £100 per sq ft £82 per sq ft £62 per sq ft

# **VACANCY**



**COVENT GARDEN** 

8% VACANCY

**BLOOMBURY** 

ST. JAMES'S

**9% VACANCY** 

**12% VACANCY** 





**MIDTOWN 6% VACANCY** 



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**Jonathan Shuttleworth** Director 07908 463672 jshuttleworth@shw.co.uk

£127 per sq ft £131 per sq ft £68 per sq ft

# **LOGGED DEMAND**

(SQ FT)

	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
FITZROVIA	2.6M	2.9M	3.4M	3.4M
SOHO	2.5M	2.7M	3.3M	3.0M
COVENT GARDEN	2.9M	2.6M	2.8M	2.6M
MIDTOWN	3.3M	3.0M	2.8M	2.7M

# **NUMBER OF NEW ENQUIRIES** (PER QUARTER)



49

Q1 2025

59 Q4 2024

> 65 Q2 2025



INVESTMENT OFFICE Q3 FOCUS 2025

### **UK ECONOMY AND THE INVESTMENT MARKET**

- GDP in the UK economy has steadily and resiliently grown since the covid volatility of 2020/2021, despite covid / Brexit / inflation and higher interest rates.
- UK domestic interest rates forecast to reduce over short to near term
- Higher cost of money has reduces the margin between the amount of interest that borrowers must pay for debt and the rent that they hope to collect.
- Some buyers have been seeking higher yields to maintain margins this reduces sale prices, this is now somewhat ameliorated by some buyers being impatient to invest.
- Despite this, many buyers and sellers seeking to trade for their own reasons often driven by, for example, generational change / I H T, project completion, fund life ending, redemptions, lender pressures, or crystallising profit.
- A great deal of capital is waiting to be deployed but, in projects where the costs are securely known, and the letting background is strong.
- Investor demand for Sale & leaseback, which can be a convenient way for owner occupiers to raise capital.

# **OFFICE INVESTMENT YIELDS**

Office Yields **6.75% - 12%** 

# Depending on:

- Location
- Letting
- Covenant
- ESG credentials
- Parking ratio
- Specification

### **FUTURE**

- Invest in great ESG, think of occupier lifestyle in good letting markets.
- Buildings in top quartile or decile on quality will attract tenants and investors.
- Change of use of medical, educational & residential.
- Good signs of continued employee return to office and away from "WFH".

# **BUYER TYPES**

- HNW Individuals
- Family Property Companies
- Pension Funds
- Family Office/Trust
- Property Investment Companies
- SIPP and SSAS entities
- Property Developers

**Resilience** – Well let to good covenants and properties great ESG credentials.

**Re-Pricing** – Short leases, those in need of investment and improvement works.

### **DEALS DONE**



St Marks House, Eastbourne

30,000 sq ft Office Investment acquired for clients by SHW



Bell Lane, Lewes

Sale and leaseback of long leasehold arranged by SHW at £1.8M



Sovereign House, Brighton

Sale of freehold, 80,000 sq ft, for office repositioning and refurbishment, SHW appointed as letting agent

### **MEET THE TEAM**



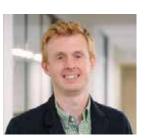
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4.4% VACANCY

Statistics assume 5,000 sq ft and above



HIGHEST RENT ACHIEVED

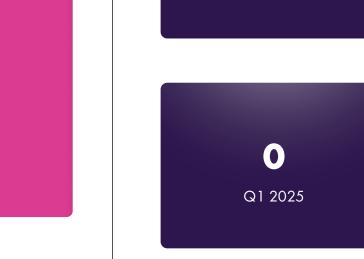
2025

**TAKE UP** 

2020

2021

(SQ FT PER YEAR)

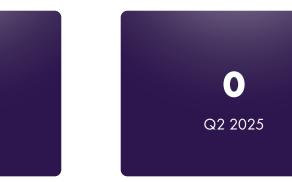


0

2025

2024

(SQ FT)



**20K** 

Q4 2024

Q4 2024

0

Q2 2025



**10K** 

Q3 2024

**LOGGED DEMAND** 



# **NUMBER OF NEW ENQUIRIES** (PER QUARTER)



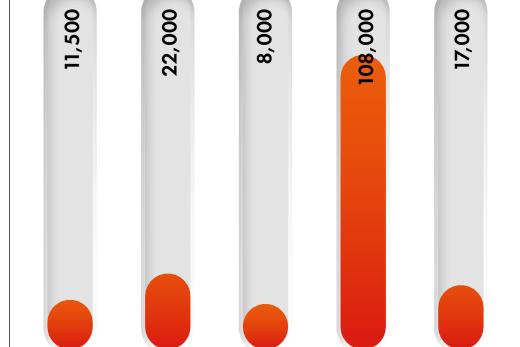






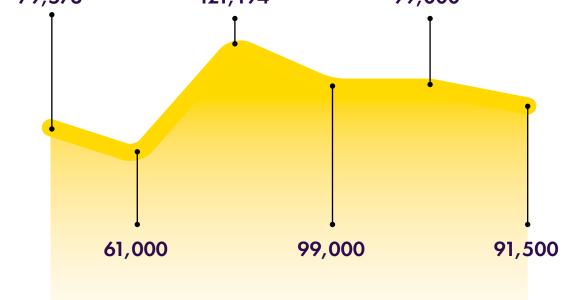






2022

2023



2023

2024

2022

(SQ FT) 79,573 121, 194 99,000

**AVAILABILITY** 

2020

2021







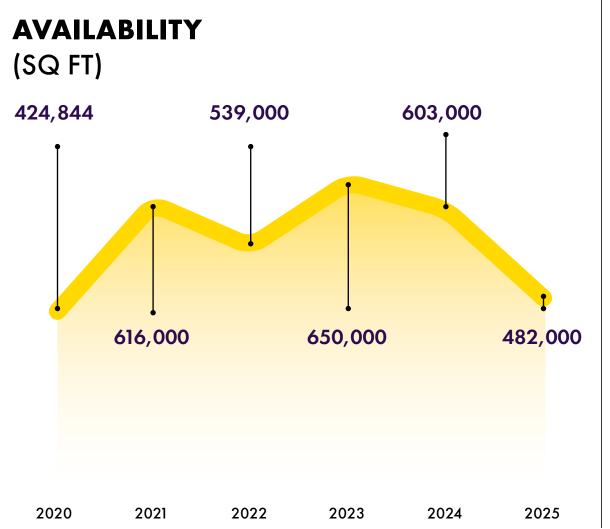
Thomas Tarn
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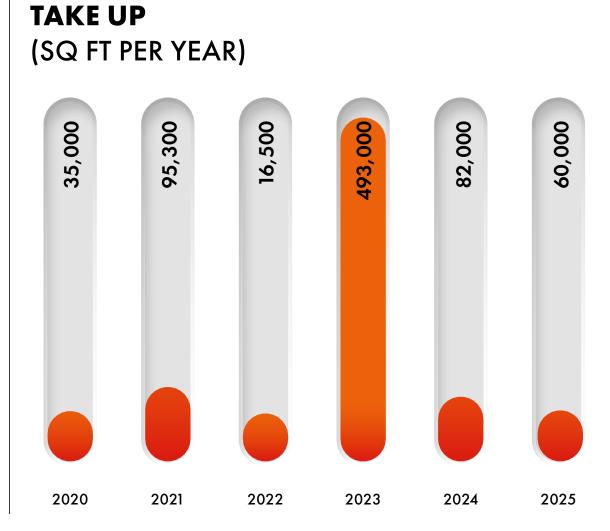
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Luke Longley
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**NUMBER OF NEW ENQUIRIES** 





# **KINGSTON SURBITON & NEW MALDEN**





# **RICHMOND**





# **MEET THE TEAM**



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**Andrew Pollard** Director 07921 059397 apollard@shw.co.uk

**PUTNEY** 





**WIMBLEDON** 





**GRADE A RENTS** 

32,000

2025



# LOGGED DEMAND (SQ FT) 40K Q3 2024 10K Q4 2024



**MEET THE TEAM** 



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Rachel Finn
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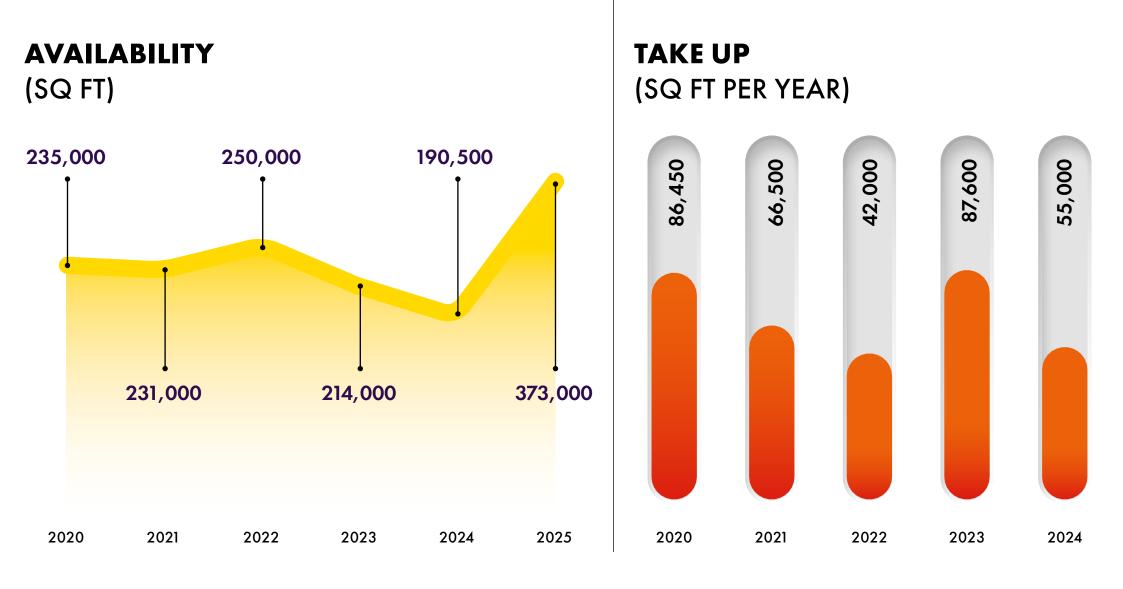
**Thomas Tarn** 

07943 579296

ttarn@shw.co.uk

Director





# NUMBER OF NEW ENQUIRIES (PER QUARTER)

150K

Q1 2025









Statistics assume 5,000 sq ft and above

# EPSOM

8,000 sq ft LET.



# **LOGGED DEMAND** (SQ FT) **40K 30K** Q4 2024 Q3 2024

**50K** 

Q1 2025



**MEET THE TEAM** 



**Mark Skelton** Partner 07885 743202 mskelton@shw.co.uk

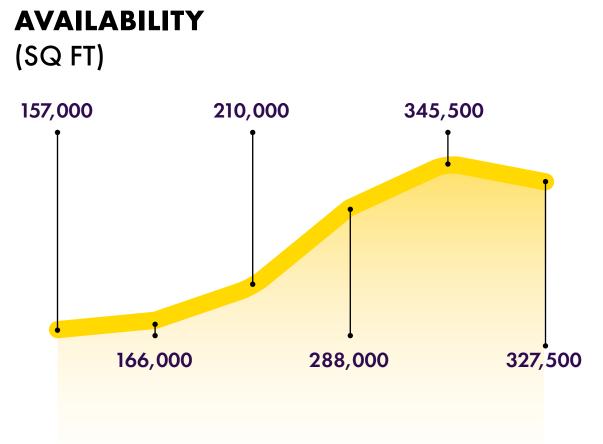
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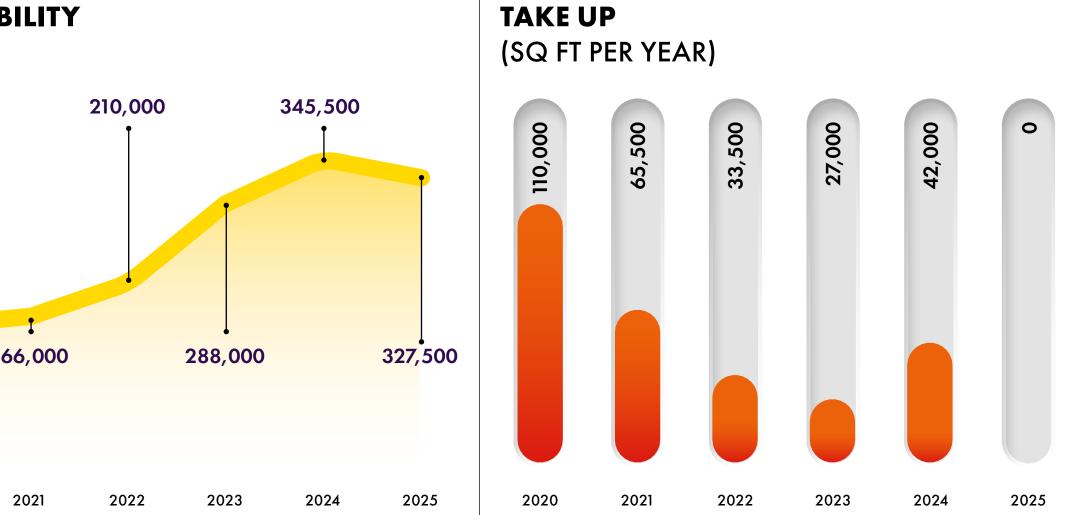
**Adam Godfrey** Partner 07889 075457 agodfrey@shw.co.uk

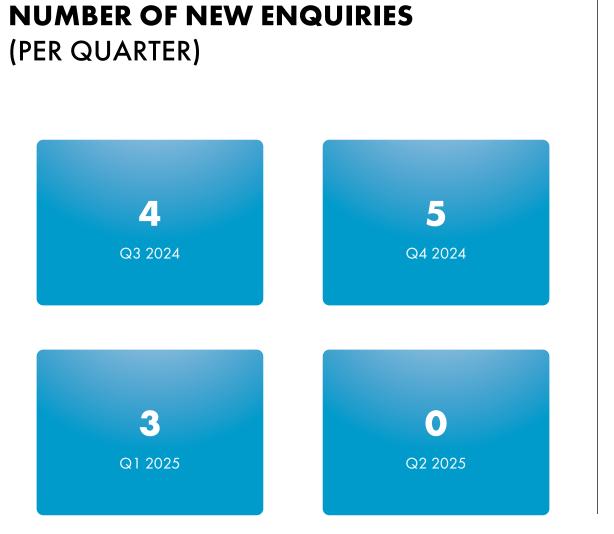


**Rachel Finn** Director 07740 631560 rfinn@shw.co.uk



2020









GROSVENOR HOUSE
REDHILL

ONLY 5,500 sq ft REMAINING.

£24

2022

47,500

2023

2024

**RENTS** 

(£ PER SQ FT)

£24

2021

25,000

2021

2022

2020



**Tim Hardwicke** Partner 07989 420989 thardwicke@shw.co.uk



**Charlie Patey-Johns** 

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**James Bryant** Director 07947 373875 jbryant@shw.co.uk

**LOGGED DEMAND** (SQ FT)

**HIGHEST** 

**QUOTING RENT** 

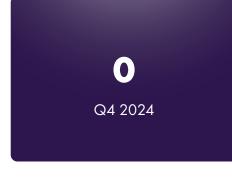
£26

000'6

2025

2024







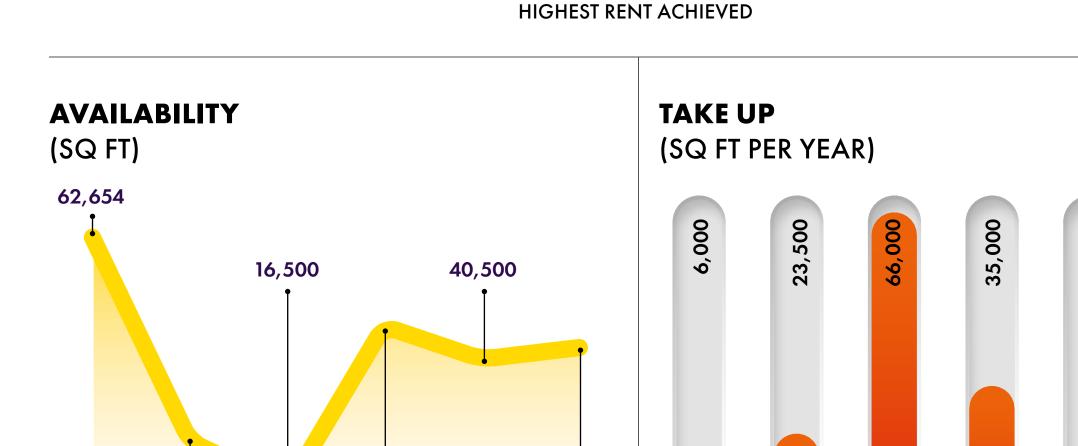












44,000

2025

2020

2021

2022

2023

£24

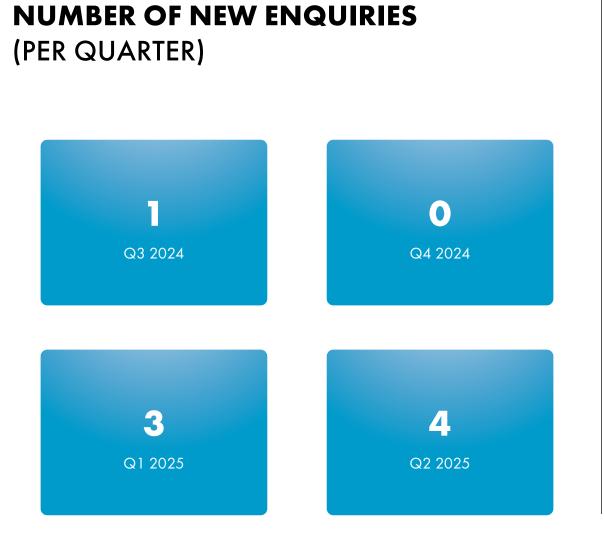
2023

£22

2024

£22

2025

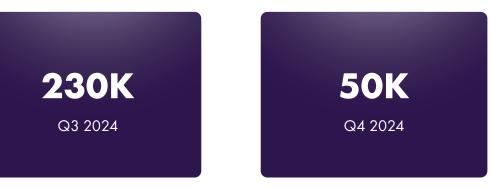




**3.8% VACANCY** 



LOGGED DEMAND (SQ FT)





**NUMBER OF NEW ENQUIRIES** 

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Partner

16



**MEET THE TEAM** 

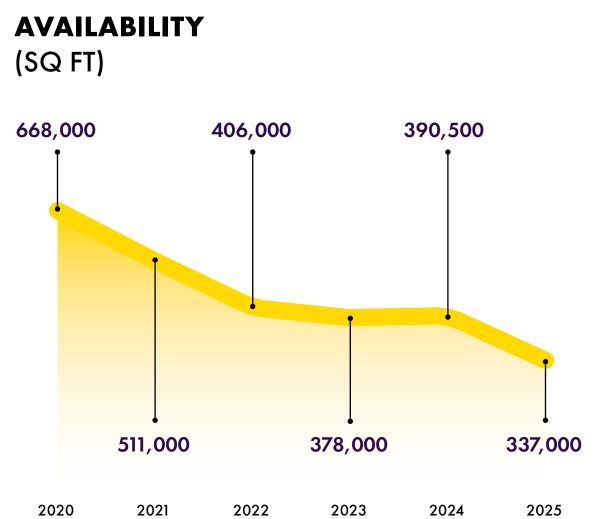
0*77*40 631560

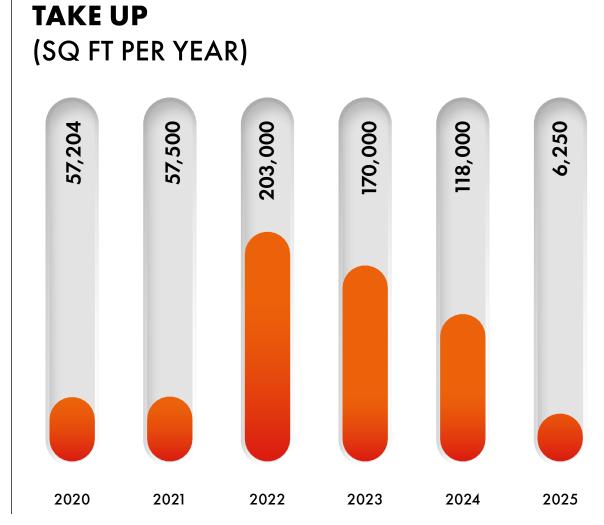
jclement@shw.co.uk

**James Clement** 



Rachel Finn
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07740 631560
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Statistics assume 5,000 sq ft and above



# THE CREATE BUILDING CRAWLEY

Crawley's newest office building located in the town centre.



# **CONTACT**



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At SHW, our Business Rates team are specialists in securing the removal of Business Rates liability on vacant commercial property.

We know that Business Rates is an everincreasing burden on landlords/developers and building owners and we do everything we can to remove this burden for our clients. If your property looks like the photo, then we can seek the complete removal of business rates and achieve a 100% discount in rates.

Speak to our experts.





0

Q4 2024

**20K** 

Q2 2025

0

Q3 2024

**50K** 

Q1 2025

**James Clement** 

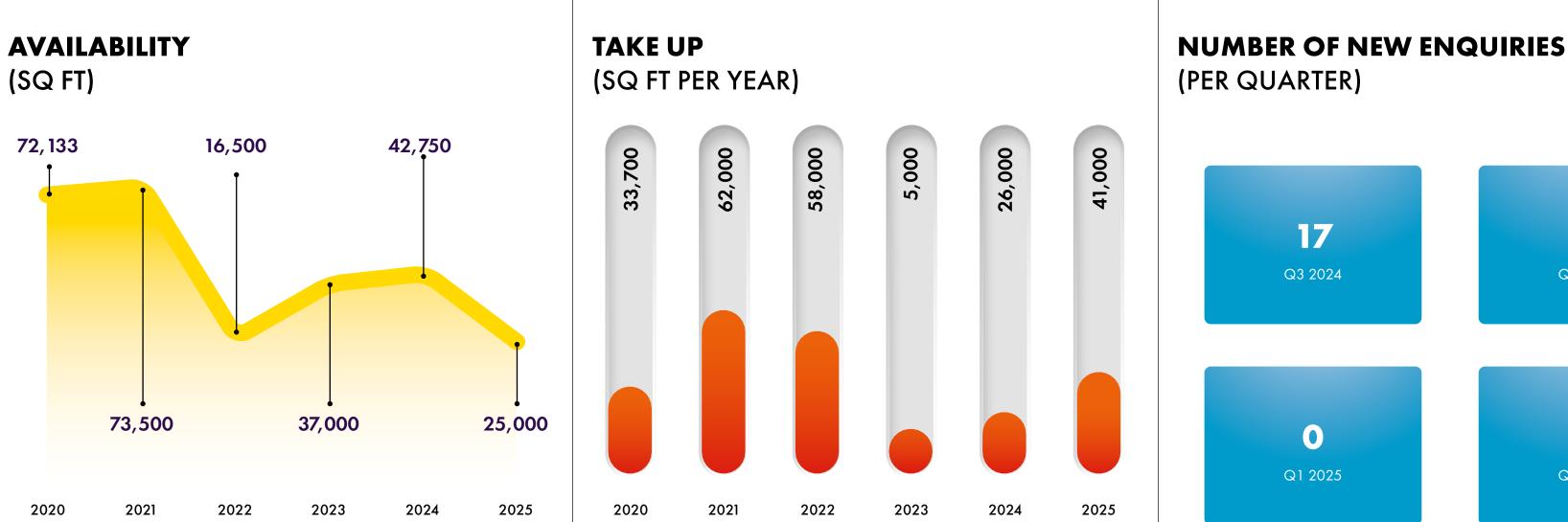
07740 631560 jclement@shw.co.uk

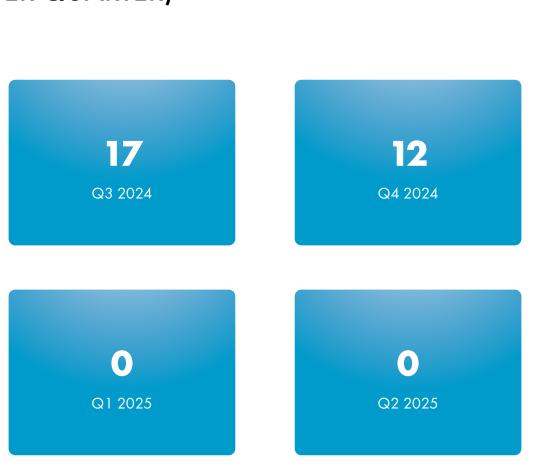


**Rachel Finn** Director 07740 631560 rfinn@shw.co.uk



HIGHEST RENT ACHIEVED







Statistics assume 5,000 sq ft and above

**RENTS** 

(£ PER SQ FT)

£16

2021

**MEET THE TEAM** 









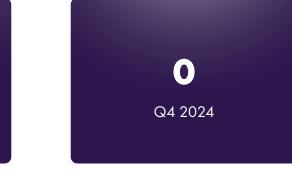


**LOGGED DEMAND** 

(SQ FT)

**HIGHEST** 

**QUOTING RENT** 





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Partner

**Richard Bull** Partner 07872 375967 rbull@shw.co.uk

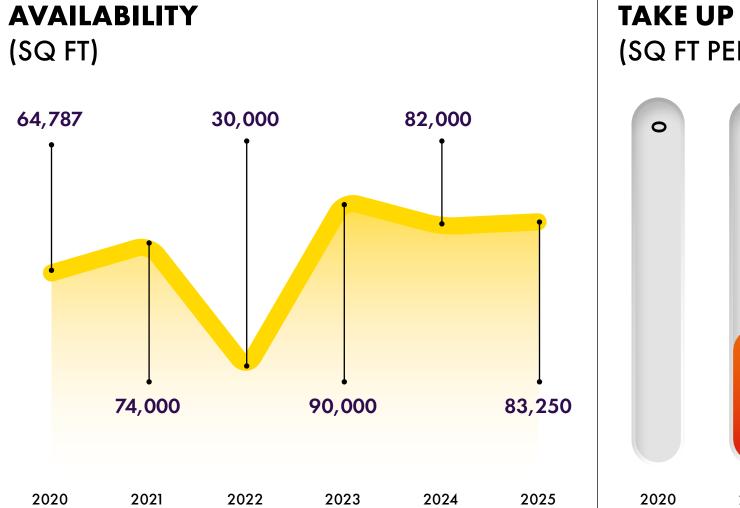
# **HIGHEST RENT ACHIEVED**

£16

2023

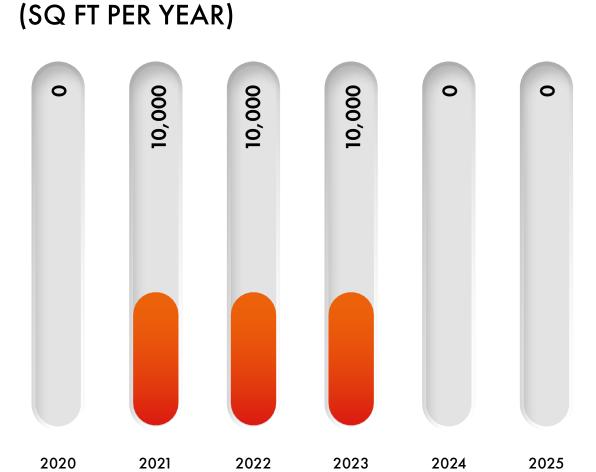
£16

2024



£16

2022



£14

2025











# (£ PER SQ FT)

£32.50

2021

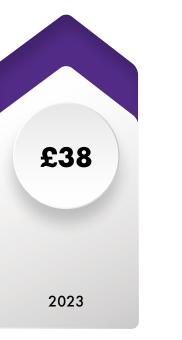
2020

2021

**RENTS** 







HIGHEST RENT ACHIEVED



**TAKE UP** 

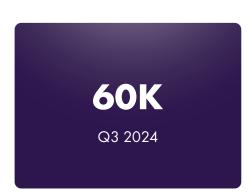


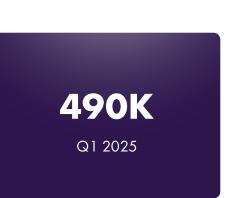
£48

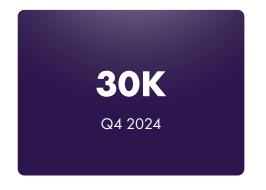
**HIGHEST** 

**QUOTING RENT** 

# **LOGGED DEMAND** (SQ FT)









# **MEET THE TEAM**



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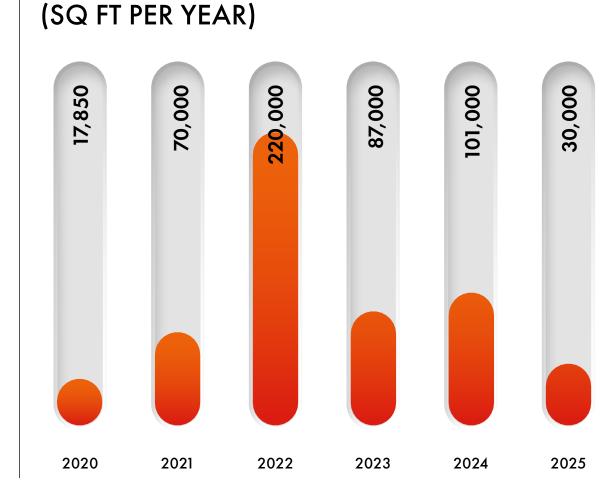
**Richard Bull** Partner 07872 375967 rbull@shw.co.uk

# **AVAILABILITY** (SQ FT) 290,000 420,000 545,500 580,000 **495**,000

2023

2024

2025



# **NUMBER OF NEW ENQUIRIES** (PER QUARTER)















**AVAILABILITY** 

16,000

2021

5,000

2022

5,000

2024

12,000

2025

5,000

2023

(SQ FT)

25,865

2020

**MEET THE TEAM** 

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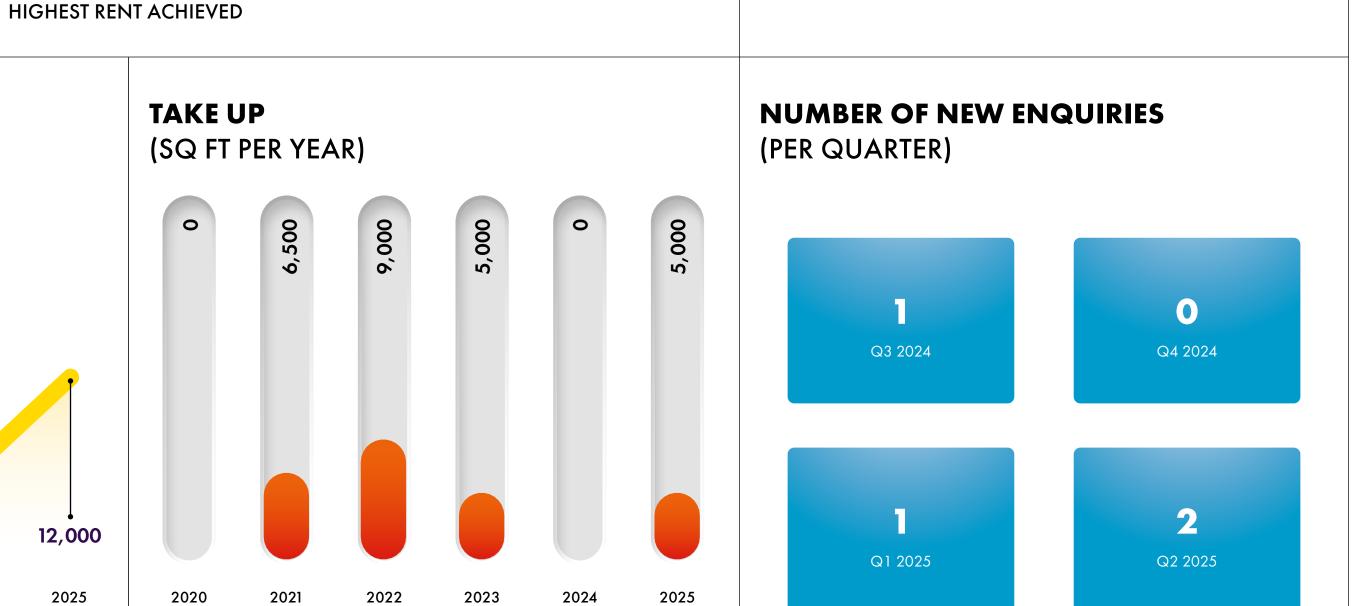
**Max Perkins** 

Surveyor



**Richard Bull** Partner 07872 375967 rbull@shw.co.uk





**LOGGED DEMAND** 

**10K** 

Q3 2024

**10K** 

Q1 2025

0

Q4 2024

**20K** 

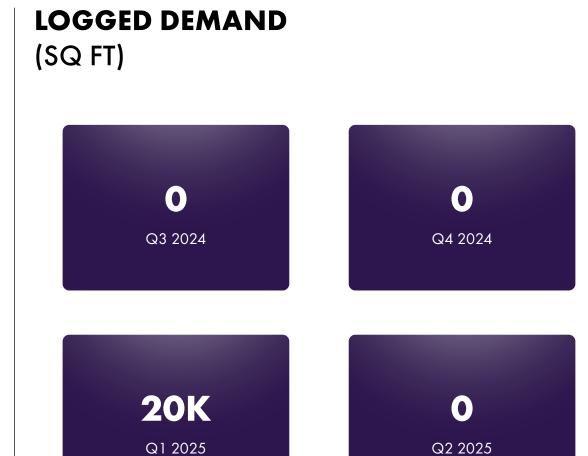
Q2 2025

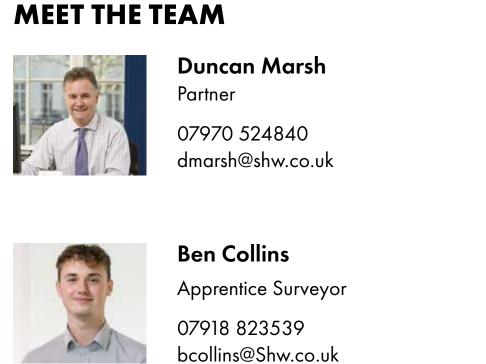
(SQ FT)







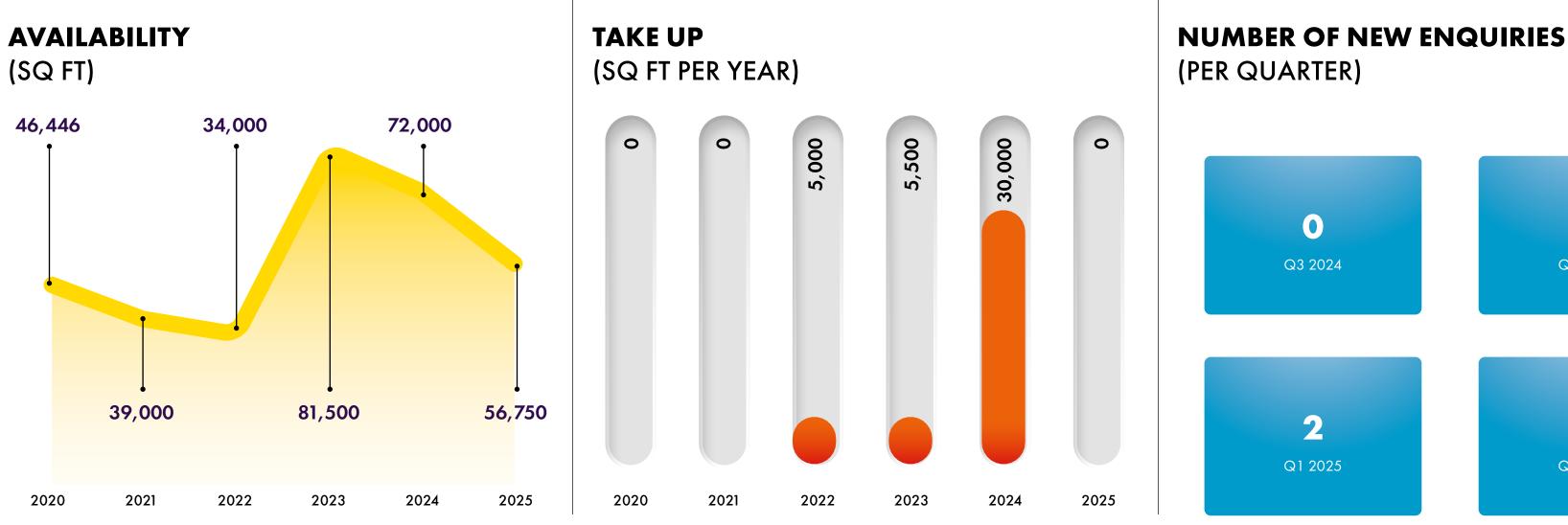




26



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Statistics assume 5,000 sq ft and above



SHW **LONDON** 

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