

**14th June 2010**

## **Legal eagles grab iconic City office**

Advised by Farebrother, QEB Hollis Whiteman has acquired the freehold of 11,600 sq ft, 1-2 Laurence Pountney Hill, EC4, from Threadneedle for £3.3m, seeing-off rival bids once a deal to sell the freehold to a private investor fell through.

QEB Hollis Whiteman's is a leading criminal, fraud and regulatory law chambers, with 53 barristers and 13 Queens' Counsel, led by Rebecca Poulet QC. It represented clients in some of the most notable cases of recent months including the 'Baby P' professional misconduct hearing and the British Airways / Virgin price-fixing trial.

Farebrother and our client had identified the building, part of which dates from the 18th Century Queen Anne period, as well-located, equidistant with the Old Bailey and Southwark Crown Court and well-specified. Farebrother closely monitored progress on the deal and when it fell through were able to negotiate strongly on behalf of our client, soon agreeing a deal equating to just £280 psf. Farebrother has also recently acquired offices for Carpmaels & Ransford (34,000 sq ft at 1 Southampton Row, WC1), Age UK (55,000 sq ft at Tavis House, Tavistock Square, WC1) and MCM (5,500 sq ft at Bracknell Beeches, RG12).

Martin Secrett, Senior Clerk at QEB Hollis Whiteman said 'We are expanding to respond to increased demand but were finding it difficult to secure the right office building in the right location. After an extensive search, this elegant building suits our needs perfectly.'

Paddy Phillips, who handled the acquisition at Farebrother commented, 'We recognised the value to our client – an attractive, period building on the outside with a high quality fit-out inside – a rarity in the City, but it was under offer. We monitored the deal's progress carefully and once re-available ensured that our clients were in a strong position to acquire it.'

Threadneedle, acting on behalf of the building's owners Zurich Insurance, were represented by Hexell Wylie and BNP Paribas.

**ENDS**

## **Notes**

### **Farebrother**

Farebrother are property advisers and chartered surveyors offering a full range of property services in the Centre of London, specialising in Midtown and Southbank. Founded in 1799, the Practice acts for funds, estates, property companies, occupiers and private individuals, including Scottish Widows, PRUPIM, The Governing Body of Rugby School and Delancey.

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