

→ IN BRIEF

OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Renaissance Asset Finance ("RAF") reports that its Northern office in Wilmslow, Cheshire, is now fully operational and adding value to the RAF business. Kerry Stuart (pictured), Office Manager, who has spent the last month

working closely with the Brentwood team to replicate Brentwood's high levels of service said, "I have felt part of the Renaissance family from the very first day I started, and it has been a pleasure working with the rest of the team. We are recruiting for this office and, as a business that can offer long term careers to anyone willing to work hard with a passion to succeed."

Renaissance Asset Finance is planning an official Opening Day event for the Wilmslow office, that will take place around late summer.

New poll: Brokers back Brexit

United Trust Bank ("UTB") has just completed a new Brexit poll of over 150 finance brokers operating in the fields of bridging, development finance, asset finance and mortgages, which has revealed that if broker views are anything to go by, the outcome of the European Union referendum rests on a knife edge. The new poll, carried out in April, has found that 50.7pc of brokers intend to vote to leave the EU in the referendum on the 23rd of June, whilst 49.3pc will vote to stay in.

In a further question, 21pc of brokers indicated that they believed leaving the EU would have a positive effect on their business as opposed to 31pc who saw it as a negative. 48pc of respondents thought that leaving the EU would have no effect on their businesses at all.

Harley Kagan, Managing Director of United Trust Bank, stated, "It would appear that the finance broker community are just as divided as the general public when it comes to the European Union. With just one month to go before Great Britain makes the biggest decision about

its future in nearly 50 years, the results of this poll add to the uncertainty.

"What's interesting though is that nearly half of brokers believe the outcome won't make any difference to their businesses and that just 1 in 5 see leaving the EU as having a positive effect. There have been conflicting arguments from both sides on how the UK economy will fair if the 'Leave' vote wins, but whatever the result, it will be good to have some clarity over what lies in store for the UK so that decisions which have been put on hold pending the outcome can be taken. Many people are adopting a 'let's wait and see' attitude at the moment which is leaving many businesses in limbo."

Leasing World has anecdotal evidence from talking to brokers at the various corporate events this year, that many brokers sympathise with their customers, the SMEs, who would welcome some respite from EU red tape and its regulations (and let's not forget that the FCA's Consumer Credit Authorisation is in fact the implementation of directives straight from Brussels).



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