

# The Northern Powerhouse: Yorkshire's Financial Centre of Excellence



**BUSINESS  
IS  
GREAT**  
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND





Leeds City Centre



Peak District National Park



aqi's dc3 data centre

# Yorkshire - a financial hub at the heart of the UK

*As a prominent region in the Northern Powerhouse, Yorkshire is considered a key centre for financial, business and professional services combining high value technology expertise with a robust talent pool, established financial ecosystem and cost effective real estate. It is perfectly placed for those financial businesses looking to maximise the potential of technological innovation.*

*With a long heritage within the financial and business services sector, the region offers a strong route into the banking sector and is home to over 30 national and international banks. The region also boasts an annual economic output of £94 billion.<sup>1</sup>*

Yorkshire offers a unique location to live, and work, thanks to its heritage, collaborative business ecosystem and the surrounding natural beauty of the Peak District National Park, the Yorkshire Dales and the North Yorkshire Moors National Park.

The region boasts excellent physical and digital connectivity through its independent internet exchange and easy access to the UK road and rail networks, five international airports and the seaports of Liverpool and Hull.

It is also home to four universities which are involved in world leading research and, three of which, are part of the respected Russell Group. The area produces over 40,000 graduates in business and associated subjects and over 13,000 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates each year.<sup>2</sup>

This proximity to world class universities ensures that businesses can access a broad graduate talent pool, complementing the already well-established financial and business services workforce in the area.

This combination of factors has made the region irresistible to businesses, attracting a broad range of companies from SMEs to large multinationals, and resulted in Yorkshire being named as one of the most successful regions in the UK for Foreign Direct Investment by professional services firm EY in its 2015 'Attractiveness Survey'.

- **Outstanding skills**



- **Significant talent pipeline**



- **Low cost and high quality staff, premises and cost of living**



- **Innovation - financial technology hub**



- **Leading data and cyber security expertise**



<sup>1</sup>ONS 2014 - GVA for Local Enterprise Partnerships, 1997-2012

<sup>2</sup>Business and associated subjects refers to: Computer Science, Economics, Law, Business and Administrative Studies and Languages based on HESA 2013/14

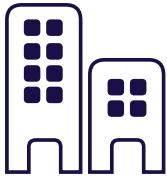


Map - Highlighting the location of Yorkshire's Financial Centre of Excellence



## £14.06 billion

Financial, insurance and business services companies across both Leeds and Sheffield City Regions contributed £14.06 billion in economic output to the UK economy in 2012<sup>1</sup>



## 409,100

People work in business, and financial services across the region<sup>2</sup>

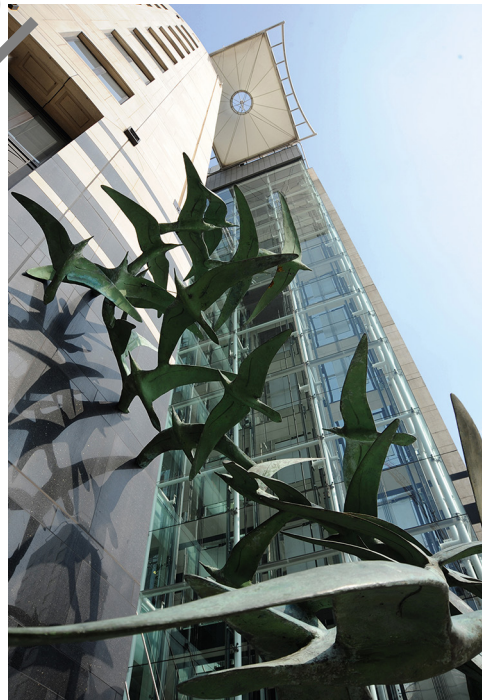


## 900,000

People hold a degree level qualification or higher across the region<sup>3</sup>

*'Choosing Leeds as the location for our European HQ enables us to grow our business in Europe while also delivering value for money. In this region we have access to a large pool of talent, at a lower cost base than London, with the unique mix of digital and financial skills we require.'*

**John Tracy,**  
Head of TD Direct Investing



1 City Square, Leeds

<sup>1</sup> ONS 2012

<sup>2</sup> BRES 2013

<sup>3</sup> ONS Population Survey

# Financial hub

*Yorkshire is a key financial hub at the heart of the UK, contributing over £14 billion to the UK economy from financial, insurance and business services.*

The Regional Econometric Model (REM) forecasts that the sector will grow its economic output for 2014-22 by 21%, creating hundreds of new jobs.

Yorkshire can also boast being home to more than 30 national and international banks alongside a base of eight FTSE 250 company headquarters based in the region.\*

The region's established financial services cluster, excellent digital and data capabilities and strengths in technology and innovation led to chancellor George Osborne naming Leeds as home to one of the first Financial Technology (FinTech) accelerators outside of London.

## Major Employers

A long list of international and well-known companies are located across the region, including HSBC, which bases its global IT shared services from Yorkshire, and Santander Group, which operates its internal contact and service centres from its base in Yorkshire. The Royal Bank of Scotland, TD Direct Investing, Lloyds Banking Group, first direct and Handelsbanken all operate significant banking operations in the region, alongside Aviva, KPMG, EY, Deloitte and PwC.



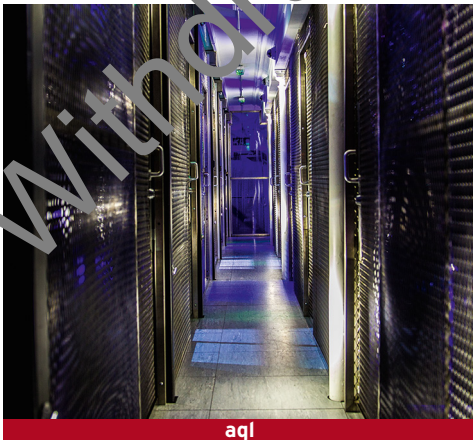
TD Direct Investing

# Infrastructure

## Digital Infrastructure

The region is well equipped for both the present and the future, with a strong digital infrastructure that can meet the fast developing digital requirements of modern business. There are more than six data centres across Yorkshire including, aql, Onyx, Parseq, ASK4, Bull IT and Cap Gemini. The ASK4 data centre links to its 10Gb/s carrier neutral dedicated national network and is well connected to key network locations.

Yorkshire is home to the UK's only independent internet exchange outside of the capital\*, through which the region is able to produce the data transfer speeds, resilience and cyber security that financial and business services firms require at wholesale data costs as low as London.



aql

Companies in the region such as IFM Insurance Brokers Ltd and Finch Insurance Brokers provide advice and support to firms on IT security policies and protection infrastructure to ensure that they remain robust and secure.

The strength of the region's digital infrastructure is of such a high standard that leading financial data analysis companies including Callcredit, Acxiom, Equifax and Experian, as well as public institutions with sensitive data such as the Health and Social Care Information Centre, have chosen to base their operations there.

**35% of the UK's internet traffic is hosted in Leeds\***

\*Source: <http://www.cityam.com/221507/why-london-stock-exchanges-digital-infrastructure-needs-backup-leeds>

# Industry Strengths

---

*Yorkshire has a number of industry strengths within the financial and business services sector including:*



**Banking**



**Asset & Wealth  
Management**



**Insurance**



**Financial Technology**

Withdrawn 21 May 2019



## Banking

The region is home to over 30 national and international banks, including the Bank of England's only note issuing centre outside of London.

Yorkshire is also recognised as the home of the building society, with three of the five largest UK building societies headquartered here. Yorkshire, Skipton and Leeds building societies all have a significant workforce, and together manage combined assets of £60 billion.

Nationwide, the world's largest building society, also has a substantial presence in the region, hosting its customer service and processing operations there.

**Lloyds Banking Group has over 7,000 staff based in the region**

## Asset & Wealth Management

Yorkshire's strengths within wealth and asset management are a result of its optimal operating climate for firms and advisers alike. The region offers access to a significant number of high-net-worth individuals, provides firms with a wealth of highly specialised and skilled intermediaries, working in focused areas such as international trust, disputation and catastrophic personal injury, including the UK's "Big Four", and offers a neat supply chain of globally recognised product providers, such as Standard Life, Zurich and Investec.

The strength of this climate is evidenced by the strong business base already in operation in the region and includes:

- Chase de Vere
- BNY Mellon
- IM Asset Management
- Coutts
- Rothschild
- Redmayne Bentley
- Brewin Dolphin
- Towry
- St James's Place

## Insurance

A rich and diverse range of insurance services operate out of the region from global insurers, customer services and claims handling centres, to underwriting and brokerage operations across various markets and specialisms.

Leeds is ranked within the top 10 of 20 comparable locations for quality, availability and labour, and fifth for business environment for the insurance sector according to the fDi Benchmark from the Financial Times 2014.

The region has a strong track record of investment in the insurance sector;

- Hiscox Insurance are investing in the development of purpose built facilities in York, creating their largest office in the UK outside of London and employing up to 500 people
- Australian firm QBE Insurance has set up operations in Leeds
- French owned Covea Insurance has invested in new facilities at Dean Clough Mills in Halifax and in 2014 grew its workforce by 8%

## Financial Technology

Yorkshire has a strong tradition of innovation, and through its network of 11 universities continues to be at the forefront of technological developments across a range of fields including financial and business services.

Universities and private sector firms work collaboratively to ensure that the courses offered adopt a relevant business focus, in order to prepare students for a life in industry.

This close relationship also helps them to deliver innovative research. Such partnerships have resulted in the creation of organisations such as;

- The Credit Management Research Centre (CMRC)
- The International Institute for Banking and Financial Services (IIBFS)
- The Centre for Advanced Studies in Finance (CASIF)

The CMRC was founded in 1998 and has received continual commercial sponsorship from a number of businesses including Barclays Plc, HSBC (Trade Finance) and GE Capital Consumer Finance, while conducting research into consumer credit, commercial credit and credit scoring, risk and propensity modelling.

The University of Sheffield's Advanced Computing Research Centre also offers the financial and businesses services sector access to the latest technology developments through its programmes which have been designed to fast-forward research into business benefit and to help drive the region's digital innovation.



IBM Leeds was significantly involved in the creation of the first ATM in the 1970s

**first direct**  
The unconnected bank

Launched in Leeds as the UK's first telephone banking operation

The region is primed to be the Northern Financial Technology (FinTech) centre, thanks to its digital infrastructure and skills base. The area already has a developed cluster of FinTech firms including the European headquarters of payment processors TSYS, online share dealers and investment services firm TD Direct Investing and the global technology company Nostrum Group. Leeds has also been named as home to one of the UK's first FinTech accelerators outside of London. The industry strengths are supported by the work of the region's universities which are leading research into education around FinTech in order to cater to the changing skills requirements in the financial and business services sector.

The region also has a tradition of developing disruptive businesses that aim to challenge and transform the financial and business services sector. 20 years ago BJSS, the IT and software development specialist, was founded in Leeds and now six in every 10 foreign exchange transactions worldwide take place on systems it has built and developed! This tradition continues with companies such as Payment Sense, a payment processing firm that has helped 40,000 SMEs use the latest card processing technology since its launch.

*‘Insight operates across 14 countries in Europe. Our Sheffield based European finance shared service centre is required to support international clients. We have found there to be a plentiful supply of high calibre candidates with language skills.’*

**Russell Leighton,**

Senior VP Finance, Insight LMF



knowledge • talent • technology

Operating globally from its Halifax headquarters, SSP employs 700 staff and processes 10 million electronic policy transactions each year for a diverse, long-standing customer base including eight of the top 10 UK insurers, and broker operations that equate to more than a 40% share of the UK broker market.

# Key Locations

*There are a number of key locations within Yorkshire, where established clusters of financial and business services firms have developed:*

## Bradford

Offers outstanding business opportunities across several industry sectors, with a number of key employers in financial and business services.

Major employers include:

- Provident Financial
- Geoban (part of the Santander Group)
- Yorkshire Building Society
- Congregational & General
- Accord Mortgages
- UK Asset Resolution Limited

## Doncaster

Situated in the heart of England, Doncaster offers fantastic connectivity. It benefits from easy rail and road access, an international airport and is less than an hour's travel time to the Humber ports. Doncaster also offers access to a skilled workforce, competitively priced land and a business friendly planning service.

Major employers in the sector include:

- One Call Insurance
- Direct Line
- Ryan Direct Group
- Close Brothers Motor Finance
- UKI (RBS)
- Doran Scott Wilson (DSW)
- Sensible Homes Finance
- My Pension Expert



Doncaster Lakeside



Leeds skyline

## Leeds

Known to be one of the UK's largest banking regions outside London, over 13,000 people are employed in banking and over 129,000 in the overall financial and business services sector.\*

The city is home to a number of national and international banks including the Bank of England's only note issuing centre outside of London, and the major banking presence is supported by 60 accountancy firms, including all of the "Big Four" firms - PwC, Deloitte, KPMG and EY.

Major employers in the financial and business services sector include:

- **Santander UK** - recently launched its national breakthrough programme in Leeds to provide essential business support
- **Hitachi Capital Finance** - the consumer lending arm of the Japanese conglomerate, has recently doubled the size of its operations in Leeds to support its dramatic growth as the UK's largest

retail point of sale credit provider, working with major brands including John Lewis, B&Q and DFS

- **Diebold** - chose Leeds to base its processing centre (dealing with accounts across 14 EMEA markets) for its cost effective, multi-lingual graduate workforce possessing accountancy skills
- **Lloyds Banking Group** operates a number of contact and service centre operations in Leeds
- **HSBC** selected Leeds as the location for its private and corporate banking function, HSBC invoice finance and contact centre and recently invested in a new multi-million pound office at White Rose Office Park
- Other employers include - **Handelsbanken, Capita, Zurich, Aon, BNY Mellon and Investec**

## CASE STUDY - Leeds

### TD Direct Investing

#### John Tracy, Head of TD Direct Investing Europe

Employees: **500**

Operations in the region: **European HQ**

Markets: **European, Worldwide**

TD Direct Investing, part of the Canadian headquartered TD Bank Group, delivers online and app based share dealing, trading and investment services to global clients, with its European HQ based in Leeds city region.

TD Bank Group ranks among the world's leading online financial services firms with more than 8.5 million online customers and over 85,000 employees globally.

First setting up in the UK in 1997, TD Direct Investing is one of the UK's leading DIY investment providers. Employing over 500 people within its Leeds office, it delivers services to approximately 300,000 clients, managing over £2 billion of stock and share assets from the UK.

TD Direct Investing has catered to changes in consumer habits and requirements to provide a multi-channel digital offer with a variety of platforms for clients to use.



This offer incorporates a range of products and services as well as various platforms, which include a trading app, online trading accounts, bonds and ISAs, all offered alongside extensive advice and support.

#### John Tracy, Head of TD Direct Investing Europe said:

"Not only do we have access to people with our **required combination of skills**, but we also have a lower cost base being located in Leeds, which delivers real value and enables us to offer excellent services while maintaining high service levels. It's also a huge benefit for us to be so closely located to Leeds Bradford Airport for **access to our other European offices**, as well as our European clients."

## Rotherham

Rotherham has undergone a significant transformation in recent years. This major industrial centre based around coal and steel has diversified and is now home to over 100 successful international companies from a variety of sectors. The financial and business outsourcing sectors are thriving here, taking advantage of the readily available, skilled workforce.

Major employers in the financial and business services sector include:

- The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc - RBS, Lombard & NatWest
- Debt Managers (Services) Ltd (part of Secure Trust Bank Plc)
- Norton Finance
- Capita

## Wakefield

Wakefield is in the midst of a transformation and is a desirable business location that offers grade A office space within walking distance of the new Wakefield Westgate train station which provides direct links to both London and Leeds, the latter in less than 15 minutes.

Nationwide, the UK's largest building society, has based its contact centre operations in Wakefield, servicing retail mortgage and banking customers.

- Another major employer in the financial and business services sector is Handelsbanken.

## Harrogate and York

The historic locations of Harrogate and York are also home to a number of leading and highly innovative firms in the financial and business services sector.

Major employers in the sector include:

- TSYS
- VocaLink
- Aviva
- Hiscox
- Nostrum Group
- HSBC

Alongside these firms, exists a large network of insurance brokers and financial consultants, which complement the area's sector strengths.

**For the third consecutive year, Harrogate based Nostrum Group has been named the winner in the Deloitte 2015 Technology EMEA Fast 500, making it one of the fastest-growing technology companies across Europe, the Middle East and Africa**



## CASE STUDY - York

### TSYS

#### Ian Thompson, Group Executive, Human Resources, TSYS International

Employees: **460**

Operations in the region:  
**Data Centre, Business Operations  
for International Clients**

Markets: **EMEA, Asia**

TSYS is one of the leading global payment processing businesses, headquartered in the USA, with over 400 clients across 80 countries, employing more than 10,000 people. TSYS established its European HQ in York in 2000 and, in 2004, developed an additional site in the region.

TSYS operates international business from the heart of the region, working with 31 processing clients across Europe, with more than 65 million accounts on file and processing more than 1 billion transactions annually in Europe.

TSYS employs more than 450 people across its two sites in Leeds city region offering issuing services and merchant payment acceptance for credit, debit, prepaid and business solutions.



Furthermore, TSYS's state of the art data centre, purpose-built in 2004, in the region houses an advanced technology environment which provides the company with levels of resilience and redundancy unmatched by its competitors, to drive client satisfaction and security.

Ian Thompson, Group Executive, Human Resources, TSYS International commented: "The region offers us access to **talented people** with a broad range of experience across **technology, data and financial services**; all vital for us to deliver the end-to-end services our clients require. An additional factor which was also of great importance to us was the extensive talent pool of **experienced hires with international business skills** located in the region"

**CASE STUDY - Sheffield****Lloyds Banking Group****Mark Wilcockson,  
Senior Area Manager**

Employees: **2000**

Operations in the region:

**Retail Banking, Private Banking,  
Commercial Banking, National Mortgage  
Unit and Support Functions**

Markets: **UK & Overseas**

The thriving business environment in Sheffield is matched by extensive, on-the-ground banking expertise from Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking, which provides a full corporate banking presence in the city. It is dedicated to serving regional businesses turning over between £1m to £500m through locally-based advisers who genuinely understand the opportunities and challenges facing the area.

Mark Wilcockson, Senior Area Manager said, "Lloyds Bank has undergone an extensive programme of recruitment in the last few years, and we have always looked locally for new talent - we employ over 2,000 people in the region across several divisions, including both apprentices and graduates at our Mortgage Centre in Sheffield, with high levels of retention across the board. This is in part due to our commitment to offering clear paths to career progression and the excellent location and quality of life to be had in, and around, Sheffield. The countryside around the Peak District is simply stunning, and the



quality schools throughout the region feed into world-class universities. We have found this is frequently an important deciding factor for employees."

Moreover, there is a strong culture of collaboration between the public and private sectors, and both areas benefit from the sharing of best practice and opportunities. Lloyds Bank works with Creative Sheffield to support key business events, including the Global Manufacturing Festival and MADE, the Entrepreneur Festival.

Mark concluded, "Lloyds Bank is committed to helping Sheffield businesses access growth capital, flexible funding solutions and world-class expertise, delivered on a local scale, to maximise its potential. This, combined with our pledge to grow our net lending to businesses by £1 billion every year until 2017, provides a solid platform for the city to play its crucial role in the wider economic revival."



Millennium Square, Sheffield

## Sheffield

With a longstanding reputation as one of the UK's premier business locations, the city has moved away from its traditional iron and steel industries, embracing a more innovative economy that is focused upon advanced manufacturing, creative and digital, gaming and e-learning, healthcare technology and low carbon industries.

Sheffield's transformation has resulted in economic diversification and the subsequent attraction, and continued investment, from well-known financial and business services companies including:

- HSBC
- Lloyds Banking Group
- Aviva
- Capita
- Santander
- Royal Mail Finance

## CASE STUDY - Sheffield and York

### Aviva

#### Andrew Watkinson, Customer Services Director

Employees: **3,500**

Operations in the region:  
**One of UK Core strategic locations**

Markets: **UK wide**

Aviva is an iconic British brand name with more than 16 million customers. Following the acquisition of Friends Life in April 2015, the celebrated insurance giant confirmed it would be sited at five core locations in the UK, one of these being Sheffield. Its selection as a core location demonstrates the confidence and commitment the firm has in the local labour market to supply the future needs of the business.

The Aviva office in Sheffield employs around 1500 staff and provides a variety of functions for the business, ranging from administration to services across a number of different areas including pensions, life insurance and health insurance.

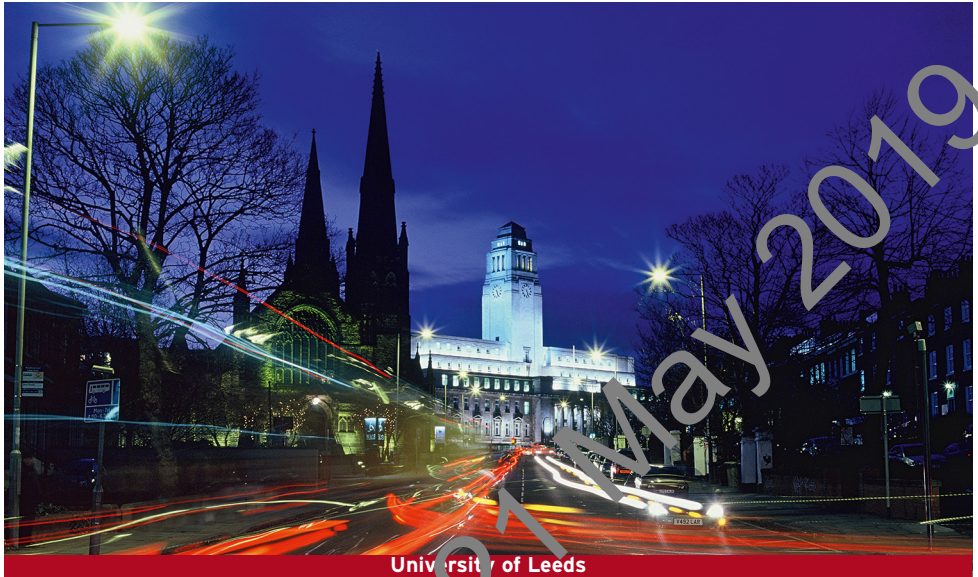
Andrew Watkinson, Customer Services Director said, "As a business we have no difficulty with recruiting in Sheffield and a high number of graduates from both universities are interested in joining us each year, attracted by the potential to build their careers and progress through the company. We operate recruitment through both



graduate and traditional career pathways and feel there is a substantial talent pool available locally, who are able to deal with the more complex roles we require."

As a business, Aviva is at the forefront of the digital, automation and online services that are increasingly demanded by customers. Andrew remarked, "From our Sheffield location we are able to complement the digital interface with our Customer Management Centre of Excellence. This means the Sheffield location has grown significantly over the past 12 months and as a core site it will continue to do so."

He concluded, "Aside from the business side of things, Sheffield offers a great balance between work and quality of life for our employees. As a major city, it retains a community feel and you are never far away from any events taking place. Furthermore, **with the Peak District only a short drive away**, you can soon get away from the urban city centre and relax in open countryside."



## Talent Pool

*The ability to recruit suitably qualified candidates is critical to investing and growing businesses.*

The Yorkshire region doesn't just look at the industry requirements of today, but anticipates and plans for the requirements of tomorrow.

With over 60,000 graduates a year, more than 40,000 of which are in business associated subjects from the 11 universities in the region, there is an extensive pool of talent with specific skills in the financial sector, while the total pool of students within the region is in excess of 175,000.

## University of Sheffield

*Russell Group member*

---

The University of Sheffield produces 9,320 graduates a year, 2,600 of which are in business associated subjects, and is proud to be rated 69th in the world in the 2014 QS World University Rankings and ranked in the top 10 per cent of all UK universities according to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework. The university also includes the Sheffield iSchool and the Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute.

## Sheffield Hallam University

---

The third largest university in the UK, Sheffield Hallam has more than 33,000 students, 12% of which are international students. It offers over 35 courses relating to finance and business management, and a further six in computers and coding.

The university works closely with industry, holding an annual financial careers event, to facilitate career opportunities in the financial and business services sector with companies such as Aviva, Barclay and Caerus Wealth.

## University of Leeds

*Russell Group member*

---

The University of Leeds is a world leading university that offers a variety of courses related to the financial and business services sector, including a masters in banking and international finance. The Leeds University Business School is internationally recognised for its Masters in Finance, ranked among the world's elite (Financial Times Masters in Finance rankings, 2014).

Having established strong relationships with the finance, credit and accounting professions, the university provides its students with connections to the latest practitioners and policy developments and ensures that courses are highly relevant to the current business environment.

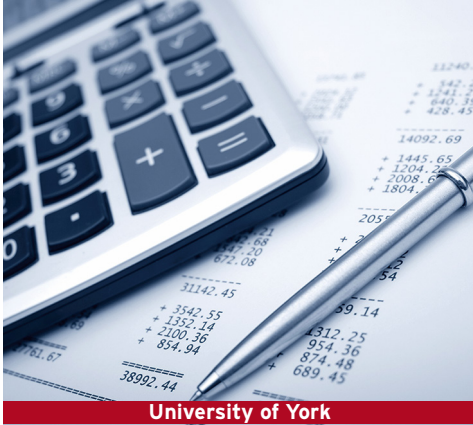
There is also a specialist financial trading training centre, created to develop the financial traders of the future and the Leeds Institute of Data Analytics, designed to share relevant real data with partners for use across multiple disciplines.

## Leeds Beckett University

---

The university hosts 28,000 students from almost 100 countries and contributes an estimated £477 million to the economy every year. It houses three research institutes and 10 research centres and has helped to support more than 200 start-up businesses through its Business Start-up unit and QU2.

The university is also home to Leeds Business School, the Digital Research Centre and the Centre for Governance, Leadership and Global Responsibility. It has strong links with Zhejiang University of Technology (ZJUT) and runs a guest lecture programme that has included speeches from the CEO of the London Stock Exchange, the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the past Chair and President of the Academy of Marketing, the Chief Executive of the British Bankers Association and the Chief Economist of Yorkshire Bank.


**University of York**

## University of York

*Russell Group member*

Home to over 15,000 students, the **University of York** offers a number of courses relating to the financial and business services sector across both the university and The York Management School. Current courses include a postgraduate degree in cyber security that has recently received full certification from the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ). This recognition highlights the university's strengths in this field as it is the only university in the region, and one of only five in the country, to receive this accolade.

## University of Bradford

With almost 50 years of academic excellence, the University of Bradford is continually growing its international reputation and course provision. A pioneer in developing new course subjects that reflect and anticipate the needs of employers, students, and society as a whole, it was the

first university outside London to offer part-time degree courses, and today designs its courses in response to the changing business, social, scientific and environmental landscape.

The University of Bradford School of Management is ranked eighth in the world for its Distance Learning MBA by the Financial Times (FT) and is also ranked as one of Europe's and the world's top business schools in two other FT surveys (FT European Business Schools and Masters in Management).<sup>1</sup>

## University Technical Colleges (UTCs) Sheffield

Sheffield was home to one of the first **University Technical Colleges** in the country, UTC Sheffield offering specialist courses designed in conjunction with employers across two exciting industry areas, Creative & Digital Media and Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing. A second UTC will open in September 2016, offering specialist study in Human Sciences and Computing alongside core subjects including English and Maths. Together, these two UTCs will open up career opportunities within the financial and business services sector for students aged 14 to 19 through the computing and digital media courses, ensuring the region continues to create a strong pipeline of candidates for roles within both FinTech and cyber security.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.bradford.ac.uk/management/news/world-top-10-ranking-for-distance-learning-mba.php>



## Outstanding Quality of Life

The region is proud to be able to boast an excellent quality of life, which includes a wealth of rich cultural attractions and stunning scenery. With access to the Peak District, Derbyshire Dales, Yorkshire Dales, Yorkshire Moors and stunning coastlines, the region is the perfect place to relax and make the most of life. While for those seeking more excitement, the cosmopolitan and modern cities offer a vibrant mix of culture, retail and nightlife.

*'The dynamic mix of people and businesses in Leeds and the drive for the city to be successful creates a real vibrancy that is hard to beat. The region has an exciting mix of large and small businesses, exclusive shopping and high quality education, and all of this is just a few minutes' drive from some of the best countryside in the UK.'*

**Neil Williams,**

Santander Corporate and Commercial  
Bank, Regional Director



*'The quality of life is second to none. As a commercial lawyer, the work is equal to any City firm in London and I get to live in the beautiful Peak District and drive to work in 25 minutes.'*

**Paul Firth,**

National Head of Real Estate,  
Irwin Mitchell



**The Peak District was the first national park to be designated in the UK and is only 5 miles away from Sheffield City Centre, offering plenty of walking and cycling trails for people to relax and take in the scenery.**



**The region is home to the happiest town in the UK - Harrogate.<sup>2</sup>**

Whether you like sport or culture the region has something for you

- Sheffield FC is the oldest independent football club in the world<sup>3</sup>
- Doncaster has one of the finest racecourses in the UK and hosts the oldest British classic race, the St Leger, which has been running since 1776
- Leeds is home to International Test Cricket and was a Host City for the 2015 Rugby World Cup.
- Yorkshire played host to the Grand Départ of the 2014 Tour de France
- A host of world class entertainment venues including The Crucible in Sheffield, The Alhambra in Bradford and The first direct Arena in Leeds

<sup>1</sup>Source: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk)

<sup>2</sup>According to research by Rightmove

<sup>3</sup>Source: <http://www.sheffieldfc.com/>

# Global connections

Yorkshire is located centrally in the UK and companies locating in both Sheffield and Leeds city regions benefit from excellent transport links via rail, road and air.

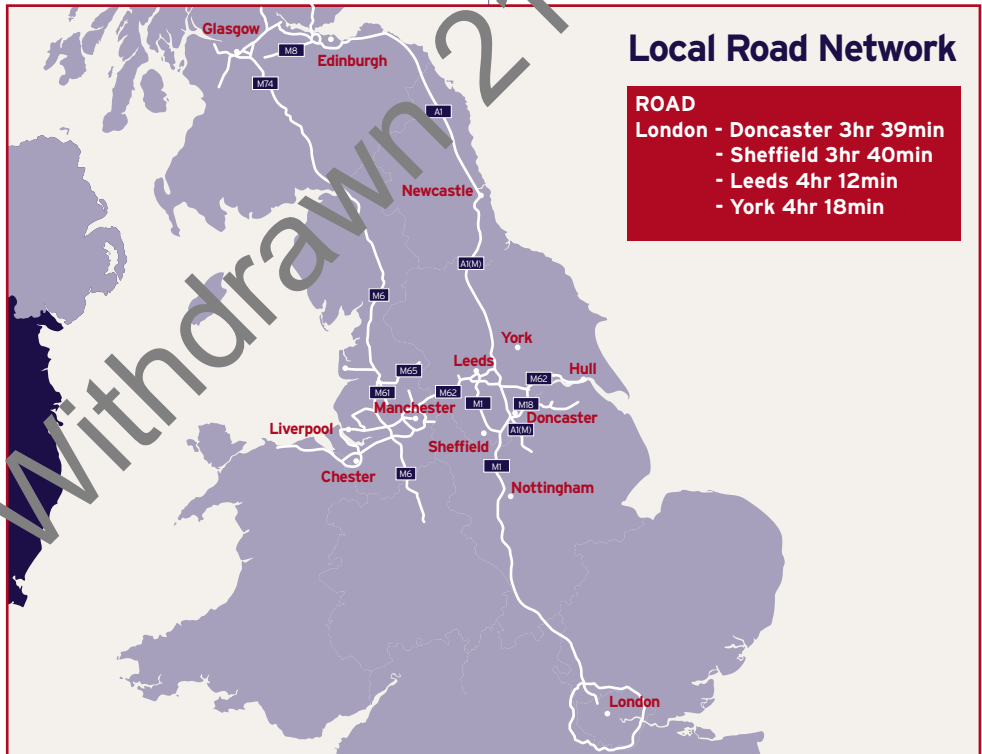
East coasts of England, ensuring the ports of Hull and Liverpool have easy access to the cities of Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield.

## Road Links

The M1 motorway extends north - south along the length of England, connecting London to the major cities in the north of England and leading to the A1 linking to Edinburgh. The M62 connects the West and



Sheffield Parkway





### Rail & Air Links

The rail network includes a number of major train stations, which connect the region to London Kings Cross St Pancras International station in under 2 hours, enabling regular connections to the capital and ongoing connections to Europe via the Eurostar.

Sheffield and Leeds train stations also act as intersections for regional services between Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham and Norwich, with a journey time to Manchester of 51 minutes by rail (approximately one hour by road).

There are five international airports within a 90 minute drive of the region, including:

- Manchester International Airport (the third busiest airport in the United Kingdom in



Sheffield Train Station

terms of passenger numbers - around 19 million per annum)

- Leeds Bradford Airport
- Robin Hood Airport Doncaster-Sheffield
- Birmingham International Airport
- East Midlands Airport

These airports allow easy access to over 200 countries, via over 575 routes with over two thirds of these to key USA and European destinations.



## **Business Support**

---

There is an extensive range of business support available across the region including:

- Premises and land search facilities
- Access to finance and funding
- Soft landing packages
- HR, training and recruitment
- On-going account management
- Relocation support

### **Business organisations including:**

- UK Trade & Investment
- Chamber of Commerce
- Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)
- TheCityUK
- Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership
- Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership

Withdrawn 21 May 2019



Withdrawn 21 May 2019



## UK Trade & Investment

gov.uk/ukti

### UKTI

UK Trade & Investment is the Government Department that helps UK-based companies succeed in the global economy. We also help overseas companies bring their high-quality investment to the UK's dynamic economy, acknowledged as Europe's best place from which to succeed in global business.

### Disclaimer

Whereas every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this document is accurate, neither UK Trade & Investment nor its parent Departments (the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) accept liability for any errors, omissions or misleading statements, and no warranty is given or responsibility accepted as to the standing of any individual, firm, company or other organisation mentioned.

### © Crown Copyright 2015

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit [nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email [ops@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ops@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at [gov.uk/ukti](http://gov.uk/ukti)

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at [enquiries@ukti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ukti.gsi.gov.uk) or telephone +44 (0)20 7215 5000.

### Production

The paper in this document is made from 50 percent recycled waste pulp with 50 percent pulp from well-managed forests. This is a combination of Totally Chlorine Free and Elemental Chlorine Free. The inks are vegetable oil-based and contain resins from plants/trees.

### Image Credits