

GOING SHOPPING 1998/99 - SUNDAY TRADING 29TH APRIL 1998

Sunday trading activity appears to be here to stay and looks to be on the increase. This is one of the initial findings of an analysis of leading shopping schemes by retail analyst Trevor Wood of TW Research Associates, in conjunction with international property consultants, Weatherall Green & Smith. Most major shopping centres and factory outlets are now open throughout the year with the majority of units trading on Sunday. Several schemes have reported their intentions to commence year round Sunday trading in the near future.

Over 60% of the larger schemes, those over 200,000 sq ft, open every Sunday with every large scheme opening in the run up to Christmas. Some schemes in seaside and tourist areas also report opening on Sunday during the summer season as well as for special weekends. Of those schemes open every Sunday, two thirds reported that more than half and, in some cases, all of their retail tenants were open for trading.

A similar picture is emerging from the medium schemes, that is those between 100,000 and 200,000 sq ft, although the proportion of units open is generally slightly lower.

Despite this general trend towards Sunday trading, there are a few notable exceptions. Most John Lewis Partnership department stores do not trade on Sunday. A notable exception is the newly opened Mall at Cribbs Causeway. Several other schemes report anchor stores, such as Marks & Spencer and C & A, opening in the run up to Christmas but closing for the rest of the year.

Factory Outlet centres all open on Sundays, with virtually every scheme reporting every tenant trading on Sunday. All schemes in the pipeline have indicated that they, too, will be opening on Sunday.

A more detailed analysis can be found in "Going Shopping 1998/99" which will be published shortly.