

**Response ID ANON-PA1N-7GZ9-1**

Submitted on 2015-05-18 19:21:27.645777

## **Evidence**

**Questions about you:** In order for the evidence to be analysed and taken forward by the Inquiry we will need some further information about you and / or your organisation. Please note that all evidence submitted to the Inquiry may be published at any point during the Inquiry or when the Inquiry Report is issued. If you are responding as an organisation your full details will be published. If you are responding as an individual your name will be published, but your address will only be published if the Inquiry considers this to be relevant to the evidence submitted.

**Organisation Name (if applicable):**

Royal Artizana/Leith Circle

**Surname:**

Marshall

**Forename:**

Sandra

**Postal Address:**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode:**

[REDACTED]

**Phone:**

[REDACTED]

**Email:**

[REDACTED]

**Are you responding as an organisation or an individual?**

Individual

**Does your evidence relate to a particular period of time?**

Yes

**If yes, what period?:**

2008-2011

**Does your evidence relate to a particular event or activity?**

Yes

**If yes, please explain what the event / activity was.:**

Sole Trader retail business at 115 Leith Walk.

**We are particularly interested in:**• How you found out about what was happening, and how informed you were throughout the project• What did you think would happen• What actually happened• What were the effects if any, on you (or your organisation) at the time of the project• What if any, were the on-going or longer-term effects on you (or your organisation). Please write your evidence here.

**We are particularly interested in:**

I started a business selling handmade arts & crafts from 115 Leith Walk in September 2007. This business, although not busy, was frequented by a reasonable number of people before any real work began. My sales in the first quarter to end December 2007 totalled around £2,000.00 and I was reasonably happy. The income from the shop started lessening around February/March 2008 as the work in Leith Walk became more intrusive and intensive. I started having to reduce prices and clear costs in whatever way I could. I started falling behind in rental payments for the shop and stress levels increased unbearably. The only way I was able to afford to pay the third quarter's rent for the shop was the £3,000 compensation cheque I received in respect of the work being carried out. At the meeting held by the business owners in April 2008 I voiced my concerns and became a founder member of the Leith Business Association. In August 2008 I took part in the Fringe Festival with a stall to promote the business and to try and raise some income that could be used to keep the business going. I came back to the shop after the festival to a shop surrounded by metre high fences with a slim path to the door of the shop and diggers digging deep holes in the ground just inches from the shop window. The situations just got worse and worse. A main water pipe to above properties was cut off without the replacement for the end of the pipe being in place and water poured into the clay under and beside the building. This is clay over sand and is not stable. Cracks started appearing in the side wall of the property. The financial position also got worse, before the financial crash. There was not good access to the businesses and people could not easily get to one shop from another causing customers to start shopping elsewhere. Information on what was happening was not kept up to date and we were left to survive with little knowledge of what was really going to happen next. Lastly, The long-term effect is that although I hung on for five years due to a brilliant landlord. I lost a very good business, my livelihood, my mental and physical health were affected. Although I have kept going, surviving and trying I have not, as yet been able to recover a decent standard of life and have been left without the ability to pay debts 50% caused by the Tramworks. This is not a cry for help it is just a statement to ensure it does not happen again.

**Do you have any documents which you think it would be useful for the Inquiry to see?**

No

**Details of documents:**

**Upload documents:**  
No file was uploaded

**Are you content for the Edinburgh Tram Inquiry team to contact you again in relation to this evidence?\***

Yes