

The Edinburgh Tram Inquiry
Witness Statement of David Brown

Statement taken by Adam Hoy on 28 September 2016.

My full name is David Brown. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

I am the owner of David Brown Design Group based at 7 Netherhall, Milnathort, Perth and Kinross KY13 0RL, which was established in 1988. My specialisation covers interiors and lighting, supplying quality products and services for private and trade clients. I was the owner of David Brown Lighting Consultants Ltd based at 222 Leith Walk, Edinburgh.

Statement:

The consequence of the Edinburgh Tram Project on my business was that I lost approximately £30,000 a year. Once I started losing money, I kept losing money and the rates stayed the same at £30,000 a year. My business, David Brown Lighting Consultants, was originally on 222 Leith Walk, Edinburgh. People knew to stay away from that area. Deliveries were a major factor, as goods were not able to be delivered. I regularly spoke with the foremen on-site, who said that they would get a representative to come speak with me, but I cannot recall if anyone ever did. The decline of my business occurred over a thirty month period. I had to make approximately fifteen people redundant. My name was the most well-known and top name in Scotland for lighting. The Edinburgh Tram Project caused me and my family severe stress. My wife is now medicated for anxiety. My business office which was valued in 2006 at £700,000 was sold for £400,000 in 2014.

I complained on several occasions, but I cannot recall to whom. It was a disgrace that I was charged rates during this period. I appealed to the rates department who

were not interested. This should all be paid back to me as I had to cash in my pension to cover the payment. Leith is one of the highest rate bands in Edinburgh. I could not rent any of the extra rooms out after trying with several companies. Nobody was interested due to the on-going works. I did not get any satisfactory reply to my complaints. I attended meetings in Pilrig Church, Leith Walk, Edinburgh with representatives from TIE, but they left through the back door before I even got a chance to speak, as it became quite a hostile meeting. There was never a satisfactory outcome from any complaints.

In general all information in relation to the Tram Project was of poor quality. Nobody knew what was going on. The management of the whole project was poor and no problems could be solved satisfactorily. I witnessed contractors dig up the road outside my business on three occasions. There was obviously no communication or co-ordination of services. Everybody knew that the Tram Project was going to take place. A work strategy diagram was issued, if I recall it was hand delivered to all the businesses in the area with updated information, however, this did not address the damage being caused to my and other local businesses, but I cannot recall when this was delivered or by what means.

I was aware of the Compensation Package for £4,000. This was futile and didn't help the problem. I found it insulting. TIE knew they were wrecking lives and businesses.

I confirm that the facts to which I attest in this witness statement, consisting of this and the preceding [insert number] pages are within my direct knowledge and are true. Where they are based on information provided to me by others, I confirm that they are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Witness signature .....

Date of signing..14/11/16.....