

Response ID ANON-PA1N-7GZ2-T

Submitted on 2015-05-12 19:40:43.796704

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):

World of Gas Ltd. (no longer trading)

Surname:

Johnstone

Forename:

Marlene

Postal Address:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Phone:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding as an organisation or an individual?

Organisation

Does your evidence relate to a particular period of time?

Yes

If yes, what period?:

From the start of preparation roadworks in Leith Walk

Does your evidence relate to a particular event or activity?

Yes

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

It relates to the lack of communication with business owners in Leith Walk even before the work started. The Council were not sympathetic to concerns of the businesses which were inevitably affected from the outset and their lack of humanity to financial problems caused to many people.

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:

My husband and I had a shop in Leith Walk at Pilrig Church - right at the heart of major road works. We had been there since 1981 and ran a very successful business. When work on the trams commenced there was very little communication or co-operation between the Council and the businesses. It was a fait accompli. The disruption was nothing that we could have envisaged. We were told that there would be minimal disruption where possible and that plans would be put in place to make it 'business as usual'. If only! Leith Walk was down to single lane traffic, and our Suppliers, who delivered once a week from England, we're not allowed to unload granite and marble slabs, Central heating boilers, fires or fire surrounds. Because of the weight and bulk of the goods, the driver could only apologise for not delivering any goods saying that hopefully things would be better for them to deliver the following week. This meant that I was paying 6 peoples's wages but didn't have the goods to do any installations/work. My position was unsustainable. I had to cease trading and quick. [REDACTED] of BBC4 phoned me early July 2011. He had heard from the chairman of Leith Small Businesses of my plight and after checking with Companies House of my demise and the amounts of tens of thousands of pounds that I had already lost and would continue to lose should I continue trading, he asked if he could interview me for his programme, Face the Facts. The programme aired on 10 August 2011. This was my husband's business for over 25 years until his death in 2004. My son hoped that one day he would run the business that my husband had built up with blood, sweat and tears but sadly he ended not only losing his Dad but also his job.

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

Upload documents:

No file was uploaded

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

Yes