



Business

# Ministry of Sound to open private members club in Southwark

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Ministry of Sound, the legendary music label and nightclub, is making an audacious move into the private members club and co-working offices industry, the Evening Standard can reveal.

The firm has signed a lease for 50,000 square feet at a former diary factory at 77-79 Borough Road in Southwark. It's a two minute walk from where Ministry of Sound opened the UK's first club dedicated to house music in 1991 at a former bus garage in Elephant & Castle.

The property is the first in a series of planned sites for its new business venture, [The Ministry](#).

Its first building will open in July and comprise offices, a restaurant, bar, a 36-seater cinema, soundproof studios, private dining rooms, event space and meeting suites.

The venture is aimed at workers and businesses from creative industries, including music companies, start-ups, TV and film producers, PR groups and fashion designers. Membership prices will be available on application.

Chairman Lohan Presencer said: "The Ministry will be a stark contrast to the generic glass box offices, bored receptionists, bad coffee and gratuitous beer taps which have become synonymous with bland co-working spaces around the world."

Presencer added: "The people we grew up with are now the founders and chief executives of start-ups and established businesses. The Ministry is for these people."

The Ministry marks the start of a major new revenue stream for the company whose major shareholder is co-founder Lord James Palumbo.

Other locations it is eyeing for openings include Camden and King's Cross .

The new division's property development manager, Alfie Baldwin who was hired from Savills, was at the Mipim property conference in France today to meet with prospective landlords. ■

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