



YHA (England and Wales) Youth Hostel Profile

compiled by the Association's volunteer archivist, John Martin, 2018-01-01

London Central (Bolsover Street) Youth Hostel 2008 to present

104-108 Bolsover Street, London W1W 5LP

Historic County: Middlesex

GR: TQ 289818

The YHA website Supporters' eNews announced in December 2006 that work had started on the new flagship property for the city centre, YHA London Central. Work necessitated the conversion of a former office block on Bolsover Street into a modern large youth hostel. The block dates from 1959. At first used as offices, it operated as the Students' Union building of the Polytechnic of Central London / University of Westminster from 1972 to 1998, and was vacant for a period after that. It was comprehensively refurbished and reclad in 2007 for YHA, initially with 296 bed spaces planned. The premises are leasehold.

The hostel opened on 6th February 2008. After some internal reconfiguration and the replacement of staff quarters in the basement by further guest rooms, the capacity is now [2017] about 300. The basement also contains the self-catering kitchen and some utilities. The ground floor holds a large reception, café bar, lounge area, utilities and guest rooms, including disabled facilities. Floors 1-5 are almost identical, being devoted to guest bedrooms.

By its fourth year, Central had broken every British record by being the first youth hostel to top 100,000 overnights in one year.



This cheerful postcard accentuates the youthful social environment at London Central hostel. It is particularly suited to small groups and individuals, rather than large school groups (YHA Archive)

Overnights – inclusive periods each year as follows									
2007-present: Mar to following Feb									
*: open for 3 weeks only up to the end of the statistical year, February 2008									
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	open*	87603	93064
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
98816	102804	100877	101186	103741	102017	101554	open	...	...



London Central youth hostel, August 2012 (author's photographs)