

University College Hospital

UCH MACMILLAN CANCER CENTRE

FIRE ALARM UPGRADE

PROJECT SUMMARY

Building location: Huntley Street, London

Project start/end date: Nov 2021 – Nov 2022

Project duration: 12 months

Project brief: Upgrading the fire alarm, deluge system and air sampling system.

“Fisk provided up to date information on the progress of the project throughout and training to the Trusts service provider and all relevant documentation on completion. At all times Fisk carried out their tasks efficiently, professionally and with pride. Their attitude is to be commended.” Colin Turner, Fire Safety Manager UCLH

ABOUT THE BUILDING AND ITS VISITORS

The UCH Macmillan Cancer Centre, located on Huntley Street, operates as a day hospital with a strong focus on research. It serves as the oncology wing of University College Hospital, which is part of the University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The beautiful and well-lit building, which opened in 2012, provides a comfortable environment for visitors and serves as a sanctuary for cancer patients. With a spacious internal floor area of 14,711m², the building has been thoughtfully designed to cater to the needs of patients. It is supported by Cancer Research and boasts the only PET MRI facility in Europe. UCH, located in central London, is renowned for delivering exceptional acute and specialised healthcare services.

8 FLOORS

A MODERN CANCER CENTRE THAT PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS, THEIR CARERS AND FAMILIES.

14,711 sq. m

OF LABORATORIES AND FACILITIES FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF A WIDE RANGE OF CANCER CONDITIONS

1000s of

RESEARCHERS, PATIENTS, SCIENTISTS, INDUSTRY BODIES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PASS THROUGH EVERY YEAR

THE BRIEF

Having worked with UCLH on various projects for over 20+ years, Fisk Group was the ideal fire alarm contractor for the project. The project required a high degree of consideration due to the nature of the building and its visitors.

Fisk was assigned the task of replacing the entire system in a phased program. Starting with the high risk areas that required extreme caution, the fire alarm, deluge and air sampling system were upgraded.

The system needed to:

- ✓ Follow a complex cause-and-effect strategy
- ✓ Work seamlessly across all building areas, including high-risk environments
- ✓ Safely evacuate all building occupants
- ✓ Be programmed to limit false fire alarms

To minimise disruption and allow the building to continue its normal operations, Fisk conducted nightwork.

THE SOLUTION

Fisk Group successfully implemented an L1 fire alarm system within the allocated budget at one of the Trusts Hospitals. The project involved replacing devices on the existing fire alarm system and integrating them with other fire systems in a highly fire-engineered building. Throughout the tender process, Fisk Group proposed cost-effective solutions to the Trust, which not only improved fire detection coverage in the atriums but also facilitated easier access for testing and maintenance purposes. The engineers efficiently completed the project, primarily during non-operational hours, to ensure disruption was kept to a minimum.

One of the most challenging areas was the CAT 3 Laboratories/Aesthetic suite. The team took appropriate safety measures by wearing full personal protective equipment (PPE), including coveralls, to protect themselves from any hazardous substances. Led by our experienced engineer, Andre, the dedicated team worked across eight floors, with four nodes and 12 repeaters.

The Atrium posed the biggest practical challenge during the project. While it was a visually stunning architectural feature, accessing and maintaining it proved to be extremely difficult. The existing beam detector in the Atrium was inaccessible due to its height. To overcome this, Fisk installed an air sampling system within the gallery. This solution ensures high-level detection in the area without the need for physical access.

“This project was both challenging and rewarding. Our strategy was to prioritise high-risk areas, such as the laboratories, from the start. To minimize disruption to vulnerable patients, we conducted all project work at night. Despite the time constraints, our team collaborated effectively and achieved successful results.” Mark Fisk, Director at Fisk Group



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