



## Case study

# Government Communications Headquarters

## About

Location: Cheltenham

Project Value: £600,000

Site Size: • 176 acre site  
• 40 acre building  
• £337m building cost

Duration: 2 years

Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) is an intelligence and security organisation, whose primary customers are the Ministry Of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and law enforcement authorities.

Established in 1919, the GCHQ was initially based in London, where its early role was to gather signals intelligence and crack enemy cipher codes. Today it works alongside other UK intelligence agencies to provide HM government with vital intelligence, which helps to combat threats such as global terrorism and organised crime.



## The brief

GCHQ planned a new purpose-built headquarters in Cheltenham, which was approved by the Government back in 2000. It was the largest PFI (Private Finance Initiative) project at the time of construction.

Sudlows were appointed as sub-contractors for the project by Carillion PLC and assigned to design and build a major infrastructure installation for the high security new build.

## The project

As an experienced BT/Unisys service partner, Sudlows delivered extensive voice and data infrastructure to this vitally important national asset.

Our 5 years experience with BT/Unisys prior to the project meant that our teams had already developed a proven track record for quality of workmanship, project management and administration, which were crucial assets in securing eligibility to undertake this sensitive and important work.

## The project *(cont..)*

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Sudlows adopted significant flexibility due to the scale of the project and established a permanent base in Cheltenham. This ensured 2 experienced project managers and up to 35 security-cleared engineers could work across the site at all times, allowing our teams to work closely to ensure all schedules were met.

The project demanded a strict project timetable, both in working hour and labour scheduling and our flexible approach allowed variations to the original contract and additional cabling requirements to be executed.

“Sudlows is proud to be associated with this successful GCHQ project”

## The conclusion

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Sudlows is proud to be associated with this successful GCHQ project, thanks to our team of engineers, whose overriding priority was to deliver complete customer satisfaction and meet extremely tight schedules.