



RELOCATION INFORMATION SERVICES

The Business Move Consultancy

The Home Office is Her Majesty's UK Government Department responsible for, amongst other things, justice, prisons, internal security, police, fire service and emergency planning.



The Home Office had been in occupation of a variety of buildings in and around Westminster almost since God was a boy and sought to build a single new headquarters for approximately 3,000 staff. The site chosen was the old home of the Department of Environment at 2 Marsham Street (coincidentally, RIS wrote the removal specification for the DoE move in the 1990s). The project was a PFI to include the demolition of existing premises, design, build, fit-out and management of the new – and the relocation of the Department's existing functions to their new home.

The Home Office team was made up of their own staff and specialists in all necessary fields – eg design, construction, legal, financial. Mike Biles was retained as the relocation advisor to the Home Office team.



The initial brief

The first requirement was to review the relocation specification, and develop it to a point where bidding consortia could submit proposals. Following submissions, Mike evaluated and scored returns.

Making it work

Stage two was to work with the Home Office, their preferred supplier, and the two respective legal teams to negotiate and agree the necessary framework for the legal agreement. Relocation assumed an even more vital status than usual, because phased occupation triggered the release of public funds – 'the unitary payment'.

There had to be a unique sign-off procedure that was clear and workable in the practical circumstances of a move, but which satisfied all parties. Backing this up was a series of protocols to determine fault rectification.

Mike's unique, objective, knowledge of how major moves work, including move methods, logistics, work rates, costs – and an analytical approach – enabled all aspects of the agreement to be drawn together. Much of the contractual drafting was done by Mike before being discussed, then determined by the legal teams. The Home Office moved to Marsham Street in 2005.

