

The Gambling Commission was set up under the Gambling Act 2005. It is responsible for monitoring and regulating casinos, bingo, gaming machines and lotteries in Britain. In addition, it has the responsibility for regulating betting and remote gambling, as well as helping to protect children and vulnerable people. The Commission is also responsible for advising local and central government on issues related to gambling. The Commission was formally established in October 2005. It had plans to move its offices up to Birmingham in the summer of 2006. Its new responsibilities and powers were taken on in stages as the provisions of the Act were introduced by the Government and it will be fully operational by the end of 2007.

Victoria Square House in the heart of Birmingham was chosen as the site for the new Gambling Commission HQ. The newly appointed public body was one of the first to act on a report called 'The Lyons Review'. Published by Sir Michael Lyons, the report studied the benefits of relocation to outside of London in regards to regional pay and cost savings.

The Gambling Commission chose a 2,500m<sup>2</sup> floor within Victoria Square House. Plans were for this space to hold 200 staff come the proposed completion date of June 2006.

The Gambling Commission discovered Flexiform through the OGC Buying Solutions Catalyst Framework Agreement which benefits both suppliers and customers. Suppliers accredited under the Catalyst Framework Agreement are audited regularly.

Flexiform & Jot Design were awarded the project and working closely with award winning architects Shepherd Robson, were able to complete an outstanding fit out, featuring free address workspaces, benching systems for 200 staff, meeting rooms and breakout spaces.

The relocation project began in January 2006 and was completed on time and within budget in June. The official launch took place on 13th July 2006. The interiors follow two colour themes, the main workspaces are a dazzling white complimented with a lime green finish. It works extremely well, all of the Jot benching and pedestals are finished in a striking white, as is the Jot lateral storage at the end of each 6-man benching system. A lime green sheet of glass was incorporated into the jot lateral designs, and was used as the surface finish on top of the cabinets. The lime green glass sheets bring the office to life.

The reception, free address areas and breakout spaces look amazing in a gloss white and lilac finish. Glass screens separate the meeting rooms and the free address areas, and look great against the lilac lighting set into the walls. Furniture to all of these areas have been supplied by Flexiform and all of the workspaces are IT configured as standard.

The Gambling Commission have been extremely busy in recent months due to the changes in Gambling Laws in Britain, this has led to further orders of desking and storage and allowed Jot to maintain an excellent working relationship with The Gambling Commission.

On July 13th 2006 The Gambling Commission at Victoria Square House was officially opened for business by the The Lord Mayor of Birmingham. Gambling Commission Chairman Peter Dean said: "Birmingham was the clear frontrunner in our search for our new headquarters and we have no doubts about it becoming a very successful operation over the next year".

