

DDA Access Consultancy



Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust comprises two main hospitals serving the residents of North Liverpool, South Sefton and Kirkby. University Hospital Aintree, is a large teaching hospital providing Accident & Emergency services and a wide range of acute and non-acute specialties, while Walton Hospital provides outpatient and day surgery services.

Following general health and safety consultancy EDP was commissioned to undertake full DDA Access Audits at University Hospital Aintree and Walton Hospital. The DDA Access Audits covered all areas (including external grounds) of both hospitals and included extensive consultation with members of staff, Contractors and patients; as well as the DDA Consultation Group. Upon completion of the audits a full report for each site was produced that outlined clearly the actions necessary to achieve full compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as well as industry best practice; the recommendations made are currently being implemented.

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Diamond Light Source Ltd

Diamond Light Source is the UK national synchrotron facility. Located in South Oxfordshire, it generates brilliant beams of light, from infra-red to X-rays, which are used in a wide range of applications, from structural biology through fundamental physics and chemistry to cultural heritage. Construction of this new scientific facility began in early 2003 and Diamond became operational on schedule in January 2007. The Company is a Joint Venture funded by the UK Government through STFC (86%) and the Wellcome Trust (14%). Phase I investment of £263 million included Diamond's buildings and the first seven experimental stations or beamlines. Phase II funding of £120 million for a further 15 beamlines was confirmed in October 2004. The facility represents the largest UK scientific investment for 40 years and can ultimately host up to 40 beamlines.

Following a referral from STFC EDP was commissioned initially to undertake a DDA Access Audit on a new beamline and the following this we were commissioned to undertake a full DDA Access Audit for the entire facility covering all scientific research stations and extensive associated plant rooms. In addition to the actual Audit a thorough review of Diamond's existing DDA Access Policy and Procedures (including HR policies and processes) was undertaken and wide consultation with all staff and visitor groups was performed. Following this process, the full report was compiled, reviewed with senior management and then presented to the Board of Directors. Finally, we re-wrote Diamond's DDA Access Policy and associated procedures, presented them to the relevant steering groups and then to the Board of Directors.

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**Microsoft (UK) Ltd**

Microsoft believes that every successful corporation has a responsibility to use its resources and influence to make a positive impact on the world and its people. And in the UK, what this means is connecting people and communities to build social and economical prosperity. Microsoft and its partners believe that by embracing technology and connecting societies, people in the UK will be able to achieve the most from their studies, their businesses and their life ambitions. By doing this Microsoft aim to contribute to the continued success and competitiveness of the UK and enhance the quality of life for British citizens

Already Microsoft's health and safety advisors for fourteen years, EDP was specifically commissioned to undertake full DDA Access Audits at Microsoft's Thames Valley Park campus. The DDA Access Audits covered all four buildings (including external grounds) and included extensive consultation with members of staff, Contractors and visitors. Upon completion of the audit a full report for each building was produced that outlined clearly the actions necessary to achieve full compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as well as industry best practice. In addition to this, we also provided advice to the professional design and construction team responsible for the construction of Microsoft's latest addition to the TVP campus; building five.

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Unilever UK Ltd

No matter who you are, or where in the world you are, the chances are that Unilever's products are a familiar part of your daily routine. Every day, around the world, people reach for Unilever products. Their brands are trusted everywhere and, by listening to the people who buy them, they've grown into one of the world's most successful consumer goods companies. In fact, 150 million times a day, someone somewhere chooses a Unilever product. Look in your fridge, or on the bathroom shelf, and you're bound to see one of their well-known brands. They create market and distribute the products that people choose to feed their families and us to keep themselves and their homes clean and fresh. Unilever aim to help people in their daily lives so they keep developing new products, improving tried and tested brands and promoting better, more efficient ways of working. Focusing on performance and productivity, they encourage their people to develop new ideas and put fresh approaches into practice. Hand in hand with this is a strong sense of responsibility to the communities they serve. They don't only measure success in financial terms; how they achieve results is important too. They work hard to conduct their business with integrity – respecting their employees, consumers and the environment around them.

EDP was already appointed as CDM Co-ordinator for the fit-out of Unilever's new £25m headquarters building, when we were asked to provide DDA consultancy during the design process. We undertook an Access Appraisal to ensure that the scheme incorporated the best possible design for a new development; this involved:

- Reviewing of the design to provide advice for the project architect;
- Production of a report on the access approach and development justification for the design detail as the scheme developed.

This process assisted the architect by preparing for the Access Statement. It ensured the design meet best practice, whilst avoiding the need for expensive redesign work.