



## OFSTED Case Study

In 2004 Ofsted announced a rationalisation from eight regional centres down to three. The new Bristol office, which covers the whole Southern region from Cornwall to Kent, opened in 2005 and subsequently has increased staff numbers from 90 to over 200. The critical factors driving the selection of the new location were the goal of 20% reduction in business operational costs, access to a highly skilled and motivated workforce and excellent transport links to London and the other two regional centres in the Midlands and North.

**“Bristol was the obvious choice for us as the largest administrative and business centre in the South West and a strong strategic location. Quite apart from that it has proved hugely popular with the staff who relocated here and easy to recruit new staff of high quality across the range. Bristol came top of the class when it came to fitting the bill for Ofsted's organisational needs” (Sheila Brown, Regional Manager).**

An attractive city centre site was a high priority to fulfil expectations of relocating staff who were already aware of Bristol's varied and vibrant cultural and commercial offer. Ofsted took a far-sighted decision to move from their existing base near Temple Meads station to some 32,000 sq ft of new offices at Freshford House in the upcoming business quarter of Redcliffe close to the historic 'floating harbour' and opposite the famous gothic spires of St Mary's Church. The organisation has not looked back since, and now anticipates the relocation of a further 50 posts to the city from London by September 2009.

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