

To whom it may concern



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

**Estate Management
and Building Service**

7 February 2008

Reference for Kershaw Mechanical Services Ltd

Kershaw were selected in mid-2005, as sub-contractor to Gleeson Building Ltd, to undertake the mechanical services installation work for an £11M project for the refurbishment of an existing University building which was to become a research facility known as the Centre for Stem Cell Research. In addition to the mechanical services work, Kershaw also supervised the sub-contractor undertaking the electrical services installation, and were responsible for co-ordinating both elements of work.

The activities on site took almost a year to complete and were undertaken in a building which remained partly occupied, on 1½ floors, during the entire construction period. This gave rise to considerable difficulties with the services installation, particularly to ensure the continuity of servicing to the occupied area whilst completely replacing the mechanical and electrical services on the remaining 3½ floors. The project was made even more difficult by the complexity of the servicing required to meet the needs of the scientific work to be undertaken in the completed building, and the acute lack of space above ceilings and in plant rooms in which to accommodate the extensive plant and equipment required to be installed.

Kershaw's capability to produce 3D installation drawings was very beneficial to the project in that the services layouts could be fully planned and co-ordinated before starting work on site, thereby minimising any delays to the construction operations. Kershaw's in-house ductwork manufacturing facility also made a significant contribution towards ensuring the smooth progress of the works, and the ability to manufacture ductwork quickly in order to respond to site conditions was invaluable. This resource was also of great assistance in minimising the disruption incurred when a large (£500k) change to the scheme was instructed mid-way through the construction period.

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Throughout the duration of the work on this very difficult project I was impressed by the positive, proactive approach adopted by all the Kershaw operatives, and their commitment to overcoming problems encountered as the work progressed and to minimise the disruption caused by the late introduction of changes. I would not wish to single out any member of the Kershaw's team for particular praise, but clearly the control exercised by Project Engineer Mahul Patel was crucial to the success of the project, as was the management and supervision of the installation work provided by Paul Harris. Considering the complexity and extensive nature of the M&E works the quality of workmanship achieved by Kershaw was very commendable and demonstrates the commitment that was invested in the project.

Kershaw's collaborative working ethos and productive interaction with the Main Contractor and other members of the Project Team was a refreshing and welcome feature of their involvement with the scheme, and the team working environment which was created should serve as an example of the cooperative approach which should be implemented on all projects.

Following the success of this project the same team has moved on to another similar project for the University, with the same Main Contractor (now renamed GB Building Solutions), and no doubt will provide another excellent research facility for the University.

I have no hesitation in recommending Kershaw Mechanical Services Ltd to you for the installation of mechanical services, irrespective of the complexity of the project.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. F. Bradbury', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Bradbury
Project Manager