

# Manchester City Council

## Protecting Manchester's most iconic buildings



### Project overview

The project to refurbish the interiors of two of Manchester's finest buildings, the Central Library and Town Hall Extension was part of a wider scheme to protect important heritage features while creating a more accessible, multi-functional public facility.

After an extensive tender process, Johnson Controls was appointed to the project in 2010. What followed was a long and complicated process to design an appropriate system that could overcome the challenges the site represented. Teams from Johnson Controls, main contractor Laing O'Rourke, building consultancy Lateral and engineering company NG Bailey worked together collaboratively with English Heritage, Manchester City Council and its Consultancy Team including BDP, to design, install and commission a new and extensive system.

### Product and services applications

- Digital fire detection and alarm system
- INERGEN® gas suppression system
- MX panels
- Radio based systems

Alan Garbutt, Construction Director for the City Council commented on the complex project. "A high performance digital fire detection and alarm system was needed yet we had to ensure that it was also discreet and met the needs of two important heritage buildings and the requirements of English Heritage. There were a number of areas with ornate and high domed ceilings where a hardwired system was just not possible – meaning innovative thinking was required."

### Customer needs

With such iconic buildings in use by staff and members of the public, along with precious heritage items to protect – the delivery of a suitable fire detection as well as gas suppression system was crucial. As Grade II\* listed buildings, the design and installation process was challenging; however the capability of the latest systems, the expertise of the Johnson Controls team and a collaborative approach to the system design helped to ensure that the new system provides the highest levels of protection.

"The project is a real testament to what can be achieved when a supply chain works together collaboratively," continued Alan Garbutt. "The Central Library and Town Hall Extension are now protected by a state-of-the-art, digital fire detection and alarm system that offers the highest levels of fire safety – whilst remaining discreet and unobtrusive."

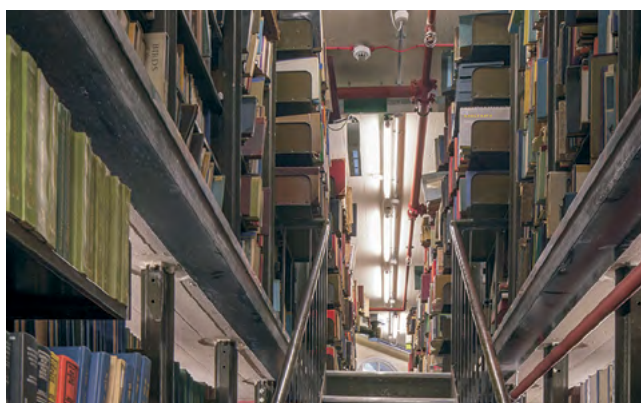


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Alan Garbutt, Construction Director for the City Council

## Johnson Controls solution

Johnson Controls installed a series of MX panels utilising the latest Generation six digital technology. This provided Manchester City Council with superb functionality and performance as well as a greater detector lifespan between service changes. Although in some areas the fire detection and alarm system was hardwired, wherever possible, Johnson Controls utilised radio based systems to ensure that ornate walls and ceilings were left unharmed.



In addition to the digital and fully addressable fire detection and alarm system, Johnson Controls installed an INERGEN® gas suppression system in the book rooms and archive store rooms. No other inert gas has the unique ability to rapidly extinguish a fire yet at the same time provide a safe environment for any person within the occupied area.



The delivery of the project was a complete success – finishing on time and on budget for the openings of the two buildings in July 2013 for the Town Hall Extension and March 2014 for the Central Library. As such, Johnson Controls has also been awarded the contract to maintain the site installation.

For further information or advice, call: **0800 804 6227**

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