

Sector: Healthcare

Robertson businesses: RMF Health,
Robertson Eastern

Clients:
NHS Grampian

Value: £37m

Contract dates: 2013—2018

Location: Foresterhill, Aberdeen



Aberdeen Royal Infirmary reconfiguration

Robertson is delivering a substantial programme of backlog maintenance and refurbishment to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary

In 2013, Robertson was appointed by NHS Grampian to deliver a substantial programme of refurbishment for the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (ARI), as the leader of the Principal Supply Chain Partner team.

One of the largest campuses in Europe

The £37m ARI Reconfiguration Project involves substantial refurbishment and maintenance of the existing Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, predominantly at Forresterhill, one of the largest healthcare campuses in Europe.

The work involves a range of reconfiguration and backlog maintenance works to improve the clinical infrastructure and address business continuity issues – with a particular focus on critical care, infection control, fire strategy, theatre facilities and diagnostics on existing healthcare premises within the site.

The sequence of work was driven through clinical risk assessments and prioritisation within NHS Grampian budgets.

Planning and coordinating

In 2014, the project entered the final element of the scheme – the refurbishment and backlog maintenance of the Phase 2 Building. This is the largest at the ARI campus, and was originally constructed in 1971 using a concrete frame.

This building is considerably larger than the other parts of the project, covering seven surgical/medical floors and two floors for pharmacology and records. Due to its complexity, the funding and decant strategy was split into four sections in a sequence that would minimise the impact on clinical services.

Many facilities had to remain in service at all times, for example, there was one specific lift that was critical for the supply of blood to operating theatres.

The programme was flexible – planned activities could be changed if urgent clinical or estates business requirements were identified. This included the creation of an aseptic suite in an unused area of the basement level, allowing essential pharmaceuticals to be manufactured while another building was refurbished.

Innovation to maintain critical cleanliness

Dedicated ‘dirty’ and ‘clean’ routes have been employed to deal with infection control. Air cubes were tested and used to create negative pressure to prevent dust and contaminant movement. This was particularly important when working in areas adjacent to the High Dependency Unit.

Facilitating further projects

The project brings the hospital up to modern clinical standards and facilitates a chain of further projects: for example, the High Dependency Unit can be moved out of the Phase 1 building, allowing the area to be used for the Eye Clinic, and the existing building to then be demolished to allow a new family hospital to be built.



The Robertson team have been helpful partners as we work to ensure Aberdeen Royal Infirmary is truly fit to provide 21st Century healthcare. Completing all elements of the project while keeping the hospital operational is challenging but Robertson have worked hard to minimise the disruption. Patients and staff alike have certainly noticed the difference they have made in the areas already completed."

Louise McKessock
Clinical Support Manager