



## Case Study

# Leading Cancer Research facility devastated by fire

On 26th April, a major fire started at the Paterson Building in Manchester. The building which is owned by The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and on The Christie hospital site, is home to scientists from The University of Manchester including those based with the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute and others who are part of the University's Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health. Research carried out in this location is world-leading with the aim of understanding cancer in order to develop new ways of diagnosing and treating it.

Officers from the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service were on site tackling the blaze for over 24 hours and their rapid response, bravery and professionalism helped the scientists to save a great deal of their most important equipment and many of their research samples.

There was, however, significant damage across the building. Some of this was caused directly by the fire as well as extensive damage arising as a result of the volume of water required to extinguish it. There was also smoke contamination across the building. In total, 115 offices and 56 individual laboratories were affected in some way covering an area of approximately 9,000 square feet.

ISS Restoration was recommended to the insurers by Davis French Associates and then appointed as the Principal Contractor on-site. Its brief was to salvage as much of the equipment, documentation and research laboratory apparatus as possible. The material and equipment within the building was worth £millions so it was critical to ensure that as much as possible could be salvaged and reused.

The ISS Major Loss team was brought in and assembled a team of 20 highly skilled technicians who spent three months decontaminating and cleaning specialist equipment, working with medical equipment specialists and manufacturers to clean, restore, test and re-commission these valuable and sensitive items. The work was a huge task and many of the highly valuable contents were saved due to ISS' speedy and professional response.

Major and Complex Loss Project Manager, Jamie Hutton, who oversaw the restoration programme for ISS commented: "It was distressing to see so much world-leading research work being threatened by this incident, but so pleasing that we were able to help restore much of their equipment, enabling the continuation of this pioneering and much-needed work."

## Key Facts

### Services Employed

- Insurance Report
- Soot, Smoke & Water Damage Mitigation & Decontamination
- Mechanical & Electrical Restoration
- Salvaging all laboratory equipment where possible, disposing of all BER material
- Logging all contents and providing evidence of re-usability
- Working with OEM's & equipment specialists to restore rather than replace

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