

Portcullis House



Built over the London underground's Westminster Station, Portcullis house accommodates 200 members of staff. The first floor of the building comprises of 15 committee and conference rooms, each provided with state of the art audio visual facilities. A comprehensive range of communications and recording systems were needed to support the operational and investigative roles of the members of parliament, when relocated into their new landmark building.



Close liaison with both the architects and the client, followed by in depth research, enabled IVC to meet all of the requirements, most of which involved designing and commissioning customised conference units incorporating unique sound and management systems supported by off the shelf projectors and screens.

The 15 committee and conference rooms are provided with broadcast standard video cameras, video projectors with customised lenses, and motorised screens at each end of each room. Customised sound management systems provide both automatic and / or manual control of sound enhancement and legal recording systems. Normal operational mode is automatic. Manual control is via either a wall mounted panel or a unique desk top panel at each operator's desk.

Audio and visual information is fed back to the separate audio and television control rooms via an under floor cable network.

A sophisticated electronic signage system designed specifically for this project, displays precise information on the location of each committee / conference room within the building and details of meetings scheduled for each room.

Under floor low spillage induction loops were also provided.

Throughout the year, numerous meetings take place involving overseas visitors. To cater for these occasions, one of the committee rooms is provided with full simultaneous interpretation facilities.

The architects for the project were very concerned that the aesthetics of the landmark building were not compromised by the introduction of numerous audio visual 'gadgets'. The locating of surface mounted equipment was of paramount importance in overcoming these concerns whilst not affecting the overall performance of the systems themselves.



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