

## CASE STUDY - Spinal Injuries Association (SIA)

**“Milton Keynes ticked all the boxes”**

**Paul Smith, Chief Executive, Spinal Injuries Association**

The Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) is the national organisation of spinal cord injured people. It supports all those affected by spinal cord injury, including family and friends of the disabled person.

SIA relocated from London to a new £1.8 million, technologically-advanced, national HQ in Milton Keynes in December 2005. The move was the culmination of over three years' determination, commitment and dedication from all parties involved.

The purpose built building in Oldbrook, just minutes from Central Milton Keynes, provides the latest information and support for spinal cord injured people. A third of SIA's workforce has already relocated to the city with their families.

“SIA House is going to shape the future of our charity and provide the platform from which we will deliver our unique and life-changing support and services for people all over the UK.” says Paul Smith, SIA's Chief Executive. Designed by Sansome Hall Architects, the building incorporates many special features including a glass roof, electricity generating photovoltaic panels, water recycling and underfloor heating.

“We had very specific criteria to meet when relocating.” says Paul Smith. “Finding a more central location for our members was one. Milton Keynes is ideally located and has excellent road and rail links. It's generally more accessible than London. We also needed to maintain a presence near London for political lobbying, so again location was critical. From Milton Keynes I can travel from our HQ to Westminster, door to door, in under an hour, quicker than it took when we were in North London - and a lot less stressful. With a growing population Milton Keynes is also an ideal location for recruitment. So for us, Milton Keynes ticked all the boxes.

Furthermore, Milton Keynes has always been committed to accessibility, and this commitment continues as it embarks on major development plans over the coming years. There have been many highlights associated with the project, and the support we received from Milton Keynes Council, Milton Keynes Partnership and the Milton Keynes Community Foundation is definitely among these.”



---

### **Further information about relocation to Milton Keynes:**

Invest Milton Keynes is a division of Milton Keynes Partnership. Its role is attracting investment into Milton Keynes, ensuring that there is the available property portfolio and infrastructure to match, supporting the needs of the economic strategy and increasing the number of new jobs in high-growth, high value knowledge-based businesses. For more information please contact Invest Milton Keynes on 01908 200 800, or email [anneveritt@investmiltonkeynes.com](mailto:anneveritt@investmiltonkeynes.com) or visit [www.investmiltonkeynes.com](http://www.investmiltonkeynes.com)

The details contained in this case study are for information only. While Invest Milton Keynes makes every effort to ensure this information contained in these pages is correct it cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.