

Case study



National Student Accommodations

Client

UNITE

Project

Ongoing service for UK student accommodations

Location

Nationwide

Overview

Safer student accommodations

UNITE, the largest provider of student accommodation in the UK, has selected Airvent to maintain its smoke control systems and ensure the safety of the many students in its care.

In terms of smoke control issues, student halls of residence share many characteristics with apartment buildings, although they often have higher population densities. With many potential fire hazards and often complex building geometry, the system needs to maintain safe escape routes and make fire fighters' difficult job easier by improving visibility.

Operations

Airvent has been tasked with ensuring the proper service and maintenance of the smoke control systems at 108 separate UNITE sites, ensuring the proper functioning of systems and controls.

UNITE operates sites at a number of university cities: Aberdeen, Bath, Birmingham, Bristol, Coventry, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Huddersfield, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Plymouth, Reading and Sheffield. Airvent offers peace of mind by providing a service quality guarantee to the client, whose customers' young lives are potentially dependent on the correct operation of these systems.

Smoke control systems within a building may never be called upon, but Airvent ensures that if they are, they work first time, every time. This is done via a series of annual inspections, remedial works and on-call emergency repairs, in accordance with UNITE's agreed service level.

UNITE abides by the ANUK 'Code of Standards for Larger Developments for Student Accommodation' which states that "all developments are provided with properly-maintained fire safety installations... including a fire escape route with a minimum of 30 minutes' fire resistance." UNITE relies on Airvent to ensure these regulatory requirements are managed successfully.

"UNITE needed to guarantee the safety of its students nationwide, so Airvent was the natural choice for this complex ongoing service contract."