

Welland Centre, St Mary's Hospital

Client// Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Architect// Fleet Architects

Sector// Mental Health

Location// Kettering

Products installed// Motorised (Sunbell) BetweenGlassBlinds with stainless steel frames

Introduction

The Welland Centre is a purpose built mental health inpatient centre that covers the population of Kettering, Corby, Wellingborough, Rushden and surrounding towns and villages.

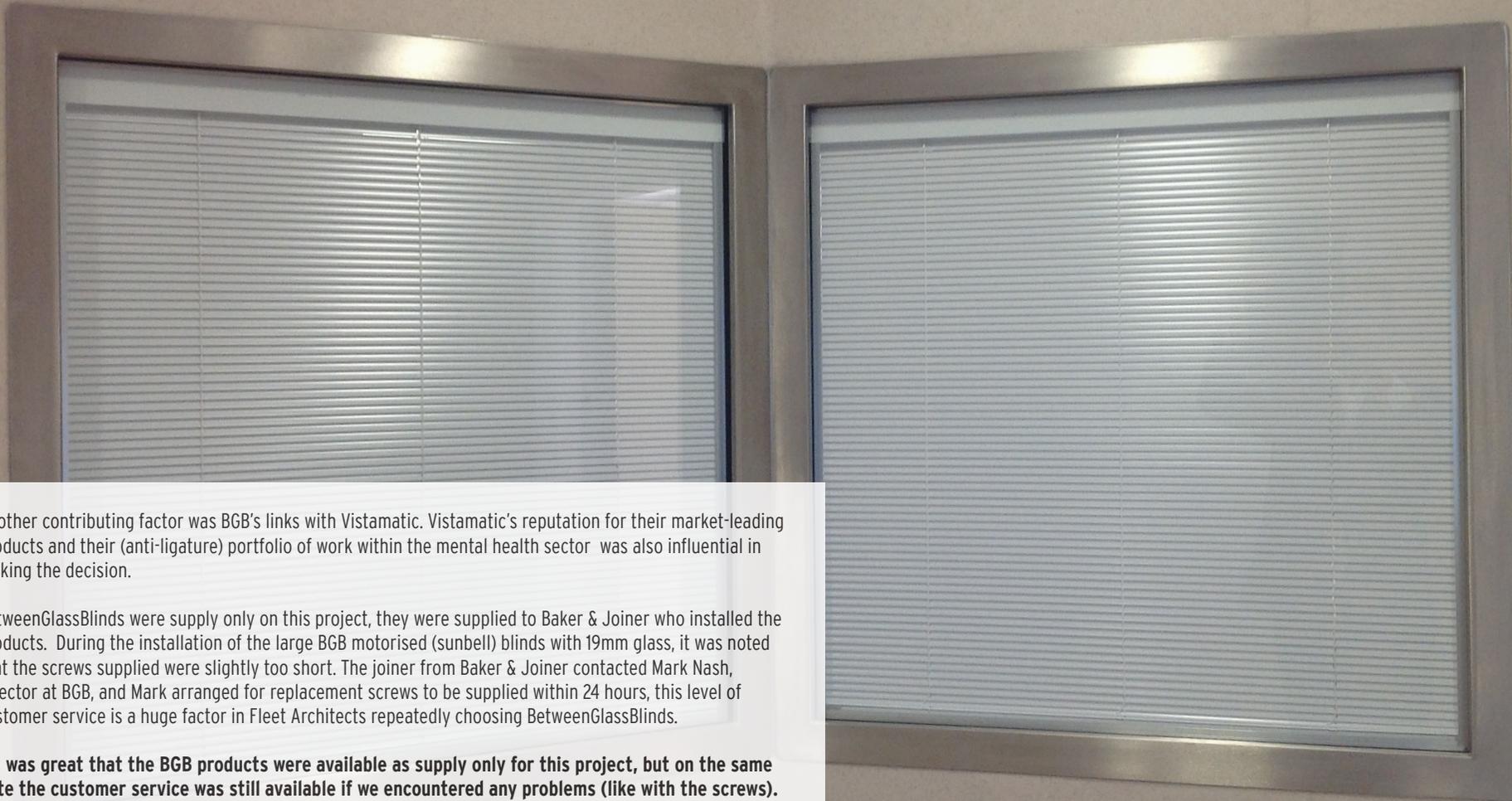
The adult acute and intensive care 47 bed inpatient unit provides a range of services to people aged between 16 and 65. The wards at the Welland Centre provide inpatient assessment and treatment for people experiencing mental health problems where the person's circumstances or care needs cannot be supported at home or in an alternative, less restrictive residential setting. There are four wards that provide care and treatment 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to individual service users.

The Project

Fleet architects specified BetweenGlassBlinds for the project. Fleet Architects of London were looking for a solution specifically for seclusion spaces that were anti-ligature, anti-tamper and generally reduced the ability for self-harm. BetweenGlassBlinds ticked all of those boxes. There were a number of other suppliers that offer similar solutions but were ruled out due to a number of issues:

- Other manufacturers work was found to be crude in areas, therefore unsatisfactory and not what was required for the seclusion space.
- Other manufacturers only offered their solution in uPVC, whereas stainless steel was required for the framing, which BetweenGlassBlinds offered.
- There were manufacturers who also offered integral blind solutions in stainless steel (like BGB) but from past experience they were not deemed as reliable or satisfactory across the board.
- Fleet Architects were impressed with the glass options from BGB which fit the bill for what was required on the Welland Centre project.





Another contributing factor was BGB's links with Vistamatic. Vistamatic's reputation for their market-leading products and their (anti-ligature) portfolio of work within the mental health sector was also influential in making the decision.

BetweenGlassBlinds were supply only on this project, they were supplied to Baker & Joiner who installed the products. During the installation of the large BGB motorised (sunbell) blinds with 19mm glass, it was noted that the screws supplied were slightly too short. The joiner from Baker & Joiner contacted Mark Nash, Director at BGB, and Mark arranged for replacement screws to be supplied within 24 hours, this level of customer service is a huge factor in Fleet Architects repeatedly choosing BetweenGlassBlinds.

"It was great that the BGB products were available as supply only for this project, but on the same note the customer service was still available if we encountered any problems (like with the screws). The products have achieved perfectly what the client, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and we at Fleet Architects were going for, maximizing visibility without compromising privacy and dignity.

"The Trust is very pleased with the quality of the product and commented on how hygienic, clean and safe it was."

Jaime Bishop, Director - Fleet Architects