King Charles III opens new National Cyber Force Headquarters

As part of a visit to Lancashire, His Majesty King Charles III has officially opened National Cyber Force's (NCF) new headquarters in Samlesbury

His Majesty the King has officially opened the National Cyber Force's new headquarters in Samlesbury, Lancashire, which is strengthening national cyber capability and capacity while supporting jobs, skills, and growth across the North West.

Bringing together GCHQ, the **Ministry of Defence**, the **Secret Intelligence Service** (SIS) and the **Defence Science and Technology Laboratory** (Dstl), the NCF conducts cyber operations to confront threats and protect and promote the UK's interests at home and abroad.

What is the National Cyber Force? + Show

The **National Cyber Force** is a dynamic Defence and Intelligence partnership that conducts cyber operations to support military operations and disrupt criminals, terrorists, and state threats.

National Cyber Force

A Defence and Intelligence Partnership

The NCF combines GCHQ's global intelligence capabilities, MOD's operational planning expertise, science and technology from Dstl, and agents and clandestine operational technology from MI6. The unique partnership continually develops sophisticated cyber capabilities in response to real-world events to seize advantage for the nation.

Ahead of Ribble House opening, Defence and partners have made significant investments to support local skills and develop specialist capability in the region. The Digital and Cyber Bursary, introduced in 2025 now supports 500 students across local colleges, giving young people in Lancashire the opportunity to gain cyber and digital skills training and qualifications.



The King met with leadership from NCF partners, including and Anne Keast-Butler, Director GCHQ and General Sir Rob Magowan, Commander Cyber & Specialist Operations Command (CSOC).

The NCF's work includes countering state threats, undermining terrorists, and disrupting child sex offenders and criminals online. Operating in secrecy, the NCF does not routinely share details of its operations as doing so could reduce their effectiveness and help adversaries strengthen their defences



As part of the visit His Majesty also spoke with personnel already working in the facility, including local recruits and entrants from the Armed Forces Cyber Direct Entry Scheme, about the work they do to keep the country safe and protect and promote the UK's interests at home and abroad. This also included briefings on the NCF's mission, capabilities and work to counter threats to the UK and its allies.

Anne Keast-Butler, Director GCHQ said:

"In an age of radical uncertainty, contested geopolitics, and rapidly changing technology, the NCF keeps the country safe by delivering high-impact cyber operations every single day against those who threaten our interests.

"As Defence and Intelligence increasingly fuse world-leading capabilities to ensure we are ready for a future crisis or conflict, this new headquarters in the North West is a powerful symbol of partnership, pace and innovation.

"Here in Samlesbury, the NCF is perfectly placed to boost the development of the North West Cyber Corridor, bringing jobs, skills and innovation to the region."



General Sir Rob Magowan KCB CBE ADC RM, Commander Cyber and Specialist Operations Command, said:

"The opening of the National Cyber Force's new headquarters marks a significant milestone in strengthening the UK's ability to combat threats in an increasingly contested world.

"We must be ready to confront, deter and prevail in the cyber domain, taking the initiative against those who threaten our national security. The National Cyber Force plays a vital role in giving the UK that advantage."

Foreign Secretary, Ed Miliband said;

"As hostile actors use cyberattacks to disrupt our way of life and cause us harm, our world class intelligence agencies ensure that we can tackle those threats head-on. The National Cyber Force is at the cutting edge of British technology and expertise, keeping our country safe and standing up to our adversaries."

Defence Secretary Wes Streeting said:

"The threat environment we are facing is fundamentally different from that of recent decades. Modern threats require a modern response, and nowhere is that truer than in cyberspace.

"That's why the government is stepping up across every domain. The National Cyber Force is at the forefront of that effort, bringing together world class expertise and cutting-edge technology to deter and disrupt our adversaries.

"The official opening of the National Cyber Force HQ in Samlesbury is a major investment in the North West, in defence innovation, and in keeping our country safe."

The King was also introduced to local dignitaries, including members of the Lancashire Cyber Partnership, who have helped to grow the county's cyber economy and highlight the opportunities for people to develop skills and pursue careers in

national security.

The opening of Ribble House is a significant milestone in strengthening the UK's offensive cyber capability and represents a long-term investment in both regional growth and the future cyber workforce of the nation.

Find out more about the NCF and its work at National Cyber Force – GOV.UK.

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