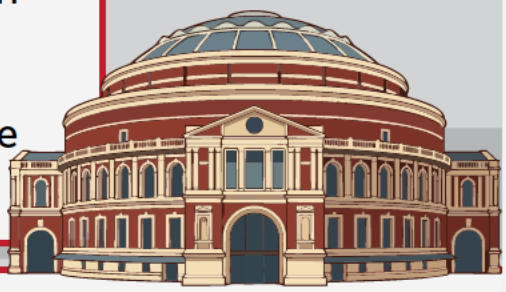
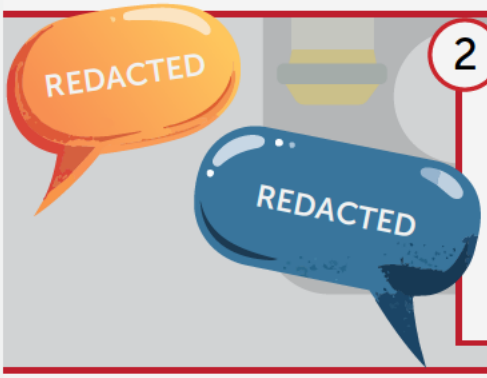
GCHQ Factfile

1

In the middle of our doughnut-shaped office in Cheltenham we have a large courtyard, so big you could fit the Royal Albert Hall inside it. It's one of the few outdoor spaces in the UK where you can have Top Secret conversations.





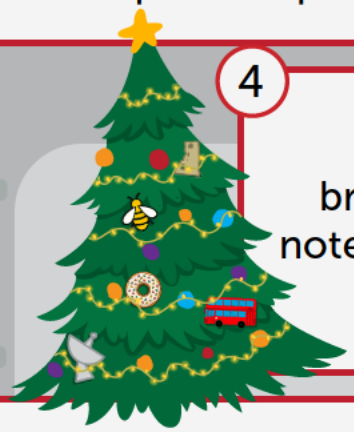
2

The intelligence produced at Bletchley Park, our wartime home, was considered the highest classification: Ultra Secret. That's even higher than Top Secret and Most Secret...

3

We value protecting the environment. When we shred Top Secret documents, the shreds are used to create fertiliser, which then gets used to grow potatoes. Maybe your next bag of crisps will come from Top Secret potatoes.





4

Our creative, environmentally friendly code breakers at Bletchley Park used to turn their old notepads (full of secret messages) into Top Secret paper decorations for the Christmas tree!

5

We used to have pneumatic tubes in our offices - like the ones in the Paddington movie - to carry objects very quickly from room to room. Some spies used the tubes to send chocolate éclairs... and even a marriage proposal!