

A new role

Façade, window and door designer, manufacturer and installer, CMS Group has strengthened its senior management team with the appointment of Andrew Charters as group finance director.

Charters joins Maven Capital Partners-backed CMS from the Scottish Football Association (SFA) where he has held the post of director of finance and IT for the last three years. His financial career spans more than 25 years across a variety of sectors including manufacturing, higher education and business services.

David Ritchie, CEO of CMS Group says:

“We are really pleased to welcome Andrew Charters as our new group finance director and recognise the valuable experience he brings at an important time for our business. With his excellent track record across a variety of organisations, Andrew will be a great asset to CMS as we work hard to help our customers get their projects back on track post-lockdown, and drive forward with new innovations to deliver ever more sustainable buildings and homes



Andrew Charters

across the UK.”

Charters says: “I am delighted to be taking up my new role at CMS. The success of the business from a standing start in 2006 to what it is today is remarkable, and I am looking forward to working with the team to navigate the short term challenges brought by Covid-19 to deliver on our long term, sustainable growth plans.” □

Honest communication

David Thornton, chair at The Window Company (Contracts), has spoken out about the supply issues that exist across the window market. In most cases it is installers, operating at the sharp end of the industry, who are actually bearing the brunt. Thornton says that, while he and his team are sympathetic to the problems that fabricators face, installers need open and honest communication from their suppliers if they are to manage their businesses effectively.

He says: “We recognise there are shortages on profiles, hardware and glass, but that doesn’t change the fact that we have targets to meet and service levels to maintain.

“In the commercial market, where



David Thornton

there are sometimes penalties for late completion of jobs, the pressure and frustrations have been particularly intense.

“Working, as we do, right across the social housing and commercial new build sectors, obtaining stock to maintain our service levels and avoid penalties has been one of the biggest challenges since factories re-opened in April and May.” □

Rowan to step down

The Association for Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP) is seeking a new chief executive officer following an announcement by the current CEO Niall Rowan of his intention to step down after the association’s annual general meeting in 2021.

Rowan took on the role of chief executive officer at the ASFP at the start of 2017, having been the association’s technical officer since 2010. Having



Niall Rowan

taken over just before the Grenfell tragedy, Rowan has led the ASFP through a period of huge change both for the association and the fire and construction sectors.

During his tenure, he played a hugely influential role, providing input to the full range of government and industry committees tasked with transforming the building safety landscape and improving competency across the built environment and significantly raising the ASFP’s profile as the go-to authority on passive fire protection.

He has also presided over a period of substantial growth for the association and overseen the launch of its highly successful foundation course in passive fire protection, which enables passive fire protection professionals to demonstrate their competency and study towards level 2 and 3 qualifications awarded by the Institution of Fire Engineers. □