

Nick Boles appointed construction minister

Former planning minister Nick Boles will take the construction portfolio within the business department, rather than Matthew Hancock, writes *Allister Hayman*.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) last week added construction to the responsibilities of Nick Boles, who was moved from his role as planning minister in the communities department to a new role straddling the business and education departments as part of David Cameron's reshuffle last month.

Boles (pictured) was initially named as skills minister in the

reshuffle, with Matthew Hancock handed the construction brief as part of his wider ministerial responsibilities.

But BIS last week updated Boles' responsibilities in the business department to include the retail, construction and rail business sectors, as well as skills.

Hancock, who took on the role after Michael Fallon was appointed defence secretary in the reshuffle, straddles the business and energy departments, and leads on infrastructure, nuclear, and renewable energy as well as advanced manufacturing and the



low-carbon economy.

The change means Boles will take Fallon's seats on the Construction Leadership Council and the Green Construction Board, and will lead on the implementation of the government's construction strategy.

However, it means that the construction minister will not now be attending Cabinet meetings, as was the case when the brief was part of Hancock's portfolio.

Brian Berry, Federation of Master Builders chief executive, said the construction industry "deserves cabinet-level representation" so it was disappointing that the brief had been taken away from Hancock.

But he added: "Boles is a highly capable minister and, having come straight from his brief as planning minister, he is someone with whom we already have a great working relationship."

Balfour Beatty services boss switches to Serco

The boss of Balfour Beatty's services business Kevin Craven has quit the firm to join Serco.

Serco confirmed it has appointed Kevin Craven as chief executive of its UK central government division, which in 2013 had revenues of £1.6bn and employs more than 23,000 people.

Craven will join Serco on 1 September and will be a member of the group's executive committee.

Craven joins from Balfour Beatty where, for the last four years,

he has been the chief executive of Balfour Beatty Services.

In this role, he has been responsible for 16,000 employees, leading a business with revenues of over £1.6bn, covering sectors such as facilities management, rail and utilities.

Craven also sat on the executive committee of Balfour Beatty.

Craven said: "I am extremely excited to be joining Serco. I see real potential for the business to move forward and grow with a unique portfolio of services to central government."

APPOINTMENTS

Clients

Persimmon Homes has made a number of appointments in its south Midlands business. Andy Peters joins as managing director, Andy Harper joins as construction director and Alastair Parsons joins as sales director.

Saxonby has appointed Alastair Stewart planning consultant.

Contractors

Balfour Beatty has appointed Heather Bryant director of health, safety and environment.

Mitie has made a number of appointments in its Environmental+ business. Joe Read is appointed operations director, Lawrence Beckett joins as operations director, Mandy Parkinson joins as customer relationship manager and Bruce Penrice becomes solutions director for the London area.

Wilson James has appointed former Morgan Sindall London boss Peter Jacobs a non-executive board director.

Consultants

WSP has appointed Peter Bone, Richard Gubbins, Andrew Jones, Mike Hewett, Stephen Checketts and Simon McKee technical directors and has appointed Ross Harvey, James Bodicoat and Chris Cumberland associate directors.

Big Data Institute

Make's Big Data Institute building, the architect's fifth project at Oxford University, has been given planning permission. The Big Data Institute (BDI) will stand between two other Make buildings on the Old Road Campus – the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology and the NDM research building. The BDI will store, analyse and process vast amounts of health-related digital data with the aim of providing new insights into illnesses and treatments. Make has also designed the Oxford Molecular Pathology Institute and the Old Road Campus Research Building.

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