

The pre-pack

Following yet another controversial glazing industry pre-pack administration, Gary Morton of the Boing Boing Group says that it is time to draw a line in the sand.

Morton says: "Once, there was a real stigma attached to going bankrupt – and as a society, it's good we've become a little more compassionate.

"Sometimes, businesses fail through no direct fault of the people that own and run them, and those people deserve our understanding and support, if appropriate.

"But it is also feasible for companies to take advantage of our collective generosity and goodwill. This, unfortunately, is what we have seen with the recent collapse of the Customade Group."

In June Customade was placed into administration, owing money to its suppliers, crown debt and a fair number of its employees.

Within minutes it had been bought by Dutch private equity firm Nimbus, as part of a 'pre-pack administration', and resurrected as a new company headed by the same management team.

"The new companies were set up in



Gary Morton

early February, way before Covid-19 struck," says Morton.

"In certain situations, pre-packs are a good thing – they can rescue struggling businesses in a way that saves jobs, which, in the longer term, helps the suppliers, employees and customers who rely on them.

"But as cases like these demonstrate, in practice they are often used for all the wrong reasons." □

Full story at www.thefabricator.pro

Green grant no good

The Glass and Glazing Federation (GGF) has written to the government to express its disappointment in the Green Homes Grant Scheme which is due to be launched in September.

In letters to the respective departments, BEIS (Business Energy and Industrial Strategy) and MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government), the GGF



John Agnew

highlighted the problems with the scheme including:

- Restricting the scheme to single glazing upgrades only – when there's an estimated 20m homes with pre-2002 inefficient double glazing
- Limiting the scheme to companies who are accredited to PAS 2030
- Targeting just 600k homes in the scheme, approximately only 3% of the overall retrofit market

On the letters to the government ministers, John Agnew, GGF managing director said:

"The GGF has received many complaints from angry and disappointed members following the unveiling of the scheme's details. The vast majorities of companies don't qualify for the scheme and even if they went down the route to achieving PAS 2030, it will take time and money and doesn't guarantee the work." □

Full Story: www.theinstaller.pro

Veka redundancies

Veka has announced that it has completed the consultation process, it implemented to consider redundancies. It has confirmed that 25 jobs are to go.

David Jones, managing director of Vekaplac says: "Having started the process in mid June, establishing an employee elected committee responsible for taking group redundancy consultations, we have followed it to its conclusion. Fortunately, throughout the process, working with our committee, we were able to reduce the impact from an estimated redundancy of 78 roles to 25. This equates to 6.5% of our workforce and reflects the new scale of the business."



David Jones

Veka took a phased approach to the redundancies. Phase one redundancies represented roles that the business could not foresee and short-medium term relief from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This phase has now been completed. Phase two, involving roles that were dependent on seeing positive sales upturn in July, will no longer proceed. □