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Packaging chiefs "disappointed" by Prisk move

Liz Gyekye

September 6, 2012

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Packaging chiefs have expressed disappointment at the latest cabinet reshuffle, after ex-Business Minister Mark Prisk was appointed as the new Housing Minister



As part of the Prime Minister's ministerial reshuffle, Prisk will take over Grant Shapps as Housing Minister.

Elsewhere, former Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman was axed from her post and replaced by Owen Paterson.

Packaging Federation chief executive Dick Searle told Packaging News: "I am disappointed that we are losing Mark Prisk. Mark has been very good at championing manufacturing. But he will be a good man in housing.

"I think that many of us think that Defra as a department have not spread the message to support UK manufacturing. Hopefully, it will start to become more business friendly.

"I am also looking forward to engaging with BIS to help continue the Make it in Britain campaign."

'Business friendly'

Echoing Searle's views, BPF director general Peter Davis said: "Caroline Spelman has gone from Defra and been replaced by Owen Paterson who may be more business friendly and willing to listen to reason on the too high plastics packaging recycling targets for 2013-17.

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"The bad news is we lose Mark Prisk from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). He becomes Housing Minister.

"But if he can kick start some housebuilding or refurb, that could be good for our members in construction products. Mark Prisk was an excellent Minister at BIS with whom the BPF had much positive contact and is replaced by Michael Fallon MP."

CPI director general David Workman added: "Overall, I think the changes are good for business. However, there will not be a great deal of change in strategy. It seems that the Government will force through existing strategies than new ones."

Wealth creator

IoPP UK managing director Kevin Vyse explained: "When will the Government realise that there is money in waste? It's a golden ship and we need to take advantage of our food and packaging waste.

"Nick Clegg did say at our recent meet and greet event that the green industry was a wealth creator."



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