



## Andrew Blundson

**Position:** Managing Director

**Company:** Priddy Engineering Services Limited

**Sector:** Contractor

**Constructing Excellence Region:** Bristol and South West

### What's the day job?

Running the company

### What has been the highlight of your career?

Starting and building a successful Mechanical and Electrical building services company from scratch.

### What has been the most challenging moment of your career?

Finding the right people to join my business with the right attitude and drive to help me grow the business and achieve our goals.

### What are your views on the hot topics in construction?

- Resources. I have a real concern about the lack of available well trained, capable, enthusiastic people involved in the whole construction industry more specifically in the Building services engineering industry.
- I am worried about the lack of training available for bringing any new people into the industry.
- I have real concerns that government policy regarding training and apprenticeship schemes versus college to university degree is bent towards the social agenda not the business agenda. With funding becoming the responsibility of employers and employers becoming the architects of how a given occupation is defined and the skills attributed for the new trailblazer scheme that BIS are implementing following the publication of the Richards Review.
- I am interested how BIM will become a main stay of British construction and how it is aligned with the current commercial and contractual process. There is a massive disconnect between the ideology of collaborative working and what BIM hopes to achieve when it is being used without full trust and collaborative team play on contractual and financial issues.
- Late payment is a real issue in our industry and is in urgent need of tough legislation and transformation change to move away from cheapest price or driving value out of a project.
- Retentions need to be abolished as it only serves to increase the working capital of the masters in a contractual arrangement. The most vulnerable entities in any contract being the sub-contractor. It is not sustainable to use these companies or supply chain acting as bank accounts. 5% and 2.5% retentions is unsustainable in an industry that works on low single figure net profits.
- The industry needs to be great at selling itself and enable good talent to join without feeling that the industry is a second choice behind a university degree.

### What do you think/hope the construction industry will look like in the future?

I hope that the industry will be seen as a great asset to the GDP of the country. I hope the industry will be seen as a first class career opportunity. That attracts the great and the good to become involved with the creation of great environments that we use in our lives. Also to enable people to work as a team to create a lasting legacy that they are proud to have been a part of building. Companies are seen as great assets and profit levels are made that allow investment into the betterment of the industry with training, health safety and wellbeing, being high on the agenda.

### How did you get involved in Constructing Excellence?

Through a meeting with Andrew Carpenter.

### What are the benefits of CESW membership?

Joining a group of likeminded people who all share the vision of a great industry that works in collaboration to build sustainable and long lasting places and environments for society to work live and play.

*“Late payment is a real issue in our industry & is in urgent need of tough legislation and transformation change.....”*

### What do you like to do in your free time?

I am involved with the education and training of our industry and chair the education committee of B&ES. I enjoy assisting colleges and schools with discussions, career events and attempting to encourage new people into building services engineering. I also organise the south west training awards held in Bristol. Walk my dog and relax with my family.

### What did you want to be growing up?

Free.

### What was your first job?

Aged 11 I worked in a fish and chip shop peeling potatoes and washing the fryers after a busy Saturday lunchtime.

### Where is your favourite place in the world?

Home.

### If stranded on a desert island, what would 3 items would you take?

My I pod, a lifetime supply of cool beers and an umbrella (to sit in the shade I have red hair!!!).

*“I hope the industry will be seen as a first class career opportunity”*