

## A Call To Action

**We've all heard of flocks of birds, packs of wolves and schools of fish. Less well-known are cauldrons of bats, thunders of hippos and flamboyances of flamingos, but these really are the collective nouns for each of these creatures. With the chatter surrounding the emergence of "workplace" as a collective noun, it's time for Director Group to lead the way by coming up with an equivalent term for the joined-up property, FM and procurement market.**

Collaboration is key to success and, while more and more organisations are embracing holistic approaches to their day to day operations, within many industries there is still a tendency for people to work in silos which have been established for decades.

Property, facilities and procurement professionals all play a significant role in creating environments that allow the rest of the organisation to focus on their core business. Property professionals strive to streamline an organisation's portfolio, facilities managers seek to provide the best possible service and to underpin productivity. The procurement team want to make sure that all this happens as cost efficiently as possible.

Yet, senior figures at established organisations have become frustrated at the grey space and blurred lines between the three functions. At times, each wants responsibility for something and is loath to relinquish control, at other times each claims the other two are in charge, and abdicates all accountability.

In order to tackle this issue and provide a streamlined service, some companies have merged two of the three departments, or, alternatively, erased and redrawn the lines separating them. But few organisations have managed to completely eradicate the perpetual cries of "who is responsible for that?" or "whose budget is this coming from?"

At Director Group, we believe that a collaborative approach, merging property, procurement and facilities management skillsets will see demands and needs met more effectively and more efficiently. Grouping these three specialisms together will provide an all-inclusive, more complete approach which will undoubtedly benefit businesses.

But we recognise that if three formerly distinct departments are to work closely together, then they will need to forge a new, distinct identity, one which encompasses all of their best attributes, characteristics and contributions. One of the most important steps in this process is finding a suitable name, a label which fosters a sense of togetherness.

Different suggestions have been floated and plenty of individual professionals have their own personal way of referring to the wider industry in which they work. But, as of yet, there is no recognised name out there. No one word or phrase which encapsulates all that facilities, procurement and property can achieve by working together. We think there should be, to help people get used to this collaborative way of working.

That's why we are asking everyone across all three industries what their thoughts are. Do you already have a collective noun for procurement, property and facilities functions? Or can you think of the perfect one? Let us know.

