

Client: Ibstock
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CITY PEOPLE

The feuds, the faces and the farcical
Dominic Walsh @walshdominic

Business big shot

NAME TRACEY
GRAHAM
AGE 50
POSITION
NON-EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR,
IBSTOCK



Tracey Graham is apparently on speed dial for headhunters across Britain (Katherine Griffiths writes). The serial non-executive is adding another company — and another sector — to her portfolio.

Ms Graham has joined the board of Ibstock, which makes clay bricks and concrete products, where she will sit on its remuneration, audit and nomination committees. She is also a director of Royal London, the life and pensions company,

and Dialight, the maker of LED products. Her previous boardroom experience includes directorships at RPS, the environmental consulting group, and Albemarle & Bond, a pawnbroker that collapsed into administration in March 2014.

Ms Graham was the chief executive of Talaris, an international cash management business, between 2005 and 2010 and led its management buyout from De La Rue. She began her career at HSBC, where she was responsible for leading the debt collection and recovery operation for Midland Card Services.

Ms Graham is joining the Ibstock board along with Lynn Minella, BAE Systems' human resources director and a member of its executive committee.

She is married with one daughter.



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SOME THINGS ARE DIFFICULT TO DIGEST, EVEN FOR JOHNSON
Luke Johnson has fingers in many pies, so it would be a bit much to expect every investment to be another PizzaExpress. One that appears not quite as mouth-watering is Red Hot World Buffet. According to *M&C Report*, the all-you-can-eat chain, majority-controlled by Mr Johnson's Risk Capital Partners, has put two of its six restaurants up for sale and the private equity tycoon may exit altogether. Mr Johnson said: "We are examining our options."

LIFE AND SOUL OF THE PARTY
The media world is mourning the loss of one of its more colourful characters. John Shepherd, who died suddenly on Monday night aged 57, was director of corporate communications at PartyGaming and — after its merger with Bwin, of Austria — Bwin.party. Before entering PR, he was a business journalist, first at the *Financial Times*, then at *The Independent*, where he rose to be business news editor. Peter Reynolds, a close colleague at the online gambling

operator, paid tribute to "a man of great wit, huge intellect and a love of life. He was never at a loss for a quickfire comment that could reduce you to hysterics, even in the darkest hour." He leaves a wife, Claire, and two children.

THE OXYGEN OF PUBLICITY
O₂ has been slapped down for not telling customers (apart from in the small print) that the price of a contract will rise in line with inflation. After an appeal by Which?, the Advertising Standards Authority passed the matter to an independent reviewer, Sir Hayden Phillips. The retired Whitehall mandarin recommended the ad be banned. Sir Humphrey I, O₂ nil.

SUCCESS CAN BE SO SWEET
Candy Kittens, the gluten-free confectionery brand founded by Jamie Laing, the *Made in Chelsea* star, left, projects sales of £2.5 million by 2017.

Its success, we are told, reflects his "hard work and determination, as well as his transformation from reality TV star to serious businessman".

