



Prihoda UK Ltd
Bretby Business Park
Ashby Road, Bretby,
Derbyshire DE15 0YZ

tel.: 0121 320 2496
fax.: 0121 320 2486
e-mail: info@prihoda.co.uk
web: www.prihoda.co.uk

FBD Insurance Dublin - Prihoda Fabric Ducting

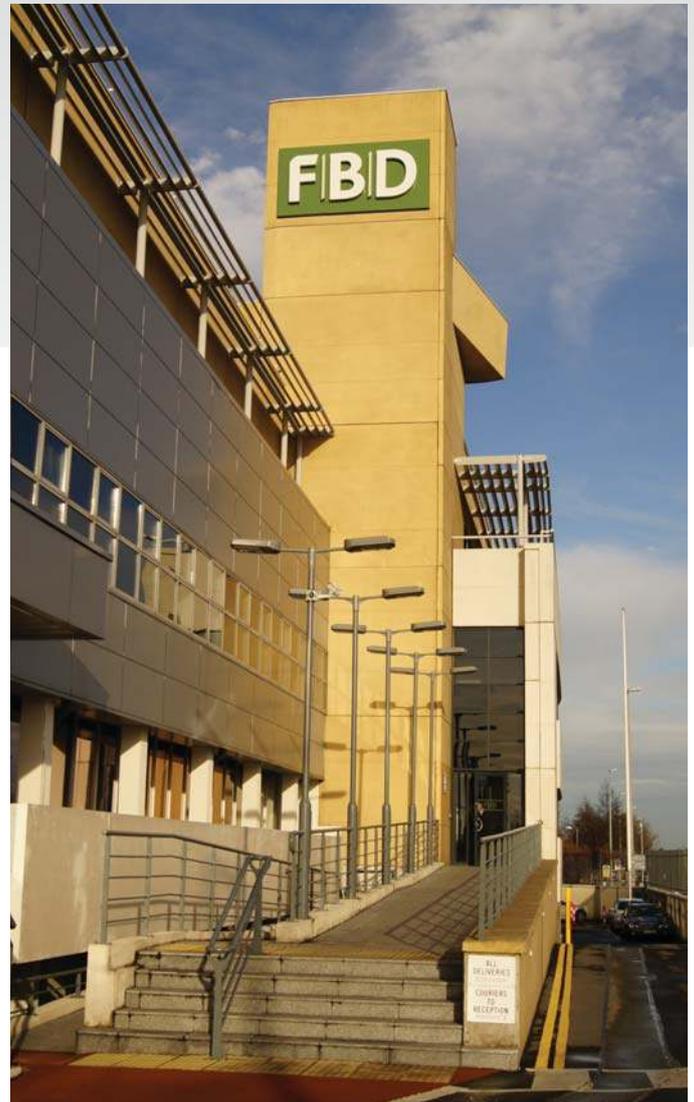
FBD Insurance is one of Ireland's largest insurers, with regional offices nationwide. Started in the 1960's by Irish farmers FBD today has over 500,000 customers and insures cars, homes, businesses and farms as well as offering pensions and investment services.

Based in Dublin FBD Insurance has a large office building (FBD House) to the west of the city centre which has an administrative function over several floors. The shape of FBD House means that there are two large, long façades one of which is predominantly southern facing. The large windows in each façade create different environmental requirements within the open floors of the building, with more cooling being required on the southern side of the building.

The Problem

The building's centralised air conditioning system was installed back in the 80's – with rigid ducting and grilles running along a central spine east to west across the building supplying air to each side of the open plan office spaces. Velocity, discomfort and a lack of local control had become the primary problematic issues during cooling.

Over the years FBD had tried several different schemes to try to improve the situation and alleviate the comfort issues. Grilles had been changed, in some places adjustable nozzles installed and eventually the blanking off of large sections of ducting to avoid complaints over velocity discomfort, which led to complaints in other areas over a lack of cooling.



FBD Offices West Dublin

A major investment was scheduled for 2014 with renovation of several of the open plan floors being modernised and revitalised and with this arose the opportunity to address 'The Air Conditioning Problem' once and for all. FBD called in their AC contractor and asked for their help in resolving the problem, specifically the imbalance across different parts of the floors and the discomfort caused by detectable air velocity. Crossflow Airconditioning Ltd of Dublin looked after the building air conditioning maintenance and Padiag Hanvey of Crossflow knew that the central plant was actually still working pretty well, it was the air distribution causing the problems. Having worked with us on lots of projects over the years Padiag called Prihoda.



Existing System

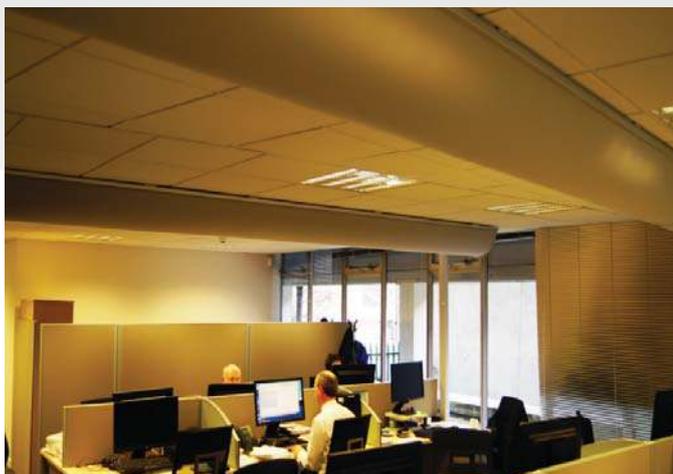


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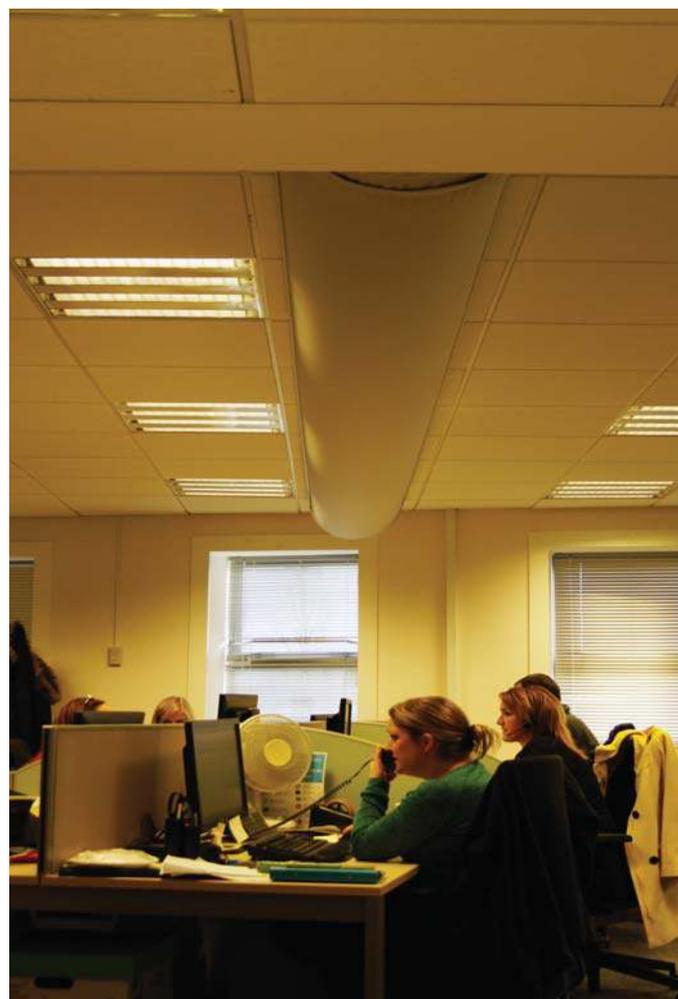
After an initial quotation to establish the financial viability of the scheme we created detailed proposals including bespoke air pattern/velocity graphics to address the customers primary concerns of comfort, and we supplied samples for architectural/interior design approval in terms of colour and overall look.



Excitingly the client also chose to install Fabric Ducting made from 100% post consumer recycled material. Essentially across the two floors FBD insurance reused 2262 plastic bottles (500ml) which had been previously used and thrown away. This reused an existing waste resource and at the same time reduced the amount of water (50% less) and energy (66% less) used in the production of our recycled material and as a consequence also reduced the amount of greenhouse gas emitted during production by 34%. Furthermore by choosing to buy this material which is in itself recyclable FBD have created a virtuous circle in that no new resources have been used and what has been installed will eventually be recycled into something else.



Following the installation and renovation of FBD House we went to visit the project to look at the installation and discuss the outcome of the project with FBD's Facilities Manager. The system works better than imagined and regular calls with complaints about the AC system are now a thing of the past. The open plan floors are comfortable, of an even temperature gradient and velocity free, even with ducts mounted over desks (micro-perforation diffusers avoid 'dumping' of cold air below the duct which is unavoidable with permeable material fabric ducts alone, this video link shows a smoke test of this problem <https://vimeo.com/100693994>).



Fabric Ducting in offices and other applications is a long term, low cost, reliable and cleanable solution to everyday ventilation and diffusion applications. Most suitable mounted 'in the space' the large surface area for diffusion allows improved distribution of air and more controlled velocity. Please contact us for further details.



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FBD Insurance Dublin - Prihoda Fabric Ducting



Light Grey Half Round Fabric Ducts



Mounted over desks velocity is minimal



100% Post Consumer Recycled Material Fabric Ducts



Flame Retardant and Cleanroom non fibre shedding