

# Claire Hills, BSc, FCA

## Curriculum Vitae

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Claire is based in Cheshire and covers the North West.

Claire worked for PwC (or its predecessor firm Price Waterhouse) for almost 15 years. On qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in the summer of 1994, she transferred to the Forensic Services division. During twelve years, Claire gained experience of commercial disputes work (business interruption claims, loss of profits claims and professional negligence matters) but mainly focused on the investigation of fraud, false accounting and accounting breakdown, acting for a broad range of companies, public bodies and for regulatory or prosecuting authorities, including the Financial Services Authority.

She has a wealth of international experience having managed assignments across Europe, Asia and North America and is a fluent French speaker.

Prior to taking a career break, Claire also had a wide-ranging senior management role providing operational support to the Forensic Services team of 25 staff in the Midlands. Significantly, she was responsible for business development and public relations activity for the Forensic Services practice in the Midlands and the North. The business development role involved targeting and consulting with senior management at target companies about corporate governance and ethics issues, the identification and management of business risks, including fraud, and managing pitches and proposals.

### Industry experience

Claire's industry experience includes:

- Financial services
- Biotechnology
- Telecommunications
- Technology
- Manufacturing
- Retail
- Public Sector

## Assignment experience

### Fraud, investigations and criminal matters

Claire has been involved in both national and international investigations into fraud and accounting irregularities. Claire has also undertaken a number of employee-related fraud investigations and has particular expertise in managing large projects.

- Investigating material accounting irregularities at a Midlands based subsidiary of a Swedish listed company and providing advice to the company on its dealings with the Swedish listing authority
- Being engaged by a UK regulatory body to investigate and analyse the funds flows through a number of UK and overseas investment companies in an action concerning unauthorised investment business.
- Being engaged by the PwC administrators of a telecommunications and fibre optics company to investigate allegations of misconduct made against the directors and determine recoveries that can be made for the creditors.
- Providing assistance on a criminal defence matter concerning the alleged breach of food safety laws for profit.
- Assisting a multinational insurance company with its internal pan-European investigation to locate unpaid insurance policies taken out by victims of Nazi persecution.
- Being engaged by the board of a listed biotechnology company to investigate alleged gross misconduct and theft by a former chief executive.
- Working for the liquidators of a large Hong Kong based securities and investment house to conduct an investigation of the circumstances leading up to its insolvency and to identify possible areas for the liquidators to make recoveries for the creditors.
- Conducting anti-money laundering and Know Your Customer reviews at a wide range of UK regulated financial institutions.
- Assisting a major UK police force with asset tracing and the quantification of alleged proceeds of crime in connection with a major drugs related investigation.

In 1996/97, Claire undertook a secondment to the Enforcement Department of the London Stock Exchange where she was managed investigations into insider dealing, market manipulation and breaches of the Listing Rules and the London Stock Exchange Rules (these enforcement functions are now provided by the Financial Services Authority). She also provided assistance to Department of Trade & Industry Inspectors who were appointed to conduct insider-dealing investigations.