

# Hawkins

Leaders in forensic investigation



**CAUTION**

## PERSONAL INJURY

Providing forensic investigation and expert witness services for personal injury incidents.

Accidents in the Workplace | Chemical Incidents | Construction Site Injury  
Falls From Height | Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome  
Health & Safety Reviews | Manual Handling | Noise-Induced Hearing Loss  
Occupational Health | Slips, Trips & Stair Falls | Road Traffic Collisions

## ABOUT HAWKINS

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Hawkins, established in 1980, provides specialist forensic root cause analysis and expert witness services to legal, insurance and risk management professions. We also investigate incidents for contractors and consultants.

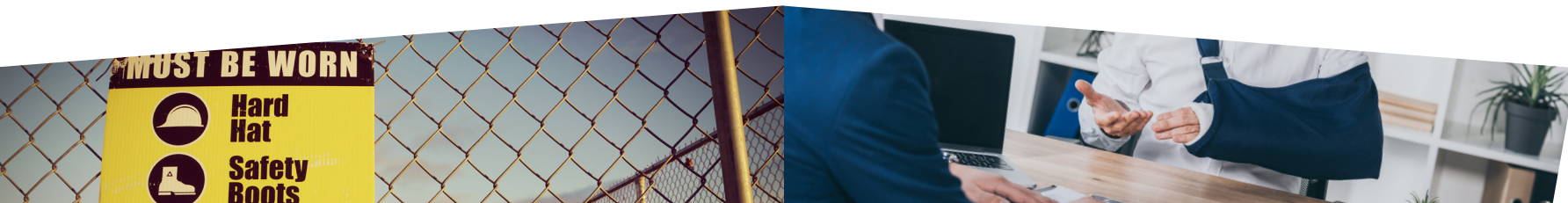
The company has 8 offices in the United Kingdom as well as offices in Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore. All offices are staffed by highly experienced forensic scientists and engineers from a wide range of disciplines, including mechanical, electrical, civil, structural and highway engineering.

*“Clients come back to Hawkins because of our honesty and integrity; very sound technical knowledge and expertise married with a real awareness of what our clients need – rapid response, quick accurate advice, communication of the evidence and the investigation in a way they can act upon.”*

Our team has the proven expertise and practical experience to investigate a wide range of personal injury incidents. Our experts are experienced investigators made up of forensic engineers and scientists, many of whom specialise in key subject areas including falls from height, noise-induced hearing loss, slips, trips and stair falls, manual handling, lifting operations and incidents involving machinery.

We excel in providing a rapid response and high quality reports to assist our clients in understanding the technical issues of a case and the cause of the incident or defect. We offer a flexible range of services from preliminary appraisals to full CPR35 compliant reports.

Our Personal Injury team can provide investigative input into Civil claims and cases being dealt with by the Criminal Courts. Our Investigators maintain a robust balance between the numbers of instructions taken from Claimant's side and Defendant's side, and are happy to act as single joint experts where appropriate.



# OUR SERVICES

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## ACCIDENTS IN THE WORKPLACE

The majority of workplace injuries are the result of slips, trips or falls, manual handling, or falls from height. However, incidents involving machinery/tools, and injuries involving vehicles also occur in high numbers. Our specialists routinely carry out both the physical examination of materials associated with the incident, as well as an evaluation of relevant documentation, such as Risk Assessments and Systems of work.

## CHEMICAL INCIDENTS

When dangerous chemicals or materials are involved in a failure, the consequences can be life threatening. Increased scale of production of pure substances comes with many increased risks. Fires, explosions, toxic gas clouds, and chemical leaks, can all cause potential injury and future long-term health effects. In particular, asbestos continues to cause health issues as well as difficulties in the refurbishment and demolition of many buildings. Hawkins can investigate what has caused a chemical incident and advise on both liability and recovery.

## CONSTRUCTION SITE INJURY

Despite concerted efforts to tighten regulations, construction continues to be the most dangerous industry in the UK. All our investigators have both design and site experience with some of the most prestigious international design consultants and on the most complex construction sites. We can assist you with pre-loss risk management, forensic investigation, expert witness services through to through to post-loss advice.

## FALLS FROM HEIGHT

We investigate the nature of the fall and causation. We can provide advice on whether any defects were present, (e.g. in windows), or whether the relevant construction met British/European Standards, as well as confirm which building regulations may apply and whether these have been met.

## HAND-ARM VIBRATION SYNDROME

Use of vibrating hand-held tools, such as jackhammers, can increase the propensity of HAVS whilst exposure of the whole body to vibration, and shocks, through the use of large machinery, such as earth moving machinery can also lead to musculoskeletal problems. Hawkins can measure and assess vibration exposure to identify machinery which may cause harm to workers.



# OUR SERVICES

## HEALTH & SAFETY REVIEWS

We assess existing procedures to determine the efficacy and effectiveness of Health & Safety policies. We review risk management strategies, reporting arrangements, and the actions taken to identify and rectify potential weaknesses. Our services include pre-loss risk management to support implementation of the correct procedures as a preventative action, through to an investigatory role should a health and safety incident occur.

## MANUAL HANDLING

Manual handling is defined by the HSE as transporting or supporting a load by hand or bodily force. It is a common risk in industries and workplaces, including construction sites, warehouses, and offices. Our detailed investigation determines the direct cause of the accident, as well as all contributory factors. We assist you in ascertaining whether your client has a valid claim or is liable for the injury.

## NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS

Noise-induced hearing loss is one of the most insidious injuries and is tightly regulated under the Control of Noise at Work Regulations. We can provide an assessment of your work environment ranging from simple spot measurements or personal employee assessments, development of a full Hearing Conservation Program through to expert guidance in the event of litigation.

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Hawkins offers investigative services that cover a range of Occupational Health matters. We can scrutinise measures put in place to prevent physical and mental occupational ill health, analyse their efficacy, and establish their effectiveness (or otherwise). We can also study the associated working practices that can impact occupational health, as part of a holistic investigation.

## SLIPS, TRIPS & STAIR FALLS

Personal injury claims involving slips, trips or falls are extremely common, and the injuries that result can be severe. Such incidents are responsible for a third of all injuries reported to the HSE under RIDDOR, and occur across all sectors, and in commercial and domestic settings. We have extensive experience and knowledge within this specialist sector and are credited with being one of the leading firms of professional forensic investigators within this field.

## ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Hawkins has the largest group of Road Traffic Collision investigators in the UK. We can carry out desktop or CCTV analysis, attend the scene of a collision, examine a vehicle, or perform a full collision reconstruction, enabling an accurate assessment of liability.



## OUR EXPERTS

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Hawkins' team of experts has a wide range of specific experience and expertise relating to almost all areas of personal injury investigation, both in the UK and overseas.

Using this knowledge and experience, combined with skills in forensic investigation, they are able to conduct robust and detailed investigations into a wide range of personal injury incidents.

If you wish to make an enquiry or instruct us, please contact the office closest to the incident location and you will be put in touch with the relevant expert. A full list of our contact details can be found on the back cover. Alternatively, you can contact any of our experts directly or phone our general number: +44 (0)20 7481 4897.

The following pages provide contact details for the Regional Managers in each of our UK offices together with an overview of their area of specialism.

If you have a query or instruction that relates to personal injuries outside of the UK, please contact the Managers of the following offices:



Chris Wareham - Dubai  
[chris.wareham@hawkins.biz](mailto:chris.wareham@hawkins.biz)



Nico Zurcher - Hong Kong  
[nico.zurcher@hawkins.biz](mailto:nico.zurcher@hawkins.biz)



David Rose - Singapore  
[david.rose@hawkins.biz](mailto:david.rose@hawkins.biz)







## BIRMINGHAM



Jake Irwin  
[jake.irwin@hawkins.biz](mailto:jake.irwin@hawkins.biz)

Jake Irwin is a Chartered Chemist (CChem) and Chartered Scientist (CSci) with a background in analytical and organic chemistry. Joining Hawkins in 2012, Jake brought his prior experience in criminal forensics into the investigation of fires, explosions, and chemical incidents.







## CAMBRIDGE



Ros Lambert-Porter  
[ros.lp@hawkins.biz](mailto:ros.lp@hawkins.biz)

Ros Lambert-Porter has a background as an acoustics engineering consultant. She provides expert advice in relation to acoustics in buildings, environmental impact, noise related disputes and personal injuries due to noise and vibration exposure. She is assisted by Jonathan Dance.

## BRISTOL



Luke Collins - Regional Manager  
[luke.collins@hawkins.biz](mailto:luke.collins@hawkins.biz)

Luke Collins started his career investigating vehicle fires, having completed over 300 investigations by the time he joined Hawkins in 2014. Luke has also expanded into investigating fires and explosions in both domestic and commercial properties, as well as on ships.





## LEEDS



Paul Lemon

[paul.lemon@hawkins.biz](mailto:paul.lemon@hawkins.biz)

Dr Paul Lemon has vast experience in the specialised fields of slips and trips, as well as the investigation of falls from height (including falls from stairs, ladders and windows). Having led the Health & Safety Executive's slips and stair falls forensic team for over a decade he also managed HSE's two largest ever research projects into pedestrian falls. He is also the co-author of many of the documents used during slipperiness assessment.

## GLASGOW



John Holland

[john.holland@hawkins.biz](mailto:john.holland@hawkins.biz)

John Holland is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer with over 20 years' post-graduate experience. Since joining Hawkins in 2007, John has carried out over 850 investigations. He specialises in the investigation of vehicle, plant and machinery related mechanical failures, especially those that have resulted in personal injuries. He has given expert evidence in the Scottish Courts.







## MANCHESTER



Chris Botham

[chris.botham@hawkins.biz](mailto:chris.botham@hawkins.biz)

Eur Ing Chris Botham has over 40 years of experience in engineering design, manufacture and investigations in the oil, chemical, nuclear and military sectors; Chris is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer and a Fellow of the IMechE and IMA. He has 22 years of experience of investigating incidents that involve personal injury within construction and manufacture.

## LONDON



Gareth Dobinson

[gareth.dobinson@hawkins.biz](mailto:gareth.dobinson@hawkins.biz)

During his time at Hawkins, Gareth Dobinson has investigated over 500 incidents, including fires, mechanical failures and personal injury accidents and has specialised in racking collapse investigations. He is a Chartered Engineer with the IMechE and has undertaken a number of major loss racking collapse investigations, in the UK, Europe and South America. He has investigated a large range of personal injury cases involving power tools and household items and incidents in warehouses, domestic settings and construction sites.

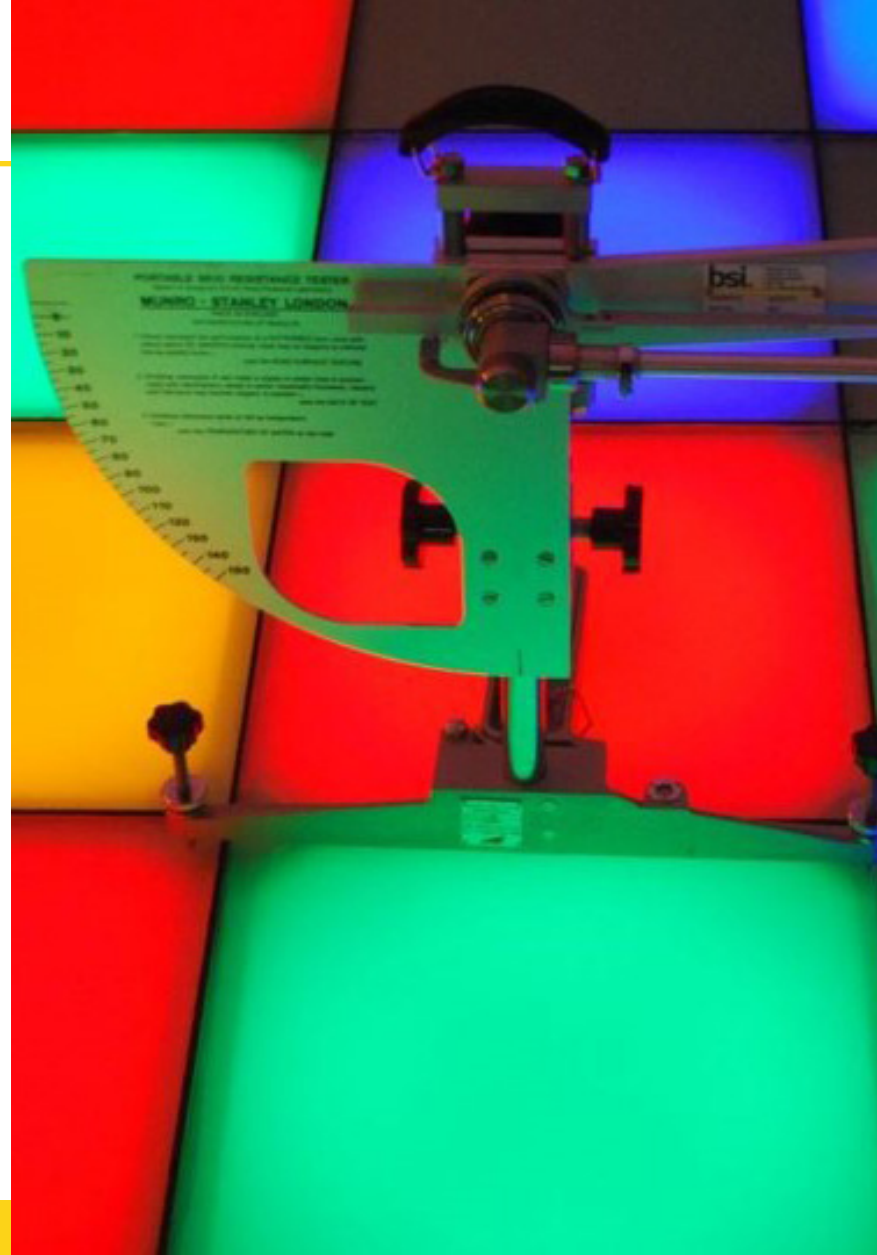


## REIGATE



Ian Major  
[ian.major@hawkins.biz](mailto:ian.major@hawkins.biz)

Ian Major is a Chartered Civil Engineer and conducts investigations into personal injury incidents involving buildings, infrastructure, construction work and demolition. Examples include falls from windows, stairs and walls, unplanned collapses during demolition work, wall and hoarding collapses and failures of temporary works.



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## OUR OFFICES

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