

Hawkins

Leaders in forensic investigation



FORENSIC EXPERTS

Providing specialist forensic investigation and root cause analysis for the insurance, legal and risk management professions, with offices in Europe, MEA, and Asia, and key locations across the UK & Ireland.

www.hawkins.biz



Established in 1980, Hawkins specialises in forensic investigation and root cause analysis for the insurance, legal and risk management professions. Our clear, concise and timely reports will provide the understanding you need to make the correct decisions on your risks.

With a recognised and growing global presence, we have over 150 experts providing worldwide coverage from offices in Europe, MEA, and Asia, and key locations across the UK & Ireland.

Our experts can advise, investigate, and assist at any stage of an incident, including pre-loss prevention and risk assessment, root cause analysis, post-failure remediation advice and expert witness services.

All our experts are highly experienced forensic scientists and engineers from a wide range of disciplines with proven expertise and practical experience.



We understand that you need to get your business up and running again quickly. A preliminary report is normally produced within three days of the scene visit, setting out the most probable cause and a proposed strategy for further investigation. Our reporting is flexible and can be tailored to your needs, depending on the scale and urgency of the investigation.

When needed, a court-compliant report can be prepared for the support of legal action, which may require more extensive investigation.

“Clients come back to Hawkins because of our honesty and integrity. Our subject matter experts have sound technical knowledge and expertise, married with a real commercial awareness of what our clients need. Hawkins provides a rapid response, giving timely, accurate advice and communication of the evidence in a way our clients can act upon.”

Dr Andrew Prickett, Managing Director, Hawkins



What we do

From fire to flood and from architecture to acoustics, our team of expert forensic scientists and engineers can advise, investigate and assist at any stage of an incident, as well as provide ongoing support and guidance for the future.



PRE-FAILURE RISK MANAGEMENT

Guidance on design, installation, and regulations to ensure safety, compliance, and risk reduction.



ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Scientific investigation into all aspects of an incident to determine what happened, why and in what sequence.



EXPERT WITNESS SERVICES

Independent and impartial technical advice, including quantum & delay services to assist Counsel during all aspects of litigation.



POST-FAILURE ADVICE

Consultancy advice to reduce, mitigate and prevent risks associated with similar events happening in the future.



MAJOR & COMPLEX LOSS

Global resources and multidisciplinary teams, armed with the knowledge, equipment and facilities to manage and investigate major and complex incidents.



Levels of Reporting Available

Our reporting is flexible and can be tailored to your needs, depending on the scale and urgency of the investigation. Our service range from a free consultation through to a full investigation including a court-compliant report for the support of legal action.

1

FREE CONSULTATION

We are always available for an initial, confidential discussion with no commitment and at no charge.

3

FORENSIC SCREENING SERVICE

This takes the Forensic Desktop Service one step further in that it includes a site visit; the aim is still to understand whether a more detailed investigation (at extra cost) will be of commercial value.

2

FORENSIC DESKTOP SERVICE

The aim of this service is to establish, by means of a brief desktop or laboratory assessment of the evidence, whether a more detailed investigation (at extra cost) will be of commercial value.

4

PRELIMINARY APPRAISAL

This consists of an initial investigation of the readily-available information, including a site visit where applicable and interviewing relevant personnel on site.

5

FULL INVESTIGATION

We can carry out a full, in-depth investigation, accompanied by a detailed report with clear conclusions and recommendations.

6

PHASED APPROACH

Where your case is large, complex or the scope not easy to define, we often recommend a phased approach.



Solutions to Meet Your Objectives

At Hawkins, our aim is to provide technical and scientific assistance to our clients, whilst being approachable and remaining commercially aware. These are some of the issues that we regularly deal with, but please contact us if you would like to discuss specific requirements.

RECOVERY

We can assist with identifying third parties, who might be liable for your incident, and determining whether a recovery might be possible. Our experts are trained as expert witnesses and can provide support to a case throughout a recovery process if required.

RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT

Hawkins takes a realistic, common-sense approach when assisting our clients to identify and implement practicable steps to reduce risks on their sites.

Having experience of what can go wrong allows us a unique perspective when advising our clients to help prevent similar losses occurring in the future.

QUANTUM

Our experts are experienced in providing headline costs for repair, mitigation, or alternative solutions.

We can also review the claimed quantum, to check it is reasonable. For example, we can determine whether the construction methodology chosen is the most appropriate and efficient way of completing the work, and identify opportunities to minimise both the time taken and cost to complete.

DEFENDING THIRD PARTY CLAIMS

Our experts are familiar with working for both Claimants and Defendants.

With our depth and breadth of knowledge on a wide range of subjects, we can investigate third party claims and review the accuracy of other expert findings and reports. All of our experts have worked in the field and can provide insight on common practices, guidance, and legislation.



Hawkins' Expertise

With a recognised and growing global presence, we have over 150 experts providing worldwide coverage from offices in Europe, MEA, and Asia, as well as key locations across the UK & Ireland. Our expertise covers a vast number of specialist areas including:

ACOUSTICS & AUDIOLOGY

Our experts assess and advise on acoustic design in the planning stages, and provide mitigation strategies post-construction in the event of a noise dispute.

ARCHITECTURE

We investigate building defects to determine whether design or workmanship is the root cause. With experience in many sectors and across all RIBA stages from inception to occupation, we can provide advice tailored to your project.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Our civil, structural, geotechnical and fire engineers provide expert investigation of defects and failures in the built environment, including water ingress, structural collapses, storm damage and personal injuries, especially on construction sites.

CHEMISTRY & CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Hawkins' team of highly qualified and experienced chemists and chemical engineers provide expert opinion on problems associated with chemical processes in a wide variety of industries, including: post incident investigation, goods handling, environmental concerns, hazardous substances and personal injury.

CONTAMINATION

Our team of highly qualified and experienced chemists can investigate a wide range of contamination and spillage incidents.

DIGITAL FORENSICS

Hawkins experts collect, authenticate and preserve original evidence. We discover the source of a digital event or attack, how it occurred, and what information may have been lost or compromised.

ELECTRICAL

We investigate incidents including failures and injury involving most types of electrical equipment, from micro-electronics and domestic electrical appliances through to high voltage generation and distribution.

ESCAPE OF WATER, GAS, OIL AND OTHER FLUIDS

We can provide system failure analyses for incidents involving all fluids and gases in industrial and domestic settings with onsite and laboratory investigations.

FIRE & EXPLOSIONS

As a leader in forensic fire investigation, Hawkins has the necessary knowledge and experience to investigate the full scale of losses globally, and advise on recovery, liability and risk management.

FIRE ENGINEERING

Hawkins has the necessary competencies to advise on fire engineering matters including compliance with fire safety legislation and guidance, investigation of fire spread and building fire safety design, construction and management.

FRAUD

We compare physical evidence with witness accounts to establish if the evidence is commensurate with a suggested sequence of events or actions. This applies to both small and major losses.

HYDROLOGY

Our expert hydrologists and engineers have years of experience identifying the cause(s) of complex flooding incidents.

MARINE INCIDENTS

We assist on a wide range of incidents including agricultural cargoes, liquefaction, fires, explosions and chemical contamination.

MATERIALS

From medical implants to satellites, our experts are on hand to establish the cause of failure of manufactured items.

MECHANICAL

Losses often involve the failure of multi-component mechanical systems. We have the knowledge and experience to identify the cause, no matter how complex.

PERSONAL INJURY

We provide independent and expert assistance with all types of personal injury, including specialised and complex areas like slips, trips and falls, and noise-induced hearing loss.

PLANT PATHOLOGY

At Hawkins, plant pathology encompasses agricultural, horticultural, forestry, marine and contamination claims. Our experts are experienced in investigating the causes of plant diseases, crop failures and spoilage of fresh produce and agricultural cargoes.

POWER & ENERGY

We investigate all aspects of failures in traditional thermal power, oil and gas, and renewable energy sources. As well as incidents such as electric shock, gas leaks, power failure, over-voltage, equipment failure and poor design and maintenance.

PROCESSES

Our engineers help identify the cause of a problem and advise on liability and future prevention.

PRODUCT LIABILITY

We are experts in the field of product liability and often deal directly with UK Trading Standards offices or similar statutory bodies.

QUANTITY SURVEYING

We provide cost consultancy, dispute resolution, and quantum & delay expert witness services through our two specialist subsidiaries. Services include insurance reinstatement valuations, pricing proposed works assessing the quantum of claims, and the impact of delays.

RAILWAYS

We have investigated incidents including wderailments, unintended runaways and accidents at level crossings.

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Our investigators identify all contributory factors and analyse issues such as vehicle speed, visibility, human factors, CCTV, road positioning, weather, vehicular faults and damage assessments.

VEHICLE, PLANT & MACHINERY

We investigate fires and failures involving all types of vehicles and plant. We routinely review designs and maintenance practices to provide recommendations to our clients.



QUANTITY SURVEYING SERVICES

We provide market leading Quantum & Delay expert witness services through our specialist subsidiaries A Lamb Associates (ALA) and Morham and Brothie Partnership (M+BP).

ALA

Our team is comprised of highly qualified industry leading experts. ALA has considerable experience across all major building and engineering sectors, with particular expertise in cross country pipelines, energy and major infrastructure projects.

Blue chip multinationals, Tier 1 contractors and specialists all turn to ALA for reliable authoritative and accurate expert opinion.

M + BP

M+BP are an established Chartered Professional Quantity Surveying practice, whose clients include individuals, corporate bodies, insurance companies, and trusts. M+BP provide QS services for all sectors with specialism in listed historic building projects and one-off complex builds. M+BP prepare bespoke cost plans to suit clients, funders, and insurance bodies, to provide the best service and most accuracy.

Our team of specialist experts provide Expert Quantum and Expert Forensic Delay Analysis and have a wide range of experience, including:

- One-off complex projects for high-net-worth individuals
- Residential builds (new/altered/extended)
- Visitor centres and museums
- Whisky distilleries
- Hospitality, including restaurants, theatres and cinemas
- Commercial fit out
- Education, government, and local authority

SERVICES

Our team of expert in-house Quantity Surveyors provide a range of services including:

INSURANCE REINSTATEMENT VALUATIONS

Our experienced team provides reinstatement valuations, with expertise in historic or listed properties. These often feature unusual or difficult to price items, such as masonry vaults, elaborate fireplaces, and traditional building methods. Using generic rates to calculate these valuations is seldom best practice, which is why M+BP advocate providing detailed costings when undertaking these exercises

PRICING PROPOSED WORKS

Our experts provide support pricing proposed works. This includes pricing proposed remediation options so that an informed decision can be made on the most cost-effective solution.

ASSESSING THE QUANTUM OF CLAIMS

We investigate and assess the reasonableness of claims received. Our experienced team will review all costs to determine if costs have been reasonably and properly incurred. We assess whether a reasonable procurement process has been followed, whether rates represent market value and whether work pricing reflects the scope. We are able to make adjustments for betterment, inflation or other relevant matters.

THE IMPACT OF DELAYS

The duration of a project can have a significant impact on the amounts claimed. Our experienced team of Forensic Planners can assess the cause of any delays to progress, determining whether all costs claimed are properly due.

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