

# Mark William Poles MA (Oxon.) FCA

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I am an Oxford graduate and a chartered accountant with fifteen years of Big Four post-qualification experience in audit. My clients have typically been in the middle market and owner-managed business sectors, although I have also managed large PLC audits. As well as financial statements audit, my client experience includes IT audit, strategy consulting, sustainability advisory and two secondments. In recent years, I have concentrated on internal roles, mostly as an audit methodology specialist. Most recently I coordinated KPMG UK's and KPMG Europe's audit Quality Performance Review programmes.

I created 'You're Hired!', Plymouth's employment skills competition for sixth-formers.

## Professional experience

**KPMG      Senior Manager      1997-2012**

- 2010-2012    **Audit Quality Performance Review programme coordinator, KPMG Europe**
- 2007-2012    **Audit Quality Performance Review programme coordinator, KPMG UK**

I ran KPMG's Audit QPR programme for the UK firm and subsequently across the whole of KPMG Europe, reporting to the area QPR partner and the Europe Audit Leadership Team.

- Ran entire project, presenting results to management and developing action plans in response to findings
- Part of global team that developed QPR training material and developed and tested the review and reporting software
- Trained the partners who ran their countries' respective programmes and partners, directors and senior managers who reviewed individual engagements.

- 2007-2010    **Senior manager in charge of the UK Audit Helpline**

Providing audit methodology and efficiency advice to partners and staff. Advising on compliance with auditing standards and other regulations.

- 2004-2007    **Manager / Senior Manager in charge of the 'IT-Trained Auditor' project**

Asked by the regional Head of Audit to improve a) the way that IT controls were audited and b) the relationship between Audit and IT Advisory. I led the project that solved both problems. The solution was to train certain auditors in IT Audit, freeing IT Advisory staff to audit IT controls in the more complex and higher risk audits. I persuaded the UK firm to take up the idea nationally and was promoted to senior manager to implement the project.

- Managed key national project that is now seen as the model for other KPMG countries to follow
- Promoted the project around the firm
- Trained auditors in IT auditing and reviewed their work
- Worked closely with IT Advisory function

■ **1997-2004 Audit Senior / Manager, Liverpool (1997-2000) and Plymouth (2000-2004)**

Key external audit clients: Littlewoods (group in-charge then manager), Villiers Group plc, IMI Yorkshire Copper Tube Ltd, Smit Land & Marine Engineering Limited, Devonport Dockyard Pension Scheme, Richard Burbidge Limited, portfolio of OMB clients and pension schemes.

Other key assignments during this period:

- 2000 Six month secondment to Sales, with particular focus on dotcoms and other startups.
- 2001 Three month secondment to Kvaerner plc to overhaul their group reporting system.
- 2002 Three month secondment to Pirelli Cables to clean up their financial reporting systems.
- Presenter and developer of audit training courses.

**Clare Associates Limited Finance Director 2006-present**

Finance director of local website development agency owned and run by my wife. I use MYOB in this role.

**Kidsons Impey Audit Trainee / Senior, Chester and Liverpool 1994-1997**

Key external audit clients: The Charente Steamship Company Limited, Samuel Banner plc, Liverpool Council of Social Service, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Particular specialism in the charity sector.

## Education and professional qualifications

FCA, qualified in 1997, first time passes throughout

**MA Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), Magdalen College, Oxford, 2:1 1990-1993**

**Three A-levels (AAB), Yale Sixth Form College, Wrexham 1988-1990**

**8 GCSEs (AAAAAAB), O-level Maths (A), St David's Comprehensive School, Wrexham 1983-1988**

## Interests and other skills

- 'You're Hired!' is an employment skills competition for Plymouth year 12 students. I came up with the idea and have taken a leading role in running the competition. Now in its sixth year, 'You're Hired!' has the support of several local employers, covers most sixth-formers in the city and attracts significant press coverage.  
[www.youarehiredplymouth.co.uk](http://www.youarehiredplymouth.co.uk)
- I have captained KPMG quiz teams to success in a number of local quiz events over the years.
- My other interests include computer games (especially Football Manager), science fiction role-playing games and following a number of sports (most notably American football, football and cycling). I have a presence on twitter, LinkedIn, facebook and the blogging site livejournal.
- Qualified first aider.

**References available upon request.**