

# **Joshua Wicklen**

## **Personal Details:**

Address	16 The Guild, Bolton, England, BL7 9GB
Email Address	joshwicklen@gmail.com
Telephone Number	+44 7792904804

## **Objective:**

My aspiration is to work within a company where I can add genuine value to all areas of the business internally, whilst also contributing to delivering the companies vision and values externally. I believe that through the mitigation and control of operational and financial risks, which has been the focus of my work for the past 5 years, Finance functions can be effective tools in building and supporting efficient and effective business structures. I am looking for an opportunity that can challenge and utilise my existing skill set whilst developing it further through both education and experience. I wish to work somewhere that is socially, as well as professionally fulfilling; that provides me with the opportunity to explore all areas of my field whilst forming solid working relationships and developing my education to create a long and successful career.

## **Education:**

Sept.2016 – Present – ACCA Training at BPP College (4 exams remaining)

Sept.2013 – Jul.2016 University of Liverpool, Accounting and Finance BA (Hons), Achieved 2:1

Sept.2011 - July 2013 Bolton Sixth Form (A levels: Accounting B, Economics C, Graphic Design A)

Sept.2006 - July 2011 Turton High School (11 GCSE's A\*- B, including an A in Maths and a B in English)

## **Work Experience:**

### **Dec.2023 – Present: AO World Plc – Internal Auditor (FTC)**

An opportunity to further develop my AuditBoard skills presented itself in this fixed term contract. In addition to being able to design and implement financial controls on a granular level I was also able to embed myself within the risk and control network of a large established PLC. The experience has allowed me to evaluate and improve my existing skills in financial and operational control, but also explore a wider risk-based approach to internal audit, enabling me to consider the necessity of internal control in proportion with operational risk.

### **Jun.2023 – Dec.2023: Luxfer Plc – Senior Internal Auditor**

After serving a great 4 years at Flowtech I took the opportunity to move to Luxfer with the intention of gaining additional experience in the Sarbanes Oxley (Sox) Act and the controls that result. Sox was the focus of my work, in addition to learning the COSO framework, as well as further exposure to project audits, including an in-depth investigation in to the treatment of commodity codes. However, the key learning point from my short time here has been Sox section 302 and 404, as well the treatment and testing of Sox on an international level.

### **May.2019 – June.2023: Flowtech Fluidpower PLC – Internal Auditor**

In May of 2019 I had the opportunity to refocus my skill set from external to internal audit, initially I was brought in to audit mainly compliance to the company's standard practice instructions, with the introduction of more financially focused audits. Over the past 4 years I have completely redesigned the audit structure and have been able to bring a new level of assurance to areas across the

business. During this time my contribution has been recognised constantly, 2 years ago it was decided that my work warranted direct management from the CFO and there has been a single line of communication from myself to senior management as well as the non-executive members of the Audit Committee. My work has stemmed across the UK, Ireland, and Holland, and I consider my international working one of my key skills and that I am able to learn and understand the cultural and statutory challenges that face multinational entities. Examples of my work are:

- Compliance based audits, based on the companies standard practice instructions; ensuring that all group entities follow procedures set out by internal governance.
- Financial audits, based on external audit procedures; to spot potential risks and hazards that may be picked up by external audit procedures so they can be corrected in a timely manner.
- Project audits, wide variety of projects examples including system changes, branch closures, stock consolidation, process implementation. These audits have required designing from scratch, I consider my ability to seek out assurance through testing to be a key skill.
- Perpetual Inventory Management, monitor, review, and testing. Coming from a stock-based business, inventory management is key, and my implementation and management of PI systems has been highly valued by the group.
- Vehicle/Fleet Management, this plays on a key interest of mine, and I relished the opportunity to help steer the group in the direction of more eco-friendly vehicle options which also reduced the benefit in kind tax of near 100 company car drivers.
- Fraud & Risk Mitigation team leader, this task force was set up in response to several attacks, I personally lead a team of department heads to set out new and increased controls to ensure that future risk was mitigated to a more satisfactory level.
- Business Continuity Team, this team has utilised external expertise in helping devise a solid business continuity plan, I was chosen as part of the team due to a vast knowledge of the group as well also forward thinking to auditing of plans proposed and put in place.
- GDPR Committee member, this is currently a work in progress area, I am scheduled to undertake advanced training to put me in to a junior data protection officer position which will involve regular audits of the data held and used throughout the group.
- Currently implementing a GRC platform to increase efficiency of internal audits, whilst increasing range and coverage of assurance through the documentation of risks and controls.

#### **Jan.2018 – Feb.2019: MHA Moore & Smalley LLP – Semi-Senior External Auditor**

Worked within the Corporate Services team, during this time I gained experience in accounts preparation as well as extending my audit skills and knowledge. My clients ranged from medium sized group audits, down to FRS105 accounts preparations. In this time, I feel I have learned and developed a new set of skills including but not limited to:

- Time and Job management, managing my own time around several different clients ensuring an efficient use of time has been in place to ensure that budget constraints have been met.
- Developed professional communication skills, I pride myself on the rapport I am able to build with people from different companies, backgrounds, departments and nationalities.
- Increased expertise in stock auditing, not only count procedures but also valuation.

#### **Sept.2016 – Dec.2017: EY LLP – External Audit Associate**

Completed the first year of Graduate Scheme within the Audit function. During this time, I worked on a wide range of clients, from small single companies with revenue just above the audit threshold to multibillion pound International Groups. Gained experience working on an international basis, having

spent time auditing a shared service centre in Poland which involved completing work for all British Subsidiaries and the Main Group team that I also formed a part of upon my return. Some key tasks that I have performed include:

- Performing Year End Audit procedures and testing including (but not limited to) Fixed Assets, Trade Receivables, Cash, Trade Payables, Equity, Revenue, Cost of Sales, Admin Expenses.
- Performing Audit Planning Procedures, including such tasks as walkthroughs on the key risk area's (e.g., Payroll, Capital Expenditure, Sales, and Purchases) and controls testing.
- Use of EY Software package Canvas, this is the cloud system that stored all documentation of audit work and provides a solid working platform for the team.
- Worked as an effective member of multiple teams working with a huge range of colleagues from different experience levels, backgrounds, and nationalities.
- Performing Statutory Audit Procedures and Group Reporting Procedures to difficult timescales and deadlines.
- Performed multiple Stock counts for a variety of clients, including year end and Cycle counts; working directly with the client to arrange and discuss count procedures.

**Activities and Interests:**

**Charity** – Since 2022 I have taken an active role in fund raising in my personal and professional life, a key moment was the donation of aged IT equipment to underprivileged sections of the local communities.

Skills Gained: Corporate Social Responsibility

**Property** – in 2015 I renovated and sold a property in my hometown of Bolton, and in 2022 purchased an industrial unit as part of a family consortium.

Skills Gained: Project and Time Management – Ensuring each job was completed to an exceptional standard on time.

**Business** – I have a very strong interest in business, I stay up to date with the latest business news; and currently manage my personal portfolio with an online stockbroker.

Skills Gained: Commercial Awareness

**Additional Skills:**

- Driving – Full, Clean UK Driving licence held for 10 years.
- I.T. – Over 10 years' experience with Microsoft Office and varied accounting packages.
- First Aid – Completed Level 1 course in first aid training, due to be renewed Oct 2023.
- Mental Health First Aider – Mental Health First Aid England course taken April 2023.

**Positions of Responsibility:**

- Management of Junior colleague – During my time at Flowtech I came up with the initiative to hire a part time audit junior that worked remotely around her studies at university. This represented a cost-effective support outlet as well as an opportunity to help a student progress towards their future career.
- Trainee Finance Assistants – Help train new employees in group systems and audit procedures.
- Peer Mentoring EY – Help guide and support new associates starting the graduate programme.

**References are available upon successful interview progression.**