Investigate. Analyse. Resolve.

When corporate or personal reputations are at stake, an objective investigation of the facts is critical.*

*connectedthinking
“The investigation of fraud and other economic crime, particularly where the integrity of senior management has been called into question, requires a thorough, professional and independent approach. You, your stakeholders and possibly regulators will require the reassurance of an effective response, should an issue arise that poses a regulatory, financial or reputational risk.

Our team of trained investigators includes forensic accountants, lawyers, former regulators, former law enforcement agents, experts in forensic technology and corporate intelligence. This wealth of knowledge and experience can be brought to bear on any investigation, financial or non-financial including:

- Accounting irregularity
- Asset tracing & recovery
- Bribery and corruption
- Cartels
- Financial crime
- Fraud
- Money laundering
- Procurement fraud
- Regulatory breaches
- Senior management impropriety

All are dealt with in an objective and robust manner for internal resolution, regulatory settlement or legal proceedings if required.

PricewaterhouseCoopers has over 1,500 forensic professionals within our extensive global network. Industry experts and other specialists from the wider firm can be called upon to supplement our team of 250 dedicated professionals in the UK as required.”

Andrew Gordon
UK Leader, Investigations, Forensic Services
In hands you can trust...

With 18 partners and over 250 specialist staff, our UK team has vast experience in a wide range of corporate and public sector investigations. We have advised on cases in over 100 countries and across the spectrum of industries from manufacturing to mining, financial services to pharmaceuticals. We work closely with other industry and technical experts from all parts of PricewaterhouseCoopers ensuring we bring the right knowledge, experience and expertise to solve problems.

...with world-class technology...

The ability to capture, process and analyse vast amounts of electronic data is crucial to most investigations. Spread across three technology centres in the UK, our forensic technology teams have developed and pioneered a suite of tools and methods with which to tackle the challenges posed by large volumes of data. With common platforms our teams work seamlessly with their counterparts across the global network to support multinational assignments. We are constantly adopting new technology specialising in the capture, management and analysis of data to support investigations, e-disclosure orders and dispute resolution.

...within the UK and globally.

As the pace of business intensifies and globalisation grows, investigations have inevitably become more frequent and more complex. Increasingly, such challenges involve dealing across borders with customers, suppliers, intermediaries, joint venture partners and foreign governments. The challenges of different cultures and legal systems, as well as unfamiliar regulatory and financial reporting requirements, must be managed. Whether responding to an incident or offering proactive solutions, PricewaterhouseCoopers’ Forensic Services deploys over 1,400 specialists to help our clients analyse and resolve problems around the world.

Investigate.

Establish the key facts of any given situation and deliver findings and evidence in a manner that allows the implementation of recovery and remedial action. We help you to manage the interests of third parties, be they customers or suppliers, regulators or law enforcement agencies.

Analyse.

Understand the facts in context. By drawing upon our deep technical and industry knowledge we are able to quantify potential issues, help you consider the wider implications of any misappropriation, theft or financial crime and provide practical support and advice in developing a strategic response.

Resolve.

Any stakeholder to the business may have an interest in the outcome of an investigation. Whether dealing with law enforcement agencies, regulators or other parties we are able to assist in managing your position and the preparation of your case. Should remediation be required, we bring expertise from across our firm to assist in changing and strengthening processes and controls.
Investigation is our core business.
We enable you to focus on your core business.

Fraud risk analysis and investigations • Economic crime assessment • Asset misappropriation (financial or other) • Theft of trade secrets • Whistle-blowing • Investigation or inquiry by a regulator • Accounting black hole • Bribery • Corruption • Market abuse • Money laundering • Breach of ethics • Conflicts of interest • e-Disclosure • Corporate Intelligence • Integrity due diligence • Asset tracing • Anti-fraud • Compliance due diligence • Cartel investigations • Codes of conduct

Globalisation is facilitating the flow of capital, labour, goods, services and information across borders. But it is also making the containment of risk much harder and breaches of regulatory requirements much easier. In the event of an incident, PricewaterhouseCoopers’ forensic investigations team can quickly mobilise a UK or international team to assess, investigate and manage any financial or non-financial issue, thereby allowing the situation to be brought under control as efficiently as possible.

We help you determine what is at stake and advise you on how best to deal with the situation, including:

• Investigate the nature and extent of the issue
• Determine which electronic evidence to preserve and capture
• Analyse accounting data, transactions, documents and other relevant information
• Quantify any resulting losses
• Evaluate viability of third parties as targets for recovery
• Deliver expert witness reports
• Recommend remediation strategies
• Provide a roadmap for ongoing compliance

Fraud in the emerging markets

Investing in the emerging markets brings particular challenges, including heightened fraud risks. Language, culture, laws and regulations make it more difficult for companies to ensure that they and their workforce are compliant when it comes to ethical business conduct. Whether you are considering an investment, looking for vendors and intermediaries, or have existing operations in these markets, our globally connected forensic experts can help to identify fraud risks, investigate suspicious activity and advise on best practice ethical business, including anti bribery and corruption policies.

Forensic technology

When relevant data is held electronically, or large volumes of paper documents need to be searched or analysed electronically, our investigations are supported by our forensic technology teams.

Our expertise with state-of-the-art tools and a uniform, worldwide methodology provides you with sound, experience-based advice on how to map, preserve, capture, extract, analyse and produce the relevant information from your corporate data universe.

In addition to corporate investigations, we can help with electronic disclosure and litigation readiness, regulatory compliance and remediation, and forensic data analytics including transaction risk analysis. We can help reduce the risk of data compromise and resulting economic crime.

Much more than skilled technologists, our teams understand the wider commercial issues such as how to minimise the cost and disruption to the business and wider legal issues such as data protection and proportionality.
Know who you are doing business with.

Protecting your brand, integrity and regulatory standing is at the heart of our work. We provide you with a fuller understanding of the background, business interests, activities and connections of any party with whom your business interacts. We advise you of the risks associated with reputation, political and regulatory environment, fraud and corruption, unethical or criminal behaviour of your business partners and suppliers with **corporate intelligence** and **pre-employment screening**.

| **Integrity and enhanced due diligence** | Objective, clear and targeted investigative research that mitigates the regulatory and reputational risks involved in dealing with third parties including joint-venture partners, intermediaries, consultants, agents, licensees, distributors, key customers and suppliers. |
| **Forensic due diligence on transactions** | Specialist due diligence and post-deal remediation to help manage the people, compliance, corruption and fraud risks in M&A transactions – a vital component of deals in difficult and emerging markets. |
| **Asset tracing, identification and recovery** | Targeted research of worldwide asset registers and fund flow charting to identify assets in suspected fraud or asset misappropriation cases, enforcement of international arbitration awards and court orders, or recovering assets which may be held as security or guarantee for loans. |
| **Strategic intelligence in disputes** | Detailed forensic research of opponents in litigation, arbitration and contested takeover situations to help develop and inform the arguments against them. |
| **Political and reputational risk** | Highly customised country, sector and stakeholder risk assessments in support of your key strategic decisions, taking account of your specific concerns, political, regulatory, reputational and security issues. |
| **Employment screening** | Enhanced due diligence and screening of potential senior hires across the globe; design and implementation of bespoke employment screening policies and programmes; guidance, review and selection of a screening vendor. |
Regulation and enforcement.

Regulatory compliance is not a project – it is a way of life. It should not be approached as a one-off exercise, but as something to be embedded in the business and engrained in the corporate DNA. Our aim is to assist you achieve sustainable compliance, which means, amongst other things, not being dependent in the long term on external advisers such as us. Accordingly, training and knowledge transfer is a major part of what we do.

We have built a position of trust and good standing with the regulators over time. We know the regulators and their approaches and expectations. We cannot and will not shy away from delivering tough messages to clients who we believe are not responding adequately to those expectations.

Effective regulatory remediation is an essential part of any company’s response to a critical incident involving an FCPA violation, securities litigation, suspected money laundering, anti-trust issues or a public inquiry. The effectiveness of any remediation programme lies in its implementation. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. We help you understand, interpret and apply general legal and regulatory principles in the context of your business environment and activities. We provide practical, workable recommendations and solutions which meet regulatory requirements while optimising efficiency and cost effectiveness.

An ounce of prevention.

Fraud risk analysis & controls

Minimising regulatory enquiries, fraud and business disputes through carefully planned preventive measures is not only far more cost-effective than remediation, but also protects your brand and reputation.

Our team, drawing on our extensive experience and our fraud risk database, develops programmes to mitigate fraud risk, reduce financial exposure, and implement fraud detection and prevention processes.

We help our clients understand where fraud losses are occurring and what actions can be taken.
The Issue.

The sale of a substantial portfolio of international business concerns was well underway when allegations of corruption threatened to unravel the deal and expose the company to regulatory investigations.

Until the allegations surfaced, things had proceeded smoothly. The typical due diligence process was being followed and both companies were expecting imminent regulatory approval. The accusation that foreign subsidiaries were paying bribes in foreign countries put everything at risk.

The buyer promptly expanded the scope of its review process beyond the usual M&A protocols. What’s more, the local regulators took a keen interest in the investigation. They wanted to know if the suspected corrupt business practices were systemic. If so, it would mean that bribery was being used to unlock business opportunities worldwide, putting the company in clear violation of local anti-bribery laws as well as the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

Given the limited window of opportunity to sell the business, the company chose PricewaterhouseCoopers to investigate the issue quickly, efficiently and thoroughly. The findings had to be verifiable, beyond reproach and comprehensive to satisfy all parties. After all, a prolonged, costly and disruptive enquiry would not only alienate the buyer, it would also likely de-value the sale – if, indeed, it proceeded at all.

The approach

The company engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers because of our global presence and expertise: forensic accountants and technologists intimately familiar with local cultures and languages as well as financial, legislative and regulatory systems.

We began by reviewing the company’s operations and immediately pinpointed over 20 regions that were high-risk areas for corruption. Using local teams, we took steps to identify, preserve, retrieve and analyse vast amounts of electronic data from diverse corporate and financial systems: detailed financial information from an assortment of locations including general ledgers, disbursement and vendor files, treasury records, emails from laptops and log files from servers.

It was a complex task. Not only did we have to comply with numerous international, regional and local laws and regulations (such as European data protection and privacy laws) but this mass of data needed to be captured, aggregated, analysed and then presented in the exact formats required by the various investigators, M&A teams and regulators. All in a very short time.

The result

This exhaustive review was crucial in helping the company, its M&A professionals and its legal experts to negotiate with various regulators. It was also vital in preserving the ongoing viability of the company’s strategic sale.
The connected Investigation Services network

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The member firms of the PricewaterhouseCoopers network provide industry-focused assurance, tax and advisory services to build public trust and enhance value for its clients and their stakeholders. More than 155,000 people in 153 countries across our network share their thinking, experience and solutions to develop fresh perspectives and practical advice.

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