



**AMBERHAWK TRAINING  
LIMITED AND AMBERHAWK  
ASSOCIATES**

May 2017

## About Amberhawk

Amberhawk is a company founded in 2008 by Chris Pounder and Sue Cullen as the vehicle for the continuation of the information law training business previously operated by Pinsent Masons LLP. Amberhawk Associates was launched in late 2013 to enhance the consultancy offerings of the company.

Although Amberhawk is relatively new, its information law training business is not. Chris and Sue worked for international law firm Pinsent Masons for nine years and seven years respectively as specialists in information law and members of the top-rated team led by Rosemary Jay, and the late Shelagh Gaskill.

As well as being highly experienced trainers, accredited by BCS/ISEB for its Certificates in Data Protection, Information Security and Freedom of Information, both Chris and Sue regularly speak and write on information law topics. Sue has always practised as a solicitor and Chris, with a science and IT background, was an early pioneer of data protection.

Both Amberhawk's Directors have a track record of expertise in information law that extends over decades; both are recognised experts in the field. This is why:

- Chris is a member of two Government Advisory Committees and has spoken at numerous conferences on data protection and related matters. He has also given oral and written evidence before various Parliamentary Select Committees where issues of privacy, data protection and security have arisen (e.g. ID Cards, Surveillance, Computer Misuse Act, data retention policies, supervision of the national security agencies). He also writes the specialist Hawktalk blog.
- Sue is a member of the Editorial Board of the Encyclopaedia of Data Protection and has contributed the chapter on Freedom of Information and Personal Data in the fourth edition of the leading text "Data Protection Law and Practice" by Rosemary Jay.

## What does Amberhawk do?

Our main business is designing and delivering specialist information law training – in data protection, freedom of information (FOI), information security, human rights, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, Privacy in Electronic Communications, Privacy Impact Assessments, Data Protection Audit, and other aspects of related law.

Our courses cover: human resources, marketing, internet, CCTV, surveillance, social services, health, policing, release of statistics, social benefits, taxation, data sharing and other aspects of information law. We train the staff who have data protection and FOI responsibilities so they can understand the law in theory, and then deliver compliance in practice.

Our clients include: banks, building societies, Local Government, Central Government, police forces, charities, housing associations, social services, child protection agencies, insurance companies, universities, and an assortment of quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations.

“Amberhawk Associates”, the consultancy arm of Amberhawk Training, ensures that Amberhawk’s reputation for high quality training is extended by providing clients with access to advice and guidance from experienced information law practitioners.

All the collaborating Associates have a strong professional reputations in the field, and have already delivered a range of information law services across a wide range of sectors for decades. It is not too much of an exaggeration to say that in the field of information law “we have seen or done it all”.

Amberhawk also offers regular updates in information law topics and all enquiries for any of our services can be directed to: [info@amberhawk.com](mailto:info@amberhawk.com). It also produces Hawktalk, an information law blog for data protection and FOI specialists



## Amberhawk corporate details

**Registered company name:** Amberhawk Training Limited

**Trading names:** Amberhawk Training and Amberhawk Associates

**Website:** [www.amberhawk.com](http://www.amberhawk.com) and <http://associates.amberhawk.com/>

**Registered office:** *c/o Whitesides*  
Lister House,  
Lister Hill,  
Horsforth  
West Yorkshire  
LS18 5AZ

**Company Registration Number:** 06566273

**VAT No:** 935 4776 87

**Main telephone:** 0845 680 2623

**Inquiry email:** [info@amberhawk.com](mailto:info@amberhawk.com)

**Accounts Department phone number:** 0113 258 2437

**Accounts email:** [accounts@amberhawk.com](mailto:accounts@amberhawk.com)

## Who are the Directors of Amberhawk Training?



**Dr Chris Pounder**

Dr. Chris Pounder has been a Director in Amberhawk Training Limited since the company was founded in 2008. The company specialises in training staff who are responsible for data protection, Freedom of Information, information security and other aspects of Information Law. Most of Amberhawk's delegates use the company to obtain the BCS/ISEB qualification in these fields. As well as being involved in consultancy and training work, Chris also writes the "*Hawktalk*" blog which covers topical privacy related subjects.

In 2012, Chris was appointed to two Government Advisory Committees. He is a member of the Identity Assurance, Privacy and Consumer Advisory Group (advising the Cabinet Office on "privacy friendly" use of identity assurance techniques) and the Data Protection Advisory Panel (advising the Ministry of Justice on its approach to the EU's Data Protection Regulation and Directive in the field of law enforcement).

Chris's career in data protection dates back to 1978 and is well documented (e.g. on Google). He has spoken at numerous conferences on data protection and related matters and also writes the occasional freelance article for the IT-related Press and the academic journals in the field of security and data protection. He has also given oral and written evidence before various Parliamentary Select Committees where issues of privacy, data protection and security have arisen (e.g. ID Cards, Surveillance, Computer Misuse Act, data retention policies, supervision of the national security agencies).

Prior to Amberhawk, Chris joined Masons Solicitors in July 1999 as part of its growing Data Protection and Privacy Team; Masons merged with Pinsents to form PinsentMasons in 2006. He is mentioned by name in Chambers 500, where the latter recognised PinsentMasons' Data Protection team as being in the "First Tier". Prior to that, Chris held the Data Protection Officer post at Cap Gemini and the Greater London Council where he advised MPs on the Data Protection Act 1984.

Chris's Ph. D. is in computational quantum chemistry. This required Chris to programme computers in a number of languages as well as dealing with complex mathematical and technical issues at the supervisor/ assembler level.



## Sue Cullen

Sue Cullen is a solicitor and co-founder and director of Amberhawk Training Limited and is accredited by BCS/ISEB as a trainer for their certificates in data protection and freedom of information.

Sue specialises in data protection and freedom of information law and has contributed the chapter on Freedom of Information and Personal Data in the fourth edition of the leading text “Data Protection Law and Practice” by Rosemary Jay. She is also a member of the Editorial Board of the Encyclopaedia of Data Protection. She designs and delivers public training courses and customised training for clients on site, and also speaks and writes on information law topics.

She joined Masons Solicitors in April 2001, recruited by Shelagh Gaskill to work with Chris Pounder in the Data Protection and Privacy team based in both the London and Leeds offices. She specialised in information law, particularly data protection and freedom of information, and also human rights, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, and Re-use of Public Sector Information. She was with Chris Pounder one of the specialist trainers in PinsentMasons' legal training business, and Course Director for the Certificate in Freedom of Information.

Sue also advised clients on privacy, data protection, human rights, and related information law issues. She was PinsentMasons' data protection officer, providing internal advice on compliance, and delivering training, to the firm. She was a member of the European Privacy Officers Network, contributing to meetings with other privacy specialists working in industry and with European Privacy Commissioners and their staff in other European jurisdictions. She wrote case reports for the Encyclopaedia of Data Protection, and contributed a chapter to the Law Society's Data Protection Handbook, edited by Peter Carey.

Before joining Pinsent Masons, Sue was a commercial property lawyer working in private practice in London and Leeds, where she carried out transactional work in commercial leasing and property development. She also worked as a property support lawyer specialising in drafting precedent documents and developing legal knowhow and training. She was a founder member of the London Property Support Lawyers Group, and co-writer of the Standard Commercial Property Enquiries published by PLC, as well as author of articles and texts on technical aspects of commercial property law.

## Who are the other Amberhawk Associates?



### Paula Williamson

Amberhawk Associates

Paula is a solicitor specialising in Information Law; she qualified in 1997.

She advises clients from the private, public and voluntary sector on all aspects of data protection and freedom of information legislation within a range of contexts including for example, responding to breach incidents, representing clients facing enforcement action, commercial agreements, outsourcing of processing, marketing and websites, biometrics, data protection audits and assisting data controllers process statutory requests for information.

Paula has extensive experience of advising, training and auditing academies and schools (independent and maintained) on compliance with their legal obligations under the information law regulatory regime. Some of the training she provides to education clients has been developed in consultation with the regulator, the Information Commissioners Office (ICO). Paula also has experience advising the construction industry on protecting commercial information from disclosure via the FO/EIR regime; the insurance sector on tackling subject access requests and local authorities and ALMO's on difficult / vexatious/ repeated requests. Paula also has specific experience in advising Social Care practitioners on data protection and information sharing and has developed specific and highly practical training for social workers in this area.

After qualifying as a solicitor in 1997, Paula was a regulatory public prosecutor, prosecuting mainly corporate defendants for various regulatory offences such as trade descriptions offences. She can draw upon this valuable experience to assist clients facing intervention or enforcement action by the ICO and has had experience in successfully defending a proposed substantial Monetary Penalty Notice.

An examiner in Information Law, Paula sits on the British Computing Society's/ISEB Data Protection and Freedom of Information Panels; these qualifications are generally regarded as industry standard for information law practitioners in every sector.