

# Helena Wood

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## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

Building on over a decade of UK government and law enforcement experience in the field of financial and organised crime, I have developed a significant portfolio of work since setting up my Consulting business from delivery of multiple financial crime research projects for the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), programme review work for the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC Financial Crime Portfolio), advisory work for a UK wildlife crime charity and Outreach Strategy development for a UK-headquartered global financial institution. This breadth of experience equips me with a unique ability to advise on ways in which to influence the domestic and international policy agendas on anti-money laundering and proceeds of crime.

### **June 2015-Present**

#### ***Independent Financial Crime Consultant***

##### *Consulting Work Includes:*

(Since 2015) Associate Fellow at the Centre for Financial Crime and Security Studies at RUSI. Currently project manager for Economic Crime Plan oversight project. Major published research reports include analysis of the 2018 FATF evaluation of the UK, the efficacy of the UK's asset confiscation regime, the use of financial investigation in serious and organised crime policing and the UK's use of civil confiscation powers. Role has involved high-level policy engagement with senior government officials, giving written and oral evidence in parliament to the Home Affairs Select Committee, media outreach and topical blog posting.

(2019) AML Advisor to United for Wildlife Financial Taskforce: Working with the Taskforce team to develop intelligence strategy and target operating model, which fits with the current AML operating environment.

(2018) Outreach Strategy Development for a Major Global Financial Institution. Reviewing the approach taken by the financial institution to engaging with external partners from government, law enforcement, NGO and charitable sectors to improve their ability to influence the external environment and gain access to both information and influence. Included brokering intelligence sharing relationships, policy position development and external and internal communications on the illegal wildlife trade.

##### *Voluntary Work Includes:*

(2020 onwards) Strategic Advisor to Spotlight on Corruption (SpOC). Provision of strategic advice on AML and asset confiscation aspects of the charity's work, as a member of the SpOC advisory panel.

### **September 2007 – April 2015**

#### **National Crime Agency (Previously Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)).**

##### **Roles included:**

##### *Senior Manager – International Operations*

- Leading intelligence investigations into organised crime groups (OCGs) based overseas, including operational planning, risk management and management of a team of intelligence officers.
- Formulating organisational strategy for eastern and southern Africa, including successful influencing of Home Office policy.
- Partner agency engagement (Home Office, FCO, FCA, Police) as subject matter expert on Eastern and Southern African OCGs.

*SOCA Liaison Officer to Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)*

- Policy lead on Afghan/regional counter-narcotics policy, including representing SOCA in cross government Afghan Drugs and Justice Unit (ADJU).
- Policy and project design in relation to criminal justice responses to Somali piracy, leading to influencing of government strategy and inclusion of project

*Senior Policy Officer - Proceeds of Crime Department*

- Lead policy contributor to Home Office consultation on changes to the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) asset recovery powers, including successful lobbying to change legislation to include wider investigatory powers.
- UK project lead on Financial Action Task Force (FATF) study into barriers to recovering criminal assets across international borders, leading to change in FATF standards for evaluations on asset recovery.

**August 2006 - September 2007**

**HM Treasury**

*Project Officer – Financial Crime Team*

- Project officer for Financial Action Task Force (FATF) evaluation of UK's Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-terrorist Finance (AML/CTF) controls.
- Policy lead on AML/CTF guidance to money service business sector on implementation of counter-terrorist finance regulations.
- Managing case work on UN Security Council Resolution 1267 (terrorist sanctions), including formulation of UK policy interpretation, managing a caseload of individual licences and drafting of secondary legislation in relation to freezing assets of correspondent banks.

**July 2004-September 2006**

**Charity Commission**

*Intelligence Officer*

- Intelligence support to investigations, including i2 intelligence software charting, and referral of 5X5 intelligence reports to outside agencies, including law enforcement.
- Liaison officer to Metropolitan Police National Terrorist Financial Investigation Unit (NTFIU) following the London bombings in 2005.

*Compliance Investigations Officer*

- Compliance investigation officer dealing with complaints from public, other government departments and police ranging from allegations of fraud, theft, terrorist-financing and child protection concerns.
- Lead investigation officer on joint Charity Commission/Met Police (SCD6)/Lottery Fund multi-million pound fraud investigation. Successful prosecutions of two individuals as result of case work.

**August 2002 – July 2004**

**Procter and Gamble**

*Accounts Payable Assistant* (International contract dispute resolution with suppliers, including legal claims).

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (1997 – 2001)** BA hon. Government and European Union Studies (2:1)