

Julia Berry

Background:

I am a qualified accountant with extensive finance experience. Following more than a decade of working at a major accountancy firm, my focus has shifted more recently to smaller organisations, handling the finances of a charity. That gives me a breadth of experience that can be applied in any organisation. In addition to my technical expertise I bring passion and drive to my work, allowing me to deliver results efficiently and proactively. I also pride myself on being able to see the big picture whilst maintaining attention to detail.

Areas of Expertise:

- IFRS, Charities SORP, Housing SORP
- Financial Reporting
- Budget Management
- VAT

Education:

- 1997 – 2001 – ACCA
FCCA, Accounting
- 1996 – 1997 – London School of Economics
Conversion course for ex-Soviet graduates in Accounting and Finance (Grant from Soros Foundation)
- 1990 – 1995 – St Petersburg University of Economics and Finance
Combined Bachelor and Masters Degree, Banking, Finance and Accounting

Work Experience (Summary):

- Essex Wildlife Trust (Colchester) – Interim Head of Finance
October 2020 - now
- Colne Housing Society Ltd (Colchester) – fixed-term contract
March – July 2020 – Project Accountant
- Dementia Adventure Trust (Chelmsford)
April 2018 – January 2020 – Head of Finance
September 2016 – April 2018 – Senior Management Accountant
- Neurotar Oy (Helsinki, Finland)
October 2012 – present – Advisory Board Member
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
October 1999 – September 2010 – Banking and Capital Markets (London UK), last position held – Technical Team Manager
July 1997 – October 1999 – Audit (St Petersburg, Russia) - Associate

Volunteer Experience (Summary):

- St Helena Hospice, March 2016 – July 2016 – Finance Team volunteer (15 hours a week)
- CRGSA (Secondary school PTA), July 2014 – June 2017 – Treasurer
- LOCOG, July 2012 – Aug 2012 – Boxing Team, Athletes Services, Games Maker

IT Skills

- XERO, Sage 200, Sage 50, Omni (Pyramid), Advanced Exchequer
- Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook. Google suit

Languages

- Russian (native), English (fluent)

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Work Experience (Detail):

October 2020 – now – Essex Wildlife – Interim Head of Finance

- Leading a team of nine
- Innovating and delivering budgeting process 2021
- Delivering management reporting for SLT members, Finance subcommittee and Board of Trustees
- Part of strategic planning team – Goal lead for “Making our money work harder for nature”.

March – August 2020 - Colne Housing Society Ltd (Eastlight) – Project Accountant

- Preparation of accounts for annual audit. I was responsible for accounts reconciliation as at the year end, preparation of key notes such as Tangible Fixed Assets and Operating Income, liaison with the audit team.

Sep 2016 – Jan 2020 – Dementia Adventure Trust (DAT)

April 2018 – January 2020 – Head of Finance

Sep 2016 – March 2018 – Senior Management Accountant

- Annual statutory accounts: planning, providing all the necessary information to the charity’s accountants, reviewing the final report to ensure it accurately reflects the charity’s activities and presenting it to the Finance Sub-Committee ready for Board approval.
- Quarterly Financial Reporting for the Finance Sub Committee and Board of Trustees: preparing the financial summary, including progress to date and a comparison of outturns against budget.
- Monthly analytics for the Senior Management Team: compiling detailed income and expenditure statements that highlight monthly and year-to-date progress against budget and explanations of variances where relevant.
- Quarterly VAT reporting. DAT, although a small charity, has a relatively complex VAT structure: it has business and non-business activities and is TOMS registered. I am responsible for reconciling issues and calculating adjustments before filing with HMRC.
- Annual Budgeting. I lead on the annual budgeting process (and half-yearly review), working closely with heads of departments to produce realistic forecasts of income and expenditure for the coming year. I also present it to the Finance SC ahead of Board approval.
- Decision Maker Panel (DMP). In April 2018 I was invited to join the Bank of England’s DMP which collects information on how business conditions are changing. I complete monthly surveys.
- Change management. In my first year at DAT I handled the reporting implications of a major change in the structure of the organisation. Two charities and a Community Interest Company (CIC) became a group with an Incorporated Charitable Organisation (ICO) as a parent company. I have tailored DAT’s accounting platform (Xero) to fit the charity’s activities structure and implemented an approach to monitor expenditure related to various grants and projects more efficiently and in compliance with SORP (FRS 102).

Oct 2012 – present – Neurotar OY, Advisory Board Member

(regular video call meetings)

- Quarterly reporting to the Board of Trustees.

This is a young company that develops devices for neuroscience research in live animals. With my help, the company developed its accounting policies and shaped its financial statements. I helped with an application for a Tekkes grant (a government programme providing financial help to developing companies) and assisted with decisions on funding of new equipment. I have been a mentor, a sounding board and a financial expert when required.

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Jul 1997 – Sept 2010 – PwC

Jan 2006 – Sept 2010 – B&CM (Banking and Capital Markets) Technical Team, Manager
(3 days a week)

- Continued advising audit teams on FCA audits and consulting external clients on regulatory matters.
- Conducted CASS audit training for Banking and Capital Markets teams
- Part of PwC's Global Audit Transformation Programme (changing of audit platforms from Lotus Notes to a new tailored one).
 - Firstly, I was part of the B&CM London/NYC team designing and implementing audit programmes on a trial basis with a consequent global roll out
 - Secondly, I led a four month project creating programmes for FCA audits written in the application. It involved devising strategy, management of multiple stakeholders and contributing to the content.
- People Managing. I was a people manager for four PwC senior associates (and then assistant managers). The role included performance management: interim and annual review including moderations and promotions; coaching and caring about wellbeing. I was awarded People Manager of the year in 2009.
- Accredited to conduct hot reviews of financial statements of listed (outside FTSE 350) and unlisted companies.

During this period, I had a year-long career break looking after my second child.

Jan 2004 – Jan 2006 – B&CM Technical Team, Assistant Manager
(3 days a week)

- Advising audit teams on FSA (now FCA) CASS and capital adequacy audits; ranging from planning for and tailoring of audit programme to resolution of issues arising,
- Ad hoc training for the audit teams on calculation of capital adequacy and completing FSA returns
- Consultation of external clients (mainly securities and futures firms) on CASS issues.
- Monitoring utilisation rates of team members in B&CM Technical

After a two-year career break looking after my first child I returned to PwC. Joining Technical Team afforded me a flexibility of working hours, without compromising quality of my work.

Jul 2001 – Jul 2002 – B&CM, Assistant Manager

- Audit of financial statements prepared according to UK GAAP and IFRS
- Managing teams for smaller clients, including audit planning, budgeting, review of work done, invoicing, maintenance of CRM and reporting to the Partner
- Analytical review of client's management accounts
- Monitoring recoverability of the audits

Oct 1999 – Jul 2001 – B&CM London, Associate

- Audit of elements of financial statements prepared according to UK GAAP and IFRS
- Analytical review of client's management accounts
- Review of audit work

Jul 1997 – Oct 1999 – Audit, St Petersburg, Russia

- Preparation of financial statement under IAS (now IFRS)
- Audit of financial statements under International and Russian Standards

Feb 1996 – May 1996 – NatWest, London, Brand Communications Dep't

I came to UK on a programme sponsored by British Council to gain UK experience in the field of branding and advertising

Sep 1994 – July 1997 – Marketing Analyst - Baltijskij Bank (Russia)

- Comparative analysis of Bank's performance compared to its competitors
- Brand maintenance, advertising and sponsorship

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Volunteer Experience:

March 2016 – July 2016 St Helena Hospice, Finance Team volunteer
(15 hours a week)

- Sage 200 – nominal ledger, cash book, purchase and sales ledgers, VAT
- Budgeting. I helped to prepare annual budget for the whole of the hospice broken down by department.
- legacies review
- Mapping of the process flows for Retail Business, Lottery and HR, including identification of controls in place and its weaknesses

July 2014 – June 2017 – CRGSA (Secondary school PTA), Treasurer

- Day-to-day maintenance of accounts (annual income £30-£50k), including bank reconciliations and reimbursement of expenses
- Consolidation of accounts, preparation of accounts for independent examination and filing and updating necessary information with Charity Commission (main charity had two branches: a shop and a private society lottery)
- Monitoring annual budget and cash flow and presenting summary reports on a monthly basis to the CRGSA Committee.
- Identifying and applying for capital grants

July 2012 – Aug 2012 – LOCOG, Boxing Team, Athletes Services, Games Maker

- Creating welcoming and unobtrusive atmosphere for athletes from around the world. I represented the Boxing team at the meeting with the Prime Minister.