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Dr Chris Pounder

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As well as being a founder member of Amberhawk Associates, 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). He was also asked to give a presentation to European MEPs when the European Parliament was discussing the proposed Data Protection Regulation.

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.