



FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS

CRITICAL THINKING
AT THE CRITICAL TIME™

Integrated, multi-skilled **investigations team**

An investigation requires immediate action. Data needs to be collected and analysed, key witnesses and suspects interviewed, and business intelligence gathered and reviewed. At the same time, the company should continue 'business as usual' whilst safeguarding its reputation.

FTI Consulting is an internationally recognised leader in independent investigation services to the business and legal community. Our multi-disciplinary team of specialist investigators, forensic accountants, data analysts and computer forensic experts undertake investigations involving corporate fraud, whistle-blowing, employee negligence, white-collar crime, and bribery and corruption allegations.

HOW WE CAN HELP

Working collaboratively, our team can evaluate external information, analyse corporate books, records and electronic information, as well as conduct employee interviews. We also assist with complex accounting and reporting requirements that arise from situations occurring outside the normal course of business or that may be unique to an industry. Through our unmatched research capabilities, we can also access business intelligence which is not always publicly available, to help inform the case strategy.

GLOBAL PRESENCE

FTI Consulting's global presence means we can deploy teams anywhere in the world, helping you respond to an investigation by:

- quickly assessing the situation
- designing a tailored, scaled work plan delivered in a phased and cost-effective manner
- resolving matters with minimum disruption to the business
- preventing recurrences by designing and implementing effective controls.

FOCUSED ON WHAT'S BEST FOR THE BUSINESS

An investigation can be an incredibly challenging and stressful time for a business and its staff, which is why our approach is based on commerciality and pragmatism. We use tact and sensitivity when interviewing staff and witnesses, speed and efficiency when mobilising an on-site team, discretion and flexibility when collecting confidential data and open and regular communication from our senior team leaders to key stakeholders. We base our recommendations on what's best for the business, not our bottom line.

Why FTI Consulting for forensic investigations?

Recognised as “first class” in Who’s Who Legal*, clients benefit from our team’s extensive experience in managing multi-jurisdictional investigations, including in-country cultural awareness, discrete processes that do not interrupt the regular course of business, and multi-lingual capabilities. In addition, we can act as an expert witness in court.

OUR UNIQUE STRENGTHS

- Internationally recognised leaders in forensic investigations
- FTI Consulting’s forensic heritage ensures our advice is always supported by a robust evidence base grounded in rigorous analysis
- Ability to swiftly deploy teams anywhere in the world to conduct a complete investigation
- Integrated, multi-disciplinary team with a mix of specialist skills and industry expertise
- Easy access to senior team leaders
- Multi-lingual capabilities, with over 20 languages spoken
- Innovative use of technology to streamline the investigation process
- Access to proprietary sources of intelligence that may not always be publicly available
- In-depth experience acting on UK and multi-jurisdictional investigations
- Commercial, pragmatic approach focused on what’s best for the client



*Who’s Who Legal: Investigations 2015

Internationally recognised leaders in forensic investigations



Recognised as **leading experts** in both Who’s Who Legal: Investigations 2015 and Who’s Who Legal: Asset Recovery 2015



Recognised as having the **deepest and strongest capabilities in Forensic Investigations** by Kennedy Consulting Research & Advisory



Ringtail®, our **e-discovery platform** recognised as a top online review platform in the 2015 Best of The National Law Journal reader rankings



Support at every stage of an investigation

Investigations can vary widely, have sudden changes in scope and are often time-critical. They require immediate, decisive action and specialist support from experts, to help you respond effectively and efficiently. Whatever help you need, our multi-disciplinary team can assist at every stage of an investigation - tailoring our services to match the specific requirements of the case.

INFORMATION COLLECTION

- Search of publicly available material along with our own discreet source enquiries
- Conduct interviews
- Trace assets
- Investigate beneficial relationships
- Identify and preserve data from servers, computers, mobile phones and other forms of electronic media

ELECTRONIC DATA REVIEW & ANALYSIS

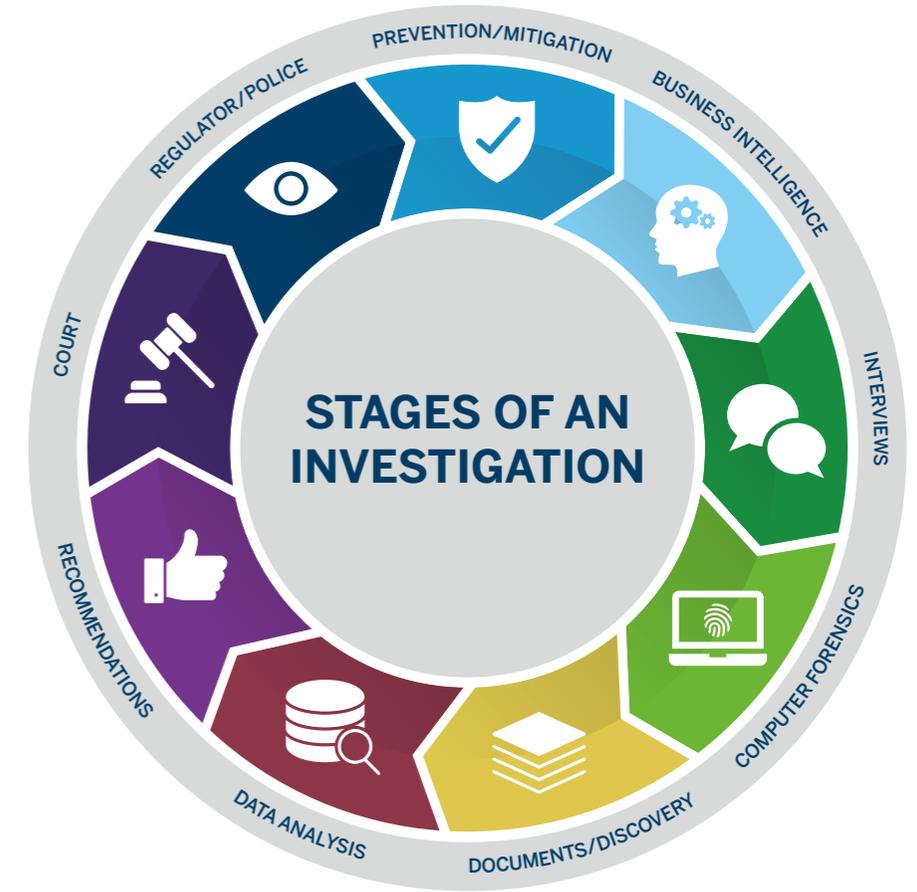
- Use advanced analytics through Ringtail, FTI's document review platform, to help home in on the relevant documents quickly
- Uncover activity on devices, including recovery of deleted items and attempts to wipe data
- Use various tools to analyse structured data sets of any size to establish patterns and anomalies
- Reconstruct accounting records
- Combine output with information and evidence gathered elsewhere, to verify the fact pattern and establish any discrepancies that need to be further investigated

RECOMMENDATIONS & FINDINGS

- Produce a report for key stakeholders (e.g. senior management and the board, legal advisors, regulators or the court) - based on our investigation, that answers the who, what, where, when, how and why
- Provide information to assist lawyers on the appropriate case strategy and advise on possible next steps
- Offer crisis communications support to create a communications strategy and tactical implementation plan

FRAUD PREVENTION/MITIGATION

- Evaluate compliance programs and make recommendations for enhancements
- Implement fraud protection strategies
- Develop and participate in implementation of modified controls and corporate practices
- Monitor and test policies and procedures
- Train staff



Case Study

An investigation at the top

This investigation looked into the activities of a company’s London-based CEO, the UK MD, the MD of the European subsidiary and four other people allegedly receiving inappropriate payments.

The company’s General Counsel, who first suspected the fraud, informed the regulator and instructed a law firm to lead the investigation. The law firm then called upon our forensic accounting and computer forensics expertise and within 24 hours our team was on-site.

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

We identified and collected the relevant hard copy and electronic documents, after which the search began. We interviewed staff, communicated constantly with those reviewing the documents and worked closely with the legal team to support their work.

This all had to be done extremely quickly and with minimum disruption to the business. By putting together a team with all the necessary skills and using experienced people who were fully involved on-site, we were able to get results quickly and efficiently with a relatively small group.

UNCOVERING A MULTI-LAYERED FRAUD

Our investigation revealed that the London CEO had started the fraud after a series of investments turned sour and left him unable to maintain his lifestyle. Payments to him amounted to millions of euros, but were only part of the picture. In return, he also arranged for the European MD to receive various financial rewards. What’s more, we discovered that the MD had also been involved in a completely separate fraud, having authorised payments to companies which were owned or controlled by his associates. Those payments were for services that had not in fact been provided.

SWIFT, CONCLUSIVE INVESTIGATION

Within four weeks we had established the key facts and were able to present findings to the regulator. Our quick actions ensured a swift and conclusive investigation that limited further damage to the company’s reputation, safeguarded its assets and penalised the perpetrators.

Case Study

A trail of Spanish fraud

A Spanish retail client, with operations across Europe, became aware via a whistle-blower that two of its directors had set up a competing business and were selling assets below market value.

Our initial investigation was conducted discreetly using public record information. Amongst other findings, the “official” owner of the competing company was found to be an unknown 25 year old with limited means of funding such a business, who lived with his parents on the Costa del Sol. He also had no previous background in running a retail or property business. This information provided our client with sufficient evidence to launch a full scale investigation.

A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL LEGAL CASE

Our team accompanied the client to the London office where we preserved data from laptops and phones, and captured emails from over 20 staff. Given that a number of staff were French and employed under Spanish contracts, we had to work closely with the client’s legal advisors to ensure we were compliant with UK, Spanish, and French law.

UNRAVELLING THE FRAUD

After capturing and analysing the data, we were able to identify emails and other documents that proved that the two directors were the beneficial owners of the competing business. Further investigation identified that the funding for the competing business had been syphoned from our client via a number of frauds including fictitious building and maintenance contracts and kickbacks from suppliers. We identified collusion between various individuals that facilitated the transfer of assets below market value. The directors had also encouraged their favoured contractors to undertake building work on their own holiday properties in France - paid for by the company.

PROSECUTING THE PERPETRATORS

The paper trail was short but definitive. By working closely with the legal team we were able to wrap up the investigation in a matter of weeks. The individuals were subsequently sacked and sued for recovery of the stolen monies.

About FTI Consulting

FTI Consulting is a global business advisory firm with more than 4,400 employees in 27 countries, from every major financial centre to every corner of the globe. We serve our clients wherever and whenever challenges and opportunities arise, helping them to address current threats and seize opportunities.

We deliver solutions that are effective and sustainable in areas including valuation, risk management, restructuring, mergers & acquisitions, regulation, competition, disputes, litigation, technology and strategic communications.





For more information about our forensic investigations, please email us at forensic.investigations@fticonsulting.com or call +44 (0)20 3727 1000

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About FTI Consulting

FTI Consulting, Inc. is a global business advisory firm dedicated to helping organisations protect and enhance enterprise value in an increasingly complex legal, regulatory and economic environment. FTI Consulting professionals, who are located in all major business centres throughout the world, work closely with clients to anticipate, illuminate and overcome complex business challenges in areas such as investigations, litigation, mergers and acquisitions, regulatory issues, reputation management and restructuring.