

## Centra Consult LLP

Dispute resolution, claim preparation and delay analysis

# Centra News

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## Who are we?

Some of you will already know who we are and what it is that we do on a day to day basis. For those of you that have never heard of us and work in construction, you should take that as good news but it was never going to last.

Formed in 2007 (yes it has been that long!) we have built up an excellent client base throughout the UK and deal with Employers, Contractors, lawyers and various private individuals. We are four partners and three specialist staff based in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

## What do Centra Consult Do?

We provide a variety of technical services to all areas of the construction industry. We have pursued outstanding Architect's fees, defended and pursued Adjudications on behalf of Employers, Contractors and Subcontractors, provided expert delay and quantum reports for Adjudications and Court actions and provided training in commercial and programming matters for a variety of organizations.

We have been involved in mediations and contractual negotiations and the setting up and resolving of contractual terms. We have advised clients both pre-tender and post tender on contracts from street lighting to wind farms, from process plants to highway construction.

At Centra we have extensive experience in dealing with matters under a range of the NEC form of contract, particularly those which have been extensively amended. We have been involved in numerous adjudications relating to payment terms and the revised payment provisions introduced by the LDEDCA

Because we are involved in such a wide variety of issues we know what problems most often arise and whether with the correct approach, the risks attaching to such situations can be reduced or eliminated. It is often the case that such risks can only be reduced and with the correct approach, managed to a reasonable conclusion. We assist solicitors in understanding issues, where matters are not at all clear and provide expert reports on quantum and delay matters, when instructed.

Our aim is to clarify issues to allow them to be properly understood without the baggage attaching to the need to arrive at any

particular result. The avoidance of formal disputes is a key element of our approach. Understanding what the facts say about any particular matter is an essential element to the successful resolution of any potential or actual dispute. We believe that is where our key skills lie and what brings the greatest benefit to all of our clients.

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## The People



### **Alexander (Sandy) Dickson**

Chairman

BSc, MBA, LLB, MCIOB, FCIArb

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Sandy is the Chairman and founding partner of Centra Consult. Having graduated in 1983 he worked for a variety of well-known building and civil engineering contractors in commercial roles. In 1999 he left contracting and joined a firm of specialist consultants dealing with matters from the Royal Opera House in London to the repainting of the Forth Rail Bridge. In 2007 he founded Centra Consult to carry on delivering specialist consultant services to clients in a fashion tailored to meet their particular requirements.



### **Peter McKernan**

Partner

HNC Building, MCIOB, ACIArb

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Peter also joined Centra Consult in 2007 from a specialist consultant. Peter's expertise lies in the areas of delay analysis and project planning. This stems from his background and training in hands on project management with a multi-national contractor.



### **Chris Atkinson**

Partner

BSc (Hons), LLM (Construction Law),  
MCIInstCES, MCI Arb, ICIOB.

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Chris joined Centra Consult in 2008 and is a Quantity Surveyor with over 23 years' experience. Chris is a registered Adjudicator and has considerable commercial and contractual experience. Chris is experienced in civil engineering and process plant construction as well as the usual building projects.



### **Andrew Bayne**

Partner

BSc, MSc, LLM (Construction Law),  
MCI Arb, MCI Arb.

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Andrew joined Centra Consult in 2008 and specializes in retrospective planning/delay analysis. Andrew's background is project management with national contractors and he has over 20 years' experience in the industry.



### **Ana Almeida**

Consultant

BSc (Hons), MBA, Chartered Engineer (OE).

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Ana joined Centra Consult in 2014 from an international steel and cladding contractor and has extensive knowledge of complex steel structures. Ana speaks Portuguese, Spanish, English and French and has worked on contract utilizing each of these languages. Ana is currently studying for the LLM in Construction Law at Strathclyde University. Ana is a chartered engineer and has worked as far afield as Morocco where she has been both a construction project manager and provided the commercial lead role on these large projects. Ana's skills, analytical approach and experience allow her to deal with quantum and commercial matters.



### **Michael Neill**

Consultant

BSc (Hons), LLM (Construction Law), MRICS.

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Michael has recently joined Centra Consult from a national contractor where he was a Senior Quantity Surveyor. Michael, having completed the LLM is now developing his skills and putting into practice his studies and his related practical experience.

Registered in Scotland

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## **Gavin Fenton**

Director

BSc, MRICS, LLM (Construction Law).

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Gavin has over 30 years' experience in commercial and contract management on both the professional and contracting sides of the industry. He has recently joined from a large multinational contractor where he had been seconded to a public utility tasked with delivering new water and sewage infrastructure projects. Previously Gavin held a senior commercial role in a national contractor before working for a specialized construction dispute firm based in central Scotland.

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## **What's New**

We have recently expanded to a complement of 7 with a new office that opened in Rutherglen in March of this year. This allows us easier access to service our clients in the West of Scotland and Ireland, although we service the whole of the UK including the Northern Islands as required.

We are currently upgrading our website to bring it up to date and we intend to issue our Newsletter on a quarterly basis. Both the Newsletter and website will have articles, comment and advice on the various matters that we see as needing to be addressed.

We hope this will be of interest to our readers.