

# **RICHARD THOMAS – CV 2023**

**Name** Richard David Gwylfa  
Thomas

**Professional Qualifications** MIIA and QIAL, Member of the Institute of Internal Auditors  
MAAT, Association of Accounting Technicians  
CIMA part qualified, Chartered Institute of Management Accountants  
IISP, Certificate in Information Security Management Principles  
CESG Senior Practitioner, Institute of Information Security  
Professionals.  
COBIT 5 and ITIL foundation courses.

**Position** Head Of Audit & Risk Management

---

## **Employers to Date**

March 2023 to date	St Helens Borough Council
May 2019 – March 2023	Manchester City Council
Apr 2015 – May 2019	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
Aug 2008 – Apr 2015	Department for Works and Pensions
Jan 2004 – Aug 2008	Wyre Borough Council
Jan 2002 – Dec 2003	Lancaster City Council
Jul 2000 – Dec 2001	Wyre Borough Council
May 1999 – Jul 2000	Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust
Jul 1997 – May 1999	Lancaster City Council

## **March 2023 to date**

- My responsibilities include internal audit and counter fraud, health and safety, resilience and business continuity, risk management and insurance. I manage 15 staff across these functions.
- My immediate objective is to create capacity and build capability across all these functions, and provide a stable platform from which I can start to improve service provision.
- I have attended the Audit and Governance Committee and set out their work programme and training needs for the year. I work closely with the Chair and the Independent Member, to ensure they and the committee meet their terms of reference and best practice (defined by CIPFA and through the Redmond Review).
- I play a key role in the Councils governance forum, the safety group, and Merseyside resilience forum, and provide audit service to Mersey Waste.

## **May 2019 – March 2023: Manchester City Council** **Deputy Head of Audit & Risk Management**

- Providing leadership, directing development and overseeing the delivery of these services to Manchester City Council and Bolton Council, and other key stakeholders.
- Key role in supporting the Head of Service and work with audit managers on collaboration, business planning, workforce development, financial planning and ways of working.
- Support the Head of Service in leading the development and delivery of strategies and associated plans to address risks of fraud and irregularity in line with professional standards
- Influence positive organisational change through audit and risk reporting to stakeholders and through engagement in corporate working groups and boards.
- Support the Head of Service and Section Managers in the leadership and management of Risk and Resilience; Insurance and Claims; and Health and Safety Services that delivery positive outcomes and contribute to the achievement of corporate and partnership objectives.

**Apr 2015 – May 2019: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs  
Head of IT Audit**

- Strengthened the depth and quality of the IT audit service provision.
- Embedding consistency in governing and delivering IT across the organisation
- Supporting a more sophisticated lines of defence strategy to ensure efficiency around assurance over the management of key digital risks
- Maintain IT Internal Audit Plans that focus on the key risks and controls weaknesses facing the Chief Digital Information Officer..

**Apr 2014 – Apr 2015: Department for Works and Pensions**

- Set up a new security compliance initiative to provide assurance and oversight to the Senior Information Risk Owner and the Executive Team.
- Worked closely with Hewlett Packard engineers and CISCO to re-configure the Firewall and
- My responsibility as Risk, Governance and Security Manager (Aug 2008 > Jan 2012) was primarily to ensure the Finance Director General (DG) compliance with the Department's risk management framework, (policies, principles and practices), to manage high level risks and report these in a timely and accurate manner to the Executive Team and Board. Initiated regular risk discussions at Senior Management Team meetings and facilitated risk assessment workshops.
- Set up a Group Finance's Governance Risk and Assurance Group; a forum for discussion to ensure consistency of approach across Group Finance's business units. I also revised and re-launched the GFD Risk Management Protocol document. I delivered training to business unit Risk Practitioners to ensure that the Group has the requisite competencies to effectively manage risk out in the businesses.

**Jan 2004 – Apr 2014: Wyre Borough Council**

- Implemented a new Internal Audit Charter that set out my audit objectives and implemented a new audit plan, quickly established a competent and well respected team to deliver the plan, set the Council's risk management framework and managed the Council's insurance portfolio.
- Revised and re-launched the Council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy, rolled out risk management training & workshops to all business units and to the Executive to embed the policy and to create / populate the Risk Registers.
- Instrumental in the successful introduction of an Audit Committee at the Council. Trained its members according to CIPFA best practice.
- Work was recognised and highly commended in the European Risk Manager of the Year Awards for the Best Approach to Risk Management within the Public Sector 2006.

**Earlier internal audit career:**

Jan 2002 – Dec 2003: Lancaster City Council - Senior Auditor

Jul 2000 – Dec 2001: Wyre Borough Council - Senior Auditor

May 1999 – Jul 2000: Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust - Senior Auditor

Jul 1997 – May 1999: Lancaster City Council – Trainee Internal Auditor

**Other roles**

Audit Clerk – Chartered Accountants, Revenues and Benefits Officer, Housing Benefits Officer.

Senior Lecturer – AAT and CAT qualifications for 10 years – various adult colleges.