



PRESS RELEASES

Coventry Investigator and former South Warwickshire Police Detective advises BBC in new daytime comedy drama set in Stratford on Avon.

The Managing Director of one the country's largest independent investigation agencies, whose Head Office is in Coventry has been advising the BBC with their new daytime drama about 2 private detectives who operate from Sheep Street in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Frank Hathaway a seasoned police detective played by Mark Benton of Waterloo Road and Early Doors teams up with Lu Shakespeare played by Jo Joyner of East Enders as they have their investigations around the Stratford-upon-Avon countryside.

The show which will be aired on BBC daytime TV is made up of 10 episodes and has been advised by David Kearns, Managing Director of Expert Investigations.

David has worked with the scriptwriters, the actors and the production team in advising in various techniques and methods and advised on what the duo would realistically be able to achieve as investigators.

David says: "It has been really great fun being involved in the process as clearly it gives a different element to my normal daily life of running the business. It has been wonderful to see how the script writers and actors have embraced what they have been advised to give the element of realism in the storylines.

Going on to set is a fantastic opportunity to see the development from the script writers inception to final production filming. It was a pleasure catching up with everybody again, clearly all will be hoping that there is a run of several more series so we can continue involvement with the team

David is a former Warwickshire Police Field Intelligence Detective whose Police life often found him liaising with Coventry colleagues and his company conducts many investigations into theft and fraud which are committed in the Coventry and Warwickshire region.

David's company conducts commercial investigations across the country from their Head Office in Coventry and regional offices in London Birmingham and Leeds. Earlier this year his teams evidence was instrumental in the prison sentence of Wendy Dillingham who committed a £400 000.00 fraud from her Stratford on Avon employer.

-ENDS-

For further information about Expert Investigations Ltd, please visit www.expert-investigations.co.uk, or call 024 76 630 498 to speak to a member of the team in confidence.

Notes to editor:

Expert Investigations Ltd is a leading nationwide commercial Detective Investigation Agency with a head office in Coventry and further premises in London, Birmingham and Leeds. The company investigates a large number of workplace issues that include thefts, frauds, employment issues and problems with anti-social behaviour. With expertise across commercial and public sectors, the specialist team consists of 22 investigators, including former Police Detectives from the National Crime Squad, Special Branch and Economic Crime Teams, to former Military Officers from the Special Air Service and Royal Marines. Expert Investigations Ltd use a spectrum of investigation methods, including surveillance, observations, covert vehicle tracking, computer data forensics, data research and interview techniques.

Press Release

DATE: 09 July 2018

CONTACT: David Kearns, Expert Investigations. Tel: 02476 630 498 or email: david.kearns@expert-investigations.co.uk

Fraud investigation expert to deliver presentation to Coventry University students on how to tackle employee dishonesty

Dave Kearns, Managing Director of Coventry-based Expert Investigations, will be delivering a presentation on employee dishonesty to Fraud Investigation Management (MSc) students at Coventry University from 11am to 12.30pm on Friday, 13 July at the Jaguar Centre.

The course, which is in its third year, has been developed by Coventry University in association with professionals who are leading the way in fraud investigation in the UK and internationally. Dave Kearns is a specialist in tackling dishonest employees and advises businesses nationwide on how to manage internal theft and fraud. He runs gap analysis on businesses, conducts internal training courses and uses a raft of investigative services to help detect, disrupt and prevent dishonest employees.

His presentation will include the latest statistics, case studies, established academic models as well as thought-provoking questions for students.

The Fraud Investigation Management (MSc) course offers students the opportunity to learn from leaders in their field, who have worked in the various aspects of fraud: intelligence, investigation, legal procedures, cyber security and risk management.

This new MSc course is proving popular at the University and student numbers have almost doubled this year. UK, EU and international students will be attending the presentation, which aims to prepare “career-ready graduates with the skills to succeed”, according to the University.

The course itself is a combination of theory and practical experience, such as taking witness statements and conducting interviews of suspects. Dave will be sharing his professional experiences on prevention work in broad terms to the specific and will be using established models, such as the Fraud Triangle to explain the reasons behind theft and fraud in the workplace. This enduring model, which was established in the 1950s, demonstrates how the principles of academia reflect the behaviour of dishonest employees.

Dave's background is law enforcement and he worked for Warwickshire Police for 13 years, specialising in field intelligence prior to establishing his own company, Expert Investigations, which is focused on commercial investigations and risk control, 18 years ago.

David Page, Health and Life Sciences Lecturer, Coventry University, said: "The objective of the course is for our students to learn the realities that they will soon face in employment."

Dave Kearns, Managing Director, Expert Investigations said: "I am delighted to present to students at Coventry University. The presentation will focus on theft/fraud by employees, which is an area that is frequently overlooked by investigators, prevention managers as well as businesses."

Ends

Editor's notes:

1. Expert Investigations is a commercial investigations agency based in Coventry, which is dedicated to solving clients' problems in the commercial, legal, banking and service sectors.
2. Expert investigations understands the commercial issues that businesses face on a daily basis and offers tailored services to resolve problems, including commercial theft, fraud, absenteeism, employment issues, such as breach of contract and restrictive covenant, and security and risk assessment issues.
3. Expert Investigations brings three core values to every investigation:
 - Initiative: Determination to get results quickly and cost-effectively.
 - Intelligence: An experienced team of officers who are at the leading edge of investigations.
 - Integrity: All investigations are lawful, ethical and confidential, yielding quality results.
4. The team at Expert Investigations has worked for specialised divisions of the Police Service and British Military. It brings this experience and expertise when it conducts conventional, lawful and technical investigations for business.
5. Dave Kearns is a BBC Technical Advisor, Midlands Fraud Forum Committee Member, Institute of Directors Committee Member as well as featuring monthly in Professional Security Magazine.
6. For more information, go to www.expert-investigations.co.uk. For more information about detecting, disrupting and preventing the activities of dishonest employees go to www.davekearns.co.uk

Press Release

DATE: 05 November 2018

CONTACT: David Kearns, Expert Investigations. Tel: 02476 630 498 or email: davidkearns@expert-investigations.co.uk

Fraud-hit Britain: More companies should make it a priority to tackle wrongdoing, says fraud expert

The value of alleged fraud cases reaching UK courts in the first half of 2018 was £895m, according to research by KPMG. The figures come on the back of 2017's record-breaking year, which registered £3.6bn of fraud – the highest value in KPMG's Fraud Barometer's 31-year history.

A number of high profile frauds have been prosecuted through the courts in recent months. The cases include the three NHS managers who were jailed on Friday. The three men, who were employed by Powys Teaching Health Board as NHS Managers, were found guilty of defrauding the NHS of £700,000 and jailed for a total of 14 years.

Mark Evill was given a seven-year prison sentence while his colleagues Robert Howells and Michael Cope received jail sentences of four and three years respectively.

The six-figure fraud involved Mr Evill awarding NHS contracts to his own construction firm while Mr Howells and Mr Cope facilitated the fraud. In addition to the fraud, the work carried out by Mr Evill's firm cost the NHS £1.4m to repair, Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court was told.

Kensington and Chelsea Council worker Jenny McDonagh, who stole £62,000 from a Grenfell Tower victim fund, was also jailed for five-and-a-half years in recent months. Ms McDonagh defrauded the Council by circumventing its systems and processes. A Council spokesperson has said that they have now strengthened their internal processes.

Ms McDonagh's was described as a serial fraudster in Court, and there are ongoing investigations at her previous employers the V&A and Medway NHS Trust.

A Bupa employee was recently dismissed and is facing legal action for copying and removing information relating to 547,000 international health insurance plan customers to sell on the dark web. The data, which was downloaded from the customer relationship management system included names, dates of birth, nationalities and some contact and administrative information.

Consequently Bupa was fined £175,000 by regulators in September and has since introduced additional security measures to help prevent the recurrence of such an incident, reinforced its internal controls and increased customer checks.

According to the 2018 Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) Report to the Nations, the largest global study of occupational fraud across 125 countries and 23 industries, internal control weaknesses are responsible for nearly half of all frauds. The report also found that fraud losses are greater when fraudsters colluded.

Dave Kearns, Managing Director of Coventry-based Expert Investigations, says: “At a time when the NHS is under immense pressure, incidents of fraud are taking place that are adding to its financial woes, and these shouldn’t be left unchecked.

“These incidents show the weaknesses of larger organisations, such as the NHS and local authorities, which should have systems and controls in place. In spite of this, fraudsters are still finding ways to override controls and to exploit the vulnerabilities of the business.

“More companies are being proactive about uncovering and reporting fraud. However, a significant amount of fraud goes unreported as many companies will dismiss the employee to keep the problem out of the spotlight.”

If you would like to know more about how and why corporate fraud and theft occurs and what can be done to prevent and disrupt it within the workplace, contact Dave Kearns. His background is law enforcement and he worked for the Police for 13 years, specialising in field intelligence prior to establishing his own company, Expert Investigations, which is focused on commercial investigations and risk control, 18 years ago.

Ends

Editor’s notes:

1. Dave Kearns is a leading expert on preventing and disrupting dishonesty employees in the workplace. He writes regularly for national and specialist publications, such as Personnel Today, Finance Director and Professional Security Magazine about issues, such as making employee dishonesty a boardroom issue, improving data security and exposing vulnerabilities within the workplace.

2. Dave regularly delivers presentations to organisations, such as the fraud prevention service, the Chartered Institute of Credit Management, the professional body for human resources CIPD and the Institute of Directors. He is a BBC Technical Advisor, Midlands Fraud Forum Committee Member, Institute of Directors Committee Member as well as a member of the Fraud Advisory Panel.

3. Dave is also MD of Expert Investigations, a commercial investigations agency based in Coventry, which is dedicated to solving clients’ problems in the commercial, legal, banking and service sectors.

4. Expert investigations understands the commercial issues that businesses face on a daily basis and offers tailored services to resolve problems, including commercial theft, fraud, absenteeism, employment issues, such as breach of contract and restrictive covenant, and security and risk assessment issues.

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