

Colin Downes, FCMA, MBA, PIIA

Born Birmingham 1953. Took a degree in Economics and Business Studies at Sheffield University and later qualified as a Chartered Management Accountant whilst working as an accountant specialising in capital investment appraisals for British Gas. Employed as an Industry Auditor for British Gas he gained a Masters in Business Administration at Aston University.

A qualified Internal Auditor a career followed from 1989 as Internal Audit Manager for the RAC, covering all roadside and insurance operations. In 1996 he established an audit function for £750m turnover Midlands Co-operative Society following the merger of two Co-operative Societies. As Head of Risk Management for what is the largest independent Co-operative Society he is responsible for all internal audit, loss prevention and risk management reviews across a diverse business including retail, funeral, travel, transport and property trading activities.

His 40-year career has meant he has a wide range of financial and operational trading experience operating at senior management for the past. Additional, he has worked as a lecturer and governor in further education.

He was co-opted by the board of EMAG in December, 2010. He is a victim of the Equitable Life scandal.

In his spare time he enjoys a wide range of activities which have included climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, sky-diving, wing-walking and fire walking amongst charity fund raising stunts.

