

James Neill, Partner, Deal Advisory



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Partner
Deal Advisory

KPMG
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Function and specialisation

Head of Turnaround, Restructuring & Forensics department, KPMG in Northern Ireland

Education, licenses & certifications

- Joint Insolvency Examination Board (JIEB) / Licensed UK Insolvency Practitioner (2010)
- Certificate of Proficiency (CPI) in Insolvency (Top 10 in the UK)
- Fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland
- Accredited Expert Witness – Member of the Academy of Expert Witnesses
- Council Member R3 UK (Association of Business Recovery Professionals)
- Board Member, NI Fraud Forum
- MA Advanced Accounting & BSc (Hons) Economics & Accounting

Professional and industry experience

Between 2003 and 2007, James worked the Corporate Finance team in Deloitte.

In 2007 James joined BDO as a Director within its Business Restructuring & Forensics team.

In 2012 James became co-founder of HNH Partners Limited, a boutique multi-disciplinary advisory practice where he was Managing Partner.

In April 2023, James joined KPMG as a Partner and Head of Restructuring, Turnaround & Forensics in KPMG, Northern Ireland.

Representative experience and clients

- James is a Partner within KPMG Deal Advisory and leads the Restructuring, Turnaround and Forensics practice in NI.
- James is also the immediate past Chair of R3 in Northern Ireland and a current council member of R3 UK and has spent over 20 years working in the restructuring and deal advisory profession throughout the UK and Ireland.
- James has a detailed understanding of the different requirements of companies, lenders and investors and regularly advising stakeholders on all aspects of restructuring and deal advisory. James has also led a number of NI's and the UK's most prominent restructuring projects with a particular focus on preserving value through accelerated M&A processes.
- James has extensive experience across both public and private sectors, being involved in a large range of project-based business recovery and corporate finance work and provides strategic advice to both lending institutions and equity stakeholders.

Relevant Experience as Expert Witness

- James has provided expert testimony in both the Northern Irish and Irish Courts.
- Acted as a Court Appointed Expert to provide an opinion on a range of accounting issues involving a large NI company. This is on ongoing instruction which has involved providing an opinion on material irregularities in the financial statements and the transfer of assets between connected entities.
- Provided Expert Testimony in respect of a dispute involving one of the UK's largest food producers. This matter involved the provision of expert testimony concurrently with the opposing expert ("hot-tubbing") in order to assist the Judge with the complex financial matters involved in this case.
- Provided an expert witness report, reviewing and analysing the funding of hotel properties and commercial units, including a high profile 5-star hotel and commenting upon an opposing expert's opinion.
- Appointed as Expert Witness on numerous matrimonial disputes. Provided expert testimony for the valuation of shareholdings in a range of industries including, but not limited to, the hotel and tourism sector, hospitality sector, manufacturing sectors, property sector, retail and professional services.