



Client case study

hunters

Practicing successfully for over fifty years, Hunters is a firm of professional architects and project managers that works across the private and public sectors, including housing, healthcare, education, workplace, hospitality and senior care.

A leading practice in its field, Hunters has witnessed strong organic growth over the last ten years and now employs over 100 staff.

In no small measure, Hunters' success has been driven by strong client relationships, underpinned by the delivery of professionalism, knowledge and expertise.

In this respect, Hunters looks for the same qualities in its professional advisers, and this has been key to the firm's longstanding relationship with HLB Vantis Audit, which dates back to early 2000.

Ian Hurlstone, Group Finance Director at Hunters explains: "We previously used a Big 4 firm as auditors, but whilst we considered ourselves a reasonable sized fish, the pond was still far too big! We really wanted a better cultural match with a more dedicated, personal approach to service".



"We like working with HLB Vantis Audit. We don't get dwarfed by bigger clients, but they are big enough to bring the right level of resource and expertise to bear," Ian Hurlstone adds.

Perhaps the best example of the way in which HLB Vantis Audit has built such a close working relationship with Hunters is how they have engaged with all levels of the organisation, from the board through to middle management.

The result is that throughout the planning and execution of the audit, the two businesses are able to work effectively and efficiently together, with good lines of communication up, down and across.

"Because our relationship with HLB Vantis Audit has been built on many levels, they can maintain a regular, open and honest dialogue with our business. As a result, the audit is well prepared and planned so that potential issues are usually foreseen before they become a problem for us," comments Ian Hurlstone.

Indeed, an unproblematic audit, with minimum disruption to Hunters' everyday business operation is extremely important, as it undoubtedly is to every organisation.

HLB Vantis Audit has also delivered successfully in this regard through a planned and well resourced approach. This normally involves an intensive two week process whereby all the information required is gathered quickly and with minimal fuss.

Again, the breadth and depth of the relationships that HLB Vantis Audit has forged with all Hunters' key stakeholders contributes to the efficiency of this process, as each person understands exactly what is expected of the other.



"This is particularly relevant to our business when it comes to assessing Work in Progress. The auditors need to engage with fee earners across our practice to discuss recoverability," comments Ian Hurlstone.

"These kinds of discussions can only work effectively when a level of trust and confidence in your advisers has been established," he adds.

Confidence is also important to Hunters when it comes to audit conclusions and outputs. As a firm that is committed to best practice, both in its approach to clients and in the management of its own business, the audit provides important validation and assurance.



Ian Hurlstone elaborates this point when he says, "HLB Vantis Audit takes a measured and proportionate approach to auditing our business."

"What we get is an audit that is compliant with all the statutory requirements, but in addition takes a very commercial view of our business. The real emphasis of the audit is targeted at the issues that are specifically important to us," he adds.

Ian concludes by stating that, "Ultimately, we have remained with HLB Vantis Audit for so long because they show an ongoing willingness to get under the skin of our business and really add value wherever and whenever possible."

A member of



Visit www.hlbvantisaudit.com or call 020 7417 0417 to find your nearest office location

Head Office:
HLB Vantis Audit plc
82 St John Street, London, EC1M 4JN