

Profile

- Senior property/casualty actuary (qualified 1995)
- Over 25 years' experience of commercial insurance matters (property/casualty, non-life)
- Successfully self-employed since 2003, advising over 60 clients (over 200 projects), including private companies, captives, financial services companies, local authorities, insureds and insurance brokers (large and small)
- Majority of work is "non-reserved", that is, clients have no requirement to use actuaries but do so, on a repeat basis, due to the value added
- Independent from all brokers and insurers

Insurance Advisory Services

- Adequacy of Internal insurance funds (Provisions/Reserves)
- Assessment of legacy issues (asbestos, pollution and others)
- Captives – actuarial opinions/peer review of other actuaries' reports
- Management information development for reporting/re-charging to business units
- Review of captive Board reporting of loss trends/forecasts
- Review of other actuaries' work (e.g. employed by broker)
- "Translation" of other actuaries' work into plain English
- Solvency II impacts
- Review of renewal submissions
- Premium negotiations/premium reviews

Recent Projects

- Numerous reviews of asbestos liabilities
- Annual actuarial opinions for captive (world-wide - incl USA - liability business)
- Independent actuary for transfer from Guernsey captive to IOM captive
- Advice on insurance program design for complex liability business
- Advice on optimal premium earning patterns for extended warranty business
- Estimation of product defect liabilities in accordance with UK GAAP
- Project leader for broker's actuarial review of client's asbestos liabilities
- Optimisation of reinsurance purchase for insurers and Lloyd's syndicates
- Independent review of insurer's proposed rate changes
- Independent review of broker advice re: program design
- Development management information (MI) for offshore captive

Specialist Areas

- Asbestos (and other long-tail) liabilities
- Pricing, loss reserving and management information (all UK classes of business)
- Risk communication (including renewal submissions)
- Extended warranty/guarantee business

What Clients Say

- "John is undoubtedly my actuary of first choice, having been impressed with him when he produced his first report for me in 1999; since then I have engaged him for actuarial advice on numerous occasions, covering a wide range of issues such as reserving, negotiations with insurance carriers, management information reporting and, most recently, for solvency II matters.
- "We have engaged John Birkenhead as an independent actuary since 2003. He has assisted us with a number of actuarial studies including valuation of a significant inwards portfolio transfer from a third-party captive and also with negotiations with insurers. We have always found his advice highly professional and pragmatic. His advice concerning the referred portfolio transfer highlighted important valuation considerations which would not otherwise have been identified. We value John's knowledge, commercialism and jargon-free approach and consider him as our actuary of first choice."
- "We have engaged John Birkenhead as an independent actuary on a number of occasions since 2003 to assist our in-house team with analytical work and project direction for a number of insurance and reinsurance optimisation studies. We have always been impressed with his professionalism, knowledge, commercialism and jargon-free approach."