

Forensic Advisory Services

New Zealand



About us

Our highly qualified team of accountants, valuation specialists and fraud examiners, provides forensic accounting, economic loss quantification, financial analysis and valuation services to insurance, legal, corporate and public sector clients.

Sedgwick's forensic advisory services division provides astute, independent forensic accounting, fraud detection and litigation services to insurers, reinsurers and the wider business community.

Our team of experts have extensive experience in handling large and complex losses across a broad range of industries. We adopt a flexible, commercial approach throughout the claim process. We will work closely with you to develop a claim resolution and settlement strategy, to avoid disputes and reduce the overall settlement time and cost.

Our approach

The right team – When you appoint Sedgwick, you are using a team of highly experienced professionals, ensuring each claim – including business interruption and stock losses – are accurately quantified and resolved.

Responsiveness – With the support of Sedgwick's global network, we are able to rapidly respond to any loss situation and drive the business recovery process, irrespective of the challenges faced.

Managing costs – We develop practical solutions that enable businesses to safely resume operations quickly, therefore, containing costs.

Proactive loss management – We thoroughly investigate the basis of each claim and work closely with all stakeholders to achieve one common goal – the successful resolution of the claim in the shortest time frame possible.

Client focus – Our success is based on understanding our clients' needs and meeting these consistently and seamlessly.

Integrity and trust – These are essential elements of our relationships as well as the financial expertise you can rely on.

For more information on how we can help, please contact:

Leon Briggs

Head of Forensic Advisory Services – New Zealand



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Our services

Our capability

- Business interruption claims
- Stock loss quantification and valuation
- Product recall and liability claims
- Fraud and employee fidelity claims
- Contingency
- Litigation support and dispute resolution
- Accident benefits
- Subrogation
- Contract disputes
- Reinsurance and coverholder reviews
- Cyber financial loss claims



Business interruption claims

We specialise in the provision of forensic accounting for business interruption claims. Claims managers, captives, re-insurers and other insurance professionals rely on our expertise and experience to:

- Investigate the financial basis of a claim
- Quantify the loss of profit
- Identify and quantify increased costs and savings
- Provide concise reports on our findings which are used as the basis to settle claims and assist with any subsequent recovery actions

Stock loss quantification and valuation

As forensic accountants, we have the expertise to review stock systems, to identify and resolve issues relevant to the quantification and valuation of stock.

The work we undertake varies for each loss, however, can involve:

- Carrying out stock counts after an incident
- Quantify the loss of profit
- Retrieving stock records from accounting systems
- Reconstructing stock records, particularly after records are destroyed in a flood or fire
- Preparing valuations of stock, based on the cover provided by the insurance policy

Product recall and liability claims

We have the capability and experience to assess, manage and quantify the costs and losses associated with:

- Product recall
- Product guarantee
- Product liability

Fraud and employee fidelity claims

Our experienced accountants investigate the circumstances leading to the fraud, provide recommendations for strengthening internal controls and review the avenues for recovery.

Our reports set out the value of the losses claimed as a result of fraud and the extent to which they are supported.

As a result of our work, we are often asked to assist legal professionals and the police in civil and criminal proceedings.

Contingency

We have significant experience in managing and assessing event cancellations of trade shows, exhibitions, sports and entertainment events. We are also qualified to supervise prize draws for prize indemnity insurance cover.

Litigation support and dispute resolution

We work with your lawyers on insurance claims where there is a contemplation of litigation.

Our team regularly prepares independent expert witness reports which are admissible in litigation proceedings.

Our experts are experienced in giving credible and robust oral testimony.

We understand how to balance the needs of the insurer to help achieve the best outcome while making sure that our independence is not compromised should litigation be pursued.

Biographies



Leon Briggs

BCA (Hons) CA FCILA (UK) FCLA
ANZIIF (Fellow) CIP

Head of Forensic Advisory Services & National Chief Adjuster

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Leon is one of New Zealand's leading business interruption specialists and regularly presents to a range of insurance and non-industry audiences.

He has handled financial claims in many countries, including as a principal in a forensic accounting firm in the US.

With his material damage and liability knowledge, Leon has a particular interest in accounting related to construction cost and liability claims.

Leon often gives evidence in litigated matters, and has been an expert witness in the High Courts of New Zealand and Fiji.



Brett Fawcett

BCom CA FCILA (UK) ANZIIF (Snr Assoc)

Executive Financial Loss Adjuster

Auckland

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Brett has been adjusting business interruption claims since 1973.

He is well known in the industry and has lectured and written extensively on business interruption claims. He has written technical articles and two textbooks on the subject, which are widely used throughout New Zealand and Asia.

Brett also provides a key mentoring role to our team.



Stephen Hardy

BCom

Financial Loss Adjuster

Auckland

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Stephen has over 30 years' experience in financial and management accounting.

Business interruption is his main area of expertise, having analysed and quantified claims for a variety of industries and sectors. In particular, Stephen has a proven ability with dairy farm claims, specialising in loss of milk production.

Stephen is also qualified in the area of contingency and fidelity, specifically with the quantification of employee theft claims.



Carolyn Hogarty

CA

Financial Loss Adjuster

Auckland

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Carolyn brings a depth of knowledge from an extensive and diverse career. She has over 30 years' experience in various roles, such as company accountant, business interruption claims preparer and loss adjuster. This experience includes numerous local and offshore catastrophic events.

Carolyn is a Chartered Accountant and has been a member of ICANZ for over 25 years.



Jillian Oughton

BCom CA GradDipComm

Financial Loss Adjuster

Tauranga

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Jillian first gained experience adjusting claims arising from the Canterbury Earthquakes.

She is also experienced in commercial accounting and in public practice accounting, specifically business advisory services.

Jillian specialises in business interruption, loss of rents and complex stock loss claims.





Rebecca Soffe

BMS

Financial Loss Adjuster

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Rebecca joined our forensic advisory services division in 2017, as part of the protégé programme. Prior to joining our team, Rebecca completed a Bachelor of Business Management, majoring in Accounting and Finance.

She has gained valuable industry experience by working closely with our senior financial loss adjusters. Rebecca handles financial lines claims including business interruption, loss of rent, contingency and complex stock losses.



Tim Stephenson

BSc

Financial Loss Adjuster

Napier

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Tim has more than 25 years' experience in the insurance industry, which includes over 20 years as a loss adjuster. He is also the financial loss mentor for the Central Region.

Tim specialises in claims arising from the construction and agriculture/horticulture industries.



Andrew Jameson

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Financial Loss Adjuster

Christchurch

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Andrew has over 35 years' experience as a loss adjuster, handling both material damage and financial losses.

He has been heavily involved in large commercial losses resulting from the Christchurch Earthquakes.

Andrew has extensive experience handling losses in the meat and timber industries.



Global solutions.
Local expertise.