

## STEWART CONNELL

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Lancaster University  
Bachelor (Hons) Accounting and Finance  
Pocklington School, York

### PROFILE

Former Senior Director in a leading multi-national food retailer. Excellent track record in Business Development, International Operations and Finance. Now consulting on projects utilising proven strategic, financial and commercial skills.

- Extensive knowledge of Corporate Finance techniques and their application in the business environment.
- Strong business planning skills developed through cross functional team working.
- Playing leading roles in mergers and acquisitions in UK and internationally.
- Cultural sensitivity developed during overseas assignment and building relationships for international growth.
- Implementing business restructure and rationalisation for operational efficiency
- Developing Finance structures and systems for rapidly expanding business.

### EXPERIENCE

2001 - 2004

#### TESCO PLC

##### Business Development Director

Board presentation as member of cross-functional team performing initial detailed research of Japanese market based in Tokyo.

##### Achievement

- Board presentation as member of cross-functional team performing initial detailed research of Japanese market based in Tokyo;
- Due diligence management and financial analysis on various opportunities in Japan including successful £ 180m acquisition of C2 network;
- Financial support to research team based in China including initial appraisal of Hymall business;
- Financial analysis regarding £500m T&S convenience store acquisition for Board.

1997 - 2001

#### Tesco Stores Czech & Slovak Republics

##### Finance Director

Reported to CEO Tesco Stores operations in Czech Republic and Slovakia based in Prague.

### Achievements:

- Implementing centralised financial control and structure into a single location from a previously decentralised business having 12 locations across two countries;
- Set up Finance administration centre (headcount 100) providing total business support;
- Introduced modern management information systems, including Oracle Financials, into a rapidly expanding business with sales up 400% in 2 separate divisions;
- Member of leadership team during opening of first 12 trading hypermarkets in Czech and Slovak republics;
- Coached and developed local people to replace expatriates.

1991 - 1997

### **Financial Planning Director**

Reported to Tesco Plc Group Finance Director.

- Established Financial Planning team;
- Adapted Group long term planning process;
- Financial management, analysis and due diligence for Tesco acquisitions in Ireland (ex GUS), Scotland (Wm Low), France, Hungary and Poland;
- Implemented major Finance function restructure;
- Developed standard Investment appraisal methodology across the group.

1984 - 1990

### **Finance Manager**

Reported to Tesco Stores Finance Director.

- Developed management accounts and budget process;
- Improved balance sheet and financial control;
- Responsible for financial information in Group Annual Report;
- Completed Group statutory accounts
- Developed reporting packs including Q&As for external reporting.

1981 - 1984

### **Stern Osmat Management Accountant**

Reported to Financial Controller

Implemented computerised accounting system.

1977 - 1980

### **Arthur Young (Now Ernst & Young) - Audit Senior**

Reported to Audit Manager

Qualified as Chartered accountant with first time passes.