



Return to Audit

Transcription

I looked on the website and the Return to Audit programme was there. And when I spoke to the lady in HR she said "oh how did you find out about it?" I said "well I'm an ex KPMG and I just sort of really wanted to come back". She said "Well you're really lucky because it's the second day since it went live, it's perfect timing."

I went on maternity leave in 2010 and I had a year off of maternity leave and said "I'm not quite sure I'm quite ready to come back." And then the firm were fantastic, they gave me a two-year sabbatical where at any time in that point you can come back, which was a fantastic opportunity and I think if I'd only had my daughter I would have come back at that stage, but my son was six months old so it wasn't the ideal time to come back to work. And I just enjoy being at home.

Then I became conscious of missing the people and the interaction. That was the first thing that made me think "hm it's time to look for something else". But the tipping point was I was taking my children to school and my youngest son said to me "Mummy, what are you going to do today?" and that really made me think "actually, I don't just miss the people, I miss the mental challenge of work".

Things that I considered returning to work were totally different from the things I considered the first time I applied for a job. Flexible working was really at the heart of what I wanted. I was very keen that I could still drop my children off at school and be there to pick them up in the afternoon. I really didn't want someone else to pick them up and do their homework with them.

Balancing home life and returning to work has definitely been a challenge, but my department and the return to audit team have been phenomenal about supporting that and saying if you need to work from home, then that's fine and they have been really great about reorganizing training which is going on with other parts of the firm, to make sure that I can still do my 9:30 to 2:30 and take away what I need to take away. So everyone's been really supportive, which really has helped in terms of the logistics.

I'm going back into a technical accounting role and I'm really excited that I can help people and again feel that I've got something to offer outside the home, I suppose.

I think it's very easy to forget when you've not worked for a while that you actually do have skills that people are looking for and as much as I might not have the technical skills I had eight years ago, I definitely have considerably better a conflict resolution skills and multitasking skills and those are actually important skills which when you can merge them with the technical skills, you can be really valuable and the world has changed from when I left work or certainly ten years ago. There are so many options out there for people, so don't be afraid to ask. Because if you don't ask for it you don't know whether it's possible. I was definitely ready for a new challenge, the children are settled and it was time for it to become about what I wanted as well.