



# Return to Audit - Lauren

## Transcription

My name is Lauren Fenton, I've just returned to KPMG after three and a bit years away on a career break. I joined KPMG originally in 2005 and qualified as a management accountant with KPMG, and I sat within our financial management practice and consulting.

I started a young family, and I did come back to KPMG in between my two children. After my second child was born, we found out she had a rare genetic condition and needed quite a lot of support and medical intervention at a young age. I decided rather than coming straight back into work that I would take a career break, which initially was supposed to be one year from KPMG, and KPMG were great about me deciding to do that. It ended up being three and a half years that I was out of the firm.

I decided that I was ready to get back to work; I certainly hadn't given up on some of my ambitions, and wanted to have a career again. I was looking around and thinking about what I wanted to do, and KPMG made it very easy for me to say yes to coming back to KPMG. They were really supportive around me coming back on a part-time arrangement. And it also just felt like a natural place to come back to, because clearly I knew the clients, knew the work, knew a fair number of people and things have changed.

The fact that I could come back on a three day a week arrangement, and work client-facing in consulting was great, and actually not where KPMG had been five, six years ago. I'm excited to be here but a little bit of this next phase of my career is about figuring out, you know, what I want to get out of the next ten years. Getting my feet under the table again, feeling confident back at work. My priorities clearly have changed over the years, I think they do for everybody as they get older – regardless of whether a parent or not.

And much more about enjoying what I'm doing, it's not to say that my ambition isn't to do well to succeed and to climb the ladder, but it's perhaps in a slightly more measured way. What I'd say to people who are thinking, they're perhaps thinking about doing the same, is you'd be surprised how easy KPMG will make it for you to land generally. And how supportive they might be around getting you up to speed, getting that confidence back. And I think a lot of it is about finding the right support network at home, finding the right supporting team within the firm, and then being quite honest with yourself and with them in terms of what you need to get that confidence back up.