

CURRICULUM VITAE

James Happs MSc CAE EngTech



PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

As a Certificated Automotive Engineer with an MSc (Distinction) in Fire Scene Investigation, James Happs is a qualified Consultant Automotive Fire and Theft Investigation Engineer.

James is highly experienced, having determined the cause and origin of fire damage sustained to vehicles including cars, vans, HGVs, and plant and farm equipment for over ten years.

As well as fire investigation, James' expertise covers mechanical failure investigation, collision damage cost assessment, vehicle valuations and theft investigation, including recovered vehicle analysis and key interrogation.

As part of his role, he routinely completes fully intrusive physical examinations of vehicles to establish the cause and origin of fire or method / consistency of theft and assesses if the damage sustained is consistent with the reported circumstances. He is an IMI accredited Vehicle Damage Assessor and Electric Vehicle Technician. He is also an appropriately qualified person to categorise vehicle salvage.

In 2017 he completed a Master's Degree in Fire Scene Investigation at the University of Central Lancashire. This included the principles of fire, fire scene investigation, health & safety, computational fluid dynamics and the process of the legal system. James has given evidence in court for civil proceedings.

He is a Member of the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI), Member of the Institute of Road Transport Engineers (IRTE), Member of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), Associate of the Institute of Automotive Engineering Assessors (IAEA) and an Associate of the United Kingdom Association of Fire Investigators (UK-AFI).

In 1996 he became a Certificated Automotive Engineer (CAE) with the IMI and in 2011 he was registered with the Engineering Council as an Engineering Technician (EngTech).

ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Qualification	Date
Member of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)	2021
MSc (Distinction) Fire Scene Investigation	2014-2017
Associate of the United Kingdom Association of Fire Investigators (UK-AFI)	2017
Associate of the Institute of Automotive Engineer Assessors	2013
Member of the Institute of the Motor Industry	2011
Member of the Institute of Road Transport Engineers	2011
Engineering Technician (EngTech)	2011
Certificated Automotive Engineer (CAE)	1996
City & Guilds 398 Vehicle Body Competencies level 1-3 (Distinction)	1993-1995

SPECIALISED QUALIFICATIONS

Qualification	Location	Date
Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires	IAAI – CFI Trainer	2021
Motor Vehicles: Transmission, exhaust, brake and accessory systems	IAAI – CFI Trainer	2021
Motor Vehicles: Engine, ignition, electrical and fuel systems	IAAI – CFI Trainer	2021
Vehicle Salvage AQP	IAEA	2019
IMI ATA Vehicle Damage Assessor Re-accreditation	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2019
IMI ATA Electric Vehicle Technician	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre	2018
Vehicle Paint Update Course	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2017
New Vehicle Technology Update	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2016
IMI ATA Vehicle Damage Assessor Re-accreditation	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2015
New Vehicle Technology update	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2014
High Voltage Vehicles	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2013
IMI ATA Vehicle Damage Assessor Accreditation	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2011
Paint Preparation Techniques	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2010
New Generation Steels	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2010
Aluminium & Composite Panel Repair Techniques	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2009
Electrical Diagnosis	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2009
Introduction to Liquid Petroleum Gas Vehicles	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2008
Air Conditioning	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2008
Air Bag and Restraint Systems	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2007
Steering Geometry and Air Bags	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2006
Zurich Repair Procedure Update	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	2004
Windscreen Removal and Replacement	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	1997
Resistance Spot Welding Test to BS1140 (reassessed 1999 and 2001)	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	1997
MIG/MAG Welding Test to BS4872 (reassessed 1999 and 2001)	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	1997
Introduction to Estimating Procedures	The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, Thatcham	1997

EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT

Position	Location	Date
Fire and Theft Investigation Engineer	GBB UK Ltd	2019 to Present
Specialist Investigation Engineer	Control Expert UK	2018-2019
Specialist Investigation Engineer	Zurich Insurance	2011-2018
In House Inspection Engineer	Zurich Insurance	2003-2011
Master Fit Service Manager & Vehicle Body Technician	Arriva Vauxhall Aldershot	1998-2003
Vehicle Body Technician	Reg Vardy Ford Reading	1997-1998
Vehicle Body Technician	Cowie Vauxhall Aldershot	1993-1998