

Tim Sterne

Independent Investigation Consultant

| Christchurch | tim@basaltsolutions.com | +64 22 099 0791 | basaltsolutions.com |

Professional Summary

I am the director of Basalt Solutions Ltd, an independent investigation consultancy serving organisations and lawyers in both civil and criminal matters. My professional background includes more than eleven years with the New Zealand Police where I finished as a Detective Sergeant, with a national security clearance, leading investigations into serious crime, internal misconduct and corruption, and operations targeting organised crime.

I now provide support to legal teams in the form of case assessments, evidence analysis, disclosure review and witness interviewing and briefing. I specialise in investigative interviewing, evidence assessment, and intelligence analysis. My approach is trauma-informed and designed to support particularly complex cases.

Areas of Expertise

- Criminal investigations with specialist expertise in intelligence-led and multi-agency operations
- Historic sexual abuse investigations, including delayed disclosure and trauma-affected witnesses
- Witness interviewing and briefing, including preparation of statements that meet High Court requirements
- Evidence collation, analysis and assessment
- Workplace and administrative investigations

Professional Experience

Basalt Solutions Ltd - Director (2024 – Present)

Independent consultancy providing investigative support to organisations and legal teams.

- Provides support to legal teams through case assessment, disclosure management, evidence collation and analysis
- Conducts independent investigations and reviews, including historic sexual abuse disclosures
- Delivers training in investigation leadership and investigative interviewing

New Zealand Police – Detective Sergeant (2012 – 2024)

- Led investigations into serious and complex crime, managing large volumes of complex evidence and disclosure
- Managed multi-disciplinary and multi-agency teams
- Held national security clearance
- Developed and delivered investigative interviewing training to Criminal Investigation Branch staff
- Specialised in interviewing, testing intelligence and evidential reliability, and risk management

Training & Qualifications

- PG Certificate in International Security
- Bachelor of Arts
- New Zealand Police Detective
- PEACE interviewing

Services

I provide investigative expertise in particularly complex or sensitive cases. This includes:

- Managing large volumes of disclosure or multi-agency records
- Coordinating and analysing evidence across multiple parties, witnesses and co-defendants
- Supporting matters demanding high levels of discretion and sensitivity
- Navigating cases involving allegations of historic sexual abuse, where delayed disclosure, trauma, and communication barriers require specialist handling
- Assisting in cases involving vulnerable people, communication barriers, or cross-cultural sensitivities
- Preparing witness interviews and reports that meet High Court standards
- Delivering independent investigative reports that provide clarity in complex proceedings