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Senior Technical Architect (Azure)

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Apply before 11:55 pm on Tuesday 3rd March 2026

Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Reference number

448883

Salary

£56,167 - £61,745

The basic pay for this role will be £61,745 (London) or £56,167 (National). A
digital allowance may also be payable depending on the level of assessed

capability, in order to meet the MHCLG overall targeted remuneration rate for the specific grade, location and capability rating.

A Civil Service Pension with an employer contribution of 28.97%

Job grade

Grade 7

Contract type

Permanent

Type of role

Digital

Working pattern

Full-time

Number of jobs available

1

Contents

Location

Bristol, Darlington, London, Manchester, Wolverhampton

About the job

Job summary

Here at the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG), we work on things that make a real difference to people s lives. Whether it's through the homes we live in, the work of our local councils, or the communities we re all part of, our work is at the top of the political agenda. We have ambitious and far-reaching outcomes to achieve this year and, if you re thinking of joining us, there s never been a more exciting time.

We are seeking a Senior Technical Architect specialising in Microsoft Azure to lead the design, assurance, and evolution of cloud-based services within the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). This role aligns with the DDaT Technical Architect capability framework at Senior (G7) level and supports the delivery of modern, secure, resilient public digital services. As a Senior Technical Architect, you will be the lead architect responsible and accountable for the Azure Platform. You will oversee its design, evolution, security, and ongoing maintenance, ensuring it remains robust, scalable, and aligned to departmental needs. Working closely with Enterprise Architects, Cyber Security, and project delivery teams, you will define and drive the Azure platform roadmap, prioritising improvements that enhance resilience, raise the security posture, embed secure by design, and support modern service delivery.

You will guide architectural decision making, identify risks and manage their lifecycle, assure solution designs that consume the platform, and champion modern engineering practices, reusable cross government components, and DDaT aligned architecture standards.

Find out more about our Digital teams and what they are working on through our MHCLG Digital blog.
Please note that MHCLG do not offer visa sponsorship and applicants will need a valid visa for the duration of your employment.

Job description

As a Senior Technical Architect, you'll:

Produce clear architectural artefacts including HLDs, LLDs, patterns, roadmaps and service guidance to support delivery teams and governance forums

Provide technical leadership within delivery teams, ensuring Azure solutions are secure, resilient, cost-effective and meet user and business needs

Design and assure cloud infrastructure, platform services, data flows and integrations, ensuring solutions follow agreed patterns and architectural principles

Carry out impact assessments across systems, estates, APIs and data flows, identifying dependencies, risks and required changes

Ensure solutions align with DDaT standards, technology policies, architectural principles and wider departmental strategies, escalating deviations where required

Champion responsible and AI-assisted architectural practices, including safe use of AI in design, review and optimisation activities

Lead the adoption of DevOps and platform engineering practices such as IaC, policy-as-code, CI/CD, observability and operational readiness

Embed secure-by-design and modern security architecture, applying zero trust, IAM and resilience patterns in all technical designs

Contribute to capability development, offering coaching and knowledge-sharing across teams to support a high-performance engineering culture

Advise on sustainability, cost optimisation, technical debt and risk, and work with vendors, delivery partners and governance boards to provide clear technical recommendation

Person specification

As a Senior Technical Architect, you'll have:

Extensive experience designing and assuring enterprise-scale Azure solutions (platform, identity, networking, integration, governance)

Strong understanding of cloud architecture patterns, security, automation, resilience, data-flow, and operational models

Ability to translate business needs into robust, cost-effective, secure technical designs. Hands-on experience with DevOps practices, Terraform IaC, CI/CD pipelines, automation, monitoring, and observability

Experience developing and governing architectural standards, patterns, guardrails, and frameworks

Strong influencing and leadership skills, shaping technical decisions and long-term cloud strategy. Deep knowledge of identity, authentication/ authorisation, and cloud security controls (Azure AD / Entra ID)

Experience working in agile, multidisciplinary teams, with strong documentation and analysis capabilities

Awareness of core data-architecture principles, including governance concepts, lineage, interoperability standards, and high-level API/ integration design patterns

Certification Requirements Microsoft Azure Solutions Architect Expert (AZ-305) preferred

Candidates without certification may apply with 5+ years of equivalent Azure architecture experience, including enterprise-scale design, governance, and security leadership

Desirable Skills:

Familiarity with government cloud strategy, NCSC guidance, or cross-government services. Practical experience with cloud data platforms and API/integration technologies (e.g., Azure Data Factory, Synapse, Databricks, Purview)

Experience with SRE practices, observability, or sustainable cloud operations. Understanding of responsible AI principles or AI-assisted architectural tooling

Benefits

Alongside your salary of £56,167, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government contributes £16,271 towards you being a member of the Civil Service Defined Benefit Pension scheme. Find out what benefits a Civil Service Pension provides.

At MHCLG we offer many benefits that range from tailored career pathways and flexible working to MyLifestyle Childcare Voucher and Cycle to Work Schemes. For more information, please click here.

Things you need to know

Artificial intelligence

Artificial intelligence can be a useful tool to support your application, however, all examples and statements provided must be truthful, factually accurate and taken directly from your own experience. Where plagiarism has been identified (presenting the ideas and experiences of others, or generated by artificial intelligence, as your own) applications may be withdrawn and internal candidates may be subject to disciplinary action. Please see our candidate guidance (opens in a new window) for more information on appropriate and inappropriate use.

Selection process details

Application and Selection

The application process will be split into 2 stages, testing the following Success Profiles:

Behaviours , Experience , Technical

Please ensure your CV does not contain any personally identifiable information.

Note: We do not consider direct CV applications. All applications must be submitted via the provided application link.

Stage 1: Sift (CV)

Experience: The sift panel will use the information in your CV to assess your experience, skills and knowledge against the job description and person

specification so please submit your CV demonstrating alignment to that criteria.

Stage 2: Interview

Behaviours: "Communicating and Influencing", "Delivering at Pace", "Making Effective Decisions"

Experience: Experience questions will be based around the essential skills and criteria as listed in the job description.

Technical: Technical questions will be based around the essential skills and criteria as listed in the job description.

Sift and Interview Dates

Sifting is envisaged to take place the week commencing 2nd March 2026.

Interviews are envisaged to take place the week commencing 16th March 2026 and are currently being held remotely via videocall. This could be subject to change.

Group 1 Digital & Data Roles

MHCLG has implemented the Digital and Data capability framework for Group 1 roles. Applicants that are successful and have been offered a position will be required to complete a capability assessment after the interview.

MHCLG will honour completed capability assessments for this role from other Government Departments for existing civil servants on level transfer only. Please provide a copy of your capability assessment to the Hiring Manager when applying. If you have any queries on pay, please contact the Hiring Manager.

Each experience or technical skill is assessed between 1-3, representing working towards, at or above the job level requirements. You are awarded a proficiency level accordingly, and you will be given opportunity to annually re assess your capability and potentially increase your overall

remuneration, through payment of allowances, depending on level of assessed capability.

Candidates moving from another government department have the option to retain their current basic pay if this is within our pay band for the relevant grade.

Grade 7 Group 1 Digital and Data salary

The basic pay for this role will be between £61,745   £72,112 (London), £ 56,167   £66,581 (National). Candidates will usually be recruited to the median of the payscale.

A digital allowance may also be payable depending on the level of assessed capability, in order to meet the MHCLG overall targeted remuneration rate for the specific grade, location and capability rating.

For applicants in receipt of existing allowances, we will assess each case individually, but we would seek not to exceed the MHCLG overall targeted remuneration rate for the specific grade, location and capability rating for existing civil servants, the usual policy on level transfer and promotion will apply, subject to the statements above.

How We Recruit

Find out everything you need to know before applying here..

Applying

Sifting

Interview

Interview Results & Feedback

Reserve List

Near Miss

Civil Service Grades

We are a DCS, RIS & GPTWV employer

Reasonable Adjustments

How to Apply

<u>What you need to know before applying.</u>

- Security Clearance Requirements
- Civil Service Nationality Requirements
- Right to Work
- Artificial Intelligence
- Civil Service Code and Recruitment Principles
- CV Declaration
- Sponsorships
- Salary and Grade
- Existing Civil Servants
- Conflict of Interest
- Location and Flexible Working
- Fixed Term Contracts
- Internal Fraud Database - <u>Internal Fraud Register</u>
- Appeals and Complaints
- Conflict of Interest

Security Clearance Requirements

National Office: BPSS + SC

London Office: BPSS + SC

Feedback will only be provided if you attend an interview or assessment.

Security

Successful candidates must undergo a criminal record check.

Successful candidates must meet the security requirements before they can be appointed. The level of security needed is security check (opens in a new window).

See our vetting charter (opens in a new window).

People working with government assets must complete baseline personnel security standard (opens in new window) checks.

Nationality requirements

This job is broadly open to the following groups:

UK nationals

nationals of the Republic of Ireland

nationals of Commonwealth countries who have the right to work in the UK

nationals of the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein and family members of those nationalities with settled or pre-settled status under the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS) (opens in a new window)

nationals of the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein and family members of those nationalities who have made a valid application for settled or pre-settled status under the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS)

individuals with limited leave to remain or indefinite leave to remain who were eligible to apply for EUSS on or before 31 December 2020

Turkish nationals, and certain family members of Turkish nationals, who have accrued the right to work in the Civil Service

Further information on nationality requirements (opens in a new window)

Working for the Civil Service

The Civil Service Code (opens in a new window) sets out the standards of behaviour expected of civil servants.

We recruit by merit on the basis of fair and open competition, as outlined in the Civil Service Commission's underline recruitment principles (opens in a new window).

The Civil Service embraces diversity and promotes equal opportunities. As such, we run a Disability Confident Scheme (DCS) for candidates with disabilities who meet the minimum selection criteria.

The Civil Service also offers a Redeployment Interview Scheme to civil servants who are at risk of redundancy, and who meet the minimum requirements for the advertised vacancy.

Diversity and Inclusion

The Civil Service is committed to attract, retain and invest in talent wherever it is found. To learn more please see the Civil Service People Plan (opens in a new window) and the Civil Service Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (opens in a new window).

Apply and further information

Once this job has closed, the job advert will no longer be available. You may want to save a copy for your records.

Contact point for applicants

Job contact :

Name :   Digital Data Jobs

Email :   Digitaldatajobs@communities.gov.uk

Recruitment team

Email :   Digitaldatajobs@communities.gov.uk

Further information

If you are unsure about any part of the process or require additional information about the post to enable you to progress your application, you should speak to the Resourcing team - Recruitment@communities.gov.uk. Candidates can appeal at any stage of the recruitment process if they believe

there has been:
  a procedural irregularity
  an infringement of the Civil Service equal opportunities policy
  exceptional circumstances which were not notified to the interview panel which might have affected performance on the day.
It is important to note that these are appeals about the process not the decision. In the first instance, an appeal should be directed to the MHCLG Resourcing Hub at Recruitment@communities.gov.uk.
If the MHCLG Resourcing Hub is unable to satisfactorily resolve your complaint, you may contact put your complaint in writing to the Civil Service Commission, Room G8,1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ or by email to: info@csc.gov.uk