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Lead Technical Architect (Ref: 14799)

Ministry of Justice

Apply before 11:55 pm on Saturday 28th February 2026

Ministry of
JUSTICE

Reference number

449214

Salary

£71,381 - £85,257

The national salary is £71,381 - £80,419. London salary is £75,674 - £85,257. Your salary will be dependent on your base location.

London: £75,674 - £87,875 (which may include an allowance of up to £12,201)

National: £71,381 - £83,700 (which may include an allowance of up to £12,319)

A Civil Service Pension with an employer contribution of 28.97%

Job grade

Grade 6
MOJ Grade 6

Contract type

Permanent

Type of role

Digital

Working pattern

Flexible working, Full-time, Part-time

Number of jobs available

1

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Location

East Midlands (England), East of England, London (region), North East England, North West England, Scotland, South East England, South West England, Wales, West Midlands (England), Yorkshire and the Humber

About the job

Job summary

This is a Nationally based role

Job description

Lead Technical Architect

CJS Spine

Location: National*

Interviews (subject to change): 25, 26, 27 March

Grade: 6

(MoJ candidates who are on a specialist grade, will be able to retain this grade on lateral transfer)

Salary (for more information, please refer to the T&Cs at the bottom):

London: £75,674 - £87,875 (which may include an allowance of up to £12,201)

National: £71,381 - £83,700 (which may include an allowance of up to £12,319)

Working pattern: full time, part time, flexible working

Contract Type: Permanent

Vacancy number: 14799

***We offer a hybrid working model, allowing for a balance between remote work and time spent in your local office. Office locations can be found [ON THIS MAP](#)**

About The Role

We are recruiting a **Lead Technical Architect** to provide technical leadership for the CJS Spine across the Ministry of Justice and the wider Criminal Justice System.

This is a senior, high-impact role working across organisational boundaries, technologies and teams. You will set direction, shape and assure technical approaches, and help turn complex, cross-system problems into clear, credible solutions.

You will work closely with policy, operational, data and digital leaders, acting as the technical authority for the CJS Spine, and ensuring that technical decisions support both strategic goals and real operational needs.

You will be part of Justice Digital and Data. We pride ourselves on being a collaborative, multidisciplinary place to work where user needs, operational reality and technical quality all matter. We support flexible and part-time working wherever possible and value diverse perspectives and backgrounds.

To help picture your life at [MoJ](#) please take a look at our [blog](#) and our [Digital and Technology strategy 2025](#).

This role aligns to the [Lead Technical Architect](#) role from the Government Digital and Data Framework.

About the CJS Spine

The CJS Spine is a shared set of capabilities that will enable secure, efficient and trusted flows of data across the CJS. It provides the foundations that allow organisations to work together effectively and deliver a seamless end-to-end service.

The CJS Spine will provide:

A single view of a person, enabling us to reliably identify the same individual, whether they are a defendant, offender, victim or witness, so the right information follows them through the system.

Connected systems across policing, courts, prisons, probation and victim services that can exchange information quickly and securely so it is available at the point of need.

High-quality, trusted data that stays that way, supported by clear standards, governance and provenance so confidence is maintained as data flows across organisations and over time.

Together, these foundations support faster, fairer and more joined-up justice. They enable better decision-making, reduce unnecessary duplication, and create the conditions for transformation through digital, data and AI.

The CJS Spine will play a critical role in enabling the Ministry of Justice to address its strategic priorities, including protecting the public, reducing reoffending and ensuring swifter justice for defendants and victims through a modern and efficient criminal courts system.

This is an opportunity to work on a major, cross-system capability that will have a lasting impact on how the criminal justice system operates.

Key Responsibilities

Technical leadership

Set and own the technical direction for the CJS Spine across the Ministry of Justice and partner organisations.

Act as the technical authority for the programme, accountable for the quality, coherence and integrity of technical work.

Architecture and strategy

Define and maintain the end-to-end architecture for the CJS Spine, balancing long-term ambition with practical, incremental progress.

Ensure technical approaches align with the national Digital ID programme and wider government standards, while meeting the specific operational, legal and ethical requirements of the justice system.

Cross-system working

Work with technical leaders across the Criminal Justice System to build shared understanding, alignment and agreement on technical approaches.

Influence decisions beyond formal authority, clearly explaining trade-offs and implications to technical and non-technical stakeholders.

Interoperability and data foundations

Lead the technical approach to interoperability and person data improvement, ensuring systems can work together effectively and consistently.

Provide direction on how identifiers, data standards and integration approaches support a single, joined-up view across services.

Assurance and governance

Provide architectural assurance and constructive challenge, ensuring designs are robust, secure and fit for purpose.

Support and contribute to cross-system technical governance and decision-making.

Enabling delivery

Guide delivery teams on technical choices, sequencing and dependencies to support effective and sustainable delivery.

Identify risks, constraints and opportunities early, supporting informed planning and decision-making.

People and capability

Mentor and support other architects and engineers, contributing to a strong technical community.

Support recruitment and capability development across architecture and engineering roles.

Person Specification

You will have:

Significant experience as a technical architect or similar, providing technical leadership on large and complex projects.

A strong track record of defining and communicating technical strategy and architecture.

Experience working across multiple teams or organisations on shared technical problems and influencing beyond formal authority.

The ability to assess options and trade-offs and clearly justify decisions.

Confidence working with senior stakeholders, both technical and non-technical.

A broad understanding of modern digital technologies and architectures.

Willingness to be assessed against [the requirements](#) for SC clearance.

We welcome the unique contribution diverse applicants bring and do not discriminate based on culture, ethnicity, race, nationality or national origin, age, sex, gender identity or expression, religion or belief, disability status, sexual orientation, educational or social background or any other factor.

Our values are Purpose, Humanity Openness and Together. Find out more [here](#) about how we celebrate diversity and an inclusive culture in our workplace.

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](#) and the [Civil Service D&I Strategy](#).

Use of 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](#) for more information on appropriate and inappropriate use.

Please Note

Recruitment Process Notice

This role is being delivered in partnership with **PeopleScout**, our managed recruitment service provider. As part of the recruitment process, your personal data will be shared with PeopleScout for the purposes of candidate assessment, communication, and selection.

PeopleScout will process your data on behalf of the **Ministry of Justice** in accordance with the **UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)** and the **Data Protection Act 2018**. Your data will be handled securely, used only for recruitment purposes, and retained only as long as necessary. The Ministry of Justice processes your personal data under the lawful bases of:

Contractual necessity to assess and progress your application,

Legal obligation for checks such as right to work,

Legitimate interest to improve recruitment processes and ensure fair selection.

You have the right to:

Access your personal data,

Request correction or deletion,

Restrict or object to processing,

Request data portability.

Your data will be retained for up to **12 months** following the recruitment process or the duration of the appointment, whichever is shorter, after which it will be securely deleted.

For more information on how your data will be used and your rights under data protection law, please refer to our <https://justice.gov.uk/privacy> or contact the **MoJ Data Protection Team** at data.protection@justice.gov.uk

Terms & Conditions

Please review our [Terms and Conditions](#) which set out how we recruit and provide further information related to the role and salary arrangements.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact digitalanddatarecruitment@justice.gov.uk

Person specification

Please refer to Job Description

Benefits

Alongside your salary of £71,381, Ministry of Justice contributes £20,679 towards you being a member of the Civil Service Defined Benefit Pension scheme. Find out what benefits a Civil Service Pension provides.

Access to learning and development

A working environment that supports a range of flexible working options to enhance your work life balance

A working culture which encourages inclusion and diversity

A Civil Service pension with an employer contribution of 28.97%

Annual Leave

Public Holidays

Season Ticket Advance

For more information about the recruitment process, benefits and allowances and answers to general queries, please click the below link which will direct you to our Candidate Information Page.

Link: <https://justicejobs.tal.net/vx/candidate/cms/About%20the%20MOJ>

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

How to Apply

1. You must submit **a CV and a statement of suitability of no more than 1000 words** that demonstrates how you meet the following criteria:
 - a. Significant experience as a technical architect or similar, providing technical leadership on large and complex projects.
 - b. A strong track record of defining and communicating technical strategy and architecture.
 - c. Experience working across multiple teams or organisations on shared technical problems and influencing beyond formal authority.
 - d. A broad understanding of modern digital technologies and architectures.

Please note, failure to provide both documents will result in your application being rejected.

2. A diverse panel will review your application against the criteria above.
3. If you meet the required standard, you will be invited to a panel interview held via video conference, which will include:
 - 1 hour session focused on your **technical skills**, assessed through technical questions and a scenario-based exercise that will be shared in advance
 - 15-minute break
 - 45-minute session focused on your **behaviours and experience**

Should we receive a high volume of applications, a pre-sift based on Significant experience as a technical architect or similar, providing technical leadership on large and complex projects will be conducted before the sift.

In Justice Digital, we recruit using a combination of the [Government Digital and Data Profession Capability](#) and [Success Profiles](#) Frameworks.

During the interview, we will assess your technical skills and the following behaviours:

Communicating and influencing

Seeing the big picture

Working together

Delivering at pace

Should you be unsuccessful in the role that you have applied for but demonstrate the capability for a role at a lower level, we may discuss this opportunity with you and offer you the position without needing a further application.

A reserve list may be held for up to 12 months, from which further appointments may be made.

Application Guidance

You may want to use this [guidance](#) on how to apply for roles within the civil service and how to write a personal statement.

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 [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

This vacancy is part of the [Great Place to Work for Veterans \(opens in a new window\)](#) initiative.

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 :	SSCL Recruitment Enquiries Team
Email :	moj-recruitment-vetting-enquiries@resourcing.soprasteria.co.uk
Telephone :	0345 241 5359
Recruitment team	
Email :	moj-recruitment-vetting-enquiries@resourcing.soprasteria.co.uk

Further information

Appointment to the Civil Service is governed by the Civil Service Commission's Recruitment Principles. If you feel a department has breached the requirement of the Recruitment Principles and would like to raise this, please contact SSCL (Moj-recruitment-vetting-enquiries@gov.sscl.com) in the first instance. If the role has been advertised externally (outside of the Civil Service) and you are not satisfied with the response, you may bring your complaint to the Commission. For further information on bringing a complaint to the Civil Service Commission please visit their web pages: <http://civilservicecommission.independent.gov.uk/civil-service-recruitment/complaints/>

[https://www.jobtrain.co.uk/justicedigital/Job/JobDetail?
jobid=975&isPreview=Yes&advert=external](https://www.jobtrain.co.uk/justicedigital/Job/JobDetail?jobid=975&isPreview=Yes&advert=external)

