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Senior Data Architect

Department for Transport

Apply before 11:55 pm on Sunday 15th March 2026



Department
for Transport

Reference number

450723

Salary

£57,515 - £62,034

National Salary: £57,515

London Salary: £62,034

Plus an additional DDaT allowance up to: £22,885

A Civil Service Pension with an employer contribution of 28.97%

Job grade

Grade 7

Contract type

Permanent

Business area

DFT - Corporate Delivery Group (CDG)

Type of role

Architecture and Data

Digital

Information Technology

Working pattern

Flexible working, Full-time, Job share, Part-time

Number of jobs available

1

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Location

Birmingham, Hastings, Leeds, London

About the job

Job summary

Can you turn complex data challenges into clear, innovative solutions that shape a smarter, more connected future for transport?

Do you thrive on collaborating with diverse teams to design flexible data architectures that drive meaningful digital transformation?

If so, we'd love to hear from you!

The Department for Transport (DfT) is a high-profile department at the heart of government. We plan and invest to make journeys better.

At the heart of digital evolution in DfT, you will join a talented, experienced, cross-disciplinary architecture team imagining and shaping the delivery of next generation digital and data services. You will lead on developing the data architecture for an organisation which has data at its core, and uses this to deliver innovative transport policy agenda. In recent years DfT's digital and data teams have implemented a range of advanced data services, making use of the latest cloud technologies to deliver the services and platforms that our users need.

Joining our department comes with many benefits, including:

Employer pension contribution of 28.97% of your salary. Read more about Civil Service Pensions [here](#)

25 days annual leave, increasing by 1 day each year of service (up to a maximum of 30 days annual leave), plus 8 bank holidays a privilege day for the King's birthday

Flexible working options where we encourage a great work-life balance.

Read more in the Benefits section below!

Find out more about what it's like working at DfTc: [Department for Transport Central - Department for Transport Careers](#)

Job description

You will work as part of our talented Architecture team, and collaborate closely with our Data Engineering team, as an ambassador for the best in flexible data architecture in Digital Services and across DfTc. As part of this, you will:

Be responsible for all data architecture within DfT providing designs for a number of data solutions and understanding the interdependencies between different data stacks.

Shape and deliver DfT's data architecture strategy, roadmap and plans ensuring the underlying data architecture supports the goals of the organisation and government overall.

Lead and develop DfTc's data architecture to support a growing data ecosystem with multiple analyst users and third-party builders.

Influence data decisions throughout policy lifecycles through demonstrating technology value, risk and opportunity.

Develop data solutions aligned to business need, business capability, and the DfTc digital and technology strategy.

Manage a range of staff and 3rd parties to design repeatable data solutions aligned to your vision for data architecture ensuring an enterprise approach is adopted.

Supporting key business stakeholders by providing technical assurance/ governance at boards such as the Architecture Change Board.

In return, we offer you:

- an inclusive and welcoming working environment so you can feel comfortable to be yourself at work
- a chance to work in a high-performing team at the leading edge of government digital service design
- excellent personal development
- industry-leading pension and employee benefits package

For further information on the role, please read the role profile. Please note that the role profile is for information purposes only - whilst all elements are relevant to the role, they may not all be assessed during the recruitment process. This job advert will detail exactly what will be assessed during the recruitment process.

Person specification

You are an experienced data professional; with a background in data architecture, data engineering, or a blend of the two, and you bring deep technical foundations alongside the confidence to influence, guide and collaborate across a complex organisation. You are highly proficient in Google Cloud Platform, or an expert user of AWS or Azure who is keen to apply your skills within a new cloud environment. You are comfortable with both the practical and strategic aspects of architectural thinking, able to use your expertise to shape data strategies, policies and designs, and produce patterns that are robust, scalable and aligned to organisational priorities.

You communicate complex ideas with clarity and empathy, adapting your language to suit technical colleagues, policy teams, analysts, delivery partners and senior leaders. You enjoy working in the spaces where disciplines overlap; helping others understand architectural direction, translating business need into coherent designs, and feel comfortable playing a leading role in effective architecture governance and review.

You have significant experience in data modelling, and are confident in developing and reviewing conceptual and logical data models. You are

comfortable working with a wide range of data storage technologies, including modern data warehousing solutions, relational and NoSQL technologies, and you can apply modelling tools and methodologies to large and complex data. You bring leadership experience, whether through managing teams, guiding multidisciplinary project groups, or providing architectural direction, and you balance long-term thinking with the pragmatism required to deliver tangible improvements.

We're interested in people who have:

Demonstrable experience in shaping and implementing data architecture strategies, policies and designs within a complex organisation.

Expertise with large and complex datasets; application of data modelling tools and methodologies, engineering enterprise data storage solutions, and/or metadata management.

Strong understanding of architecture governance, including presenting designs, providing challenge, and participating in review or approval forums.

Experience communicating complex technical and architectural concepts clearly and effectively to a wide range of technical and non technical stakeholders.

Proven experience designing and operating cloud-based data solutions, selecting technologies that ensure efficiency, security, scalability and cost-effectiveness.

Additional Information

The role is part of the [Government Digital and Data \(or Government Security Profession Career Framework\) profession](#) and utilises an enhanced Capability Based Pay Framework which provides access to a Digital and Data allowance.

The base pay is £57,515 (National) and £62,034 (London). In addition to this the role includes a Digital and Data allowance of up to £22,885.

Successful candidates must meet the security requirements before they can be appointed. The level of security needed is [security check](#). To allow for meaningful checks to be carried out, candidates will be required to have at least 5 years continuous residency in the UK. All applicants for this role must

ensure that they meet this minimum residency requirement - if you do not, your application will be withdrawn.

Working hours, office attendance and travel requirements

Full time roles consist of 37 hours per week.

Whilst we welcome applications from those looking to work with us on a part time basis, there is a business requirement for the successful candidate to be able to work 30 hours per week. We can accommodate part time through job share.

This role is suitable for hybrid working, and therefore a combination of workplace and home-based working can be accommodated subject to business requirements. Hybrid working is a non-contractual arrangement where employees have the flexibility to work remotely combined with a minimum of 60% of their working time a month at either their principal workplace (one of the locations cited in the advert) or, when required for business reasons, visiting stakeholders and colleagues, or carrying out detached duty in another DfT workplace. There may be occasions where you are required to attend above the minimum expectation.

If you have questions regarding how hybrid working is practiced within the business area, or any reasonable adjustments or flexible working arrangements you may currently have or need in place if successful in your application, please contact the Vacancy Holder (see advert for contact details).

Technical skills

We'll assess you against these technical skills during the selection process:

Senior Data Architect - Communicating between the technical and non-technical

Senior Data Architect - Data Innovation

Senior Data Architect - Problem Management

Senior Data Architect - Data Modelling

Senior Data Architect - Turning business problems into data design

Benefits

Alongside your salary of £57,515, Department for Transport contributes £16,662 towards you being a member of the Civil Service Defined Benefit Pension scheme. [Find out what benefits a Civil Service Pension provides.](#)

Being part of our brilliant Civil Service means you will have access to a wide range of fantastic benefits:

- Employer pension contribution of 28.97% of your salary. Read more about Civil Service Pensions [here](#)

- 25 days annual leave, increasing by 1 day each year of service (up to a maximum of 30 days annual leave).

- 8 Bank Holidays plus an additional Privilege Day to mark the King's birthday.

- Access to the staff discount portal.

- Excellent career development opportunities and the potential to undertake professional qualifications relevant to your role paid for by the department, such as CIPD, Prince2, apprenticeships, etc.

- Joining a diverse and inclusive workforce with a range of staff communities to support all our colleagues.

- 24-hour Employee Assistance Programme providing free confidential help and advice for staff.

- Flexible working options where we encourage a great work-life balance.

Find out more about [the benefits of working at DfT and its agencies](#)

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

This vacancy is using [Success Profiles \(opens in a new window\)](#), and will assess your Experience and Technical skills.

The selection process for this role will be:

Stage 1: Sift of CV and personal statement.

Stage 2: Interview and presentation.

You must be successful at each stage to progress to the next stage.

Stage 1: Sift

At sift, you will be assessed against the following Success Profile elements:

Experience you will be asked to provide a CV (unlimited wordcount) and personal statement (1250-word count). Further details around what this will entail are listed on the application form.

Please provide evidence of your Experience of the following:

Demonstrable experience in shaping and implementing data architecture strategies, policies and designs within a complex organisation.

Expertise with large and complex datasets; application of data modelling tools and methodologies, engineering enterprise data storage solutions, and/or metadata management.

Strong understanding of architecture governance, including presenting designs, providing challenge, and participating in review or approval forums.

Experience communicating complex technical and architectural concepts clearly and effectively to a wide range of technical and non technical stakeholders.

Proven experience designing and operating cloud-based data solutions, selecting technologies that ensure efficiency, security, scalability and cost-effectiveness.

The sift will take place week from the 16th March 2026.

Stage 2: Interview and presentation

At interview stage, you will be assessed against the following Success Profile elements:

Experience

Technical - Government Digital and Data Profession - Senior Data Architect

You will also be required to create and deliver a presentation to assess your technical skills. Guidance will be provided if you are invited to interview.

The interviews will take place from the 30th March 2026.

This interview will be conducted online via Microsoft Teams. Further details will be provided to you should you be selected for interview.

You can find out more about [our hiring process, how to apply, and application and interview guidance on our careers site \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Please note that we will try to meet the dates set out in the advert. There may be occasions when these dates will change.

Further information on the selection process

We will also hold a **12**-month reserve list for this role, which may lead to potential opportunities beyond the role you applied for. You can read more about our reserve lists [here](#).

During your application, you should indicate which location(s) you wish to be considered for and, if successful, you will be placed on an individual list of candidates for each location. Candidates will be held on that list and drawn from it in merit order. We advise you to carefully consider which locations you wish to be considered for. If you decline an offer for a location you have expressed a preference in or have expressed an interest in more than one location and accept an offer, you will be withdrawn from any lists you may be

held on. We may also offer candidates a location that they have not expressed a preference for where we have the requirement to do so but this will again be done on the basis of your place in the overall merit order and, in this event, you will not be removed from the list if you decline.

Appointments for this position will be made in order of merit. If you are successful in the selection process but there are no further available posts for the advertised role, you may be contacted to discuss an offer for a lower graded role (with similar experience and responsibility requirements).

If you are unsuccessful in the selection process, your application may be considered for a lower graded position if your demonstrated skills and experience meet the requirements of the alternative position. Candidates will be considered in order of merit.

Reasonable Adjustments

As a Disability Confident Leader employer, we are committed to ensuring that the recruitment process is fair, accessible and allows all candidates to perform at their best. If a person with a visible or non-visible disability is substantially disadvantaged, we have a duty to make reasonable changes to our processes.

Complete the Assistance required section in the Additional requirements page of your application form to tell us what changes or help you might need during the recruitment process. For instance, you may need wheelchair access at an interview, or if you're deaf, a Language Service Professional.

If you need a reasonable adjustment so that you can complete your application, you should contact Government Recruitment Service via dftreruitment.grs@cabinetoffice.gov.uk as soon as possible before the closing date to discuss your needs.

Document Accessibility

If you are experiencing accessibility problems with any attachments on this advert, please contact the email address in the 'Contact point for applicants' section.

This job advert contains links to the [DfT Careers website](#). Our website provides useful guidance and information that can support you during the

application process. If you cannot access the information on our website for any reason, please email DRGComms@dft.gov.uk for assistance.

Further Information

For more information about how we hire, and for useful tips on submitting your application for this role, visit the [How We Hire](#) page of our DfT Careers website. You can find detailed information about the recruitment process and what to expect when applying for a role.

Pre-employment Checking

Applicants who are successful at interview will be, as part of pre-employment screening, subject to a check on the Internal Fraud Database (IFD). This check will provide information about employees who have been dismissed for fraud or dishonesty offences. This check also applies to employees who resign or otherwise leave before being dismissed for fraud or dishonesty had their employment continued. Any applicant's details held on the IFD will be refused employment.

A candidate is not eligible to apply for a role within the Civil Service if the application is made within a 5-year period following a dismissal for carrying out internal fraud against government.

All External applicants and current employees of accredited non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) will be required to undergo a Social Media Check. A Social Media Check is a review of your publicly available online activity, typically across platforms like LinkedIn, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and others. The purpose is to identify any public posts or content that could raise concerns for employers, such as:

Hate speech or discriminatory behaviour

Threats or acts of violence

Illegal activity or substance misuse

Sexually explicit material

Extremist views or affiliations

Importantly, this check does not involve hacking into your accounts or accessing private messages. It only considers content you have chosen to make public.

Employers use this kind of screening to help ensure their workplace remains safe, inclusive, and aligned with company values. It's not about judging your personality or lifestyle; it's about checking for potential red flags that might affect the role or company culture.

If you have questions or concerns about the social media check, we would be happy to explain in more detail what's being looked at and how your data is handled securely and fairly.

For further information on National Security Vetting please [visit the Demystifying Vetting website](#).

Feedback

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.

The Civil Service welcomes applications from people who have recently left prison or have an unspent conviction. [Read more about prison leaver recruitment \(opens in new window\)](#).

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 : Elliot Morgan

Email : elliott.morgan@dft.gov.uk

Recruitment team

Email : dftrecruitment.grs@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Further information

If you feel your application has not been treated in accordance with the Recruitment Principles and you wish to make a complaint, in the first instance, you should contact Government Recruitment Services via email: dftrecruitment.grs@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

If you are not satisfied with the response you receive from the Department, you can contact the Civil Service Commission: Visit the Civil Service Commission website [Here](#)

