**Data Governance Council or Committee**

The **Data Governance Council or Committee** serves as the primary authority within the organization's data governance structure.  
It is composed of executives, senior business leaders, and representatives from various departments.  
This body is responsible for shaping the organization's overall data strategy, ensuring it aligns with broader business objectives.  
Its major duties include approving and ranking data governance initiatives, creating and enforcing data policies and standards, ensuring adherence to legal and internal regulations, resolving data issues that span across departments, allocating budgets and resources for governance projects, and setting key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the success of the program.

**Chief Data Officer (CDO)**

The **Chief Data Officer (CDO)** plays a central leadership role in data governance, managing all data-related functions across the company.  
The CDO’s responsibilities include crafting and rolling out governance strategies, aligning governance efforts with business priorities, integrating governance principles into operational processes, raising awareness about the importance of data governance, nurturing a culture centered on data, monitoring data-related risks around privacy and compliance, and working with external regulators and auditors to ensure compliance with relevant laws and standards.

**Data Stewards**

**Data stewards** are responsible for the operational management of data assets, safeguarding their accuracy, quality, and reliability.  
Depending on the size and structure of the organization, this may be a dedicated role or an additional responsibility for business analysts, IT professionals, or data scientists.  
Their key tasks include managing specific data domains to ensure consistency, overseeing data quality and initiating corrective measures when needed, ensuring that governance policies are followed, acting as subject matter experts for assigned data areas, collaborating with IT and business teams to fulfill data needs, and resolving any data-related issues within their domains.

**Data Custodians**

**Data custodians**, typically part of the IT department, are in charge of the technical maintenance and protection of data assets.  
Their focus is on the safe storage, security, and controlled access to data based on established governance policies.  
Primary responsibilities include implementing and managing secure data storage systems, protecting data from unauthorized access, maintaining robust backup and recovery processes, monitoring systems to ensure scalability and performance, working alongside data stewards to address technical data issues, and upholding security and privacy requirements, especially critical in regulated sectors like healthcare and finance.

**Data Analysts and Data Scientists**

**Data analysts and data scientists** are crucial for extracting insights from data that drive business decision-making.  
While governance isn't their primary focus, they must ensure that the data they handle complies with governance policies and remains high-quality.  
Their roles involve adhering to governance standards when using data for analysis, identifying and reporting data quality problems, partnering with data stewards to obtain needed data, ensuring data usage supports business objectives, and suggesting improvements in data collection and quality practices based on their findings.

**Data Governance Managers**

**Data governance managers** oversee the daily operation and coordination of the organization’s data governance framework.  
They work closely with various internal stakeholders to maintain compliance and foster cross-functional collaboration.  
This role often demands strong leadership and project management skills to drive governance initiatives forward.  
Their key duties include coordinating the execution of data governance policies, aligning governance activities with business goals, acting as a bridge between stewards, data owners, and the Data Governance Council, developing employee training on governance practices, and monitoring adherence to governance policies and standards.

**Compliance Officers**

**Compliance officers** ensure that the organization's data practices meet external regulatory requirements such as GDPR, HIPAA, and other industry regulations.  
They play a vital role in minimizing the risks associated with non-compliance.  
Their main responsibilities include staying updated on regulatory changes to keep the organization compliant, working with data stewards and owners to close compliance gaps, performing audits to verify adherence to governance practices, suggesting improvements to enhance compliance and reduce legal exposure, and informing the Data Governance Council of any significant compliance issues.