



Health Data
Research Service

• Candidate Pack

Appointment of Chief Technology & Product Officer Health Data Research Service



Health Data Research Service

Appointment of Chief Technology & Product Officer

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What is the Health Data Research Service (HDRS)?

The Health Data Research Service (HDRS) will enable approved researchers to access UK health data safely and securely, helping accelerate discoveries that lead to better treatments and outcomes for patients.

UK patients are waiting longer than they need to for medical innovations and treatments that could be life-changing. HDRS is here to change that. In 2025, the UK government and the Wellcome Trust agreed to invest up to £600m to create HDRS and transform access to NHS data through a secure, single access point for approved researchers. Operating across all four UK nations – England, Scotland, Wales and

Northern Ireland – HDRS will enable earlier diagnoses and more effective treatments, integrate data from hospitals, GP records and other sources, increase access to clinical trials and help make the UK a world leader in health data research and life sciences.

HDRS is being set up as a government-owned company, enabling it to operate at arm's length from central government. This model gives HDRS the independence and flexibility it needs to work across the health and research system, while remaining publicly owned and accountable.





Main purpose of the role

The Chief Technology and Product Officer is responsible for ensuring that HDRS has a technology and product offering – across healthcare, research and innovation – that is solid, secure, delivers and enables HDRS to offer maximum impact to patients and our partners in research, industry and the NHS. In April 2025 the Prime Minister set out a compelling vision for HDRS to transform the access to NHS data by providing a secure single access point to national-scale data sets, as well as working

with the ecosystem to make clinical trials faster, provide services to industry, and contribute to the UK being a world leader in life sciences. To do this, the post holder will ensure that HDRS sets a system wide architecture that enables this vision, and that the organisation builds products and technology through collaborative and results driven teams which enable our users to do world leading research in a way that is in line with the public and patients' expectations.

Key accountabilities

Strategic Leadership

- Oversee HDRS's technological, data and product needs, opportunities and challenges – bringing together the who, what and why with the how to ensure product (and therefore business and user needs supported by our services and platforms) are enabled by technology
- As part of the Executive Leadership Team, support the shaping of the Health Data Research Service wider business strategy
- Develop, share and execute the strategic technological and product roadmap for the business
- Identify opportunities for technological advancements that provide competitive advantages
- Ensure that the technology and product ecosystem is robust, secure, scalable, and poised for future growth in line with the HDRS company strategy
- Work with the wider Executive e.g. Chief Commercial Officer to identify critical customers and set a technology strategy and delivery roadmap to serve those customer needs

Lead Delivery of Health Data Research Service's Underpinning Technology Platform and Products

- Set the vision and deliver the underpinning technology platform and products within HDRS that are required to support our internal and external services
- Ensure these end-to-end platforms are able to accommodate and provide responsive and innovative approaches
- Ensure that the end-to-end product development process from ideation to deployment is efficient, aligned and delivers value to our clients

Team Leadership and Development

- Build, lead, and mentor a lean, high-performing technology and product team capable of executing the company's vision.
- Promote a culture of continuous learning, innovation, and operational excellence within the technology department
- Collaborate with ecosystem members and senior leadership to align technology with business goals and priorities
- Bring together decisions around people, tools, product development technical aspects to ensure aligned expectations, goals and activities and confirm delivery roadmaps

System Architecture and Product Portfolio

- Set the architecture for parts of the health data system overseen and funded by HDRS
- Define and embed clear technical and product leadership roles, providing accountability, delivery ownership, and oversight across the technology and products deployed by HDRS
- Optimise the technology stack and product portfolio, ensuring seamless interoperability between systems and services
- Prioritise automation to maximise efficiency and accuracy across all integrated systems
- Ensure HDRS's platforms and products operate at higher than service level agreements.

Key accountabilities continued

Overarching Technological Estate Management

- Ensure the technology and data estate is configured and managed appropriately, following clear standards
- Embed a security and resilience mindset across the technology and product professions in HDRS
- Set and communicate cross-organisation metrics to measure delivery of the roadmap and the performance of the technology estate

Stakeholder Management

- Act as the primary technological point of contact for stakeholders including ecosystem, board members, and partners
- Work closely with peers in NHS to ensure that HDRS and NHS tech systems are complimentary, aligned and supportive of each other's goals

Risk Management and Compliance

- Ensure all technological solutions adhere to industry regulations and best practices
- Develop and maintain policies and procedures to mitigate and prevent security risks and data breaches
- Stay updated and ensure compliance on relevant legal regulations, especially concerning data protection and privacy
- Manage and lead an inclusive, high performing team, ensuring that we have the right skills in place to deliver our mission



Person specification

Candidates will be:

- Open-minded with a flexible approach and ability to demonstrate a breadth of vision
- Accountable for own actions and able to appropriately hold others accountable for their actions
- Able to address conflict and take difficult decisions
- Desire to be part of a team delivering the strategy of the organisation

Essential Experience

- Experience of successfully serving on the leadership team of a complex organisation and successfully working in partnership with a CEO and Board
- Significant experience of leading technology and/or product functions at scale – setting technical strategy and system-wide architecture and delivering secure, reliable, scalable platforms and products in complex environments
- Experience of the healthcare, life sciences or health data sector, and ideally of the set up and governance of a government company or public body, and working within a government network
- Experience of having delivered ambitious technology and product roadmaps, preferably with a focus on health data, data platforms or large-scale data infrastructure
- Experience of managing significant budgets and supplier and contract relationships, leading positive, high performing and inclusive engineering, data and product cultures
- Enthusiasm for the vision and mission of the Health Data Research Service and a genuine interest in healthcare and improving the lives of patients

Skills

- A track record of bringing technology, data and product functions together to deliver complex and ambitious strategic plans at pace
- Deep understanding of modern technology architecture, data platforms, security and product development practices, with the ability to get to the heart of technical trade-offs quickly and implement simple, scalable solutions
- Highly numerate with advanced critical thinking skills and a commercial outlook, drawing on best practice across a wide range of sectors
- Strong interpersonal skills, collegial with high integrity and committed to the highest ethical standards, including around data protection, privacy and public trust
- Excellent leadership and management skills, able to lead, motivate and develop multi-disciplinary, inclusive teams across engineering, data, product and delivery
- A fluent and persuasive communicator, able to translate complex technical concepts for non-technical audiences and represent the organisation internally and externally, including key stakeholders such as the Board, NHS and partners
- Ability to coach and mentor other senior leaders

Education & Qualifications

- Degree in a related field

Terms of appointment

Reporting to: Chief Executive Officer

Contract: Permanent

Location: Wellcome Genome Campus, Cambridgeshire and Euston, London

Salary: £170,000 – £205,000 (+ 15% PRP)

Hybrid working: Two days a week at the Wellcome Genome Campus, two days in Euston, and one day remote.

Placed candidate must have the right to work in the UK.



Indicative timetable

Please note that the timetable below is indicative and may be subject to change. Candidates will be kept informed of any amendments as the process progresses.

Stage	Date
Closing date for applications	Saturday 8th August 2026
Screening conversation with the CEO	Tuesday 18 th August (Between 10:00–12:00pm)
First Round Panel Interview (<i>in person at the Wellcome Genome Campus, Cambridge</i>)	Friday 26 th August 2026 (between 2–5pm)
Second Round Panel Interview	Wednesday 9 th September 2026





How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to HDRS on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at roles.saxbam.com using code **GCAYA**

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is **11.59pm on Saturday 8th August 2026**.

Please note, the placed candidate must have the right to work in the UK.

* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.

• **[Read our guide to writing cover letters](#)**

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