



Department for  
Science, Innovation  
& Technology

# Director General for Emerging Technology and Artificial Intelligence

SCS Pay Band 3

Salary: £174,000 per annum

# INTRODUCTION



Emran Mian

**Permanent Secretary, Department for  
Science, Innovation and Technology**

DSIT was created to help the UK seize the opportunities of science and technology, and to do so in a way that strengthens prosperity and protects the public. Right now, few things matter more than the rapid convergence of AI with frontier and emerging technologies. These technologies are moving fast, they are increasingly central to the UK's economic future and national security, and government needs to be a confident partner: backing growth and international competitiveness, while making sure the policy and regulatory foundations keep pace and command public trust.

The Director General for Emerging Technology & AI is the senior leader who will make that real. The role provides national and cross-government leadership across AI and a suite of emerging technologies, including quantum, semiconductors, robotics and advanced materials — and drives delivery of major priorities such as the AI Opportunities Action Plan, including milestones like AI Growth Zones, expanding public sector compute capacity, and delivering AI skills programmes. The role also oversees the AI Security Institute, supporting it to remain a globally significant centre of excellence for evaluating frontier systems and

producing credible outputs on safety, security and risk mitigation. Alongside this, the role leads DSIT's work on online safety and digital harms, including the fast-evolving threats that AI is accelerating — such as harmful deepfakes used for abuse, fraud and impersonation — an area that ministers have made a clear priority, including through the government's recent push to lead the global fight against deepfake threats.

You will need to operate in a highly interconnected stakeholder landscape where pace, public value and national security considerations sit alongside innovation. We are not looking for someone to be the most technical person in the room — but we are looking for deep technical curiosity, strong judgement, and the ability to empower experts while setting clear direction and building coalitions that deliver. For the right leader, this is a rare chance to help shape the UK as a serious global player in the technologies that will define the next decade and beyond.

# WHY DSIT?

## ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT FOR SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

At DSIT, we are:

**Growing the economy:** maximising the impact of government action to support R&D and science and technology on the UK's national and regional economic growth.

**Improving the performance and productivity of government:** maximising value for money for the taxpayer by applying AI and digital technologies to transform the citizen's experience of public service by making it more effective, convenient, and productive.

**Empowering citizens:** maximising the control people can exercise over their interaction with government by widening and deepening their digital skills and their knowledge and trust in digital technology.

We do this to deliver on the Government's Plan for Change and five national missions: kickstarting economic growth, making Britain a clean energy superpower, taking back our streets, breaking down barriers to opportunity and building an NHS fit for the future.

This role therefore offers a rare opportunity to shape how the United Kingdom builds, governs and deploys emerging technologies at a pivotal moment with direct impact on a wide range of social issues. The successful candidate will play a central role in determining whether the UK becomes a global leader in the safe and confident adoption of artificial intelligence and related frontier technologies.



# THE ROLE



The Director General for Emerging Technology & Artificial Intelligence will maximise opportunities and manage risks to ensure successful implementation and scaling of emerging technology for the UK's advantage.

The DG will lead the UK Government's strategy, investment and regulation for emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, robotics, engineering biology and advanced materials. The role is responsible for joining up and aligning strategies across these interlinked domains, ensuring that policy, investment, and regulatory approaches are coherent and mutually reinforcing. The DG will balance innovation and risk, ensuring the UK remains globally competitive while safeguarding national security and public trust. The DG will oversee the implementation of the AI Opportunities Action Plan, the AI Security Institute, and the development of AI regulation, and will lead DSIT's work on online safety and digital harms.

This is a high-profile, cross-cutting role requiring deep technical curiosity, strategic judgement and the ability to engage confidently with technical experts while operating at ministerial and international level. The Director General will operate in a highly visible and politically sensitive environment, with sustained ministerial, parliamentary and international scrutiny, and public interest. The successful candidate will combine strategic leadership with intellectual curiosity about emerging technologies, and the ability to convene experts, industry and government around coherent, responsible and growth-oriented policy choices.

This is first and foremost a strategic leadership role. The Director General is not expected to be a technical specialist or researcher; rather, they must demonstrate sustained engagement with emerging technologies, thoughtfulness and critical judgement, and the ability to translate complex technical developments into credible policy, regulatory and investment decisions.

# THE ROLE

As DG for Emerging Technology & AI, you will:

**Lead implementation of the AI Opportunities Action Plan**, delivering key milestones including the delivery of AI Growth Zones, expansion of public sector compute capacity, and delivery of AI skills programmes. You will coordinate across departments and industry to ensure the UK's AI ecosystem is supported by infrastructure, talent and investment.

**Oversee major programmes** in quantum, semiconductors and robotics, including the National Quantum Strategy, the Semiconductor Strategy and emerging tech missions. You will manage delivery partnerships, direct funding to priority areas, and ensure programmes are aligned with national resilience and economic growth objectives.

**Oversee the AI Security Institute**, ensuring its status as a globally recognised centre of excellence for evaluating frontier AI systems. While the opportunities of AI for the UK are massive, in this role you will also be responsible for monitoring risks and challenges and working with government departments and regulators to manage these.

**Lead DSIT's work on online safety and digital harms**, working closely with Ofcom and the Home Office to support implementation of the Online Safety Act, develop new policy as technology evolves and new evidence of harms emerges, striking the balance between safety, innovation and freedom of expression.

**Represent the UK internationally** on emerging tech governance, including follow-up to the 2023 AI Safety Summit. You will lead bilateral and multilateral engagements, shape global standards and secure strategic partnerships with allies and leading firms.

**Lead a multidisciplinary team** of 500 staff, including policy professionals, technical experts, analysts and programme managers. You will foster collaboration between civil servants and AI researchers, build inclusive capability, and support staff working on sensitive and high-pressure issues such as online harms and national security.

**Advise** ministers, Parliament and senior officials, providing clear, evidence-based recommendations on emerging technology policy, investment and regulation. You will be a visible leader across government and in public discourse, shaping the UK's narrative on responsible tech leadership.

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

**To help you succeed in this role you will be able to demonstrate the following (essential) skills and experience:**

- Senior leadership experience shaping technology, digital or economic policy at national or international scale;
- Strong judgement and decision-making ability in complex and fast-moving environments, including managing strategic, national or international risks;
- Demonstrated ability to lead large, highly specialist and multidisciplinary teams, including bridging cultures and supporting ways of working across policy, analytical and technical colleagues to build inclusive, high-performing functions;
- A track record of successfully building credibility with expert communities and appropriately immersing intellectually in diverse fields of interest, showing proven capability to learn and a drive towards curiosity;
- Proven experience engaging senior stakeholders such as ministers, regulators or industry and international stakeholders on contested or high-profile issues;
- Track record of delivering complex, cross-cutting programmes involving policy, investment and regulation;
- Commitment to inclusive leadership and building high-performing teams across diverse professional discipline.

# APPLICATION PROCESS

The recruitment process is being undertaken by Russell Reynolds Associates on behalf of the DSIT.

**Please click here to apply** using job reference number **2602-042L**. You will be asked to register your details, answer any application questions and upload your CV and Statement of Suitability (covering statement).

Should you wish to speak with someone before submitting an application, or if you have difficulty in accessing the online platform, please contact [responses@russellreynolds.com](mailto:responses@russellreynolds.com) in the first instance, quoting reference number **2602-042L**.

All applications will be acknowledged and considered by the selection panel.

Your submission should include:

- Your **CV**, with educational and professional qualifications and full employment history, including an explanation of any gaps in your employment history.
- A **Statement of Suitability** (no longer than two pages) explaining your personal skills, qualities, abilities and experience relevant to the requirements of the job in support of your application with particular reference to the essential criteria in the person specification.
- A completed **Diversity Questionnaire**. DSIT is committed to equal opportunities. All data is reported in an anonymous and aggregate format and will not be seen by anyone assessing your application.
- A declaration of interest form [available here](#).

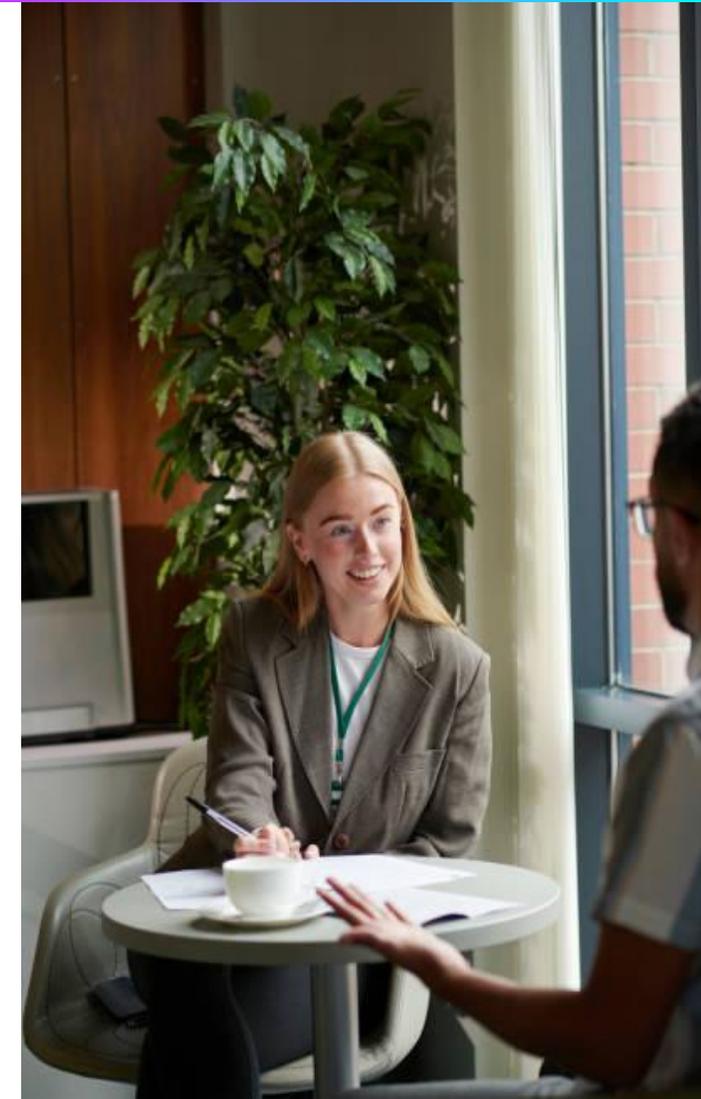
The closing date for applications will be **23:55 GMT on Sunday 22 March 2026**



# TOWN HALL

DSIT and RRA will host a **Town Hall during w/c 2 March**. This will be a conversation with Emran Mian and Dr Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic, Chief Science Officer at RRA, to offer the opportunity to learn more about the role, the contexts within which it sits and hear further discussion and debate about the pivotal moment in which the UK currently stands with regards to emerging technologies and AI. Candidates will have opportunity to email questions in advance to [responses@russellreynolds.com](mailto:responses@russellreynolds.com). After the event, a live recording will be available.

*To ensure the integrity of the judgments and decisions they make every day, all civil servants must make sure that no conflict arises - or could be perceived to arise - between their public duties and their private interests when joining, or leaving, the civil service. This is a requirement of our Civil Service Code and is designed to protect both individual civil servants and their employing departments. If you believe you have any interests that might be relevant (or be perceived as relevant) to your ability to undertake this role, please let Russell Reynolds Associates know early in the process. Such interests may be financial or may be related to the relationships you have with specific individuals, organisations, or employers.*



# EXPECTED TIMELINE

The selection process has been designed to allow candidates from a range of backgrounds to demonstrate strategic judgement, policy leadership and technical engagement. We expect the selection process for this role to be as follows:

- The closing date for applications will be **23:55 GMT on Sunday 22 March 2026**.
- Longlisted candidates will then be invited to take part in a preliminary interview with Russell Reynolds Associates
- A shortlist of the applications will take place during the week commencing 20 April
- Shortlisted candidates will then:
  - Meet with key stakeholders, potentially including a Minister or senior leader from DSIT
  - Meet with Matt Clifford, CEO of Entrepreneur First
  - Take part in an exercise with a small group of staff from within the department
- Inputs from all those steps will then form the basis of a panel interview during the week commencing 11 May, chaired by Atul Devani from the Civil Service Commission. Other panel members at the interview will include Emran Mian, Permanent Secretary DSIT. Additional panel members will be confirmed in due course.

*Please note that due diligence will be carried out on shortlisted candidates. Candidates should expect this to include searches of previous public statements and social media, blogs or any other publicly available information.*



# DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Civil Service is dedicated to becoming the UK's most inclusive employer. DSIT is equally dedicated to providing equal opportunities for all. We are committed to understanding, respecting and representing as broad a range of views and backgrounds as we have in UK society. We know that diverse perspectives and experiences are critical to an effective, modern Civil Service.

Our vision is to ensure the Civil Service represents modern Britain and is a truly inclusive employer - an example to other employers. We will create an organisation where diversity is not only respected and valued - but celebrated.

***What's in it for me?*** We want to maximise the potential of everyone who chooses to work for us - regardless of background.

If you're interested in becoming a world class leader, developing your career with us – starting with this interesting and challenging role – or doing things differently and inspiring colleagues, then the Civil Service is the place for you.

Our passion for diversity and equality means creating a work environment for all employees that is welcoming, respectful, engaging, and enriched with opportunities for personal and professional development.

## REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Under the terms of the Equality Act 2010, we are legally required to consider making reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled people are not disadvantaged in the recruitment and selection process. We are therefore committed to meeting, wherever possible, any needs you specify in your application. We will also consider any reasonable adjustments under the terms of the Act to enable any applicant with a disability (as defined under the Act) to meet the requirements of the post.

## DISABILITY CONFIDENT AND GREAT PLACE TO WORK FOR VETERANS SCHEMES

If you wish to apply under the Disability Confident or Great Place to Work for Veterans Schemes you should complete the relevant section of the online application. It is not necessary to state the nature of your disability. Please reach out to Russell Reynolds Associates if you require any adjustments or support to make your application.

## CIVIL SERVICE CODE

All Civil Servants are subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Code that details the Civil Service values, standards of behaviour and rights and responsibilities. For further information, visit [www.Gov.uk](http://www.Gov.uk)

# TERMS, CONDITIONS AND BENEFITS

**Salary** - If you are successful and from outside the Civil Service you should expect your salary upon appointment to be **£174,000 per annum**. If you are an existing Civil Servant, your salary will be agreed in line with the Civil Service pay rules in place on the date of your appointment.

**Contract Type** – This role is being offered on a **permanent** basis.

**Working Arrangements** - This is a **full-time** role but flexible working arrangements are welcomed and will be considered (including existing job share arrangements). The department operates a discretionary Hybrid Working policy, which provides for a combination of working hours from your place of work and from your home in the UK. The current expectation is that Senior Civil Servant (SCS) staff are expected to aim for 60% of the time at an office or non-home-based location over the accounting period.

**Location** - This role may be based in either **London, Darlington or Greater Manchester**. Some international travel should be expected.

Please note that:

- **Civil Service pension** arrangements will apply and you will have the option of joining the Civil Service Alpha Pension Scheme, a defined benefit (DB) pension scheme. The current employer contribution rate for this salary level is just under 30% of salary as explained at [Civil Service Pension Scheme](#)
- The role includes **25 days annual leave**, increasing on a sliding scale to 30 days after 5 years' service. (This is in addition to 8 public holidays and one privilege day).
- Holding security clearance up to **Developed Vetting** level at the point of application is not required, but successful candidates will need to be willing to obtain DV and will be supported through the process once in post. More information about the vetting process can be found [here](#).
- This role is a **Reserved** post meaning you will need to hold the right **immigration status and nationality requirements** to be eligible. Please ask Russell Reynolds Associates if you have any questions.
- Unfortunately, we will not be able to reimburse you for any **expenses** incurred as part of this recruitment process.



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## Contact Details

If you have any questions about applying for this role, please contact [responses@russellreynolds.com](mailto:responses@russellreynolds.com).

Please include the **vacancy reference number 2602-042L** and **job title** in the subject line.