

### **UKRI policy fellowships 2025: fellowship position**

**Fellowship title:** DHSC empowering the government to use health and care data fellowship

**Fellowship type:** Core policy fellowship

**Host organisation:** [Department of Health & Social Care](#)

**Host team:** Data Policy and Partnerships Team within the Chief Data Officer's Directorate (Chief Scientific Adviser's Group)

**Summary:** opportunity to unlock the potential of data within the DHSC and arm's length bodies to support vital reform and help people live longer, healthier lives

**Policy topic:** Health Mission, with a specific focus on the analogue to digital shift

**Research Council:** ESRC

**Academic discipline(s):** data science, analysis, economics, software development, data engineering

**Research career stage:** open to early or mid-career researchers

### **Fellowship structure**

#### **Inception phase:**

**Estimated start date:** February 2026. Exact date to be confirmed by the host depending on onboarding and security clearance requirements

**Duration:** three months

**FTE:** 0.4 FTE

#### **Main placement phase:**

**Duration:** 12 months

**FTE:** 0.6 to 1 FTE

#### **Knowledge exchange phase:**

**Duration:** three months

**FTE:** 0.4 FTE

### **Work arrangements**

**Location requirements:** our main locations are London and Leeds, but we also have staff based in a number of regional offices (Bristol, Liverpool, Birmingham, Cambridge)

**Hybrid working:** we generally require three days a week office attendance from our staff, but this would depend on overall FTE. We would expect one day a week during the inception phase and two to three during the main placement (subject to discussion with successful candidate). We hold periodic in-person days in one of the offices (location rotates) which we would envisage the fellow attending. Eligible Travel and Subsistence costs are supported in the main UKRI grant. Please see full call text and guidance for more details

**Security clearance:** Basic Personnel Security Standard checks (BPSS), expected to take four to six weeks. The host team will support the fellow to start this process as soon as the fellowship is confirmed by the ESRC. Please see [National security vetting: clearance levels](#) for further information

## **Fellowship description**

In order to deliver the government's Health Mission to "Build an NHS Fit for the Future" three big reform shifts have been identified:

1. Hospital to community
2. Analogue to digital
3. Sickness to prevention

This opportunity will be focused on supporting the recently formed Chief Data Officer's Directorate in their work on the second shift: analogue to digital.

Health and social care data is complex and held across multiple organisations and systems.

There is currently significant interest in linking health data and providing access for individual patients and for researchers, for example in the development of a Single Patient Record and investment in research infrastructure. The linking of data holds huge potential for the health and care system, as well as the wider public sector, enabling more effective research and policymaking, improved service commissioning and the delivery of joined-up public services.

We also need to use this opportunity to provide linked data to government analysts, for example local authorities planning public health interventions or policy officials providing ministerial advice. This fellowship would involve understanding and advocating for the different requirements of these users. Ensuring existing activity to link and enhance health and social care data infrastructure and access meets the needs of data users from across the health and care family.

We would expect to work with the successful candidate to codevelop a research programme, but some potential areas of focus could include:

- What are the key areas of unmet need for public sector analysts, in terms of access to health and care data?
- How close are the needs of operational NHS staff, researchers or both to public sector analysts? To what extent do they require divergent technical infrastructure?
- What is the nature of the barriers facing public sector analysts in data access? Are these predominantly technical, legal or cultural?
- How can public sector analysts maximise the potential for insights from cross-governmental data linkage while maintaining the proper legal, technical and ethical controls?

Possible outputs could include:

- Reports detailing the requirements of public sector analysts and how these are currently being met or not met in current infrastructure
- Advice feeding into ongoing data infrastructure programmes to ensure that these are designed with public sector data analysis in mind
- Dedicated support to promote specific data linkage programmes which could exemplify good practice in cross-governmental data linkage

Fellows can also produce academic outputs (such as publishing research), as long as this meets any security or confidentiality requirements.

The role will be based in the Data Policy and Partnerships team and, depending on the candidate's level of interest, we are happy to include them in all aspects of our work including holding stakeholder events, developing policy, briefing ministers and liaising with other relevant teams across DHSC and Whitehall more generally.

We are also part of a broader Chief Data Officer function which include a wide range of teams from cyber to data ethics, strategy to data collection and engineering. Again, depending on the candidate, we would like to develop opportunities to get involved with a range of teams, to see the scope of our work and also give us maximum benefit of the fresh perspectives this scheme will bring. This would give them an opportunity to influence policy thinking and analysis in an area of top government priority and experience of government ways of working and how policy is made to help target research more effectively.

## **Person specification**

Applications will be assessed by UKRI panel assessment against the following essential opportunity-specific requirements in addition to the generic eligibility and call criteria:

**Essential criteria:**

- Experience in working closely with data, likely in either analytical or technology focused work
- Strong understanding of the range of different technical capabilities which data platforms can provide and how these might suit different use cases
- Good stakeholder manager and a willingness to build new connections and speak to individuals about their experiences and requirements
- Good written communication and an ability to synthesise complex information from multiple perspectives into coherent structure

Applicants shortlisted from the panel assessment will be assessed at the host led interview selection process against the following desirable opportunity-specific requirements:

**Desirable criteria:**

- An interest in government and policy development, although no prior experience required
- Some understanding of the health and care data landscape

**Processing personal data**

If applicants are shortlisted by the UKRI assessment panel UKRI will need to share the application and any personal information that it contains with the host for the host led interview selection process.

Your personal data will be handled in line with UK data protection legislation and managed securely. If you would like to know more, including how to exercise your Rights, please see the UKRI [privacy notice](#).

The DHSC's privacy notice can be found here: [DHSC privacy notice](#). Hosts will delete your data at the end of the selection process unless you are successful, in which case we will retain your data as an independent data controller.