techUK Central Government Council 2027–2029: SME Candidates

Candidates (listed alphabetically by surname)

1. Harry Bains (Synergize Consulting)
2. Sara Boltman (Butterfly Data)
3. Dr Nathan Boyd (Hanover Digital)
4. Dan Cook (Red Badger)
5. Andy Cripps (Commerce Decisions)
6. Mark Dunwell (Clarasys)
7. Chris Farthing (Advice Cloud)
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10. Anna Inman (Digital Modus)
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20. Chris Tate (Condatis)
21. Eve Upton (Bidcraft)
22. Dr Michael Watts (Blüm Health)
23. John Wright (BetterGov)

Candidate profiles

Harry Bains, CEO

Synergize Consulting

Biography

CEO of Synergize Consulting, an award-winning technology and engineering consultancy, delivering specialist resource and technical solutions to complex, business-critical programmes across the public and private sectors since 2002.

Harry provides overall leadership and strategic direction. Having co-founded the company, he has been instrumental in developing Synergize into a trusted partner for clients requiring specialist project resources and delivery support.

His focus is on building long-term relationships and evolving the company's service offering to meet evolving market requirements. Passionate about delivering a dependable client experience, Harry collaborates with teams across the business, championing a culture of empowerment and strong company values.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

As co-founder and CEO of Synergize Consulting, I would bring the practical perspective of an established UK SME supporting complex government and security-sensitive programmes since 2002. Through leading a business providing specialist talent and project solutions across digital, data, cloud, AI and cybersecurity, I understand the importance of connecting government's transformation ambitions with the skills, capacity and delivery assurance needed to achieve them. My contribution would combine strategic leadership, experience of building trusted partnerships and insight into the barriers SMEs face when accessing public sector opportunities, directly and through larger suppliers. I would champion earlier, more constructive engagement between industry and civil servants, helping shape procurement approaches that widen participation, recognise specialist capability and deliver measurable public value. Across the Council and techUK's wider Government Group, I would contribute practical market insight, thought leadership and collaborative debate, particularly on digital skills shortages, secure delivery and effective partnerships between SMEs and larger organisations. I would be an active ambassador for the group, listening to members of all sizes and helping turn shared priorities into practical action that improves public services.

Sara Boltman, Founder / CEO

Butterfly Data

Biography

Sara is CEO of Butterfly Data, niche data analytics consultancy headquartered in Cardiff with a presence in Manchester. Butterfly works across central government, delivering data and analytics services for departments including HMRC, DWP and FCDO.

Sara founded Butterfly in 2003 and has grown it from 2 to 50 people. She remains hands on, providing technical assurance and expertise on data integration and cloud migration projects, serving on the DAMA committee and mentoring female founders.

Under Sara's leadership, Butterfly helps departments make better use of their data, from data quality and engineering to analytics and AI, with a focus on practical, measurable outcomes for public services.

Sara is passionate about making it easier for innovative SMEs across the UK to work with government, and about the responsible, evidence-led use of data and AI in the public sector.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

I will bring the perspective of an SME that delivers for Whitehall every day. Butterfly Data works with HMRC, DWP and FCDO, and we have faced barriers that can exclude capable SMEs before quality is assessed. These include mandatory credentials, ISO certifications and financial thresholds

disproportionate to the work, and short, small projects let through framework lots designed for large programmes rather than the lot intended for them. I want to help techUK push for proportionate requirements and earlier, more open market engagement, so departments can access the full breadth of UK innovation.

I will also bring a voice from outside London. Much government delivery happens in regional hubs, and strong suppliers exist across the nations and regions. As a Wales-based CEO with offices in Manchester I can connect the Council's work with wider regional ecosystems.

Third, as departments move from AI pilots to live services, I can offer practical experience of making data and AI work responsibly at scale: data quality, skills, governance and measurable outcomes.

I will commit to attending, contributing to the work programme and thought leadership, and leading a working group if useful, for example on SME access to government markets.

Dr Nathan Boyd, Business Development Director

Hanover Digital

Biography

I'm Business Development Director at Hanover Digital, a UK SME supporting digital and technology delivery across central government. I have over twenty years' experience working with the public sector through companies both large and small. I'm passionate about improving public services, putting users at the centre and ensuring SMEs have a meaningful role in delivery. My work connects government departments, major delivery partners, specialist capabilities and technologies to help public service programmes succeed. Smaller suppliers are essential to the UK's technology ecosystem, bringing agility, innovation and specialist expertise to services that citizens and businesses depend on. I champion collaboration between government, SMEs and larger suppliers to turn ambition into practical progress, recognising the critical importance of the services government provides.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

I would bring a practical SME perspective and a passion for public services to help shape techUK's Central Government Programme around member priorities and government needs. Through my work at Hanover, I understand the importance of collaboration between government, specialist SMEs and larger delivery partners. Across the Council and techUK's wider Government Group, I would listen to members, bring shared priorities and practical delivery lessons into discussions with government, and help turn debate into action. My priority would be to make SME participation a delivery advantage: improving access to specialist skills, enabling responsible adoption of new technologies and making better use of existing capabilities. I would champion proportionate procurement, meaningful early engagement and fair opportunities for SMEs, directly and within supply chains. I would also advocate investment in digital skills, broader routes into technology careers and inclusive public services designed around users. My focus would be better outcomes for citizens and stronger national resilience, harnessing SMEs' agility and innovation at a measured, purposeful pace, with security, assurance and value for money built in.

Dan Cook, Director of Public Sector

Red Badger

Biography

Dan is a seasoned digital leader with more than 15 years' experience steering complex delivery and transformation programmes for some of the UK's most prominent institutions. He joined Red Badger in January 2025 after serving as CIO at the Houses of Parliament, where he led a wide-ranging digital transformation: overhauling cyber security, introducing a new service-oriented operating model, and delivering the full redesign and relaunch of the Parliament.UK website.

A graduate of the UK Government's Major Projects Leadership Academy (MPLA), Dan specialises in designing and delivering large-scale complex transformation. At Red Badger, he has overseen major delivery across government, health, higher education and membership organisations, including HM Treasury, the British Council, London Business School and RIBA.

Beyond his day-to-day role, Dan gives back as a Trustee of both the University of Kent and Migrant Help, advising on technology and transformation to help each organisation deliver greater impact.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

I bring a rare perspective from both sides of the government technology relationship. As former CIO at the Houses of Parliament, I've been the client, leading major digital service delivery and transformation, so I understand first-hand the pressures, constraints and governance that shape public sector decision-making. Now at Red Badger, delivering transformation for organisations including HM Treasury and the British Council, I see how industry can best help government deliver better outcomes. My experience spans central and local government, health, housing, charities and membership organisations, giving me a broad view of the shared challenges facing public services. I'm also an experienced board member, serving as a trustee of the University of Kent and the charity Migrant Help, so I understand how to contribute at a strategic, collective level. I'd use this perspective to build a more constructive, trusted dialogue between government and suppliers, championing practical approaches to procurement, modern operating models and secure digital services, and helping ensure techUK's members are positioned as genuine partners in delivering government's digital ambitions. I've been recognised with awards for my work in social value, volunteering and diversity, equity and inclusion, and I'd bring that same commitment to the Council and wider Government Group.

Andy Cripps, Managing Director

Commerce Decisions

Biography

I'm Managing Director of Commerce Decisions, a UK software and services business focused on public sector procurement. Our AWARD® platform helps buyers evaluate bids consistently and defensibly, and our consultants work alongside procurement teams in central government, defence and international markets. Combining software with hands-on consultancy puts us in a distinctive position to see common

challenges and buying patterns across government, which I can share as anonymised general insight. I lead the business across product, services and commercial strategy, with a particular focus on introducing AI into procurement safely. I also sit on the employer board of TechSkills.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

Buyers and suppliers often want the same outcome but struggle to understand each other, and I'd like to help close that gap. Through AWARD® and our consultants, which support some of the UK's largest and most complex public procurements, Commerce Decisions sees how departments actually run and evaluate bids, and what constrains them.

For members, I'd bring:

1. Anonymised, general insight on how buyers assess bids and what makes proposals easier to evaluate, so members can engage more effectively.
2. Practical ideas on earlier dialogue, clearer requirements and more consistent evaluation, supporting techUK's procurement reform work, including AI in bids and evaluation.
3. Experience of taking AI through assurance for sensitive government use, and what buyers need to see before they trust it.
4. Time and energy for working groups and thought leadership, representing members with departments and the centre, and reporting back to the wider Government Group.

I'll be collaborative, open-minded and constructive.

Mark Dunwell, Associate Director - Head of Government, Health & Regulation | Head of Product & Service Transformation

Clarasys

Biography

I'm a proud public sector leader, having spent over 15 years partnering with Central Government and Health organisations to turn their most complex policy and strategic ambitions into real outcomes.

What drives me is building citizen-facing public services and internal products that genuinely work for people who use them: accessible, inclusive, practical and innovative. At Clarasys, I lead our Government, Health & Regulation business and our Product & Service Transformation consulting practice.

I love working where technology meets public services, and right now, that means AI. I'm convinced that Government's biggest AI opportunity lies in building excitement amongst people to adopt the skills of tomorrow, today. That's why I spend my energy tackling this with our clients, our people and my own family. Understanding how we will reshape the future of work, what new skills we'll need, and the new opportunities it opens up for Government to do things better is key.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

I want to help build a thriving techUK community because industry drives systemic change when it speaks with one voice. Since 2020, I've led the Government, Health & Regulation business at Clarasys, an

employee-owned, purpose-led company, so I know first-hand the value smaller suppliers bring to Government and the barriers they face. I'll make sure the SME voice is heard loud and clear.

In an age of AI, human moments matter more than ever. From the outstanding citizen-facing services that suppliers, Government, academia and the third sector deliver together, to how we spend our time and who we spend it with. I'll bring that people-first lens to the Council's conversations on AI and skills.

I'm committed to working with techUK to grow the Central Government Council and wider Government Group events programme so that it:

- Creates real opportunities for SMEs and primes to connect and partner
- Showcases the great work happening across the sector, so good ideas spread faster
- Elevates underrepresented groups, including early-career talent and other diverse voices across the Tech sector

Chris Farthing, CEO

Advice Cloud

Biography

Hi, I'm Chris, the founder and CEO of Advice Cloud. As a specialist Procurement Consultancy, we're focussed on helping reduce friction between buyers and suppliers of technology solutions to all parts of UK Government. I am an ex-government buyer with a successful career in Central, Blue Light, Regulatory, Health & Social Care, and Local Government.

Since its inception 12 years ago, Advice Cloud has been a passionate supporter of SME technology suppliers. With 72% of our 600+ customers being SMEs, we continue to walk that walk. Many of these suppliers have gone on to be very successful in all forms of UK government as a direct result of our work

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

Government procurement & bidding is still under going massive change since the introduction of PA2023. My focus will always be how to improve (all sized) suppliers knowledge of how buyers buy technology under the new regime to enable them to win more work. I will continue to support my CGC & wider Government group colleagues by using my procurement & bidding expertise and relationships within government to help us deliver excellent outcomes for the UK.

My ethos as a buyer was always the better informed suppliers are about how I buy, the wider and diverse my supply chain is. We will continue to share that knowledge freely and openly hopefully to the betterment of Techuk members should I be fortunate enough to be re-elected.

Matt Fletcher, CEO

Fivium

Biography

I began my career as a software engineer working with public sector organisations, witnessing both the huge benefits of technology to transform public services as well as the frustrations of complex, costly systems that delivered badly with little real value. Twenty years ago, I co-founded Fivium to make public sector technology work better for organisations and citizens alike, believing technology should always serve a clear and human purpose.

That principle guides Fivium today. We focus on delivering genuine value and building long-term customer partnerships, earning a near-100% retention rate over two decades. Just as importantly, we created a company where talented people thrive, holding Investors in People Gold accreditation because putting people first drives great outcomes for our customers.

I have experience of growing a business from £0 to £10m and making public sector software services which stand the test of time.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

With 20 years experience working alongside the public sector, I bring deep domain expertise and understanding of how new technology can best serve government needs.

As founder-CEO of an SME with longstanding partnerships across nearly every central government department, as well as a growing wider public sector footprint spanning local authorities, police, NHS, agencies, and NDPBs, I offer broad central government experience alongside insights into wider trends.

My team uses our deep knowledge of technology and the problems the public sector faces to challenge customers to find the best solution for the long-term, not just the easiest or quickest fix. That often means telling them things they don't want to hear, but that they need to hear. I would bring this mindset to the group.

I work closely with our product and engineering teams which gives me a comprehensive view of technological shifts and their practical applications.

I also have a keen interest in understanding how AI will shape the future of engineering careers. The nexus of people, processes, and technology is as critical to navigating our own business uncertainty as it is to serving our public sector customers. I would be excited to help contribute to that conversation.

Jack Holland, Commercial Director

Triad Group Plc

Biography

Jack Holland is Commercial Director at Triad Group, a digital consultancy with a longstanding focus on delivering digital transformation across UK central government.

Before joining Triad, Jack spent over a decade working within the Civil Service across departments including DBT/BEIS, MoJ and HMRC, holding senior digital and delivery roles and ultimately leading the Digital and Technology function at the Office for Product Safety and Standards.

At Triad, Jack leads the company's commercial strategy and growth across the public sector, while maintaining a strong focus on successful delivery and long-term client partnerships. His experience spans digital transformation, GDS-aligned delivery, capability building and the development and leadership of multidisciplinary digital teams.

Jack is passionate about improving how government and industry work together, building stronger strategic partnerships and ensuring digital transformation delivers sustainable outcomes. He is particularly interested in how government can make the best use of capability across the supplier market while continuing to build and strengthen its own internal capability.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

I've spent my career seeing government technology from both sides of the table. I've been the civil servant responsible for delivering transformation and working with suppliers, and I'm now Commercial Director of an SME helping government tackle many of those same digital challenges.

That experience has made me passionate about closing the gap between how government wants to engage the market and how that engagement sometimes feels from the supplier side. I want techUK to keep challenging both government and industry on what genuinely good partnership looks like: earlier and more meaningful engagement, a stronger focus on outcomes, better routes to harness capability across the market, and commercial models that encourage suppliers to build government capability rather than dependency.

I'm also passionate about the role SMEs can play, but I don't think the conversation should simply be about giving SMEs more work. It should be about creating a market where organisations of all sizes can bring their best capability and ideas to government, with genuine opportunities to compete, collaborate and grow.

Having joined the current Council partway through its term, I'd welcome the opportunity to continue bringing practical insight to its agenda, grounded in government, delivery and commercial experience, alongside a willingness to challenge constructively.

Anna Inman, Client Account Director

Digital Modus

Biography

I am Client Account Director at Digital Modus, a public sector-focused Salesforce and digital strategy consultancy. For 25 years I have worked in organisations that use technology and service design to transform public services, across sales operations, presales and bid management in IT, telecoms, defence and financial services.

I have served on the techUK Central Government Council for nearly four years across two terms. I have led the Procurement Workstream throughout, now co-lead the Social Value Workstream and am helping to launch "Get into Tech". I also co-curate the Council's "Sharing to succeed" blog series and chaired its AI in Procurement roundtable.

Committed to social value, I have contributed to the techUK, WCIT and UK APMP social value committees, mentored with FemMentored and volunteer with the APMP Procurement Group. I hold a BA (Hons) in Politics and International Relations from the University of Reading.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

As Procurement Workstream lead, I have helped the Council translate policy for suppliers, and supplier reality back to government. For the Procurement Act 2023, I co-hosted a fireside chat with the then Government Chief Commercial Officer to help members understand it, shaped industry's feedback to government on proposed changes and kept the sector updated.

Having worked for companies large and small, I know procurement is complex even with ample resource, and far harder without it. As the Act beds in, SMEs especially need a strong voice for genuinely fair, open and transparent procurement. I will keep providing it.

I also co-lead our social value work. The new social value guidance in PPN 026 goes live in January 2027 and will change how industry bids and delivers.

That is why I am helping to lead "Get into Tech". Too many young people struggle to get an interview, let alone feedback. At a pupil-led unconference, young people will set the agenda and, with support, lead discussions with teachers, industry and government on what excites and worries them about work. I will ensure their views reach government, in a model future Councils can continue.

Dnyanesh Kale, Chief Client Officer

Scrumconnect

Biography

Dnyanesh Kale is Chief Client Officer at Scrumconnect, a UK public sector technology consultancy, where he sits on the Executive Committee and leads growth, solutions, bids and partnerships. A technologist at heart with a commercial edge, he has spent 20+ years on the supplier side of UK government technology, from Oracle to helping SME and scale-up suppliers 6point6 and Made Tech grow. As Sector Director at 6point6, he ran its largest portfolio, UK Central Government, growing it 40%+ a year through the firm's PE investment and sale to Accenture. Working across the full engagement lifecycle, he has built strategic, lasting relationships between departments and suppliers that have delivered critical ministerial commitments and critical national Infrastructure. Clients include the Home Office, Cabinet Office (GDS One Login), DWP, HMRC, DVLA, DEFRA, DBT, DSIT, DBS, UK Hydrographic Office and NHS. He holds an MBA from Bayes Business School and is security cleared.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

I will bring a dual perspective: two decades of shaping government technology from inside major programmes, and hands-on experience of what it takes for SMEs to win and deliver that work, and to build strategic, lasting and mutually beneficial relationships that go beyond procurement and delivery. I have led complex bids, built consortiums with primes, SMEs and tech partners, and worked across

procurement models, so I understand where procurement helps or hinders buyers and suppliers alike, and why a level playing field matters for competition and innovation.

At Scrumconnect, an SME, I see first-hand the barriers smaller suppliers face, from bid costs to framework access, and the value they offer departments: agile, high-value delivery at competitive rates. This year we won new work with the UK Hydrographic Office, DVLA and NHS. I will use this to strengthen the SME voice on the Council, contribute to techUK's procurement reform work as the Procurement Act beds in, and help civil servants engage the market earlier and more effectively. I would also bring thought leadership across driving legacy modernisation, AI-assisted service delivery and cyber, and commit to attending meetings and leading or contributing to working groups.

Jessica Moffatt-Owen, Chief Commercial Officer

Stealth Labs

Biography

Jessica Moffatt-Owen is Chief Commercial Officer at Stealth Labs, a UK AI studio that designs, builds and operates secure AI systems for government and enterprise. She leads commercial strategy, bids and partnerships, shaping how a fast-growing SME competes for and delivers work across central government, defence and national security.

Jessica began her career as a civil servant, working across several departments and functions. She then joined Plexal as Senior Innovation Lead, Growth, bringing government, startups and industry together to tackle national challenges, and served on techUK's Skills and Inclusion Council.

She has now seen public procurement as a buyer, a convenor and a supplier. She cares about opening it up to SMEs, about innovative yet responsible AI adoption, and about championing women and other underrepresented groups in technology.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

I bring the view of a leader at a young, AI-native SME that sells into central government every day, often as a specialist partner to larger primes. I see first-hand where procurement works and where it still shuts smaller suppliers out. The Procurement Act was a step forward, but too much innovative capability still reaches departments two or three layers down the supply chain, adding cost and diluting accountability.

I want to turn that experience into practical proposals, particularly through the procurement and market engagement working groups: proportionate routes to market such as the new Innovation Marketplace, earlier and more open engagement with SMEs, and a "UK supplier" definition that recognises where capability is actually built. As government pushes AI adoption at pace, I can also offer grounded experience of moving AI from pilot into live service responsibly and securely, from our work with departments including HMRC and the Home Office.

My time on the Skills and Inclusion Council taught me that these forums create impact when members do the work between meetings. I'll contribute to working groups, speak at events, gather SME members' views and help make sure the Council reflects the whole supplier market.

Boyd Mulvey, Founder

Chorus Intelligence

Biography

Boyd Mulvey, Chairman and Founder of Chorus Intelligence

Boyd Mulvey is founder and chairman of Chorus Intelligence, a global provider of data analytics and enrichment software for law enforcement, government agencies, financial and corporate institutions. Boyd has over 25 years of experience in investment, management, strategic and financial advice at board level in both leading international and smaller UK businesses. As a corporate finance executive, Boyd has advised the boards of many technology companies and helped list (IPO) the first tech company to ever float on TechMARK (the UK's leading technology index). Boyd has founded over 10 companies during his career and worked with startups including his first role of developing a derivative risk analysis platform for the then start up Credit Suisse (Financial Products), latterly CSFB. Following a successful career in the city, Boyd founded and ran a Cambridge based early stage technology VC for ten years before founding Chorus Intelligence in 2011.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

Having extensive board experience (CSFP, UBS and multiple SME tech companies) I will bring a wealth of knowledge about what "good" board governance means. Having struggled to engage with central government for over 25 years as an SME I bring first hand knowledge of the challenges SME's face while trying to engage with the UK central and local governments whilst trying to build a business. I have given a speech at No11 Downing Street on the challenges of funding a start up in the UK and applaud some of the activities recently introduced by this government but there is plenty more that can be done.

Lee Murray, Managing Director

Triangulate Distribution Ltd

Biography

Technology executive and the Managing Director and Founder of Triangulate Distribution Ltd, based in Stockport, UK .Before founding Triangulate Distribution in 2013, I built extensive commercial experience in telecommunications, holding senior business development roles at major networks including T-Mobile and Vodafone. Under my leadership, Triangulate Distribution has grown as a distributor of IT solutions, cloud computing, network infrastructure, and cybersecurity services. In addition to leading Triangulate Distribution, I'm an Owner and Director of software vendors Apaas Assure and Legacy box Ltd already delivering in to Central Government. Beyond corporate leadership, I've previously contributed to the broader UK technology sector, serving as Vice Chair for the Central Government Council and as a panellist on the SME Advisory Panel at techUK.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

I bring a bridge between innovative tech SMEs and public sector procurement. Leveraging my executive experience leading Triangulate Distribution, I can offer hands-on expertise in cloud computing, cybersecurity, and enterprise network infrastructure. My perspective I believe can help shape government digital transformation strategies by advocating for agile, secure, and cost-effective tech solutions while championing the role of growing UK tech businesses within public sector supply chains.

Martin Neale, CEO

ICS.AI

Biography

I founded ICS.AI in 2018 after more than 35 years in technology, bringing 22 innovations to market, and cashed in my pension to do it.

I wanted to bring governed AI to the sector that needs it most, so ICS.AI works only with the public sector. Eight years on, it is the UK's 23rd largest AI supplier to government by contract value, ahead of firms such as PwC and CGI. Our AI has handled more than 11 million conversations between public bodies and the people they serve, across councils, universities, health and national bodies such as the Information Commissioner's Office. Our British-developed technology has three patents pending.

I was named Public Sector Entrepreneur of the Year 2025 and included in the Computing AI Leadership Index 2026.

I am now leading the third generation of AI in public services, which I see as the biggest shift in decades: AI that no longer just answers or assists, but acts under human control.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

Government has never been more interested in AI, yet most public bodies remain stuck at pilot stage. Getting past it is what I do every day. I know what gives them confidence to scale: a clear business case, governance built in from the start, and staff brought along rather than left behind.

The next step is AI that acts, and for government the prize is the legacy estate. AI can now read and rebuild ageing systems in weeks, not years, with people approving every step; we've built the UK's first platform to do it. When AI rebuilds core systems, sovereignty becomes critical. As a UK founder with British-developed IP, I would argue for code and data kept in the UK and in government's hands, and a domestic supply base.

It also exposes a procurement problem: buying designed for long projects and large suppliers shuts out the innovation departments want. Having created the UK's first guaranteed-savings AI operating model, I would champion buying on outcomes, and earlier, more open conversations between suppliers and civil servants.

Working across the public sector, I would help connect this Council's work with techUK's wider Government Group, speaking for the whole membership.

Pat Pruchnickyj, Head of Marketing

Nexor

Biography

I am Head of Marketing at Nexor, a UK SME specialising in secure information exchange for defence, government and law enforcement. My work focuses on understanding customer priorities and communicating how technology and specialist expertise can support secure digital transformation.

As a serving member of techUK's Central Government Council since January 2025, I have participated in the Digital Transformation workstream and contributed to the Transformation in the Public Sector Awards, helping develop judging criteria and questions, and assess submissions.

My council experience and wider techUK engagement have strengthened my understanding of government procurement, public sector priorities and collaboration between suppliers and departments. I bring a marketing perspective focused on clear communication, evidence and outcomes, alongside the practical viewpoint of a specialist SME. I am committed to helping government and industry work together to improve public services.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

Having served on the council since January 2025, I would bring continuity, practical experience and a commitment to contributing more in a second term. My involvement in the Transformation in the Public Sector Awards demonstrated the value of a clear shared objective, collaborative working and recognition of measurable public service outcomes.

I would build on that experience by helping shape focused workstreams with achievable outputs, contributing to thought leadership and communicating the council's achievements to the wider membership. My marketing experience would help translate complex technology issues into clear messages that support constructive dialogue with government.

As a representative of a specialist UK SME, I would champion proportionate procurement and earlier market engagement that give government access to a diverse supplier base. I would also contribute perspectives on secure information sharing, interoperability and cyber resilience as foundations for digital transformation.

Across the council and techUK's wider Government Group, I would support connections between relevant programmes and help new members identify where they can contribute. My priority would be practical collaboration that reflects members' needs and helps government achieve better outcomes.

Seyed Razavi-Nematollahi, Club Executive

Zaizi

Biography

Seyed Razavi-Nematollahi is a senior technology and delivery leader with more than 20 years' experience delivering secure, scalable and user-centred digital services across government, healthcare, education and the private sector. At Zaizi, he leads central government delivery, bringing together technology, engineering, delivery and commercial thinking to help public bodies modernise services and adopt emerging technology responsibly.

He has previously held senior architecture roles at the Government Digital Service, the Department for Education and other UK government organisations, with experience spanning cloud platforms, digital transformation, technical assurance and multidisciplinary delivery.

Seyed is particularly interested in the practical adoption of AI in government: how organisations move from experimentation to trusted, scalable services through proportionate assurance, strong engineering and meaningful human control. He also writes and speaks on responsible AI, edge AI, digital sovereignty, skills and developing the next generation of public-sector technologists.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

I would bring a practitioner's perspective from more than two decades working across government digital delivery, combining experience from inside government with my current role leading central government work within an SME supplier. I can contribute to the Council's work on improving early engagement between government and industry, making procurement more outcome-focused and accessible, and ensuring policy discussions remain grounded in the realities of delivering secure, user-centred services.

A particular focus for me would be responsible AI adoption. Government has a significant opportunity to move beyond pilots and embed AI into real services, but doing so requires proportionate assurance, reusable governance, strong engineering and investment in skills. I would bring practical experience and thought leadership in these areas, including AI assurance, edge AI, sovereignty and human oversight.

I would also actively contribute beyond meetings: supporting working groups, engaging with stakeholders, representing SME perspectives and contributing written thought leadership. I value constructive challenge and collaboration, and would aim to help techUK turn member experience into pragmatic recommendations that improve how government and industry work together.

Gareth Ricketts, Senior Public Sector Consultant

VE3

Biography

As a Senior business and technology consultant of over 20 years, I have gained extensive real-world experience supporting UK Public Sector in their digital transformation, governance, and service improvement initiatives. Throughout my career I focused on helping all government bodies modernise their operations, strengthen compliance, and deliver better outcomes for citizens. Currently working with VE3, I'm leveraging this practical experience to deliver new innovative solutions to meet challenges

with & without AI. My expertise spans governance, risk and compliance, change management, business development, and the implementation of technology-enabled transformation programmes.

I look to build trusted partnerships with senior stakeholders, combining my commercial insight with a deep understanding of public sector priorities, including efficiency, transparency, and service excellence. I'm passionate about helping organisations navigate change, unlock value from technology investments, and create sustainable improvements that benefit both operational teams and the communities they serve.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

As a senior business and technology consultant with extensive experience supporting public sector transformation, I have spent my career helping government organisations modernise services, improve governance, strengthen compliance, and realise greater value from technology investments. Through my work with BT, Capita, Ordnance Survey and now VE3, I have developed strong relationships across the UK public sector, working with organisations to address complex operational challenges and deliver citizen-focused outcomes.

My experience spans digital transformation, procurement engagement, governance, risk management, business development, and the practical application of emerging technologies within highly regulated environments. I understand both the supplier and customer perspectives, having worked closely with public sector leaders to navigate procurement processes, deliver successful programmes, and ensure technology investments align with strategic objectives.

I am passionate about fostering meaningful collaboration between industry and government and believe that technology suppliers have a critical role in helping departments deliver better public services. The objectives of the techUK Central Government Council, including improving engagement between government and industry, promoting innovation, supporting procurement reform, and championing the transformational potential of technology, closely align with my professional experience and values. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute thought leadership, sector insight, and practical experience to help shape the future direction of the Central Government Programme.

I will bring a strong combination of public sector experience, commercial understanding, and collaborative leadership. Having worked extensively with central and local government stakeholders, I understand the challenges departments face in balancing innovation, security, compliance, cost efficiency, and service delivery. I can help bridge the gap between technology suppliers and government buyers by providing practical insight into procurement, market engagement, digital transformation, and supplier collaboration. As an active contributor, I will champion member interests, contribute to thought leadership initiatives, support discussions on emerging technologies, and help ensure that the voice of industry informs policy, procurement reform, and service transformation across government. My goal is to help the Central Government Council deliver meaningful outcomes for both techUK members and the public sector organisations they serve

Nathan Swift, Founder and CEO

Swift Strategies

Biography

Nathan has 20 years of troubleshooting, programme turnaround and complex technology, digital, data and delivery experience including legacy to cloud strategy, technology transformation, sourcing, operating model design and hands-on high-stakes delivery in highly regulated environemnt. Nathan has held many leadership and advisory roles in Government. Nathan has grown Swift Strategies to be a multi-award winning consultancy, including making the Sunday Times top 100 list 2 years in a row, ranking No. 2 in the TussellTech 200 for 2024, and being ranked as the No. 1 consultancy in Europe in The Financial Times Europe's 10-year Growth Champions. Nathan now supports his team by building collaborative and communicative teams who folks on solving problems and delivery outcomes in a transparent fashion for clients in Private, Public & Education sectors.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

Nathan has deep experience in what actually works in Government and the role of Civil Servants and those who provide services to them. Focusing on incentives and shared objectives that deliver the right outcomes, collaborative solutions where the boundaries between individual, group and supply chain contributions meet to. Nathan has extensive experience in the diplomacy required to ensure Government can deliver effectively as well as the operation realities and governance friction that can often slow the transition of intention/policy to procurement to delivery. Nathan has also demonstrated his savvy in challenging the status quo vs knowing when to just knuckle down to ensure outcomes are delivered and the public purse is always considered. He will bring his hard-won experience to support the Central Government Council and techUK wider Government Group.

Chris Tate, CEO

Condatis

Biography

Chris Tate is CEO of Condatis, an Edinburgh-based specialist Microsoft consultancy focused on identity, security and secure AI transformation. Under his leadership, Condatis has become a trusted identity partner to UK public sector organisations including HMRC, Defra, DWP and the NHS, helping them modernise identity and access management, reduce legacy technical debt and build the governance foundations needed to adopt AI safely. This includes establishing identity as a strategic enabler for HMRC's digital, security and AI programmes, and supporting Defra's citizen-facing Customer Identity service in line with GOV.UK service standards.

He has more than twenty years of technology leadership experience, including senior roles at pureLiFi, Optos, Thales and MESL Microwave, spanning product development, engineering, sales and business transformation. Chris began his career as an officer in the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

As CEO of Condatis, a Scottish SME, I would bring a practical, delivery-focused voice to the Council. My career spans product development, engineering, sales and business transformation, beginning in the Royal Navy, so I understand both the commercial realities suppliers face and the public-service mission government serves. Condatis's recent work with HMRC, Defra, DWP and the NHS gives me first-hand insight into what helps and hinders digital transformation: lengthy onboarding and procurement cycles, legacy technical debt, and the need to align technology choices with departmental strategy and GOV.UK standards. As an Edinburgh-headquartered SME, I can represent smaller and regionally based suppliers, advocating for market engagement and procurement that lower barriers to entry and widen government's access to specialist innovation across all UK nations. I also bring growing experience of the fast-moving world of AI. Our work shows that secure AI adoption depends on strong identity and governance foundations covering people, systems and AI agents alike. I would help the Council and the wider Government Group turn these lessons into practical guidance, so that government can adopt AI at pace while maintaining security, assurance and public trust.

Eve Upton, Director

Bidcraft

Biography

I fell into tech via the EDS graduate scheme and never escaped. Since then I've worked in account and bid leadership at EDS/HPE and now co-own BidCraft, helping companies navigate and win complex government procurements.

That means I spend way too much time where government policy, procurement and bidding collide, and making that particular car crash less painful has become a professional obsession.

I've spent the past two years on techUK's CGC, contributing to procurement and market engagement work, and more recently the nascent social impact workstream. I've learnt a lot about what useful industry-government engagement looks like and, more importantly, where there is still work to do.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

I stood for the CGC two years ago because government procurement frustrated me enough to want to do something about it. It still does, but I now have a better idea where constructive industry engagement can genuinely make a difference.

My particular interest is where policy, procurement and bidding meet. PA23 is now being used in anger, and both sides need to learn from what is actually happening: how engagement is changing, what works and what doesn't. Competitive Flexible Procedure is especially interesting. It creates an opportunity to design genuinely different procurements, but industry also needs to rethink how it engages, develops solutions and bids rather than being surprised by the contents of the ITN. I also want to explore what priorities such as sovereignty actually mean when they become requirements and evaluation decisions.

The CGC can turn members' experience into practical positions and use its relationship with government to influence what happens next. At the same time, if procurement is going to become more flexible and engaged by design, industry can't keep bidding as if it's just waiting for the next ITT. I'd like another two years to help change both sides of that equation. There's a lot to do.

Dr Michael Watts, Founder and Chief Executive Officer

Blüm Health

Biography

Dr Michael Watts is an NHS doctor, former Associate Chief Clinical Informatics Officer and founder and CEO of Blüm Technologies Group. He combines frontline clinical experience with practical expertise in developing AI and digital health technologies for regulated environments. His work spans software development, clinical safety, interoperability, information governance and the translation of innovation into usable public services. He leads a Liverpool-based SME working with NHS organisations, universities and international partners to develop and deploy technology addressing patient needs and operational challenges. Michael holds an MBA and is a visiting professor at Birmingham City University. He was named Young Health Tech Leader of the Year in 2024 and The Spectator's Economic Innovator of the Year in 2025. He brings a clinician's understanding of service delivery alongside a founder's experience of procurement, commercialisation and scaling innovation.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

I will bring the perspective of an NHS doctor and SME founder who understands how government policy, procurement and regulation affect delivery on the ground. Building technology for healthcare has given me practical experience of high-stakes services where safety, public trust, interoperability and value for money must be designed in from the outset. I would bring that experience to the Council's work on responsible AI adoption, digital transformation and the barriers preventing smaller suppliers from contributing fully to Whitehall programmes. My priority would be to help turn policy ambition into deliverable services: clearer routes from pilots to sustainable procurement, proportionate assurance, better access for innovative SMEs, and stronger collaboration between public servants, users and suppliers. I would contribute practical insight into developing AI in regulated environments, including clinical safety, data governance, human oversight and evaluation. Based in Liverpool and working internationally, I would also champion regional technology businesses and share lessons from other markets. Across techUK's wider Government Group, I would help connect health and care experience with central government priorities, focusing on measurable service improvement, workforce productivity and inclusive access.

John Wright, Central Government Delivery Director

BetterGov

Biography

John Wright is Delivery Director for Central Government at BetterGov, with more than 30 years in technology and over 15 helping the public sector deliver digital change. He is Engagement Director for the Parliamentary Digital Service, where his work spans strategy papers for the CTO, pre-procurement options analysis, business cases and a widely adopted citizen development service. He has also led engagements at NHS Digital, the Ministry of Justice, ONS and DVSA, and earlier delivered award-winning counter-fraud services for GOV.UK Verify with the Home Office and Metropolitan Police.

John has led public sector business development and framework bids at IndigoBlue, Mastek, Mozaic and 101 Ways. He contributed to the Institute for Government's System Error report, has won UK Agile and BCS IT awards, and sits on the University of Sheffield's Computer Science Industrial Advisory Board. He is also a charity trustee responsible for technology and data protection.

What I will bring to the Central Government Council and techUK's wider Government Group

I would bring hands-on delivery experience and an SME supplier's perspective to four areas.

Safe adoption of AI. Departments are under pressure to adopt AI quickly, but trust is easily lost. At the Parliamentary Digital Service I helped establish a citizen development service with clear guardrails and controlled data access. I would apply that thinking to AI: proportionate governance, sound data protection and starting from real user problems, with earlier, open supplier conversations so AI is bought and deployed responsibly.

Digital identity. Delivering counter-fraud services for GOV.UK Verify left me with a passion for identity, which is foundational to joined-up public services. I would champion lessons from past programmes and support industry's contribution to GOV.UK One Login.

User-centred, product-led delivery. I have spent my career helping organisations move from projects to products. Iterative delivery reduces risk, but procurement often works against it. I would push for commercial approaches that reward discovery, outcomes and continuous improvement.

Championing specialist SMEs. Specialist SMEs provide focused delivery capability and act in the public sector's best interests, yet procurement scale and complexity often crowd them out. Having worked in several, I would champion their voice and make it easier for departments to work with them.