

Protector of the Nesta Trust

Candidate Pack

Closing Date: 07 September 2025

If you have any questions, require further information, or would like this candidate pack in an alternative format, please contact the Public Appointments team at partnerships@dsit.gov.uk



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For queries about your application or the recruitment process, please email partnerships@dsit.gov.uk



Department for
Science, Innovation,
& Technology

The Nesta Trust

- The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) was set up under the National Lottery Act 1998. NESTA was abolished and ceased to be a Non-Departmental Body in 2012 and was reconstituted as an independent charity, Nesta. Nesta derives most of its income from a separate endowment (the Nesta Trust) for which Nesta is the sole corporate trustee. Nesta is not a public body but the Nesta Trust is classified by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) as part of the public sector and is consolidated into the DSIT accounts with the DSIT Permanent Secretary being the Accounting Officer.
- The Protector has a fiduciary duty to ensure the integrity of the administration of the Nesta Trust and the propriety of its procedures. The Protector plays no role in the operation of Nesta itself and is not a trustee of the Trust. It is a specialist position which must be held by a Chartered Accountant, Solicitor or Barrister. The proposed Protector will be subject to formal appointment by the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology.



The Role

The role of the Protector is defined by the Trust deed. The Protector has a fiduciary duty to ensure the integrity of the administration of the trust and the propriety of its procedures and, if necessary, report matters of serious concern to the Charity Commission and, where the Protector considers appropriate, to the Secretary of State. The Protector is also empowered to consult with the Secretary of State and the Charity Commission on any matter relating to the Trust. The Protector is required to prepare an annual statement explaining the function of the Protector and how it has been exercised. To assist them in the fulfilment of this role, the Protector has the following powers, as outlined in the Trust Deed. The Protector has the powers to:

- Receive notice and papers for all meetings of the Trustee, committees of the directors of the Trustee and members of the Trustee and attend and speak at such meetings and table items for discussion (but not vote).
- Call for information and seek professional advice wherever the Protector's consent is required to any matter under the trust deed.
- Receive regular information about the investment strategy of the Trust and investments made.
- Appoint an additional trustee or trustees to act jointly with Nesta as trustee(s) of the Trust and appoint a trustee if the Protector considers that Nesta has acted in breach of its duties as trustee.
- Receive the annual report and accounts of the Trust to ensure that the return from the Trust has been spent by Nesta in pursuing the objects of the Trust.
- Approve any variation in provisions of the trust deed, where the Protector's consent is required.

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Person Specification

Essential Criteria

The successful candidate must be able to provide evidence to demonstrate the essential criteria:

- Be a solicitor, a barrister or (in Scotland and the Isle of Man) an advocate, or a chartered accountant. (Applicants must at the time of their appointment have been employed or self-employed in a senior role for at least five years.).
- Experience or oversight of a trust, fund or budget of a charity.
- Experience as a member of a board or committee in the private, public or voluntary sectors.
- Experience of dealing with complex and difficult discussions, the exercise of good judgement and the ability to influence at the highest level.

Desirable Criteria

- Experience of serving in a similar fiduciary role with responsibility for the oversight of a trust, fund or budget of for example, a charity.

Terms of Appointments

Appointment Term: An initial period of 5 years with the possibility of re-appointment for one further term

Remuneration: £11,000 per annum

Time Commitment: 20 days per annum

Location: London

Nature of Appointment: This is a Public Appointment by the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology. The post holder would be an officeholder and not be an employee of the Department or the public body.

Availability: Successful candidates will be encouraged to take up their appointment as soon as possible, following the successful completion of pre-appointment checks and security clearance at Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) level. Further details can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/united-kingdom-security-vetting-clearance-levels/national-security-vetting-clearance-levels>.

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How to apply

Applications must be submitted by 23:55pm on 04/09/2025. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

To apply, you will need to create an account or sign in via the [Public Appointments website](#).

Once you are logged into your account, click on 'apply for this role' and follow the on-screen instructions. To apply, all candidates are required to provide:

- A two-page curriculum vitae (CV)
- A two-page supporting statement
- Equality information
- Information relating to any outside interests or reputational issues

A good application will set out specific information about how you meet the person specification for this appointment. Think about your knowledge, skills, experience and personal attributes, and take full advantage of the space available. Provide practical evidence that best demonstrates how you meet the essential and any desirable criteria.

We will ask you to check and confirm your personal details to ensure your application is accurate.

You will also have the opportunity to make a reasonable adjustment request or apply under the disability confident scheme before you submit your application.



Assessment panel and Indicative Timeline

The members of the Advisory Assessment Panel are:

Panel Chair and DSIT Representative:

Lindsay Jamieson (Deputy Director, Science and Innovation Sponsorship, DSIT)

Second Panel Member:

Ed Richards (Chair, Trustee Board, Nesta)

Independent Panel Member:

Laurie Benson (Global Media Executive and previous NED for Charity Commission)

The timelines for this campaign is indicative and subject to change. Please check the advert for any updates. Interview dates will be confirmed closer to the time.

Advert Closes	07 Sep 2025
Panel Sift	w/c 22 Sep 2025
Panel Interview	October 2025
Candidates notified of the outcome	November 2025
Appointment confirmed	December 2025

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We are committed to increasing the diversity of our boards and bringing in talent, regardless of its origins. We encourage applications from all candidates, regardless of ethnicity, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability or gender identity. We particularly welcome applications from people with ethnicity, gender and disability characteristics currently underrepresented on our Boards. We warmly welcome applications from talented individuals across all regions of the UK, ensuring a truly inclusive and representative opportunity for everyone

Arrangements for candidates with a disability:

As a Disability Confident leader, we guarantee to interview anyone with a disability whose application meets the essential criteria for the post. More details on the criteria can be found in this pack. If you wish to apply through the Disability Confident scheme, you will need to tick the option on the Diversity Monitoring form that you will submit alongside your application.

Adjustments:

All candidates are entitled to request reasonable adjustments at any stage of the application process. If you would like to discuss adjustments prior to submitting your application, please contact partnerships@dsit.gov.uk.

For queries about your application or the recruitment process, please email partnerships@dsit.gov.uk



Eligibility

In general, you should have the right to work in the UK to be eligible to apply for a public appointment. There are a small number of specialist roles that are not open to non-British citizens. Any nationality requirements will be specified in the vacancy details. The Government expects all holders of public office to work to the highest personal and professional standards.

You cannot be considered for a public appointment if:

- * you are disqualified from acting as a company director (under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986);
- * have an unspent conviction on your criminal record;
- * your estate has been sequestrated in Scotland or you enter into a debt arrangement programme under Part 1 of the Debt Arrangement and Attachment (Scotland) Act 2002 (asp 17) as the debtor or have, under Scots law, granted a trust deed for creditors.

When you apply, you should declare if:

- * you are, or have been, bankrupt or you have made an arrangement with a creditor at any point, including the dates of this.
- * you are subject to a current police investigation.

You must inform the sponsor department if, during the application process, your circumstances change in respect of any of the above points.

When you apply you should also declare any relevant interests, highlighting any that you think may call into question your ability to properly discharge the responsibilities of the role you are applying for. You should also declare any other matters which may mean you may not be able to meet the requirements of the [1] Code of Conduct of Board Members (see Outside interests and reputational issues section below)

Visible links

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-conduct-for-board-members-of-public-bodies>.

For queries about your application or the recruitment process, please email partnerships@dsit.gov.uk



Annex A

Conflicts of interest and due diligence

Public Appointments require the highest standards of propriety, involving impartiality, integrity and objectivity, in relation to stewardship of public funds and the oversight and management of all related activities. This means that any private, voluntary, charitable or political interest that might be material and relevant to the work of the body concerned should be declared.

It is important that those appointed as members of public bodies maintain the confidence of Parliament and the public. If there are any issues in your personal or professional history that could, if you were appointed, be misconstrued, cause embarrassment, or cause public confidence in the appointment to be jeopardised, it is important that you bring them to the attention of the Assessment Panel and provide details of the issue(s) in your application. In considering whether you wish to declare any issues, you should also reflect on any public statements you have made, including through social media. The Panel may explore issues with you before they make a recommendation on the appointment.

As part of our due diligence checks we will consider anything in the public domain related to your conduct or professional capacity. This will include us undertaking searches of previous public statements and social media, blogs or any other publicly available information. This information may be made available to the Panel and they may wish to explore issues with you, should you be invited to interview.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss further, please contact the DSIT Partnerships Team at partnerships@dsit.gov.uk

Annex B

The Seven Principles underpinning Public Life

In 1995 the Committee on Standards in Public Life defined seven principles for public life. All candidates for are expected to demonstrate a commitment to, and an understanding of, the value and importance of the principles of public service which are:

1. Selflessness
2. Integrity
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Openness
6. Honesty
7. Leadership

Further information on the principles of public life can be found [here](#).

Annex C

Complaints procedure

If you feel you have reason to complain you should direct your concerns in the first instance to the DSIT Public Appointments team (partnerships@dsit.gov.uk) who will make every effort to deal with these and respond to you within 48 hours.

If your complaint is not dealt with satisfactorily, you can find information about the steps you can take under DSIT Complaints Procedure [here](#).

The Commissioner for Public Appointments is the independent regulator of public appointments. The Commissioner's primary role is to provide independent assurance that public appointments are made in accordance with the [Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The Commissioner also investigates complaints and may conduct an inquiry into the policies and practices followed in relation to appointments processes which he regulates. The Commissioner will not investigate complaints relating to non-selection unless it appears that the appointments process has breached the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

You can contact the Commissioner by email at publicappointments@csc.gov.uk or by post, as follows:

The Commissioner for Public Appointments
Room G/8, 1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

Further information on the role of the Commissioner or the appointments process is available at: publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk.