



## Position description

<b>Position title</b>	Release and Environments Manager
<b>Group / Branch</b>	Finance and Technology / Business Technology Services
<b>Reports to (Title)</b>	Chief Data Officer
<b>Competency level</b>	Individual Contributor

## Job Purpose

This role is responsible for the planning, coordination, and execution of releases for the enterprise Data Analytics Platform (Acumen), built on Azure Databricks and Microsoft Fabric. The Release Manager ensures smooth, secure, and timely delivery of platform updates, enhancements, and features. The role collaborates across technical teams, DevOps, data operations, project delivery, and business stakeholders to manage the end-to-end release lifecycle.

### Special features or challenges

This is a specialist role requiring strong coordination, technical understanding of cloud data platforms and stakeholder engagement. The role demands experience in release automation, environment management, data sync management across environments, integrated systems coordination\sync, risk management, and governance across complex data environments.

## Key Accountabilities

- Lead cross-functional release planning and coordination across data engineering, analytics, and platform teams.
- Drive continuous improvement in release processes, automation, and governance.
- Mentor junior team members and foster a culture of accountability and innovation.
- Ensure alignment with enterprise architecture, Medallion Architecture, and data governance standards.
- Collaborate with business units, product owners, and technical leads to align release schedules with business priorities.
- Develop release plan\train across large project work, BAU and operational workloads.
- Facilitate regular release readiness reviews, go/no-go decisions, and post-release retrospectives.
- Communicate release impacts, risks, and mitigation strategies clearly to stakeholders.
- Build trust and transparency through consistent stakeholder engagement and reporting.
- Coordinate deployments across the delivery cycle—development, testing, and production environments.
- Coordinate with DevOps on release automation pipelines using Azure DevOps or GitHub, including integration with ServiceNow for change approvals and evidence.
- Enforce Unity Catalog governance during release readiness (permissions, lineage, masking, and classification labels).
- Implement automated data quality gates and schema evolution checks to ensure backward compatibility and consumer impact management.



- Collaborate with the Platform\DevOps team to standardize IaC, Databricks CI/CD practices using Databricks Asset Bundles, Jobs/Workflows-as-code, and secure environment variable management via Azure Key Vault.
- Coordinate environment management activities across 4 environments, Dev, Test, UAT\Pre-Prod and Prod, and support the establishment of additional environments as needed.
- Coordinate with applications\platforms owners and data owners on cross systems integration\ingestion.
- Coordinate with DevOps and security teams to ensure security and privacy checks (DevSecOps) before deploying any solution.
- Support the definition and maintenance of environment topology and promotion paths across dev/test/prod in collaboration with technical teams.
- Monitor release health and observability metrics, including job success rates, cost anomalies, and audit logs.
- Embed FinOps controls into release processes (cluster policies, DBU cost guardrails, anomaly alerts).
- Coordinate the development and testing of rollback and disaster recovery strategies for both code and data.
- Coordinate release schedules with upstream/downstream systems and enforce change freeze windows in collaboration with stakeholders.
- Coordinate with QA to ensure thorough testing prior to release, including automated pipeline and data quality tests.
- Enforce governance processes including documentation, audit trails, and compliance with security, privacy, and regulatory requirements.
- Produce comprehensive release notes, deployment instructions, and operational support documentation

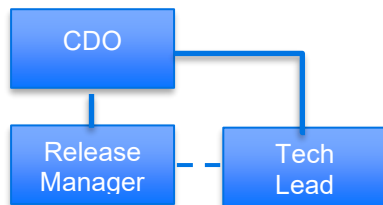
## Knowledge, Skills & Experience

- Tertiary qualification in Computer Science, Information Systems, Engineering, or related discipline.
- Minimum 7 years' experience in enterprise-scale release/deployment/environments management in data/cloud enterprise solutions.
- Hands-on experience with Azure Databricks and Medallion Architecture.
- Strong understanding of Unity Catalogue governance, permissions, lineage, and compliance.
- Proficiency in deployment approach using IaC, Databricks CI/CD practices, including Databricks Asset Bundles, Jobs/Workflows-as-code, and Terraform provider.
- Experience with Microsoft DataFactory, Fabric and Power BI integration, including downstream validation and refresh testing.
- Strong understanding of IaC, DevSecOps, CI/CD processes using Azure DevOps, Git, and secure secret management via Azure Key Vault.
- Data sync experience across environments
- Familiarity with Delta Lake / Lakehouse features (time travel, retention policies) and Lakehouse best practices.
- Knowledge of schema versioning, compatibility testing, and data contract management.
- Observability and telemetry skills: audit log integration with Azure Monitor/Log Analytics, release KPIs, and cost dashboards.
- Security and compliance expertise: cluster policy enforcement, token governance, and privacy standards.
- FinOps practices: DBU optimization, autoscaling strategies, and cost anomaly detection.
- Disaster recovery and rollback planning for both code and data pipelines.
- Certification in ITIL, SAFe, or other release/change management frameworks.
- Excellent communication and stakeholder engagement skills.



## Dimensions

### Organisational Chart



#### Number of people managed:

N/A

#### Size of budget managed:

N/A

#### Value of Assets managed:

N/A

#### Ensuring a sustainable, resilient organisation:

- Promote efficient use of cloud resources across dev/test/prod environments
- Authorities outlined in [Instrument of Delegations](#) yes - reports to Responsible Officer
- Compliance management responsibilities outlined in the [compliance and obligations register](#) yes - primary responsibilities
- Security for Critical Infrastructure identified role: **Yes**
- South East Water operates a 24/7 service environment. Whilst this role does not involve after-hours rostered duty, all employees may be required to provide out of hours support from time to time as required.