The Connection Project – Head/Director of Public Affairs

We're a new non-profit with big ambitions. Working with major banks, telcos, broadcasters and charities, we're setting out to build a digital society in the UK that works better for everyone.

We need someone who really understands politics and who can build relationships with MPs, Peers and local government leaders. Who can find advocates, anticipate political opportunities and bear traps, and help us land our arguments.

We need someone to tell us what's coming, and what we should do about it – not what happened yesterday. Most importantly, we want judgement, political nous, intellectual curiosity and the confidence to represent us brilliantly.

You might be a rising public affairs professional looking for more responsibility. Or you might have decades of experience and want to give us two or three days a week. Either would work.

As our main interface with Westminster, Whitehall, devolved and local government, you'll help create the policy and regulatory environment we need to deliver our programme, bringing political intelligence that shapes our strategy, spots opportunities and helps us navigate risk.

From October 2026 | 2–5 days | London/hybrid

- **Location:** Hybrid — office in central London with a weekly team day, regular travel to Westminster, occasional trips further afield
- **Reports to:** CEO
- **Contract**: Fixed-term to April 2027, with potential for extension (see note on job security below)
- **Salary:** We have a fixed employment-cost budget of up to £100k, including employment costs. So we're happy to employ someone full-time, or buy fewer days from someone with considerably more experience, as long as it does the job we need. For IR35 reasons, however, this would need to be a PAYE role.

What you'll do:

- Build and work our political network so we always know what matters – representing us to parliamentarians and elected members, officials, special advisers, regulators and local government.
- Read the political weather – spotting policy trends, threats and opportunities before they land, tracking the legislative and regulatory pipeline, and turning that into strategies and clear, timely briefings that tell us what to do about it.

- Advise and prepare our senior team – acting as a trusted advisor to the CEO, chair and other colleagues on their political activities, and briefing them for select committee appearances, ministerial meetings and other high-stakes moments.
- Make the case in writing and in the room – drafting consultation responses, position papers and briefings; ensuring our visibility at the forums that matter; working with communications colleagues to keep our political and public messaging aligned; managing any external public affairs support; and flagging political and regulatory risk to the CEO and board early.

About you:

- A strong track record in public affairs, government relations or political roles, with established relationships and credibility across Parliament, Whitehall and/or devolved and local government — ideally including DCMS (and former DSIT) and Treasury.
- A sound understanding of the UK legislative process, regulatory bodies such as Ofcom, and the political dynamics shaping digital and connectivity policy.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, sound political judgement and discretion, and the ability to operate effectively under pressure.
- Experience advising senior leaders for high-stakes engagements, a collaborative approach to working across teams and partners, and a genuine commitment to digital participation and our mission.

We're interested in applicants who are at any stage in their career, whether that's between jobs or returning after time away, or who simply want some flexibility (two or three days, or school hours only).

There is one other important thing to know. We hope this role will be long term, but we can't promise that today. So we are not looking to persuade someone to leave a great, secure permanent job.