

Background Check Reports — Senior Data & AI Consultant

Provider: Sterling Background Checks Contract Reference: NB-2025-STG-041 Report Date: Current report cycle Requested by: Northbridge Advisory Partners — Talent Acquisition

Candidate A — Background Check Report

Report ID: STG-2026-00847 Check Initiated: Early in the current check window Report Status: Complete

Criminal Record Check (UK DBS Basic Disclosure)

- Result: No unspent convictions disclosed.
- Certificate Number: DBS-2026-XXXXXX47
- Date Issued: Current certificate issue date

Employment History Verification (Last 5 Years)

Employer	Role Claimed	Dates Claimed	Dates Verified	Status
Meridian Consulting Group	Senior AI Consultant	Jan 2021 – Present	Mar 2021 – Present	Discrepancy — start date differs by 2 months
DataPulse Analytics Ltd	Data Scientist	Jun 2018 – Dec 2020	Jun 2018 – Jan 2021	Verified — end date extends 1 month beyond claimed

Verifier Note: Meridian Consulting Group HR confirmed the candidate's start date as March 2021, not January 2021 as stated on the application. The candidate may have counted a pre-employment consultancy arrangement. Recommend clarifying with the candidate.

Education Verification

- Qualification: MSc Data Science, University of Bristol
- Claimed Year: 2018
- Verified: Yes — confirmed by university records office, awarded June 2018

Professional Certification Verification

- Certification: Azure AI Engineer Associate (AI-102)
- Claimed Status: Active
- Verified: Yes — Microsoft Certification Directory confirms active status, valid through November 2026

Credit Check

- Result: No adverse findings. No CCJs, IVAs, or bankruptcy orders recorded.
- Score Range: Within acceptable parameters for client-facing roles.

Professional Reference Checks

Reference 1 — Line Manager at Meridian Consulting Group

- Role of Referee: Engagement Director
- Confirmed Employment: Yes
- Performance Commentary: "Strong technical delivery and client rapport. Trusted with autonomous engagement ownership."
- Would Re-hire: Yes

Reference 2 — Client Sponsor at Financial Services Client

- Role of Referee: Head of Data Strategy
- Confirmed Working Relationship: Yes
- Commentary: "Delivered to time and quality. Effective at translating technical outputs for senior stakeholders."
- Any Concerns: None disclosed

Candidate B — Background Check Report

Report ID: STG-2026-00848 Check Initiated: Early in the current check window Report Status: Partially Complete (1 item outstanding)

Criminal Record Check (UK DBS Basic Disclosure)

- **Result:** No unspent convictions disclosed.
- **Certificate Number:** DBS-2026-XXXXXX48
- **Date Issued:** Current certificate issue date

Employment History Verification (Last 5 Years)

Employer	Role Claimed	Dates Claimed	Dates Verified	Status
Quantum Data Solutions	ML Engineer	Apr 2022 – Present	Apr 2022 – Present	Verified
Broadfield Analytics	Data Engineer	Sep 2019 – Mar 2022	Sep 2019 – Mar 2022	Verified
TechCore Systems	Junior Data Engineer	Jul 2017 – Aug 2019	Unable to verify — company dissolved in 2023	Unverified

Verifier Note: TechCore Systems Ltd was dissolved per Companies House records (dissolved 14 February 2023). No HR contact available. The candidate's LinkedIn profile and a reference from a former TechCore colleague corroborate employment, but Sterling cannot independently verify dates or role through official employer records.

Education Verification

- **Qualification:** BSc Computer Science, University of Leeds
- **Claimed Year:** 2017
- **Verified:** Yes — confirmed by university records office, awarded July 2017

Professional Certification Verification

- **Certification:** Azure Data Engineer Associate (DP-203)
- **Claimed Status:** Active
- **Verified:** Awaiting response from Microsoft Certification Directory. Initial lookup returned "certification not found under the name and email provided." A second request has been submitted using an alternative email address provided by the candidate.
- **Status:** Outstanding — expected resolution within the standard provider follow-up window

Credit Check

- **Result:** No adverse findings.

Professional Reference Checks

Reference 1 — Team Lead at Quantum Data Solutions

- **Role of Referee:** Principal ML Engineer
- **Confirmed Employment:** Yes
- **Performance Commentary:** "Reliable engineer. Builds production-grade pipelines. Needs guidance on client-facing situations."
- **Would Re-hire:** Yes

Reference 2 — Former Manager at Broadfield Analytics

- **Role of Referee:** Head of Data Engineering
- **Confirmed Working Relationship:** Yes
- **Commentary:** "Solid technical contributor during a critical migration project. Left on good terms."
- **Any Concerns:** None disclosed

Candidate D — Background Check Report

Report ID: STG-2026-00849 **Check Initiated:** Early in the current check window **Report Status:** Complete

Criminal Record Check (UK DBS Basic Disclosure)

- **Result:** No unspent convictions disclosed.
- **Certificate Number:** DBS-2026-XXXXXX49
- **Date Issued:** Current certificate issue date

Employment History Verification (Last 5 Years)

Employer	Role Claimed	Dates Claimed	Dates Verified	Status
Ascent Strategy Partners	Programme Director	Jan 2023 – Present	Jan 2023 – Present	Verified
Nexus Digital Consulting	Senior Delivery Manager	Mar 2019 – Dec 2022	Mar 2019 – Nov 2022	Discrepancy — verified end date is one month earlier
[Gap: Dec 2018 – Feb 2019]	N/A	Not declared	N/A	Undeclared gap

Verifier Note: Nexus Digital Consulting HR confirmed employment ended in November 2022, not December 2022 as claimed. The candidate's application does not declare the period December 2018 to February 2019. This appears to be a 3-month gap between the end of a prior role (not within the 5-year window but overlapping with claimed dates) and the Nexus start. Recommend clarifying with the candidate.

Education Verification

- **Qualification:** MBA, Warwick Business School
- **Claimed Year:** 2018
- **Verified:** Yes — confirmed by university records, awarded December 2018

Professional Certification Verification

- **Certification:** PRINCE2 Practitioner
- **Claimed Status:** Active
- **Verified:** Yes — Axelos registry confirms active status, renewed February 2026

Credit Check

- **Result:** One satisfied County Court Judgment (CCJ) recorded, dated March 2021, amount £2,340, satisfied in full September 2021.
- **Provider Note:** This CCJ is marked as satisfied. Under Sterling's standard assessment, satisfied CCJs older than 3 years are typically classified as low-relevance for employment checks, but classification depends on the client's risk tolerance policy.

Professional Reference Checks

Reference 1 — Senior Partner at Ascent Strategy Partners

- **Role of Referee:** Managing Partner
- **Confirmed Employment:** Yes
- **Performance Commentary:** "Strong commercial leader. Manages complex client relationships well. Not hands-on with technical delivery."
- **Would Re-hire:** Yes, in a leadership capacity

Reference 2 — Client Contact at a Major Telco Account

- **Role of Referee:** VP of Transformation
- **Contact Status:** Unreachable — two email attempts and one phone call made. No response received.
- **Status:** Outstanding — Sterling will attempt final contact within the standard provider follow-up window. If no response, this reference will be marked as "Unable to Complete."

Report Notes

- All checks conducted in accordance with BS 7858:2019 and Sterling Background Checks standard protocols.
- Outstanding items (Candidate B certification verification, Candidate D second reference) will be updated in a supplementary report expected within the standard provider follow-up window.
- Northbridge Advisory Partners HR should not treat this report as final for Candidate B and Candidate D until the supplementary report is received.