**Personal statement**

In recent times many large IT platforms have been rendered incompetent as far as cyber security regulations. PlayStation and Facebook to name a few have abused or failed to protect the data of other people, therefore breaching the DPA and voiding the trust of millions of people. I pinpoint the
this as the moment my interest in cyber security piqued, I decided then that I would work against that
injustice and similar cases around the world. To be effective in such an impactful way, I
established that studying IT would be paramount for me to help protect other people’s data and privacy.

It is vital that the responsibility to mandate and uphold legislation is handled by candidates who are competent and capable of expressing the law through cyber security. It has become apparent to me that many
disrespect and refuse to adhere to basic international privacy and intellectual property rights.

I studied Biology, Psychology and ICT at A-Level. Taking two science subjects has heightened my
analytical skills, thus allowing me to efficiently draw conclusions from evidence obtained
during investigations. Psychology is a discipline that has taught me about the human mind in
relation to the reasoning behind behaviour. I interrogated case studies regularly and have
acquired the technique to compose succinct arguments. My talent for processing information
logically is exercised extensively in ICT, for example when I am creating a database. The
implementation and documentation of transcripts in ICT has sharpened my eye for detail. Due to
the large technological advancements being made in the corporate world; it is integral that
intellectual property rights are respected in a lawful way.

As part of my two-week placement at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital I shadowed a senior
radiologist for the first week. I found it extremely enlightening into how professionals can
work synoptically by incorporating different departments to assist with their diagnosis.

During my second week, I was assisting on the Nephrology ward. The legal process behind organ
transplantation intrigued me as I realised how the subject of Law is linked to every aspect of
society including medicine.

I have been involved in supporting charitable events such as the Macmillan cancer research
program as a way of giving back to my community. My role as a sexual health ambassador for the
NHS, educating children in schools around Sheffield on how to stay safe and protected requires
a high level of maturity and responsibility which I display consistently.
Interacting with people from different cultural backgrounds is a skill I have developed during
my time at B&Q and Asda. Pitching products to customers to assist sales has built up my
confidence to speak boldly in front of audiences. I am tremendously calm under pressure and
possess a lot of patience when dealing with the needs or complaints of an individual.
Throughout school I have been recognised for being a worthy role model by getting elected as
the form representative for three years and the year representative. I was voted pupil of the
year for actively giving back to the community through sport.

My spare time is spent playing football competitively and previously for Sheffield FC on a sixth form scholarship. Working with teammates in difficult games has moulded my resilient
leadership qualities. Through football I have been able to travel to countries such as Holland
and France, which has expanded my cultural awareness. I have enjoyed lots of success with
football such as winning the South Yorkshire Cup in multiple seasons.

My desire to be my personal best in every aspect of life will give me the motivation and
tenacity to become a successful engineer.

**Employment History**

**Doctor Care Anywhere – Azure DevOps Engineer (July 2021 - )**

I am currently employed by Doctor Care Anywhere as an Azure DevOps Engineer. Since joining the DevOps team I have been a vocal point in setting working standards such as how our development lifecycle should operate in the new world. I brought my knowledge of how to operate in the best way with multi-repo, mono-repo strategies and how the pipelines should implement configurations. Working with Jenkins and BitBucket in previous roles has helped me conceptualise how pipelines in ADO should be configured using best practice. An example of one of the main projects I have planned then implemented successfully is how to leverage terraform for the best alerting/monitoring solutions. Due to the current structure of the growing team, I carry out a lot of proof-of-concept work with new technology such as GitOps tools like flux/ArgoCD and Terraform CAF alongside our cloud architect or developer technical lead. Occasionally I am required to help Dev teams meet their targets and goals by having meetings to discuss what they need infrastructure wise and how to deploy it. Upon joining the company, I made a conscious decision to push myself to be more of a senior. The work I am producing now not only has a working solution in code that can be used, but also a lot of documentation or overview sessions on how I arrived to the solution and how to utilise it.

**Barclays – Public Cloud Deployment Developer (August 2020 -July 2021)**

At Barclays I was working as Public Cloud Developer. My role on a day to day basis involved working with Infrastructure as Code tools such as Terraform, CloudFormation, Chef and Jenkins to provision then configure the infrastructure in our cloud. I worked end to end taking infrastructure as code proof of concepts and turning them into best practice examples for teams within the Bank to use. I always want to stretch myself through trying new tasks to help make me a more all rounded engineer. Although my main focus was IaC I completed automation tasks, whether it be in Python or PowerShell. As a Barclays employee I was regularly reviewed for my performance and I take pride in knowing that I was given ratings of ‘Good’ for all of the core values (Respect, Integrity, Service, Stewardship, Excellence). Due to my previous experience working in a corporate company, I have learned how to deal with extreme deadlines and how to be successful under pressure while also enjoying the challenges at hand. My teamwork skills are extensively exercised due to the agile way of working I was in. I worked alongside different types of people from SME's to scrum masters, which shows that I am comfortable and enjoy communicating with different types of people. My experience prior to joining Lloyds Banking Group/Barclays was heavily customer service orientated, which provided me with an insight into how to communicate with customers and how to deliver a product that meets all of their needs. I take pride in my work ethic because I appreciate the journey of being able to move through the stages required to go from a beginner to an expert.

**Lloyds Banking Group - Public Cloud SRE (July 2019 -August 2020)**

I have also worked as a Public Cloud Site Reliability Engineer. My interest in cloud computing and the implications of network security at the virtualisation level is something that drew me towards the role. Working in a big team with constant workflow means that on a regular basis I am learning new concepts and learning how to carry out a range of different tasks. As a young man in the early years of his IT career, I see the importance in developing my technical skills and stretching myself at every opportunity. My technical ability has improved at Lloyds Public Cloud, due to my constant involvement in; the provisioning different types of infrastructure (Virtual machines, Storage accounts and key vaults) with a range of industry recognised tools for compliance and automation. On a day-to-day basis I also build CI/CD pipelines, create/implement network security group rules, complete whitelist requests and work closely with industry recognised monitoring tools for cloud platforms. My management skills in a cloud engineering context are also strong, which is something I demonstrate at Lloyds Banking Group by handling our Vulnerabilities, SOC interactions. Working in infrastructure as code within a large organisation has taught me the true meaning of due-diligence. I demonstrate my awareness of internal standards by comfortably following processes, getting approvals for white-glove/high risk tasks and pushing back when required to for the safety of the environment we take care of. I have a real passion for helping people and troubleshooting complex issues, which is why I have grown so fond of Dev Ops. My interpersonal skills shine through when I am trying to understand an individual or teams’ problems, as I believe this allows me to better react and provide the best solution for all parties.

**Lloyds Banking Group - Junior Java Developer (September 2018 – July 2019)**

Previously I worked as a Java software engineer on a degree apprenticeship programme which is delivered by Manchester Metropolitan University. Working at my previous lab has taught me how to be resilient in tough situations, calm in tense scenarios and how to work and learn simultaneously. My technical skills have been sharpened during my time at this Lloyds lab as on a day-to-day basis I was shadowing senior Java programmers and also developing/ testing code. My knowledge of the software development life cycle and agile development has grown at my time working as Junior Java developer. As an apprentice at Lloyds it was important to have an in-depth overview of what you're working towards as a developer, which is why I was also involved in IT architecture plans. Working as an architect requires a great eye for detail and the ability to holistically look at information and provide a well-informed opinion. One of Lloyd’s main working practises involves completing work as a team and being part of the company has helped my team work skills and leadership qualities.

**Sainsbury’s (May 2018 – September 2018) (Between February 2018 – April 2018 I was in full time education only at Meadowhead Sixth Form.)**

Over the summer of 2018 I worked as a Sainsbury’s colleague, which involved serving customers at the tills and engaging with customers on the shop floor to help resolve any of their queries. As well as assisting customers on a day-to-day basis and sharpening my communication skills, I also worked night shifts for the company in a bid to learn more about supply chains with my manager and better prepare myself financially for my move from Sheffield to Manchester to join Lloyds Banking Group’s digital vision.

**B&Q (February 2017 – January 2018)**

My role at B&Q involved communication with customers and assisting them with my knowledge of DIY. On a day-to-day basis my responsibilities would include the maintain ace of standards across my department, processing customer orders, checking and updating the database for our departments stock count. Working in a DIY store I had to take time away from work to familiarise myself with the necessary product knowledge which required a great level of dedication. During my time at B&Q Queens Road, I worked on the flooring and tiling department, learning key skills such as the process of how to lay flooring, advising customers on which products were the best for their circumstance and multitasking by helping customer in other departments as well.

**Asda (May 2016-January 2017)**

Working at Asda as a product sampling colleague my main responsibilities included approaching shoppers and presenting short pitches to promote a specific product. On some occasions I would be required to work under a lot of pressure by carrying out cooking demonstrations and answering questions about the products. My role also required the analysis of sale figures to interpret the best times and locations on the shop floor to sell products and drive-up sales.

**Martins McColl’s (January 2012- April 2016)**

I worked at my local Martins McColls as a paper boy delivering newspapers and magazines every morning for seven days a week. Waking up and delivering newspapers on time required a high level of discipline from a young age. Leaning how to work for something I wanted is something that was instilled in me throughout my childhood.

**Additional skills and achievements**

My skill set is varied as it is both logical and creative orientated. My logical reasoning is demonstrated through my developing capabilities to interpret the stock markets, which is something that I aim to master in the near future have developed a competitive edge that has sharpened my desire to win through participation in sports such as football and long-distance running. My sporting success is well decorated, for example I have been part of South Yorkshire sides that have won county cups, school football teams that have won leagues and Sheffield FC scholarship cup winning teams. I am bilingual as I am fluent in both Ndebele and some Zulu, which are languages that are widely spoken across South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana amongst more. My talent for processing information logically is exercised extensively in A level ICT, for example when I am creating a database using Microsoft Excel. I have had experience with designing networks as part of my A level coursework and using Solarwinds Network Topology Mapper.

The most important thing to me is to enjoy what you do, which is why I'm eager to put forward my interest in the role available. As a young man currently learning while working, I get to see a bigger picture of how working methods within LBG compare with those of the outer world, which holds the advantage of constantly being able to put forward new ideas to teams within Lloyds banking Group. In my time I have contributed lots of bright new ideas, for example on one occasion I successfully carried out various investigations into our team’s security and found that there was space for improvement and on the back of my discovery I worked alongside architects to deliver a solution I had worked hard on to improve the internal workings. My desire to learn more about Cyber security and build up a great knowledge base is a personal quality that can only benefit any team that I work within, because I always make sure that I'm doing my best to consume information and apply it effectively.

I am very fortunate to have gained the experience of working in an agile way by consistently performing all the rituals like scrum calls/retrospectives and also using tools like Jira and Confluence to aid the rituals.

Through Java development I have learnt how to use tools such as industry recognised code stores/version control, and IDE’s to deliver code-based stories on a regular basis. I have made some of my biggest contributions through the use of end-to-end unit testing across our platform. Learning programming languages is important to me as I want to be a technical colleague in order to best see the full picture and implement software orientated concepts to improve customer /colleagues end to end experiences.

In my first year working a Lloyds I was involved in delivering many projects (stories) that range from technical Java work on our systems to working with the business end to complete processes such as EMCRA (externally managed cloud resource applications) for new solutions. My contributions to agile ways of working include the maintenance of our team’s confluence site, specifically the pages for devops processes and setups for more agile ways of working.

I am currently on a Full Stack JavaScript Bootcamp with University of Manchester to further improve my coding skills so that I can automate more toil in a work environment and build apps end to end in my own time. The bootcamp will teach me how to use HTML5, CSS3, CSS Flex, JavaScript, Node.js, React.js, Express.js, API management, MySQL/NoSQL databases and AWS. The bootcamp is completed on a part time basis over 7 months. My aim is to use these skills to further my pursuit of becoming a senior Cloud Engineer.

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