I believe I have all the skills required to the job. I have been in the IT industry for the last twenty two years, of which twenty one have been in senior management. My three strongest skills throughout my career have been in the areas of IT Support, IT Development and IT Management. I have always been actively involved in writing Group Strategies or initiatives, both nationally and internationally. I have always been technically ‘hands-on’ in order to gain business respectability when trying to promote projects. The majority of projects have been project managed by myself and have involved working with complex IT systems at multisite level, along with the usual adhoc projects encompassing the whole spectrum of IT. My normal role has always been the interface between IT and the business, usually at senior management or board level. Thus as a result have setup standards, procedures and helpdesks from scratch in order to make relevant companies more corporate and competitive in these difficult times. All my roles have involved significant travel, and thus the appreciation of working in multi-cultured environments with people of different backgrounds whether novices or experts in their respective fields. I have also worked in teams aiding project managers with technical feasibilities, budgets, returns on investment to ensure projects are delivered on time. I have heavily worked with users in various departments in order to understand the business processes as a whole, and to isolate’superusers’ who are valuable assets to any project. I have always been an ‘all-rounder’ when it comes to technology, and thus can adapt to any application/platform whether it is from a technical or consultant perspective.

I am happy leading teams from being the only resource to leading whole departments. In all my roles, I have had line management responsibilities for applications, development, system analysts, project managers, service delivery, helpdesk, reporting staff etc. I have always been responsible for their management, recruitment, inductions, appraisals, motivation and mentoring alongside all line management duties. I have worked with a range of applications and platforms throughout my career thus can provide advice on best solutions and recommended practises based on ‘Real-life Experience’. I have been responsible for introducing best service delivery frameworks such as ITIL, alongside project management frameworks. I have setup change control boards, and in recent years been active in IT Steering Groups, HR Steering Groups in order to work with Executive Directors to ensure they get value for money for every project and that there is a concept of a business case rather than juggling with every request. When dealing with service delivery, I have always ensured my teams understand the importance of delivering not only a good service but an excellence service to both external and internal customers. All my roles have included the responsibility to ensure all service level agreements and resolutions are always done in a timely manner. I have written IT Strategies and dealt with external suppliers/vendors to ensure that not only are SLA (Service Level Agreements) met but also OLA (Outsourced Level Agreements) are met especially when one does not have control as to who the supplier outsources some of the work. I have always been actively involved in writing budgets, and ensuring that money is spent wisely and in the best manner to ensure competitive prices are always obtained. When projects have involved working with third parties and consultants, it is imperative that all their work is supervised. I have always made the point that all customers both internal and external adhere to security and departmental policies. I regularly carry out Business Continuity and recovery procedures to ensure that data is protected, and can be recovered any time. Data Protection is another area I always check and audit, especially with technology being available so readily thus this is always a high priority in my book.

I have led workshops and pilot testing in order to ensure customer buy-in. Always monitor software licences and supplier contracts to ensure any company I work for is abiding the law. I am a firm believer in putting the customer first, and delivering to the highest levels. I am firm believer in giving the customer the right technical advice and being responsible for all actions. I am never afraid to ask for help, and inform relevant management and stakeholders of any problems that might arise before they actually do. Communication cannot be compromised.

I have led big company transformations which involved just not change in technologies but change management in business processes affecting the workforce. When I worked for Fleet Support Limited, the number of employees was 1500, and then we merged to form BVT which was 8,500 and finally merged to be part of BAE which was global. I have been Head of IT for both Bioquell and Molton Brown, both having different challenges. Bioquell was mainly outsourced to third parties and I was the only link to the business and reporting into the CEOs. Molton Brown is a recognised global brand, but the IT team and global change and transformation strategies had to be written to cater for international countries which involved numerous workshops and training sessions. Working for a social housing company, I set up Project Steering Groups and IT Steering Groups in order to control the workload, and introduce big technical plans such as digital transformation, self-service portals, mobile technologies and cloud infrastructures. At the same time collaborated with other housing associations and local councils, in order to share knowledge and select competitive suppliers. I worked closely with HR departments when dealing with TUPE negotiations and reviewing the IT infrastructure to name a few examples. In my previous role I had the challenge of consolidating 3 big ERP systems into one. Dealing with offshore suppliers, and ensuring we were complying with our Group's strategies dictated by France. Also had to reassure employees that the Brexit decision will not affect the day to day operations, after having workshops with the directors. My current role was working for a start up in the Healthcare industry and involves liaising with many partners both external and shareholders.

I have worked in both the private and public sector and each has their own challenges. From the private sector, emphasis is put on delivery times and cost. Whereas in the public sector the emphasis is put on people especially equality and diversity. I am a firm believer I have the best of both worlds, and can bring plenty of experience to this role.

This role is a great opportunity for me to showcase my 22 years of IT senior management experience. I have done similar roles in the past. I am firm believer in leading by example and motivating others. I have only taken 3 days off sick in 22 years (2 flu and 1 broken wrist), I have encouraged my children to achieve the best in whatever they do (both were Head Boy and Deputy Girl in their primary schools, and both won academic scholarships at Portsmouth Grammar School). My daughter in 2014 received her GCSE results where she obtained 12 in total (these were all A\* and A’s, and included Additional Maths and languages such as Spanish, French and Panjabi). This was followed up with her getting AAAB in her A Levels last year and is studying MEng in Computer Science. My son obtained all A\* in his GCSE results, and is on course to study medicine this year. I believe in engaging all peoples irrespective of backgrounds and to earn mutual respect. This has come from working in different sectors of industry. I am looking for a long term challenge where I can make a difference.

I hope this gives a glimpse of my skillset and why I truly believe that I will enjoy the challenge of this role, if given the opportunity.