

# David Cockson

Hope is not a strategy.

[davidcockson.com](http://davidcockson.com)

- |— [blog.davidcockson.com](http://blog.davidcockson.com) – technical blog
- |— [lccp-filter.davidcockson.com](http://lccp-filter.davidcockson.com) – UKGC regulation filter tool
- |— [scarlet-helix.davidcockson.com](http://scarlet-helix.davidcockson.com) – UKGC licence CSV filter

[github.com/davidcockson-compliance](https://github.com/davidcockson-compliance)

[linkedin.com/in/david-cockson](https://linkedin.com/in/david-cockson)

Systems thinker with a focus on identifying constraints and designing robust controls within complex environments. With 8 years of experience analyzing high-stakes regulatory systems (AML gambling and data protection), I bring a T-shaped generalist perspective to technical problem-solving. I am now applying this analytical rigor to hands-on engineering, building observable and resilient infrastructure across cloud and AI systems.

[\[ \] Jump straight to Professional Experience](#)

## Google Cloud

- GCP Skills Boost Terraform
- GCP Skills Boost Kubernetes
- GCP Skills Boost Set Up a Google Cloud Network
- Google Fundamentals of Digital Marketing
- Google ADK Crash Course – Agent Development Kit

## Industry Qualifications

- ICA Advanced Certificate in Regulatory Compliance
- ICA Specialist Certificate in Money Laundering Risk in Betting and Gaming
- Award in iGaming – MQF Level 4

## Education

- **University of Huddersfield** 2010–2013 Diploma in Law – tutoring, student representative, mootng society

- **Manchester Metropolitan University** 2002–2005 Certificate of Education, Dept of Economics – student representative

## **Training**

- Anti-Money Laundering & CTF Swedish Regulatory Framework
- Anti-Bribery CAP Responsible Ads: Gambling
- Anti-Fraud & Payments Handling ICC Ethical Marketing & Advertising
- GDPR Introduction to Blockchain
- LCCP LivingWorks safeTALK
- Remote Gambling – CMA Guide GamCare Motivational Interviewing
- Responsible Gaming Betway LEAP Management Training

## **Community & Volunteering**

- Tech Ecosystem: Active participant in the Manchester tech community, regularly attending engineering meetups (Bet365, AI Data Hive/Matillion, Grafana/Autotrader).
- Open Source Contributor: Volunteer contributor to the GFSC, focusing on governance frameworks and distributed operations.
- Emergency Rescue Operations (Malta): St John Rescue Corps water rescue training, including active lifeguard certification, RHIB (Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boat) operations, and high-stress emergency triage.

## **Additional Projects & Certifications**

- Homelab Infrastructure: Administer a Proxmox virtualization host running 20+ Docker containers, securely routed via a Tailscale mesh network.
- Maritime & Emergency Triage: STCW, RYA Sailing, and PADI certified. Formally trained in advanced first aid, emergency triage, and high-stress incident response in critical physical environments.
- Interests: Digital Photography (Darktable raw processing workflow).

## **Technical Projects**

## **Monitoring & Observability**

- Full stack: Telegraf → Prometheus → Grafana across homelab and Contabo VPS
- Diagnosed silent cAdvisor failure (cgroup v2 + non-standard Docker root), pivoted to Telegraf Docker socket API
- Published Grafana community dashboard (ID 25012)
- Grafana Cloud setup (free tier, eu-west-2)
- Multi-cloud monitoring: Prometheus + Node Exporter + Grafana deployed to Contabo VPS (Ubuntu 24.04, Germany)

maps to → monitoring, observability, Prometheus, Grafana, incident diagnosis, multi-cloud

### **Linux & Containerisation**

- Proxmox hypervisor running Ubuntu VM with 20+ Docker containers
- Services: Plex, Immich, Gitea, SearXNG, Nginx Proxy Manager, Portainer, Syncthing, and others
- Multi-stage Docker builds (Node/Vite → nginx:alpine) for project deployments
- systemd service authoring (Tailscale metrics proxy – Python HTTP proxy exposing client metrics to Prometheus)
- Linux Mint as primary dev environment

maps to → Linux, Docker, containerisation, virtualisation, systemd, process management

### **Cloud Infrastructure**

- AWS: self-taught runbook methodology through 23 reps – click-ops → CLI → scripted automation → self-healing fleet (3 EC2 instances)
- LCCP Regulation Filter deployed to EC2 (multi-stage Docker build: Node/Vite → nginx:alpine)
- Contabo VPS: self-hosted AI stack (Ollama Qwen2.5 14B, Prometheus, Grafana, Syncthing) on Ubuntu 24.04, accessible via Tailscale mesh
- Multi-provider experience: AWS, Contabo, Cloudflare, GCP Skills Boost

maps to → AWS, EC2, CLI, multi-cloud, VPS management, cloud infrastructure

### **Python Development**

- Code kata system: self-designed, multi-domain reps (AWS, Linux, networking) – same 7 concepts applied across 3 contexts per rep
- ARN decoder script – committed to public repo

- Discord server with 3 webhooks configured as alerting channel for monitoring stack
- Scripting across homelab and cloud automation tasks
- Google ADK (Agent Development Kit) crash course completed – AI agent framework

maps to → Python, scripting, automation, webhooks, ChatOps, AI agents

## **Terraform & IaC**

- Runbook self-learning methodology: 4 reps completed, committed to pinned infra-practice repo
- Progression: single EC2 → User Data + IAM + CloudWatch → ALB + HTTPS → full production stack (ASG + Launch Template) in a single terraform apply
- GCP Skills Boost badges (Terraform, Kubernetes, Google Cloud Network)

maps to → Terraform, IaC, HCL, ALB, ASG, GCP exposure

## **Networking & Access Control**

- Tailscale mesh networking across homelab, laptop, phone, and Contabo VPS
- Nginx Proxy Manager as reverse proxy for all services
- DNS management across multiple custom domains (Cloudflare)
- Labelled physical network infrastructure with structured cabling and surge protection
- Tailscale metrics proxy: custom Python service exposing network metrics to Prometheus

maps to → networking, DNS, reverse proxy, VPN/zero-trust, infrastructure documentation

## **CI/CD & Deployment Pipelines**

- Blog (Hugo): GitHub Actions → Cloudflare
- Personal site: GitHub Actions deploy pipeline
- Scarlet Helix: GitHub Actions → Cloudflare Workers
- All projects use custom domains with DNS management

maps to → CI/CD, GitHub Actions, deployment automation, DNS, Cloudflare

## **Volunteer – Geeks for Social Change (GFSC)**

- Infrastructure discovery: mapped an undocumented, distributed legacy server estate across Hetzner, Co-op Cloud, and Digital Ocean

- Drafted initial observability strategy (Uptime Kuma → Node Exporter → Grafana Cloud) collaboratively in HedgeDoc
- Iterated infrastructure review based on community maintainer feedback
- First external contribution: committed final technical proposals and system documentation to the organisation's public GitHub repo

maps to → infrastructure mapping, Git collaboration, technical documentation, systems discovery, open-source community

## Professional Experience

### **Compliance Manager – Gambling Commission of Great Britain**

July 2024 - Present

- Assessment of regulated gambling companies including casinos, betting shops, bingo, AGCs (in-person) and remote casinos, sportsbooks, bingo and B2B software development companies (online)
- Led all 2025 Software Development Licence assessments, including ISO 27001 reviews, Change Management evaluations, policy and procedure assessments, and governance interviews with C-level executives (CTO/CEO), Heads of Departments and SMEs
- Managed end-to-end incident response—from real-time triage to root-cause investigation—for complex software failures. Evaluated active incident reports and sensitive disclosures, gathered critical system context, and escalated high-severity findings to executive committees to enforce necessary technical remediations.
- Supported cross-functional technical initiatives and unplanned operational workstreams, managing highly sensitive data escalations and critical internal risk disclosures.
- Utilise Microsoft Copilot, SharePoint and proprietary software to streamline regulatory reporting and maintain audit trails for complex assessment workflows

### **Regulatory Compliance Assurance Manager – William Hill (888 Holdings)**

May 2023 - December 2023

- Recruited, trained and directed an Assurance team across Marketing Compliance, Technical Compliance and VIP/HVC schemes for 3 business units (UK & Ireland, International, US) spanning 22 regulated markets

- Established procedural frameworks and authored the Risk Matrix for the Group Assurance department; planned and executed all non-AML and SG assurance testing for 2023
- Coordinated operations for a 5-person international data and monitoring team and a 19-person testing team (Manila), providing task allocation and performance feedback
- Integrated Assurance into group regulatory and controls mapping with external entities including KPMG; authored the framework and supported delivery of RTS testing framework automation and the GB annual assurance statement
- Developed and delivered specialist training (Assurance Testing, GB Regulatory Actions, 3rd Party Risk Analysis, Marketing Compliance)

### **Compliance Officer – Allwyn UK (National Lottery)**

September 2022 – March 2023

- Authored technical Business Requirement Documents (BRDs) and facilitated critical operational handover workshops with legacy service providers.
- Architected and deployed the foundational system monitoring frameworks and operational control registers for the platform transition.
- Advised Marketing, Retail and Product Development teams on technical implementation and regulatory alignment as a Subject Matter Expert
- Managed tier-one technology vendor relationships (Scientific Games) and coordinated international infrastructure efficiency (Net Zero) initiatives.
- Directed a joint Machine Learning development project with Oxford University, bridging the gap between academic AI models and commercial product deployment.

### **Previous Roles**

- **Regional Regulatory Compliance Manager | Betway Group** (Nov 2021 – Apr 2022) Led cross-organizational incident response on a partner platform (West Ham), mitigating risk by analyzing third-party access logs to confirm zero public exposure. Managed an international team of 4, driving time-critical operational shifts—including rapid documentation overhauls and emergency resource mobilization to the Netherlands—to unblock strict licensing deadlines and ensure business continuity.
- **Marketing Compliance Analyst – Pokerstars (Flutter International)** Nov 2020 – Jul 2021  
Marketing compliance across 15+ regulated markets, 3 gaming verticals. Created guidance, training and regulatory risk matrices.

- **Compliance Officer** – Genesis Global Limited Dec 2018 – Nov 2020

Managed emergency remediation following a mandated operational suspension and severe external review. Executed rapid gap analysis and rebuilt critical monitoring frameworks, achieving the second-fastest operational reinstatement on record—and the fastest historically for an escalation of that severity. Additionally drove new platform launches and regulatory reporting automation. (Previously Risk, Payment & Fraud Analyst).

- **Legal & Compliance Officer** – PlayAttack Affiliates Jul – Sep 2021

Marketing compliance across Sweden, MGA and Romania. Affiliate monitoring, licence applications, UKGC onboarding.

- **Case Handler** – HSBC (PPI & PBA Departments) Aug 2013 – Aug 2017

Complaint investigation, documentation review across proprietary systems, procedure improvement, colleague training.