Project & Programme Management

Career Intelligence Report · January to March 2026

171	45%	104	Band 7
Q1 ROLES	BAND 8+	EMPLOYERS	MODAL BAND

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Band Distribution
- Employer Intelligence
- Geography & Location
- Role Landscape & Job Titles
- Career Intelligence

Share freely and credit Career Co-Pilot

Overview

Project & Programme Management — Q1 2026 Snapshot

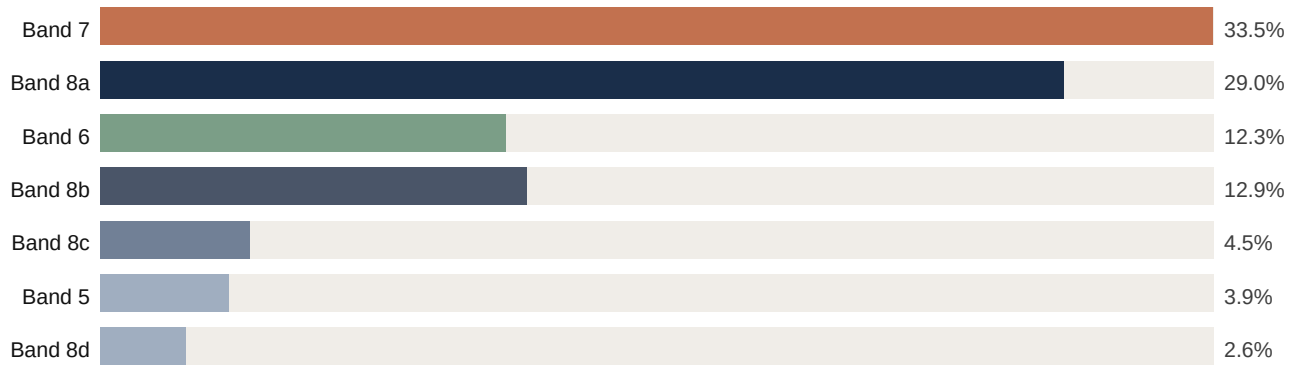
We tracked 171 roles in Project & Programme Management with closing dates in Q1 2026 (January to March 2026). With 45% of roles at Band 8 or above, this domain continues to offer strong senior pathways for professionals with the right experience. The Band 7 to 8a ratio stands at 0.87.

171 Roles tracked Q1 2026	**77 (45%)** Senior roles Band 8+
Band 7 Modal band	**0.87** Band 7 to 8a ratio

Band Distribution

Grade Profile — Q1 2026

The band distribution below shows how 171 tracked roles in Project & Programme Management were distributed across AfC grades in Q1 2026. Higher proportions at Band 7 and above indicate a domain with strong senior representation.



Employer Intelligence

Top Hiring Organisations — Q1 2026

Leeds Teaching Hospitals was the most active organisation in Project & Programme Management during Q1 2026, accounting for 5% of the roles we tracked. Across the quarter, 104 unique organisations were recruiting in this domain.

Organisation	Roles
Leeds Teaching Hospitals	8
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6
NHS Blood and Transplant	6
NHS England	5
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	4
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	4
Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	4
Velindre University NHS Trust	4

Geography

Top Hiring Locations — Q1 2026

London was the primary location for Project & Programme Management roles in Q1 2026, accounting for 16% of tracked roles. Roles were distributed across 88 locations.

Location	Roles
London	27
Leeds	11
Cambridge	7
Cardiff	7
Birmingham	7
Leicester	4
Orpington	4
Leicestershire	3

Role Landscape

Most Common Job Titles — Q1 2026

The title landscape in Project & Programme Management reflects the range of entry points and seniority levels active in Q1 2026. Understanding which titles recur most frequently helps professionals identify the right keywords for job searching and CV positioning.

Job Title	Count
Project Manager	20
Senior Project Manager	9
Senior Programme Manager	4
Digital Programme Manager	4
Programme Manager	4
Senior Transformation Programme Manager	4
Digital Project Manager	3
Capital Project Manager	3

Career Intelligence

What This Means for Your Career

ENTRY PATHWAY

Band 7 remains the primary consolidation point with 33.5% of all roles. The Band 7 to 8a ratio of 0.87 indicates a healthy progression pipeline — senior roles exist in volume and competition is real but accessible. Leeds Teaching Hospitals emerged as the quarter's standout recruiter with 8 roles.

WHERE TO TARGET

London holds 16% of all Q1 2026 roles, consistent with prior quarters. Leeds, Cambridge, Cardiff and Birmingham each recorded 7 or more roles — making all four credible alternatives to London for candidates seeking geographic flexibility. NHS Blood and Transplant and UCLH were the most active national bodies this quarter.

Q1 2026 VS Q4 2025

Q1 2026 recorded 171 roles compared to 165 in Q4 2025, a 4% increase suggesting continued stable demand in this domain. Senior representation at 45% is slightly below Q4 2025's 49%, indicating more mid-grade entry roles opened this quarter. The modal band remains Band 7 across both quarters.

Methodology

This report covers roles with closing dates between 1 January and 31 March 2026 (Q1 2026), tracked through Career Co-Pilot's jobs monitoring pipeline. Our pipeline tracks digital and non-clinical health roles across organisations in England and Wales — it does not represent the complete universe of NHS jobs. Band data is sourced directly from job postings; non-standard or missing bands are excluded from band analysis but included in volume counts.

Project & Programme Management · Domain Deep Dive · Q1 2026

Explore this domain: careercopilot.academy/insights/project_programme_management

Career Co-Pilot · careercopilot.academy · Share freely and credit Career Co-Pilot