

# Case Study **Amber Cowan**

**IFLP**

POWERED BY secbe

## Interim Head of Emergency Planning & Resilience DEFRA

Amber Cowan from Defra and a participant of IFLP Series 6 joined the programme with a clear ambition to strengthen how her department uses data to inform decision-making and improve operational resilience. Throughout IFLP, she applied her learning directly to her business challenge, analysing how data is collected, verified, and used across the department. This process helped her identify opportunities to challenge routine approaches to data use and promote higher-quality, more accessible datasets. By addressing data quality, accessibility, and the behaviours surrounding its use, Amber works to foster a culture that actively critiques data and ensures it consistently meets required outputs.

IFLP equipped Amber with tools she's now using to set clearer boundaries, manage her energy, and communicate more effectively, benefits she now shares with her teams. She returns to her role with a structured plan for modelling behaviours that promote continuous improvement and feels equipped to help teams speak a shared language around data, standards, and reporting, enabling stronger, more confident, and future-focused decision-making across Defra.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

"I now recognise that innovation is not just about bringing in new IT kit, it's a mindset, it's a forward-thinking approach to how you can attack your day job (or anything for that matter) now and in the future..."

"IFLP has allowed me the time and space away from my day job and my personal life to really reflect on myself as a leader. It has equipped me with the tools and resources to ensure I am showing up as the best version of myself."