

Dr. Christopher Dillon

Director of Data · Strategic Data Leader (PE-backed, multi-brand e-commerce & retail)

Deep hands-on technical depth: **SQL** · **Python** · **data modelling** · **ELT** · **cloud warehousing** · **LLMs in production**

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Northern Ireland

SKILLS

STRATEGY & LEADERSHIP

Enterprise data strategy
PE-backed governance
Exec stakeholder management
Cross-functional delivery
Hiring & team development
ROI & business cases

DATA & PLATFORM

SQL & data modelling
ELT / ETL pipelines
Cloud data warehousing
Lakehouse patterns
BI: Power BI, Streamlit, custom (fit-for-purpose)
Self-service analytics
Entra SSO / RBAC
GDPR & metadata management

BUILD

Python
Polars / DuckDB
Streamlit
Docker / Git
Claude Code
Self-hosted & cloud LLMs
Prompt engineering

DOMAIN

Supply chain analytics
OTIF / inventory
Commercial & pricing
Finance partnering
Regulated diagnostics (PhD)

PROFILE

Senior data leader inside a **PE-backed (TA Associates)** group of **18 B2B and e-commerce businesses**. Advocated for the role, then built the strategy, platform and a small, high-performance team from scratch — now the evidence base for a group-wide restructuring programme. Influence-led: embedded with the **commercial team**, longstanding partner to **Finance** on reporting and forecasting models, and deep cross-functional experience with **Operations** (OTIF, inventory, supply). Comfortable setting technical direction, growing capability without growing the org chart, and translating data into board- and exec-level decisions.

EXPERIENCE

Head of Data · Global Lead Data Scientist

Jan 2025 - Present

Nexus Brands Group — PE-backed (TA Associates), 18 businesses

Made the case for a Global Head of Data role — arguing the group needed someone whose remit was to lift **data literacy and decision-making maturity across every function**, not just produce reports — then built the strategy, architecture and team into it. The function has been central to a major global restructuring and optimisation programme, with governance expectations appropriate for a PE-backed business preparing for further growth.

- **Strategic leadership:** Owned the enterprise data strategy end-to-end and positioned data insights as a core differentiator. Built ROI cases for data infrastructure investment that were approved at group level, and defined the metrics for data quality, accessibility, and utilisation across the business.
- **Cross-functional enablement:** Worked directly with **heads of department across all 18 Nexus businesses** — sitting with each to understand the actual problems they were trying to solve before building anything. Embedded in the commercial team today; previously partnered directly with **Finance** on reporting, **forecasting models**, and business performance analytics; extensive work with **Operations** on OTIF, inventory, and supply visibility; supported Sales, customer success and people functions with self-service analytics. Delivered **executive dashboards** including **EOS L10 scorecards** at the leadership-team level.
- **Adoption & utilisation:** Tracked dashboard adoption and reporting usage as first-class metrics — not just "is the data correct" but "is it actually changing decisions." Used those signals to retire low-value reports, double down on high-impact ones, and lift data literacy.
- **Architecture & pipelines:** Designed and built a centralised cloud data warehouse with hourly ELT pipelines from multiple NetSuite instances, Shopify, and Google. Replaced all legacy reporting with a single modern stack — **20+** dashboards, Entra SSO and role-based access, retired multiple incumbent BI tools.
- **Governance, GDPR & access:** Established the group's data governance posture — RBAC via Entra, data classification and self-service patterns appropriate for GDPR compliance, and lightweight metadata management so colleagues can find and trust data without going through the data team. Got the unified view into the hands of **every employee at zero cost per seat**.
- **AI / ML in production:** Drove AI adoption group-wide and embedded LLM-assisted development inside the data team (Claude Code) for faster pipeline and dashboard delivery. Stood up self-hosted local LLMs for privacy-preserving, zero-marginal-cost workloads — review sentiment, SEO copy analysis, product description harmonisation — with prompts tuned per task.
- **Analytics depth:** CAC modelling and optimisation, discount dependency analysis, basket & bundle intelligence, pricing and shipping margin modelling with statistical significance testing, vendor spend analysis.
- **People leadership:** Hired and now lead a small team of PhD-level data scientists and engineers supporting senior leadership across the group. Focused on developing the individuals on the team and building deliberate capability — not padding the org chart.
- **Business impact:** **+25%** OTIF; identified **£Xm (figure withheld)** in excess & obsolete inventory; recovered **~1% of revenue** previously lost to out-of-stock; directly informed the group's global restructuring.

European Data Scientist

Apr 2023 - Jan 2025

Nexus Brands Group

Stood up the data function for 5 European businesses spanning supply-chain trading and distribution. Consolidated fragmented source systems into a unified warehouse and delivered consistent automated reporting across all entities — promoted to Global Lead based on this work.

Data Scientist

May 2022 - Apr 2023

Christies Direct (now part of Nexus Brands Group)

Established the data function from scratch at a global B2B distribution business. Unified reporting across Christies and sister supply-chain operation Transgroom. Promoted as the business was acquired into Nexus Brands Group.

Research Fellow

Jan 2022 - Apr 2022

Queen's University Belfast & Randox Laboratories

Post-doctoral position handing my PhD ML image-recognition work into Randox's production diagnostics pipeline — a heavily regulated, quality-managed environment, with Randox's food-supply-chain testing division (residue, contaminant and food-safety diagnostics) operating alongside the clinical side I worked on.

Astrophysics PhD

Sep 2017 - Feb 2022

Queen's University Belfast

PhD project: *Observations and Modelling of Intensity Time series for Biomedical and Astrophysical Applications* — joint venture with Randox. Developed statistical techniques for below-noise-floor signals, applied to both stellar lightcurves and biochip diagnostics. Led to novel discoveries of stellar nanoflares (published in ApJ) and to ML-based image feature recognition now embedded in Randox's production biochip pipeline — **98.8%** reduction in downstream processing time in a **\$12B** diagnostics market. Redacted thesis.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 **Nanoflare Activity on Fully Convective M-dwarf Stars**
Grant et al. The Astrophysical Journal
- 2020 **Statistical Evidence for Stellar Nanoflare Signals in M-type Lightcurves**
Dillon et al. The Astrophysical Journal
- 2019 **Monte Carlo Techniques for Nanoflare Detection in Solar Active Regions**
Jess et al. The Astrophysical Journal

EDUCATION

MSci Physics, First Class Honours

Sep 2013 - Jun 2017

Queen's University Belfast

Seagate bursary recipient. Head of peer mentor scheme.