



Eich cyf/Your ref: WQ100270
Ein cyf/Our ref: AP PO 175 2026

Shav Taj MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

Shav.Taj-AS@senedd.cymru

9 September 2026

Dear Shav,

You recently tabled a written question reference WQ 100270, apologies for the delay in replying please find my response below.

WQ 100270 - What action is the Welsh Government taking to ensure that communities will benefit where data centres are proposed, including through local jobs, skills and supply-chain opportunities, while mitigating any negative impacts on infrastructure, water resources and local amenities?

Welsh Government work closely with strategically important businesses in Wales, such as data centres. By building trusted relationships, we will help maximise the economic and social benefits these businesses bring to Wales and its people by facilitating solutions, coordinating support, and ensuring that businesses can invest, grow and contribute to Wales's long-term prosperity.

Wales is increasingly being recognised as a strategic location for the infrastructure needed to support the digital economy. Investment in data centres has the potential to create new economic opportunities and support skilled employment. The Welsh Government recognises the importance and potential of these investments and is working with the industry to realise benefits that can be felt by businesses, communities and in the wider Welsh economy.

Data centres are highly automated facilities and, when measured on a jobs-per-acre basis, generally support fewer jobs than some other industries. This reflects the nature of their operations and the significant capital investment involved. However, the jobs they do create are typically highly skilled and well paid, encompassing a range of roles including data centre technicians, network engineers and specialist managerial positions. Demand for these skills continues to grow, driven by the expansion of cloud computing, artificial intelligence and increasingly complex digital infrastructure.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn yr iaith honno ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

A comprehensive national skills audit is underway to map current and future workforce needs across Wales, identifying shortages and inform investment decisions. A new national strategy is also being developed, to support learners in a changing labour market and promote both vocational and academic pathways.

In terms of environmental impacts, any proposed data centre development remains subject to the existing planning system and environmental regulation. There are robust checks and balances in place to ensure that impacts are properly considered before consent is granted. Modern facilities are moving towards far more sustainable approaches to energy use and cooling than earlier generations of data centres, and the experience of communities elsewhere, including in parts of the United States and Ireland, is precisely why Wales is seeking to take a considered and managed approach to future development.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Adam Price', with a stylized, cursive script.

Adam Price AS/MS

Gweinidog Cabinet dros Fenter, Cysylltedd ac Ynni
Cabinet Minister for Enterprise, Connectivity and Energy