Mr Phil Graham
CEO
National Infrastructure Commission
2 Orange
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

2nd February 2016

Dear Mr Graham

Congratulations on your recent appointment as CEO of the National Infrastructure Commission. We were very pleased to see the establishment of a body focused on infrastructure and delighted to see that in the recent consultation digital infrastructure is now mentioned as part of the remit of the group.   While our digital infrastructure perhaps does not suffer from so many of the pressing issues that you are currently addressing in your three priority areas, we thought that we should take the opportunity to alert you to our presence for future reference.

techUK is the trade association representing the digital technology sector in the UK, covering software, hardware, consumer electronics, telecommunications, data centres, cloud and IT services provision and a range of related sub-sectors. I look after data centres, the part of our core digital infrastructure where data is processed, managed, transmitted, received and stored, whether it relates to public services, air traffic control, banking or social media. My colleague Raj Sivalingam (ccd) heads up our programme on the UK communications infrastructure and covers fixed and mobile telephony and spectrum.

Demand for data centre services and associated communications provision will be driven by developments such as smart grid, superfast broadband and the Internet of Things (machine to machine communication) as well as the more generic and widespread move to internet services by business, government and consumers. Policy initiatives like the UK's Digital Strategy and the EU's Digital Agenda will continue to drive strong data growth and increasing dependence on digital infrastructure. In short, the digital part of our national infrastructure is not likely to shrink.

Both Raj and I have access to specialist expertise within our respective areas of responsibility in the form of technical committees, senior industry councils and broad based stakeholder groups. The individuals who make up these groups include not just the technical cognoscenti but also people who are conversant with the art of the possible, with strategic developments and with technology interdependencies. We would be more than happy to place this resource at your disposal should you need information on the technical or market characteristics of the sector.

While there may not be an immediate drive for activity in this area, do please feel free to call on us should the need arise. If in the meantime you would like further information about how we see our digital infrastructure, then please don't hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely

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