Data Centres and COVID-19
What are we doing?

April 2020

Respond	Adapt	Recover
Part one: Initial response to COVID-19 Crisis	Part two: Doing business through COVID-19	Part three: Doing business in the aftermath of COVID-19
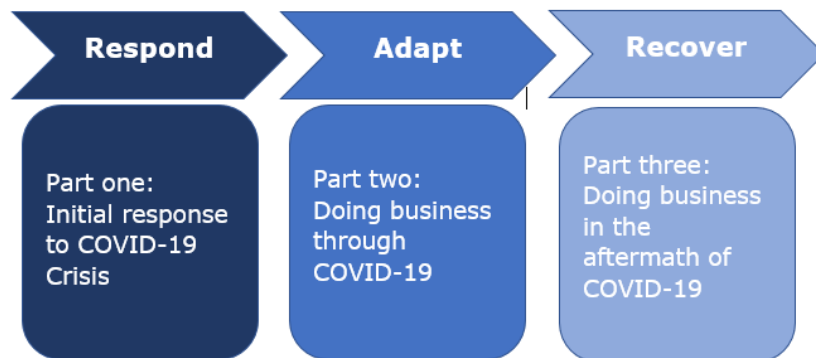
What does our data centre programme do?

techUK provides a collective voice for UK data centre operators, representing the sector on matters of public policy, reputation and compliance. In summary we:

1. Change things (we negotiated a CCA for data centres, negotiated the addition of data centres (data infrastructure) to the Key Workers list).

2. Mitigate things we can't change – e.g. simplifying compliance requirements.

3. Explain and inform: demystifying data centres for external stakeholders and demystifying policy for operators.

4. Develop communities of interest to share best practice and inform our collective voice.

What have we done in response to COVID-19?

Respond

Established effective crisis communications with govt. Helped keep digital infrastructure up and running

- Ensured data infrastructure included on critical workers list
- Worked quickly with DCMS to stand up a team to focus on data resilience
- Daily engagement with DCMS to ensure rapid resolution of emerging issues
- Organised weekly open calls between the sector and DCMS
- techUK identified as the principal conduit between DCMS and the sector

Adapt

Established a stakeholder communication hub
Collated sector data and information for govt
Provided guidance, updates and best practice to sector

- Collated and published information on footfall, transport, CNI designations, PPE, precautions and decontamination measures
- Collated and shared information with DCMS on construction projects, critical worker definitions, sector business models and more...
- Developed infographics on risk timeline, interdependencies, operator-customer relationships, service delivery landscape and more…
- Shared updates and clarifications from DCMS to the sector on key worker movement, construction, testing, PPE and policy developments
- Developed a library of COVID-19 resources for data centres
- Provided bespoke support to individual operators

Recover

Leveraging existing network to facilitate recovery
Helping govt review sector criticality and resilience
Working with govt to identify support measures

- Setting up operator-supplier dialogues on COVID-19 supply issues
- Working closely with government on a reappraisal of the role of data centres
- Identifying support measures needed for future competitiveness of sector
- Reviewing incident data and exploring risk scenarios in light of COVID-19

Useful Resources

Data Centre programme overview 2019

For COVID-19 information relevant to data centres see:
https://www.techuk.org/covid-19-information-hub/data_centres

for COVID-19 information relevant across the tech sector see:
https://www.techuk.org/covid-19-information-hub

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