

# COVID-19 and Data Centres

## Update: 24 March 2020



### Data centres and COVID-19

Data centre operators are facing a number of COVID-19 related challenges but the main one is to limit routes for infection whilst providing continuity of service. Operators are very concerned about access to sites in the event of a lockdown, so techUK has been lobbying hard on behalf of the industry.

The good news is that, thanks to swift and decisive action by DCMS, the [list of key workers](#) published by Cabinet Office and the Department for Education on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March explicitly included Data Infrastructure:

DCMS has also established a dedicated team for the data centre sector: **The DCMS Data Infrastructure Resilience Team**. They understand the critical role that data centres play and are ensuring that this is understood across government. The team is expecting questions and has already established a mailbox: [COVID-data-resilience@culture.gov.uk](mailto:COVID-data-resilience@culture.gov.uk) for queries from data centre operators, customers and suppliers.

techUK is continuing to work closely with DCMS and will provide a two-way conduit for information-collating industry information to aid government decision making and communicating policy and other developments out to the data centre operators, suppliers, customers and other sector stakeholders. For the latest updates visit our [COVID-19 information hub](#) where there is a designated area for data centres.

Our immediate focus is to ensure continued access for critical staff in the event of tighter restrictions on movement without compromising government objectives to restrict anything but essential activity. We are compiling a list of key roles together with justification. We are also looking at longer term risks resulting from COVID-19.

techUK is issuing regular bulletins and you can read the latest one here: <https://www.techuk.org/insights/news/item/17111-COVID-19-data-centre-sector>. Regular operator catch-up calls are held at least once a week to compare notes, and further bulletins will be issued as and when needed.

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