

27 April 2020

COVID-19 and data centres: Bulletin EIGHT

This Bulletin pulls together developments since Tuesday 21st April. Useful links are included in each point and at the bottom.

1. [Key points and actions from catch up call with DCMS](#)
2. [Role of DCMS team looking forward](#)
3. [PPE and other precautions to limit infection](#)
4. [Typical Data centre faults](#)
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1 Update from latest call with DCMS

Our latest call with DCMS was on Friday 24th April. There were no major policy changes on construction or on key work classifications, but there had been a development on testing. The self-referral system for testing key workers (those who were symptomatic or living with those that were symptomatic) had been uploaded to the government website. The objective was to provide testing so that frontline staff who were quarantined but not infected could return to work. While testing slots were snapped up quickly, there is plenty of useful guidance on the site, see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#essential-workers>

We also discussed issues like typical faults, sector competitiveness, recovery and the future role of the dedicated DCMS team (see separate items below). Actions included leveraging our supplier operator forum to discuss supply chain issues. All these are important topics, so the notes are longer than usual. You can find them [here](#).

2 Role of DCMS Data Infrastructure Resilience Team looking ahead

The Data Infrastructure Resilience Team had been established at short notice when government recognised how dependent we are on data centres. Having achieved the urgent changes needed to the Key Workers list and ensured that information from the sector on issues like critical workers and footfall was included in policy decisions, the team is now thinking longer term. This dedicated group has a 12 month remit to learn about the sector and establish whether current government support structures are right and to identify any measures needed to ensure the future security and resilience of the UK's data infrastructure. The objective is to reach a point where they understand the sector well enough to make recommendations on:

- whether any transformative changes are needed to government support for the sector, both in terms of resilience but also in terms of competitiveness.
- What government should be doing to support not just the economic viability of the sector but also enable the sector to continue to support the UK economy.

7 Useful links

DCMS Data Infrastructure Resilience Team mailbox: COVID-data-resilience@culture.gov.uk for queries from data centre operators, customers and suppliers. They understand the critical role that data centres play and are ensuring that this is understood across government.

techUK information hub: Don't forget that we are trying to group as much information as possible into the data centre COVID page here: <https://www.techuk.org/covid-19-information-hub/data-centres>
This is a section of [techUK's COVID-19 information hub](#). Which covers broader developments relevant to the tech sector at large.

Operator statements

Digital Realty: <https://www.digitalrealty.com/coronavirus-statement>

Equinix: <https://www.equinix.com/lp/equinix-coronavirus-statement-to-customers-and-partners/>

Equinix: <https://blog.equinix.com/blog/2020/03/26/covid-19-protecting-our-critical-ibx-data-center-infrastructure/>

4D Data Centres: <https://www.4d-dc.com/insight/4d-data-centres-covid-19-latest-response-plan-statement>

UKCloud: <https://ukcloud.com/hub/news/ukcloud-confirms-readiness-to-support-public-services-in-responding-to-the-coronavirus-outbreak/>

LINX: <https://www.linx.net/linx-response-to-covid-19-coronavirus-threat/>

VIRTUS: <https://virtusdatacentres.com/general/covid-19-statement>

Useful URLs

- WHO guidelines: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
- Latest govt advice: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
- Testing: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#essential-workers>
- PHE: [decontamination in non-healthcare settings](#)
- Social distancing in the workplace: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/social-distancing-in-the-workplace-during-coronavirus-covid-19-sectorguidance>
- Uptime bulletins: <https://uptimeinstitute.com/covid-19-minimizing-critical-facility-risk>

For further information on techUK's data centres programme see our programme overview:

<https://www.techuk.org/insights/news/item/272-data-centre-programme-overview>

Or visit our website <https://www.techuk.org/focus/programmes/data-centres>

8 Contacts



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