

Dear colleague,

As I set out in a [speech at the Capital West London Summit in June](#), the explosive growth of data centres in West London has left this part of the capital with little spare grid capacity in the boroughs of Ealing, Hillingdon and Hounslow. We rely on data centres to drive our modern economy, but one fully operational data centre can soak up the power for 10,000 homes!

Energy network constraints are now the biggest barrier to building the new homes and commercial facilities we need. It is also slowing down the electrification of transport and heating to decarbonise our economy and help mitigate climate change.

### ***Upgrading the national transmission network***

This morning Nick Winser, the UK energy commissioner, published his independent report on '[Accelerating electricity transmission network deployment](#)'. The good news is that he believes major grid infrastructure can be upgraded in 7, not 14 years; and that the finance is available. But Nick's recommendations demand:

- Regulatory reform
- A focus on skills and talent and the communication of new opportunities to citizens
- Increasing supply chain capacity – the UK's ability to purchase equipment and services for grid upgrades

We fully support his recommendations and urge all parties to support their rapid implementation.

The report makes substantial recommendations on regulatory reform, but in the area of skills and supply chain the report is not as detailed as we hoped. There is undoubtedly more work to do, and faster.

### ***West London's low power, local grid***

In West London our low power, local grid must also be upgraded faster to significantly expand solar installations and the number of battery storage facilities. And we will have to get smarter about how we re-use the heat of data centres and the underground network to reduce the demand on the electricity network.

There are major hurdles ahead in order to provide our capital city with the power needed to grow and flourish sustainably. But West London Business and our strategic partners, are up to the challenge.

If this issue is impacting your business, or you would like to join our collaborative initiative to get more electricity infrastructure built faster in West London, please get in touch.

Kind regards,



Andrew Dakers

**Chief Executive**

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