

Dr Kat Jones
Director
Action to Protect Rural Scotland

16 September 2026

An open letter to Action to Protect Rural Scotland

Invitation to visit DataVita's Chapelhall campus, Lanarkshire AI Growth Zone

Dear Dr Jones,

I am writing to invite you and your colleagues at APRS to visit DataVita's campus at Chapelhall in North Lanarkshire, and to discuss the concerns you have raised about data centre development in Scotland, including our proposals for DV4.

I am making this letter public because the questions surrounding these developments are matters of public interest. Communities should be able to see that we are willing to engage with those who challenge our plans, explain our decisions and listen to different views. I hope this invitation encourages a more constructive discussion.

Your campaign raises questions about the use of land and energy, the environmental effects of development and how communities can influence what happens around them. These questions matter to the people who will live alongside these facilities. I would welcome the opportunity to hear your concerns directly and understand where you believe our proposals could be improved.

DataVita is a Scottish company that has built and operated data centres here for more than ten years. We built and run DV1 at Chapelhall and are constructing DV3 beside it. Our infrastructure supports services used by government, local authorities and universities. As an owner and operator, we have a continuing responsibility for how our facilities perform and for our relationship with our neighbours.

Nearly all of us use data centres every single day whether we realise it or not – from being able to use online banking, to sharing funny videos in the family chat and working from home. They are the critical infrastructure that makes many of the things we do in modern life possible, and that is only going to accelerate as technology becomes even more entwined with daily life. And, although AI is very much a hot topic at the moment, there is no doubt it is here to stay and the question is how can we best use it to support jobs, skills, the public services we all rely on and the way we live, more generally.

We believe Scotland has much to gain from this industry. We also recognise that the case for investment has to address what development means for the places and people affected by it. Environmental performance, local benefit and the quality of engagement should all be open to scrutiny.

One difficulty with the current debate is that data centres are often discussed as though they are all the same. Their purpose, scale and the ways they are powered, cooled and operated can differ substantially. Those distinctions matter when assessing their impact. I would welcome the chance to explain the choices behind our proposals, examine the evidence with you and hear where you think it leaves questions unanswered.

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I would also like to explore where we could work together. That could include making technical information more accessible to communities or identifying practical improvements to our proposals. We are willing to learn from that discussion and to make changes where there is a sound case for doing so.

Our ambition is for Scotland to produce and export green intelligence, with a demonstrably lower environmental footprint and lasting value for communities here. We should expect to be challenged on how we intend to achieve that, and be prepared to support our case with evidence.

A visit would give us time to show you our existing operations, discuss the development under way and talk through our proposals for DV4. You would be welcome to bring colleagues and planning or technical advisers, at a time convenient to you. I hope you will accept the invitation and that we can begin a constructive conversation, including on the points where we disagree.

Yours sincerely,

Danny Quinn
Managing Director, DataVita

