

Ross Greer MSP  
Co-leader, Scottish Greens  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

16 September 2026

## An open letter to Ross Greer MSP

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

Dear Mr Greer,

I am writing to invite you to visit DataVita's campus at Chapelhall in North Lanarkshire, and to open a direct conversation about how Scotland can secure the benefits of AI infrastructure while addressing the concerns it raises.

DataVita is delivering the Lanarkshire AI Growth Zone, designated by the UK Government in January 2026. We have built and operated data centres in Scotland for more than ten years, serving customers including central government, local authorities and universities. We would welcome the opportunity to show you our existing operations, explain the development now under way and answer questions about our proposals for DV4.

You represent people with serious concerns about this industry, and those concerns deserve clear answers. The public should have accessible, factual information about AI, data centres and the different types of facilities being discussed: what they are, what they do and, just as importantly, what they are not. Many of the most frequently repeated claims about these facilities are inaccurate, or are presented as though they apply equally to every type of development, and that leaves the public with a misleading picture of their purpose, operation and impact. Our industry has a responsibility to explain those distinctions clearly and to support what it says with evidence, and I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to a better-informed public discussion.

Scotland already has an established planning framework for major development and critical infrastructure, with substantial environmental safeguards. National Planning Framework 4 requires significant weight to be given to the climate and nature when development proposals are considered, and the arrival of new technology does not change that. Our industry should be able to explain how its facilities operate within that framework and answer questions about their energy use, environmental performance and contribution to the economy.

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.

The decisions Scotland takes on this over the next few years will shape the country for a generation, and they deserve a debate that is grounded in fact and conducted constructively. My concern is that

the discussion has become one in which one side must be wholly right and the other wholly wrong. The questions that matter are which projects, in which places, under what conditions and with what return to the communities that host them, and those questions have different answers for different schemes. The communities living closest to these developments have legitimate concerns, and they deserve better than that kind of debate.

Scotland has an opportunity to lead in producing and exporting green intelligence, AI capability developed and delivered with a demonstrably lower environmental footprint. Realising that ambition will require measurable evidence of environmental performance. Done well, it could help the wider technology industry reduce its climate and environmental impacts while creating lasting value for communities here.

I would value the chance to hear your concerns directly and examine the evidence together. Where that identifies improvements we should make to our proposals or our operations, we will act on them. The invitation extends to Gillian Mackay MSP, whose region includes Chapelhall, and to any colleagues or advisers you wish to bring, at a time convenient to you.

I am making this invitation public because I believe an open offer of constructive engagement can help move the discussion forward, and I make it in the spirit of collaboration. I hope you will accept.

Yours sincerely,

**Danny Quinn**  
**Managing Director, DataVita**

