



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
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FOI-requests@dsit.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/dsit

Our reference:

FOI2025/02944

18 December 2025

Our response to your freedom of information request

Your request

On 21 November you asked us to provide the following information:

I would like to make an Freedom of Information Request to the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology to ask for the source of the claim that: "A new AI Growth Zone in South Wales will create more than 5,000 new jobs for local communities over the next decade" as stated in the department's press release from Thursday, November 20, 2025.

Specifically, I would like to know what sources the department used to arrive at that figure and what, if any, publicly available information exists to support it. Here is a link to the press release I am inquiring about: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ai-to-power-national-renewal-as-government-announces-billions-of-additional-investment-and-new-plans-to-boost-uk-businesses-jobs-and-innovation>.

We have responded to your request for recorded information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Our response

We can confirm that the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (the department) does hold information in scope of your request.

"The "more than 5,000 jobs" estimate is based on conservatively scaling projected jobs using evidence from the Cambois data centre development. This is expected to directly create [1,200 construction jobs](#) and [400 operational roles](#), and adjusting these figures for the significantly higher capacity of the South Wales AI Growth Zone. Conservative employment multipliers are applied: approximately 1.5-1.6 across construction and operations roles. This is significantly below the median of [estimates](#) produced for economic impact studies of data centres, and similar to the indirect multiplier for construction roles published by the [Scottish government](#).

These numbers have also been assessed against publicly available sources of data centre employment estimates. For example, a report from the [US Chamber of Commerce Technology Engagement Centre](#) found a "typical" 165,141 square foot (15,300 square metre) data centre employs 1,688 local workers during construction and supports 157 jobs once built. The proposed sites in the South Wales AI Growth Zone are expected to reach hundreds of thousands of square metres.

Moreover, a [2024 report](#) from TechUK [suggests](#) that a typical 5.7-7MW UK data centre will employ between 20 and 88 roles in full time equivalent (FTE) operational employment. This does not account for indirect and induced job creation mentioned above. The total South Wales AI Growth Zone development is anticipated to reach hundreds of megawatts of capacity, therefore likely creating thousands of direct, indirect and induced roles across the life cycle of the project."

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response. You can ask us to review our response by sending an email to foi-requests@dsit.gov.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If we perform a review but you are still dissatisfied, you can complain to the [Information Commissioners Office](#) (ICO).

You should make complaints to the ICO within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review through the ICO website: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints.

Your information

Our [privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal information which you provide to us. Our [personal information charter](#) sets out the standards you can expect from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology when we collect, hold or use your personal information.

Yours sincerely,

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology