



Environmental Audit Committee

The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
55 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HP

11 February 2026

Sent by email only

Data centres and the Seventh Carbon Budget

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing in relation to an answer that I received to a written question I tabled on 27 January 2026, and which was answered on 2 February 2026 by the Minister for Climate Change, Katie White OBE MP.

The question I asked was whether you, as Secretary of State, had had discussions with the Climate Change Committee (CCC) on whether projections in The Seventh Carbon Budget include the levels of energy used by data centres.

I was disappointed with the response, which did not answer the question:

The Secretary of State regularly engages with the government's independent adviser, the Climate Change Committee (CCC), on a wide range of issues including the CCC's Seventh Carbon Budget advice. The government will choose its own pathway and will ensure that this increases energy security, protects billpayers, and creates good, well-paid jobs while also considering future trends in energy demand (UIN 108617).

As you know, my committee agreed to carry out an inquiry, which you had requested, on our assessment of the Seventh Carbon Budget (CB7). The question I asked was directly related to this work. One of the reasons I asked this question is because there is no mention of data centres in the CCC's CB7 and its associated documents. The issue of data centres and its impact on energy use and emissions have been highlighted as a key area of concern, which is why my committee was concerned by its omission in CB7.

I would appreciate if you could confirm whether you and your department have factored this into your planning and whether, as I asked in my written question, you

have had an ongoing dialogue with the CCC on this. If my committee is to make the meaningful contribution you asked for on CB7, it is essential that we have all the available information to inform our report. We would like to know whether this has been accounted for and how, including projections of emissions and possible mitigations.

Bearing in mind that we agreed to produce a report for you at the end of February, I would appreciate a response by Friday 20 February, so we can take account of this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Toby Perkins'.

Mr Toby Perkins MP
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee