

This content is extracted from a document outside the scope of the current request. The name and date of that document are:

Artificial Intelligence – Perm Sec briefing – 9 July 2025_Final.docx

8 July 2025.

AI plays an important role in the industries Scotland already excel at - from medicine to energy to our booming space sector. It has strong potential in other sectors including agriculture and the delivery of our public services.

In April 2025 the University of Edinburgh has launched a supercomputing cluster installed with the largest AI chip ever built. Operated by the EPCC, the supercomputing centre at the university and part of the Edinburgh International Data Facility, the cluster is made up of four Cerebras CS-3, third generation wafer scale engine processors, making it the largest in Europe.

In April 2025 Deloitte named Edinburgh as the only UK city to be named an AI Leader in a new report exploring AI Powered Cities of the Future. By 1970, Edinburgh University was one of the few centres in the world working on AI and today the institution hosts dozens of scientists and PhD students developing the technology.

Today Scotland's leading academic AI research ecosystem includes the University of Edinburgh's Generative AI laboratory and the Centre for Data Science and AI at the University of Glasgow.

From a recent RSE report, Scotland has the third-highest regional concentration of UK university spin outs with 243, only behind London and the South East. Edinburgh University, University of Glasgow and the University of Strathclyde are all in the top 20 UK Universities that are best at commercialising their research work. After some uncertainty, the UKG announced on 11 June that Edinburgh University will now host the Exascale Supercomputer, the only one of its kind in the UK and one of only a handful around the world. This will drastically increase the compute power within the UK and will allow cutting edge research capabilities

For Clearance - Media Query - AI Growth Zone Announcement – Scotsman. 17 July.

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 17 July 2025 17:30

To: Minister for Business and Employment <MinisterforBE@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Clearance - Media Query - AI Growth Zone Announcement - Scotsman

Thanks, [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]. Really good point – have added in below and will issue shortly.

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Business and Employment

Sent: 17 July 2025 17:24

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Minister for Business and Employment <MinisterforBE@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Clearance - Media Query - AI Growth Zone Announcement - Scotsman

Hi [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)],

Mr Lochhead is content but has suggested maybe make it clearer in quote why renewables in relevant as only well informed will appreciate.

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to the Minister for Business and Employment – Richard Lochhead MSP - The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
Mob: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]
Email: MinisterEI@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 17 July 2025 16:39

To: Minister for Business and Employment <MinisterforBE@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: For Clearance - Media Query - AI Growth Zone Announcement - Scotsman

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)], PO

Following on from Policy note attached, the UK Government has issued the below news release – embargoed until 18:00 this evening – confirming plans to establish an AI Zone in Scotland, as well as a National Supercomputing Centre.

We've been asked for comment by The Scotsman. Grateful for Mr Lochhead's clearance, please.

AI Growth Zone: Scottish Government comment

Commenting on the UK Government's announcement to establish an AI Growth Zone and National Supercomputing Centre in Scotland, Business Minister Richard Lochhead said:

“With our world-renowned talent for research, innovation and ingenuity Scotland is perfectly placed to capitalise on AI's rapid growth and be a supplier of this transformational technology, not just a consumer. We are also home to vital supporting and enabling infrastructure - from good quality digital connectivity to the abundant renewable energy supplies needed to power the huge demand from computer processing in a sustainable way.

“The UK Government's confirmation that an AI Growth Zone and National Supercomputing Centre will be established in Scotland is welcome. It will help unlock

new opportunities for businesses, researchers, citizens and communities— supporting high-quality jobs through economic growth and boosting productivity.

“The Scottish Government and our enterprise agencies have been working with prospective Scottish AI Growth Zone projects to support high quality bids into the national selection process being led by the UK government. Once this process has completed, we look forward to working collaboratively with the UK Government alongside partners and stakeholders to ensure the AI Growth Zone is a success and ensure Scotland is at the heart of this globally-important industry.”

Background

Scotland has abundant renewable energy and good quality digital and physical infrastructure that make it an ideal destination for building significant green compute capacity at scale for the AI applications of today and the future. The Scottish Government’s enterprise agencies are working with partners that are seeking to utilise this opportunity by supporting credible investment proposals, strengthening connections across the Scottish AI ecosystem, and seeking to maximise Scottish content in the construction and operation of these facilities.

Scotland’s renewable energy capacity, and the sustained public investment in digital infrastructure and connectivity programmes like DSSB, R100 and S4GI means Scotland is well-positioned to capitalise on this opportunity. It will enable the creation of major energy infrastructure like a green data centre – which will provide the scalable, energy-efficient backbone to help ensure the benefits of AI are felt across the country.

Steps being taken by the Scottish Government to ensure all of Scotland benefits from AI include:

- Launching AI Scotland as a new, national transformation programme founded on a partnership of business, academia, agencies and government
- Launching a national AI adoption programme for SMEs, working collaboratively with partners to deliver more seamless advice and competitive grants to those at the earliest stages of AI awareness and adoption as well as those SMEs who are further along.

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

EMBARGOED TO 18:00, Thursday 17th July

Scotland primed for billions in AI investment and scores of new jobs

- AI Growth Zone to launch in Scotland, helping to revitalise local communities, attract fresh investment and deliver new opportunities.
- Several promising sites identified due to Scotland’s access to clean energy sources – from wind to solar - making it a prime location.

- Edinburgh named the UK's first National Supercomputing Centre – a dedicated place to help power AI, drive scientific research and connect researchers with local talent.

Scotland is in line for billions of pounds in investment and thousands of new jobs as the future home of an AI Growth Zone - driving the economic growth which powers the government's Plan for Change, the Technology Secretary announced today. The commitment to roll out an AI Growth Zone in Scotland underlines the ambition to ensure people across the country can share in the opportunities and potential of this generation-defining technology.

With Scotland's ready access to wind, hydro, and solar power sources making up a renewable energy capacity of 17.6 GW – enough to power over 10 million homes – it's an ideal base to help drive forward the UK's ambitious AI agenda.

AI Growth Zones are a new concept first unveiled by the UK Government in January –serving as dedicated hotbeds for AI that speed up the rollout of vital infrastructure like data centres which are crucial to the technology's development.

Through these data centres, researchers and businesses can process huge amounts of data to deliver the next generation of breakthroughs and innovations. That includes finding new ways to treat and beat diseases, speeding up how we can diagnose conditions like cancer, and even using AI to help in the fight against climate change.

Their rollout will also mean permanent, high-skilled jobs and a flurry of construction roles as the government moves to get spades in the ground as quickly as possible. In a further win for Scotland, Edinburgh will also be home to the UK's first National Supercomputing Centre as part of a new Compute Roadmap announced today. It will work as a dedicated centre of expertise, with individual sites hosting everything from large data sets and cutting-edge processing power, to linking up researchers and academia with leading talent in their region.

It follows up to £750 million announced to build the UK's new national supercomputer at the University of Edinburgh which will give scientists from across the UK the compute power they need to carry out research – whether that's personalised medical treatments, making air travel more sustainable, or modelling climate change.

This will work alongside the AI Research Resource, a network of the UK's most powerful supercomputers that were built to bolster scientific research. The AIRR is already being used to research Alzheimer's vaccines and treatments for cancer by simulating how drugs work inside the body and 'testing' millions of potential drugs virtually to speed up the creation of new medicines.

UK Secretary of State for Science, Innovation, and Technology, Peter Kyle said:

“From the shipyards of the Clyde to developments in steam engine technology, Scottish trailblazers were central to the industrial revolution. AI is this generation's

next great industrial leap, so who better to help drive that change than a nation with innovation hardwired in its DNA.

“We’ve set out an ambitious plan to cement our position as a global leader in AI, with Scotland set to play a key role – unlocking fresh investment and new opportunities. That’s how we’re putting our Plan for Change into action.”

UK Secretary of State for Scotland, Ian Murray, said:

"This is a landmark moment and will place Scotland at the forefront of the UK's technological revolution. The up to £750 million investment in Edinburgh's new supercomputer also places Scotland at the cutting edge of computing power globally.

“This will see Scotland playing a leading role in creating breakthroughs that have a global benefit - such as new medicines, health advances, and climate change solutions. This is the Plan for Change – delivering real opportunities and economic growth for communities across Scotland.”

AI Growth Zones will revitalise local communities by attracting billions in private investment – giving regions across the country the opportunity to play a leading role in delivering the government’s Plan for Change. The UK's AI sector has already become a global magnet for investment, with £44 billion of private backing having been unlocked since the government took office last summer.

Site readiness and local impact will also be key considerations to ensure communities can maximise the benefits that they will deliver. Several promising sites have already been identified through the government's expression of interest process which opened in February, and further information on locations and timelines for delivery will be confirmed in due course.

Announced today, the Compute Roadmap includes £1 billion to expand the UK’s AI Research Resource twenty-fold over the next five years. When complete, the expansion will be hundreds of times more powerful than the world’s current leading supercomputers – giving users the ability to process complicated calculations in mere seconds and speeding up the UK’s ability to bring game-changing innovations online.

It will see the UK's compute capacity increase to 420 AI exaFLOP - the equivalent of one billion people spending 13,316 years doing what the full AIRR will do in one second. That means all one billion people would have needed to start calculating more than 8,000 years before Stonehenge was built – without taking a break. Developing the UK's AI sector is key to delivering the Government's Plan for Change. Its growth has been backed with a £2 billion commitment, ensuring cutting edge innovations can be built and operated in the UK.

RE: FOR ACTION: UKG AI Announcements Briefing - Tuesday 22 July, COP.

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 July 2025 13:46
To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: UKG AI Announcements Briefing - Tuesday 22 July, COP.

Hi [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

The eRDM doc is locked.

For the supercomputer, you could add a short paragraph along the lines of:

In August 2024, the UK Government put on hold £800m of funding that had been committed by the previous Conservative government for the development of a new exascale supercomputer at the University of Edinburgh, on the grounds that the commitment was unfunded. This attracted negative media coverage, and UKG did apologise for the poor handling. SG officials kept in touch with University of Edinburgh leads on the project, who requested that the issue be not politicised. Following the Spending Review, the UK Government announced in June 2025 that they would invest up to £750 million in this project, as part of an extra £1 billion of funding to ramp up the UK's AI compute power twenty fold.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scotland-to-host-uks-national-supercomputer-as-chancellor-confirms-750-million-investment>

Thanks,
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 18 July 2025 16:26
To: AI Data Policy ; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; Tom Wilkinson ; Suresh Kumar ; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]
Cc: Geoff Huggins
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: UKG AI Announcements Briefing - Tuesday 22 July, COP.

Hi All,

Please see below an eRDM link to a draft briefing to the Perm Sec. I'm on leave on Monday with the public holiday and note deadline is 4pm on Tuesday. Could you please review and add any relevant points.

Tom/AI team; do you want to comment on the supercomputer element?

Economy colleagues; perhaps less relevant at this point for yourselves but let me know if you want to add anything from your perspective or amend what I've written. I may not have majored sufficiently on the 'what it means for Scotland' piece and happy to build on that.

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A53536176/details>

Word version also included if needed, but eRDM preferred.

Have a great weekend.

Best regards,

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Digital Infrastructure and Internet of Things Policy Lead

Scottish Government | Directorate for Digital | Digital Connectivity Division | Digital Connectivity Policy Team

Tel; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 18 July 2025 11:06

To: Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>

Cc: AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: UKG AI Announcements Briefing - Tuesday 22 July, COP.

Will do thanks, [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)].

There will be non AI Growth Zone aspects that will need to be addressed I'm sure, so copying economy colleagues. Please see below request for Perm Sec briefing.

Happy to co-ordinate.

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)].

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Digital Infrastructure and Internet of Things Policy Lead

Scottish Government | Directorate for Digital | Digital Connectivity Division | Digital Connectivity Policy Team

Tel; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Geoff Huggins

Sent: 18 July 2025 10:39

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: FOR ACTION: UKG AI Announcements Briefing - Tuesday 22 July, COP.

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

I assume this relates to what you gave a heads up about this week (email attached):

I would be grateful if you could arrange as has been requested a briefing for Perm Sec noting deadline of 4pm on 22 July.

Thanks

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]
Head of Directors Office
Digital Directorate
Mobile: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** DG Corporate
Sent: 18 July 2025 09:40
To: Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: FOR ACTION: UKG AI Announcements Briefing - Tuesday 22 July, COP.

Hi Geoff,

Grateful if your team can pull together briefing for Perm Sec as requested below. Would appreciate if you can send to DG Corp by 4pm on Tuesday.

Thanks

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)] Private Secretary to DG Corporate, Lesley Fraser
Office of the Executive Team | The Scottish Government | St Andrews House

Responsibility for filing key documents and communications on the record, including those sent to and received from DG Corporate, rests with relevant policy and operational areas within Directorates. The DG Corporate Support Team does not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Permanent Secretary
Sent: 18 July 2025 09:03
To: DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>
Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Subject: FOR ACTION: UKG AI Announcements Briefing - Tuesday 22 July, COP.

Good morning,

Perm Sec has requested a briefing on AI announcements that were made by the UK government yesterday and the implications this would have on Scotland.

Please can this be provided by **Tuesday 22 July, COP.**

Let me know if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretary | 1N-07, St Andrew's House,
Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Email: PermanentSecretary@gov.scot

PLEASE NOTE

Responsibility for filing key documents and communications on the record, including those sent to and received from the Permanent Secretary, rests with relevant policy and operational areas within Directorates. The Permanent Secretary Team does not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

This content is extracted from a document outside the scope of the current request. The name and date of that document are:

Permanent Secretary AIGZ Briefing July 25.docx.

From 25 July 2025.

Context

1. The UKG AI Opportunities Action Plan, launched in January this year by the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), set out intentions to establish AIGZ's across the UK. The recent announcement referenced UKG's ambition to make Scotland a central part of that through hosting an AI Growth Zone and reannounced the funding of a new Supercomputer in Edinburgh.

Related UKG AI Investment Announcement

2. In August 2024, the UK Government put on hold £800m of funding that had been committed by the previous Conservative government for the development of a new exascale supercomputer at the University of Edinburgh, on the grounds that the commitment was unfunded. This attracted negative media coverage, and UKG did apologise for the poor handling. SG officials kept in touch with University of Edinburgh leads on the project, who requested that the issue not be politicised. Following the Spending Review, the UK Government announced in June 2025 that they would invest up to £750 million in this project, as part of an extra £1 billion of funding to ramp up the UK's AI compute power twenty fold. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scotland-to-host-uks-national-supercomputer-as-chancellor-confirms-750-million-investment>

This content is extracted from a document outside the scope of the current request. The name and date of that document are:

AI Policy – Submission - Cab Sec update OpenAI – 4 August 2025.doc from 4 August 2025.

4 August 2025.

- On 11 June, UKG Government announced they would invest £750 million in Edinburgh's supercomputer at the University of Edinburgh. They will now host the Exascale Supercomputer, the only one of its kind in the UK and one of only a handful around the world. This will drastically increase the compute power within the UK and will allow cutting edge research capabilities.

FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

7 August

From: Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2025 11:13

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic <DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Perfect, thank you [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Kind regards

S

Suresh Kumar

Deputy Director for Innovation and Industrial Transformation
Directorate for Economic Development -Scottish Government

St. Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

United Kingdom

Mobile: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]



From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2025 11:11

To: Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data

Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic
<DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic
impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Something like this?

Richard Lochhead said:

“The UK Government’s confirmation that a National Supercomputing Centre will be established in Scotland is welcome. It will help unlock new opportunities for businesses, researchers, citizens and communities — supporting high-quality jobs through economic growth and boosting productivity.

“It will enable cutting-edge research in areas such as medicine, climate modelling, and national security, and stimulate innovation across Scotland by attracting companies willing to relocate and invest locally. Additionally, it will support public sector transformation, improving service delivery through AI and data-driven technologies.

“The Scottish Government looks forward to working collaboratively with the UK Government alongside partners and stakeholders to ensure Scotland is at the heart of this globally-important industry.”

From: Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2025 10:57

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins
<Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic
<DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

I shall be inclined to take out AI growth zone and add the following

Drastically increase UK's compute power, enabling cutting-edge research in medicine, climate modelling, and national security, while it shall stimulate innovation across Scotland by attracting companies willing to relocate and invest locally. Additionally, it will Support public sector transformation, improving service delivery through AI and data-driven technologies

Suresh Kumar
Deputy Director for Innovation and Industrial Transformation
Directorate for Economic Development -Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
United Kingdom
Mobile: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]



From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2025 10:54

To: Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic <DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

In that case, can colleagues amend the statement below to take this in?

From: Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2025 10:53

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins
<Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar
<Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic
<DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic
impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Given that the question is specifically on the supercomputer, we might want to make more of a distinction from AI and the AIGZs. As well as the indirect economic impacts through research turning into new businesses, EPCC have talked about a constellation of businesses around them and an intention to give high tech companies some capacity from the supercomputer.

Best
Tom

Dr Tom Wilkinson | Chief Data Officer
Digital Directorate | Scottish Government

My working pattern is Monday-Thursday and every other Friday



From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2025 10:48

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data
Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson
<Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar
<Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic
<DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Widening copylist.

Noting we have put out a statement on this before. Grateful for policy input on reissuing this. Appreciative of inputs by 12:00.

RESPONSE

Business Minister Richard Lochhead said:

“With our world-renowned talent for research, innovation and ingenuity Scotland is perfectly placed to capitalise on AI’s rapid growth and be a supplier of this transformational technology, not just a consumer. We are also home to vital supporting and enabling infrastructure - from our abundant renewable energy supplies to good quality digital connectivity.

“The UK Government’s confirmation that an AI Growth Zone and National Supercomputing Centre will be established in Scotland is welcome. It will help unlock new opportunities for businesses, researchers, citizens and communities—supporting high-quality jobs through economic growth and boosting productivity.

“The Scottish Government and our enterprise agencies have been working with prospective Scottish AI Growth Zone projects to support high quality bids into the national selection process being led by the UK government. Once this process has completed, we look forward to working collaboratively with the UK Government alongside partners and stakeholders to ensure the AI Growth Zone is a success and ensure Scotland is at the heart of this globally-important industry.”

Background

Scotland has abundant renewable energy and good quality digital and physical infrastructure that make it an ideal destination for building significant green compute capacity at scale for the AI applications of today and the future. The Scottish Government’s enterprise agencies are working with partners that are seeking to utilise this opportunity by supporting credible investment proposals, strengthening connections across the Scottish AI ecosystem, and seeking to maximise Scottish content in the construction and operation of these facilities.

Scotland’s renewable energy capacity, and the sustained public investment in digital infrastructure and connectivity programmes like DSSB, R100 and S4GI means Scotland is well-positioned to capitalise on this opportunity. It will enable the creation of major energy infrastructure like a green data centre – which will provide the scalable, energy-efficient backbone to help ensure the benefits of AI are felt across the country.

Steps being taken by the Scottish Government to ensure all of Scotland benefits from AI include:

- Launching AI Scotland as a new, national transformation programme founded on a partnership of business, academia, agencies and government government
- Launching a national AI adoption programme for SMEs, working collaboratively with partners to deliver more seamless advice and competitive grants to those at the earliest stages of AI awareness and adoption as well as those SMEs who are further along.

QUERY

Thanks for calling me back so I'm looking to get a comment about the UK's supercomputer which is computing to Edinburgh University in 2027.

The UK Government was funding it, but it was scrapped at the last budget but there was a U-turn and it's now back on.

The computer will support UK R&D efforts in areas such as drug discovery, climate change modelling, and national security.

It's going to be the first supercomputer in the UK - and I'm doing up a story on the implications of it - what it will mean for Scotland and people and people who want to go into this field and what it could mean for Scotland's economy.

I'm hoping to get a comment from the Scottish Government about how they feel about how Edinburgh was chosen over other places in the UK, what they think the supercomputer will bring in terms of jobs and if you think it will be good for the economy.

Best wishes,

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2025 17:49

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic

<DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Hi [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Bringing in [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)] and [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)] on wider innovation but I have suggested some lines on AI Scotland

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]
Head of New Market Clusters
Scottish Government
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2025 17:14

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic <DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Widening copylist.

Best wishes,

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2025 17:08

Subject: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Good evening colleagues,

We have received a query from the Sunday Post about SG's reaction to the UK Government's decision to fund a supercomputer for Edinburgh and what this will mean for the economy.

Grateful for policy input on the below draft response by 12:00 tomorrow if possible please. Can I please get some information on what we are doing to support innovation in Edinburgh and how this is impacting jobs/the economy to include in the lines?

Appreciative for any colleagues who should have sight of these lines to be copied into the email chain please.

RESPONSE

Business Minister Richard Lochhead said:

“While it was frustrating that it took the UK Government nearly a year to commit funding towards a supercomputer for Edinburgh after ending its support for the project last year, I am pleased that this work is now progressing.

“The supercomputer will enable the University of Edinburgh to unlock the next phase of artificial intelligence technology and lead the way on the global stage. To build on the city’s global reputation for being at the forefront of technological innovation, what are we doing + impact on jobs/economy?.”

“This Digital infrastructure will also support our commitment to establish AI Scotland — a national programme driven by collaboration between business, academia, government, and public agencies, a key focus of which is a national AI adoption programme for SMEs, aimed at maximising economic benefits from the growing AI sector across Scotland.”

QUERY

Thanks for calling me back so I'm looking to get a comment about the UK's supercomputer which is computing to Edinburgh University in 2027.

The UK Government was funding it, but it was scrapped at the last budget but there was a U-turn and it's now back on.

The computer will support UK R&D efforts in areas such as drug discovery, climate change modelling, and national security.

It's going to be the first supercomputer in the UK - and I'm doing up a story on the implications of it - what it will mean for Scotland and people and people who want to go into this field and what it could mean for Scotland's economy.

I'm hoping to get a comment from the Scottish Government about how they feel about how Edinburgh was chosen over other places in the UK, what they think the supercomputer will bring in terms of jobs and if you think it will be good for the economy.

Kind regards,

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Media Manager | News: Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Email: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot | **Mobile:** [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Annex 7 (related to 6)

For SpAd views BY 3PM PLEASE - media query - Edinburgh supercomputer - Sunday Post

From:[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2025 15:03

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic

<DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar

<Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins

<Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For SpAd views BY 3PM PLEASE - media query - Edinburgh
supercomputer - Sunday Post

Business Minister Richard Lochhead said:

“The UK Government’s confirmation that a National Supercomputing Centre will be established in Edinburgh is welcome, especially after previous uncertainty.

“By enabling cutting-edge research in areas such as medicine, climate modelling, and national security, this will stimulate innovation across Scotland and attract investment.

“We will continue to work collaboratively with the UK Government and other partners and stakeholders to ensure Scotland is at the heart of technology industry.”

Background

The Scottish and UK Governments have jointly committed £600 million to the Edinburgh City Region Deal, which will support Data Driven Innovation. The super-computer will boost the capabilities of the Data Driven Innovation cluster even further.

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 07 August 2025 13:28

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)];

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic ;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; Suresh Kumar ;

Tom Wilkinson ; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)] ; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)];

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; Geoff Huggins ; AI Data Policy ; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)];

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)] ; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)] ;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)];
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)];
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: For SpAd views BY 3PM PLEASE - media query - Edinburgh
supercomputer - Sunday Post

Hello SpAds,

We've been asked about the Edinburgh supercomputer by the Sunday Post (who have asked for our response today if possible).

Grateful for confirmation you're content with the lines below – adapted from a previous proactive statement from Mr Lochhead welcoming the UKG announcement.

QUERY

I'm looking to get a comment about the UK's supercomputer which is computing to Edinburgh University in 2027.

The UK Government was funding it, but it was scrapped at the last budget but there was a U-turn and it's now back on.

The computer will support UK R&D efforts in areas such as drug discovery, climate change modelling, and national security.

It's going to be the first supercomputer in the UK - and I'm doing up a story on the implications of it - what it will mean for Scotland and people and people who want to go into this field and what it could mean for Scotland's economy.

I'm hoping to get a comment from the Scottish Government about how they feel about how Edinburgh was chosen over other places in the UK, what they think the supercomputer will bring in terms of jobs and if you think it will be good for the economy.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE

Business Minister Richard Lochhead said:

“The UK Government’s confirmation that a National Supercomputing Centre will be established in Scotland is welcome. It will help unlock new opportunities for businesses, researchers and communities — supporting high-quality jobs through economic growth and boosting productivity.

“By enabling cutting-edge research in areas such as medicine, climate modelling, and national security, this will stimulate innovation across Scotland and attract investment. Additionally, it will support public sector transformation, improving service delivery through AI and data-driven technologies.

“The Scottish Government looks forward to working collaboratively with the UK Government alongside partners and stakeholders to ensure Scotland is at the heart of this globally-important industry.”

Background

The Scottish and UK Governments have jointly committed £600 million to the Edinburgh City Region Deal, which will support Data Driven Innovation. The super-computer will boost the capabilities of the Data Driven Innovation cluster even further.

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager | News: DFM & Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]



From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2025 12:40

To: Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic <DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 13:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Great – we’ll get the following to SpAds (I’ve added [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]’s input to the background note) at 13:00 if there’s no further feedback.

Business Minister Richard Lochhead said:

“The UK Government’s confirmation that a National Supercomputing Centre will be established in Scotland is welcome. It will help unlock new opportunities for

businesses, researchers, citizens and communities — supporting high-quality jobs through economic growth and boosting productivity.

“It will enable cutting-edge research in areas such as medicine, climate modelling, and national security, and stimulate innovation across Scotland by attracting companies willing to relocate and invest locally. Additionally, it will support public sector transformation, improving service delivery through AI and data-driven technologies.

“The Scottish Government looks forward to working collaboratively with the UK Government alongside partners and stakeholders to ensure Scotland is at the heart of this globally-important industry.”

Background

The Scottish and UK Governments have jointly committed £600 million to the Edinburgh City Region Deal, which will support Data Driven Innovation . The super-computer will boost the capabilities of the data driven innovation cluster even further.

From: Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2025 11:13

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic <DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Perfect, thank you [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Kind regards

S

Suresh Kumar
Deputy Director for Innovation and Industrial Transformation
Directorate for Economic Development -Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road

Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
United Kingdom
Mobile: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]



From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2025 11:11

To: Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic <DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Something like this?

Richard Lochhead said:

“The UK Government’s confirmation that a National Supercomputing Centre will be established in Scotland is welcome. It will help unlock new opportunities for businesses, researchers, citizens and communities — supporting high-quality jobs through economic growth and boosting productivity.

“It will enable cutting-edge research in areas such as medicine, climate modelling, and national security, and stimulate innovation across Scotland by attracting companies willing to relocate and invest locally. Additionally, it will support public sector transformation, improving service delivery through AI and data-driven technologies.

“The Scottish Government looks forward to working collaboratively with the UK Government alongside partners and stakeholders to ensure Scotland is at the heart of this globally-important industry.”

From: Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2025 10:57

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic

<DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

In that case, can colleagues amend the statement below to take this in?

From: Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2025 10:53

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins

<Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar

<Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic

<DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Given that the question is specifically on the supercomputer, we might want to make more of a distinction from AI and the AIGZs. As well as the indirect economic impacts through research turning into new businesses, EPCC have talked about a constellation of businesses around them and an intention to give high tech companies some capacity from the supercomputer.

Best

Tom

Dr Tom Wilkinson | Chief Data Officer

Digital Directorate | Scottish Government

My working pattern is Monday-Thursday and every other Friday

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2025 10:48

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic <DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Widening copylist.

Noting we have put out a statement on this before. Grateful for policy input on reissuing this. Appreciative of inputs by 12:00.

RESPONSE

Business Minister Richard Lochhead said:

“With our world-renowned talent for research, innovation and ingenuity Scotland is perfectly placed to capitalise on AI’s rapid growth and be a supplier of this transformational technology, not just a consumer. We are also home to vital supporting and enabling infrastructure - from our abundant renewable energy supplies to good quality digital connectivity.

“The UK Government’s confirmation that an AI Growth Zone and National Supercomputing Centre will be established in Scotland is welcome. It will help unlock new opportunities for businesses, researchers, citizens and communities—supporting high-quality jobs through economic growth and boosting productivity.

“The Scottish Government and our enterprise agencies have been working with prospective Scottish AI Growth Zone projects to support high quality bids into the national selection process being led by the UK government. Once this process has completed, we look forward to working collaboratively with the UK Government alongside partners and stakeholders to ensure the AI Growth Zone is a success and ensure Scotland is at the heart of this globally-important industry.”

Background

Scotland has abundant renewable energy and good quality digital and physical infrastructure that make it an ideal destination for building significant green compute capacity at scale for the AI applications of today and the future. The Scottish

Government's enterprise agencies are working with partners that are seeking to utilise this opportunity by supporting credible investment proposals, strengthening connections across the Scottish AI ecosystem, and seeking to maximise Scottish content in the construction and operation of these facilities.

Scotland's renewable energy capacity, and the sustained public investment in digital infrastructure and connectivity programmes like DSSB, R100 and S4GI means Scotland is well-positioned to capitalise on this opportunity. It will enable the creation of major energy infrastructure like a green data centre – which will provide the scalable, energy-efficient backbone to help ensure the benefits of AI are felt across the country.

Steps being taken by the Scottish Government to ensure all of Scotland benefits from AI include:

- Launching AI Scotland as a new, national transformation programme founded on a partnership of business, academia, agencies and government
- Launching a national AI adoption programme for SMEs, working collaboratively with partners to deliver more seamless advice and competitive grants to those at the earliest stages of AI awareness and adoption as well as those SMEs who are further along.

QUERY

Thanks for calling me back so I'm looking to get a comment about the UK's supercomputer which is computing to Edinburgh University in 2027.

The UK Government was funding it, but it was scrapped at the last budget but there was a U-turn and it's now back on.

The computer will support UK R&D efforts in areas such as drug discovery, climate change modelling, and national security.

It's going to be the first supercomputer in the UK - and I'm doing up a story on the implications of it - what it will mean for Scotland and people and people who want to go into this field and what it could mean for Scotland's economy.

I'm hoping to get a comment from the Scottish Government about how they feel about how Edinburgh was chosen over other places in the UK, what they think the supercomputer will bring in terms of jobs and if you think it will be good for the economy.

Best wishes,

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2025 17:49

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data

Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic <DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Hi [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Bringing in [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)] and [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)] on wider innovation but I have suggested some lines on AI Scotland

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]
Head of New Market Clusters
Scottish Government
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2025 17:14

To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; Geoff Huggins <Geoff.Huggins@gov.scot>; AI Data Policy <ai@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Tom Wilkinson <Tom.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Suresh Kumar <Suresh.Kumar@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic <DFMEG@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Widening copylist.

Best wishes,

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2025 17:08

Subject: FOR POLICY INPUT BY 12:00: Query - Sunday Post - Economic impact of Edinburgh supercomputer

Good evening colleagues,

We have received a query from the Sunday Post about SG's reaction to the UK Government's decision to fund a supercomputer for Edinburgh and what this will mean for the economy.

Grateful for policy input on the below draft response by 12:00 tomorrow if possible please. Can I please get some information on what we are doing to support innovation in Edinburgh and how this is impacting jobs/the economy to include in the lines?

Appreciative for any colleagues who should have sight of these lines to be copied into the email chain please.

RESPONSE

Business Minister Richard Lochhead said:

“While it was frustrating that it took the UK Government nearly a year to commit funding towards a supercomputer for Edinburgh after ending its support for the project last year, I am pleased that this work is now progressing.

“The supercomputer will enable the University of Edinburgh to unlock the next phase of artificial intelligence technology and lead the way on the global stage. To build on the city's global reputation for being at the forefront of technological innovation, what are we doing + impact on jobs/economy?.”

“This Digital infrastructure will also support our commitment to establish AI Scotland — a national programme driven by collaboration between business, academia, government, and public agencies, a key focus of which is a national AI adoption programme for SMEs, aimed at maximising economic benefits from the growing AI sector across Scotland.”

QUERY

Thanks for calling me back so I'm looking to get a comment about the UK's supercomputer which is computing to Edinburgh University in 2027.

The UK Government was funding it, but it was scrapped at the last budget but there was a U-turn and it's now back on.

The computer will support UK R&D efforts in areas such as drug discovery, climate change modelling, and national security.

It's going to be the first supercomputer in the UK - and I'm doing up a story on the implications of it - what it will mean for Scotland and people and people who want to go into this field and what it could mean for Scotland's economy.

I'm hoping to get a comment from the Scottish Government about how they feel about how Edinburgh was chosen over other places in the UK, what they think the

supercomputer will bring in terms of jobs and if you think it will be good for the economy.

Kind regards,

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Media Manager | News: Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Email: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot | **Mobile:** [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; Suresh Kumar ; Tom Wilkinson ; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)] ; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; Geoff Huggins ; AI Data Policy ; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic

Subject: For clearance please - media query - Edinburgh supercomputer - Sunday Post

Good afternoon PO,

We've been asked about the Edinburgh supercomputer by the Sunday Post (who have asked for our response today if possible).

Grateful for clearance of the lines below. Policy and SpAds are content.

QUERY

I'm looking to get a comment about the UK's supercomputer which is computing to Edinburgh University in 2027.

The UK Government was funding it, but it was scrapped at the last budget but there was a U-turn and it's now back on.

The computer will support UK R&D efforts in areas such as drug discovery, climate change modelling, and national security.

It's going to be the first supercomputer in the UK - and I'm doing up a story on the implications of it - what it will mean for Scotland and people and people who want to go into this field and what it could mean for Scotland's economy.

I'm hoping to get a comment from the Scottish Government about how they feel about how Edinburgh was chosen over other places in the UK, what they think the supercomputer will bring in terms of jobs and if you think it will be good for the economy.

RESPONSE

Business Minister Richard Lochhead said:

"The UK Government's confirmation that a National Supercomputing Centre will be established in Edinburgh is welcome, especially after previous uncertainty.

"By enabling cutting-edge research in areas such as medicine, climate modelling, and national security, this will stimulate innovation across Scotland and attract investment.

"We will continue to work collaboratively with the UK Government and other partners and stakeholders to ensure Scotland is at the heart of technology industry."

Background

The Scottish and UK Governments have jointly committed £600 million to the Edinburgh City Region Deal, which is supporting a range of measures to boost regional economic growth, including Data Driven Innovation. The super-computer will boost the capabilities of the Data Driven Innovation cluster even further.

[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager | News: DFM & Economy

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]



This content is extracted from a document outside the scope of the current request. The name and date of that document are:

Submission – Mr Lochhead – Data Centres and AI Growth Zones Update – 3 June 2025.docx.

3 July 2025.

1. We continue to work with UKG, wider public sector and delivery partners in Scotland to maximise outcomes for Scotland. Beyond the AIGZ opportunity, we are working with SE to develop a pipeline of activity to harness the interest in AI infrastructure investment across Scotland and progress sites not selected by UKG. In addition, we will explore any opportunities to cluster sites with DSIT and aim to exploit links to wider investment, across the AI ecosystem, such as the University of Edinburgh supercomputer.

AI Growth Zones - Scotland - Joint Working Group

From: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@dsit.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 July 2025 10:59
To: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@dsit.gov.uk>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@dsit.gov.uk>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@dsit.gov.uk>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@dsit.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]@scotent.co.uk>
Subject: RE: AI Growth Zones - Scotland - Joint Working Group

OFFICIAL

Hi [Redacted/s.38(1)(b)],

Please see a copy of the release below.

Best,
[Redacted/s.38(1)(b)]

EMBARGOED TO 18:00, Thursday 17th July

Scotland primed for billions in AI investment and scores of new jobs

- AI Growth Zone to launch in Scotland, helping to revitalise local communities, attract fresh investment and deliver new opportunities.
- Several promising sites identified due to Scotland's access to clean energy sources – from wind to solar - making it a prime location.
- Edinburgh named the UK's first National Supercomputing Centre – a dedicated place to help power AI, drive scientific research and connect researchers with local talent.

Scotland is in line for billions of pounds in investment and thousands of new jobs as the future home of an AI Growth Zone - driving the economic growth which powers the government's Plan for Change, the Technology Secretary announced today.

The commitment to roll out an AI Growth Zone in Scotland underlines the ambition to ensure people across the country can share in the opportunities and potential of this generation-defining technology.

With Scotland's ready access to wind, hydro, and solar power sources making up a renewable energy capacity of 17.6 GW – enough to power over 10 million homes – it's an ideal base to help drive forward the UK's ambitious AI agenda.

AI Growth Zones are a new concept first unveiled by the UK Government in January –serving as dedicated hotbeds for AI that speed up the rollout of vital infrastructure like data centres which are crucial to the technology’s development.

Through these data centres, researchers and businesses can process huge amounts of data to deliver the next generation of breakthroughs and innovations. That includes finding new ways to treat and beat diseases, speeding up how we can diagnose conditions like cancer, and even using AI to help in the fight against climate change.

Their rollout will also mean permanent, high-skilled jobs and a flurry of construction roles as the government moves to get spades in the ground as quickly as possible.

In a further win for Scotland, Edinburgh will also be home to the UK’s first National Supercomputing Centre as part of a new Compute Roadmap announced today. It will work as a dedicated centre of expertise, with individual sites hosting everything from large data sets and cutting-edge processing power, to linking up researchers and academia with leading talent in their region.

It follows up to £750 million announced to build the UK’s new national supercomputer at the University of Edinburgh which will give scientists from across the UK the compute power they need to carry out research – whether that’s personalised medical treatments, making air travel more sustainable, or modelling climate change.

This will work alongside the AI Research Resource, a network of the UK’s most powerful supercomputers that were built to bolster scientific research. The AIRR is already being used to research Alzheimer’s vaccines and treatments for cancer by simulating how drugs work inside the body and ‘testing’ millions of potential drugs virtually to speed up the creation of new medicines.

UK Secretary of State for Science, Innovation, and Technology, Peter Kyle said:

“From the shipyards of the Clyde to developments in steam engine technology, Scottish trailblazers were central to the industrial revolution. AI is this generation’s next great industrial leap, so who better to help drive that change than a nation with innovation hardwired in its DNA.

“We’ve set out an ambitious plan to cement our position as a global leader in AI, with Scotland set to play a key role – unlocking fresh investment and new opportunities. That’s how we’re putting our Plan for Change into action.”

UK Secretary of State for Scotland, Ian Murray, said:

"This is a landmark moment and will place Scotland at the forefront of the UK’s technological revolution. The up to £750 million investment in Edinburgh's new supercomputer also places Scotland at the cutting edge of computing power globally.

“This will see Scotland playing a leading role in creating breakthroughs that have a global benefit - such as new medicines, health advances, and climate change

solutions. This is the Plan for Change – delivering real opportunities and economic growth for communities across Scotland."

AI Growth Zones will revitalise local communities by attracting billions in private investment – giving regions across the country the opportunity to play a leading role in delivering the government's Plan for Change. The UK's AI sector has already become a global magnet for investment, with £44 billion of private backing having been unlocked since the government took office last summer.

Site readiness and local impact will also be key considerations to ensure communities can maximise the benefits that they will deliver. Several promising sites have already been identified through the government's expression of interest process which opened in February, and further information on locations and timelines for delivery will be confirmed in due course.

Announced today, the Compute Roadmap includes £1 billion to expand the UK's AI Research Resource twenty-fold over the next five years. When complete, the expansion will be hundreds of times more powerful than the world's current leading supercomputers – giving users the ability to process complicated calculations in mere seconds and speeding up the UK's ability to bring game-changing innovations online.

It will see the UK's compute capacity increase to 420 AI exaFLOP - the equivalent of one billion people spending 13,316 years doing what the full AIRR will do in one second. That means all one billion people would have needed to start calculating more than 8,000 years before Stonehenge was built – without taking a break.

Developing the UK's AI sector is key to delivering the Government's Plan for Change. Its growth has been backed with a £2 billion commitment, ensuring cutting edge innovations can be built and operated in the UK.

This content is extracted from a document outside the scope of the current request. The name and date of that document are:

DGE Briefing – Lenovo Meeting – Tues 16 Sept.docx.

16 September 2025.

- With the UK Government's £750 million investment in Edinburgh's new supercomputer, there's a real opportunity for Lenovo to engage with national-scale compute resources and help drive forward AI innovation at scale.

This content is extracted from a document outside the scope of the current request. The name and date of that document are:

14 July 2025.

DSIT-SE-DESNZ AIGZ Meeting 14 July 2025.docx

- Scotland to maximise outcomes for Scotland. Beyond the AIGZ opportunity, we are working with SE to develop a pipeline of activity to harness the interest in AI infrastructure investment across Scotland and progress sites not selected by UKG. In addition, we will explore any opportunities to cluster sites with DSIT and aim to exploit links to wider investment, across the AI ecosystem, such as the University of Edinburgh supercomputer.

This content is extracted from a document outside the scope of the current request. The name and date of that document are:

Ministerial Briefing – DFM meeting with Dame Nancy Rothell – 4 September 2025.docx.

2 September 2025.

- 1. AI Opportunities Action Plan:** £1bn to scale up the UK's AI Research Resource capacity by at least 20 times by 2030 / £500 to boost UK Capabilities through creation of new Sovereign AI Unit / £750m for Edinburgh supercomputer / AI Growth Zones.

This content is extracted from a document outside the scope of the current request. The name and date of that document are:

Q&A – DFM – Prosper in Conversation with – 20 August 2025.docx.

19 August 2025.

On 11 June, UKG Government announced they would invest £750 million in Edinburgh's supercomputer at the University of Edinburgh. They will now host the Exascale Supercomputer, the only one of its kind in the UK and one of only a handful around the world. This will drastically increase the compute power within the UK and will allow cutting edge research capabilities.