

PLANNING OBJECTION LETTER

Ref: DC/2025/01324 DATA CENTRE - 51 BRIDLE ROAD L30 4XE

Name

Address

Post code

**To: John Kerr, Planning Officer, Sefton Borough Council,
Magdalen House, 30 Trinity Road, Bootle, L20 3NJ.**

I object to this application based on legal, social & material planning considerations, viz:

- 1. Legal & Procedural Failings:** The **consultation** with the residents **has been completely inadequate** and in **breach of the Gunning Principles**. It has not been publicised properly even though it is the equivalent of approx. 7 football pitches. **We have been stopped from speaking at planning committee.**
- 2. Lack of Transparency:** There is no clarity on the **nature of the data processing or its surveillance & control capabilities and the intrusion of privacy. This is a change of use because it is not a Bank data centre, it is something new. AI & Digital ID** lack public consent and community support. It's in the **public interest** to be fully informed. It is believed this is for **CONTROL via mass data collection using 5G technology for 15 Minute Smart Cities, which restrict people (like in Oxford)**. We feel **fear, alarm & distress** and see it is a threat to our freedom. The Council should not dismiss our fears.
- 3. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) -** We need to understand how this major data centre (400 are planned for the UK) will be controlled under GDPR (the law governing how personal information is used by organisations). **People own their own data** and fear this development allows **more control**, linked to **5G Masts & cameras now everywhere**.
- 4. Lack of Social & Economic Benefits:** Unlike other industrial uses, data centres typically create **very few permanent local jobs**, once operational. The permanent loss of land to a **low-employment use does not serve the Sefton economy**.
- 5. Fire Risk:** I am concerned that the scale of this facility poses unique risks **e.g. thermal runaway** that may not have been fully scrutinised. **There is no fire risk assessment**. The current proposal does not adequately detail specialised suppression systems to mitigate risks to the community. The council appears not to have ensured the **Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service** has verified that site access and on-site water pressure are sufficient for a prolonged industrial emergency.
- 6. Emergency Evacuation Plan:** In the event of a fire involving server components and plastic cabling, **toxic smoke and emissions** could quickly reach nearby properties **posing a direct threat to the health of the Netherton community** The application lacks evidence of a robust evacuation plan which is essential given the potential for airborne chemical pollutants.
- 7. Policy EQ4 (Pollution and Hazards).** This proposal goes against the Sefton Local Plan, which states that developments should not result in an unacceptable risk to health and safety
- 8. Noise and Disturbance:** Data centres require 24/7 industrial-scale cooling fans and backup diesel generators. The **constant "hum"** and intermittent testing of generators (this has been

reported elsewhere) will cause significant noise pollution, particularly during the night, **affecting the health and wellbeing to those in the nearby areas**. The report on the planning portal re noise levels is not accepted.

9. **Environmental and Climate Impact:** The **high energy consumption and heat generation of such a facility are significant**. I believe the proposal fails to demonstrate how it aligns with local and national sustainability targets and climate change.
10. **Excessive Electricity Consumption:** Large facilities can draw over 100 MW of continuous power, **equivalent to the needs of tens of thousands of homes**. Data centres use Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF₆) in their electrical infrastructure i.e. switchgear and circuit breakers for arc-quenching and safety purposes. However, SF₆ is a potent greenhouse gas which is 24,000 times more potent than CO₂. It remains in the atmosphere for thousands of years; making even small leaks environmentally significant. It leaks during installation, maintenance, or decommissioning, contributing to climate change. The EU has mandated a ban on new SF₆ based MV switchgear (up to 24kV) starting 1st January 2026.
11. **Power Cuts & Grid Strain:** In the event of **power cuts or rationing of electricity** (as happened in the 1980's) **I fear this data centre will take precedence over residents**.
12. **Excessive Water Consumption:** Data centres can consume millions of litres of water daily for cooling systems. This puts immense strain on local potable water supplies, especially during periods of drought or water stress. I feel this demand will affect the local network and **conflict with Sefton's Policy EQ8 – re sustainable water management**. **Excessive water consumption for cooling threatens local supplies**. We feat the reference to a cooling loop is merely box ticking exercise to satisfy the Green Agenda.
13. **Thermal Pollution:** The discharge of heated water back into the sewer system or local watercourses can harm ecosystems and impact local biodiversity and water quality, which must be protected under **Sefton's Local Plan Policy NH4**.
14. **Electromagnetic fields (EMFs):** Data centres emit EMFs, as a by-product of their high-capacity electrical equipment, specifically in the form of **non-ionizing radiation**. EMF emissions will impact the area when added to emissions from other sources.
15. **Insufficient Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** Given these substantial risks to water resources and air quality, etc, the council must ensure and publish a comprehensive **Environmental Impact Assessment**. There isn't one. Recent UK legal challenges have successfully quashed data centre approvals where the full environmental impact of water and energy use was not properly scrutinised.
16. **Lack of Transparent Section 106 Agreement:** There is **no mandatory agreement** proposal outlining measures **to mitigate the development's impact on local infrastructure and the community so** reviewing and commenting on the Developer's proposal before this planning application is approved is being denied.
17. **CDM Regulations:** It is concerning that the Council has no **details of the Principal Designer** to be able to have confidence in the Developer's competence and compliance with regulations and indicates the application is being considered as routine when it is not. This is different from a bank data centre, and of unclear use.

Based on the above, I respectfully request that this application be refused.