

Planning Department
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dyddiad | Date: 17th July 2026

Annwyl / Dear Cardiff Council Planning Department

RE: Formal Objection to application 26/00109/HYB

As a now Member of Senedd for Caerdydd Fynnon Taf I wish to reaffirm my objections previously made, and have included some additional points.

I wish to object to the above planning application on the following grounds:

1. The closure of the 900 space Park and Ride in this location will cause increased traffic at and around UHW Heath Park and the surrounding streets which will have a negative impact on:
 - 1.1. Emergency Vehicles - the associated increased congestion and parking issues at and around UHW will impede the progress of emergency vehicles.
 - 1.2 Public transport - the associated increased congestion and parking issues at UHW will impede the progress of buses - causing knock-on timetabling issues across Cardiff.
 - 1.3 Hospital staff: Unfairly affected, many of whom are on low pay.
 - 1.4 Patients: The closure of the Park and Ride - with its frequent and reliable bus service is likely to cause patients to be late for appointments - with the associated costs for the NHS.
 - 1.5 Hospital visitors: Visiting a loved one has become easier for many people since the Park and Ride opened because it removes the stress of parking on-site at UHW. The current proposal will only increase stress on worried families.
 - 1.6 Gabalfa Interchange, A48 and cumulative effect across the city: Gabalfa Interchange and the A48 are already heavily congested, with significant delays on a daily basis. Additional traffic caused by the loss of the Park and Ride will only exacerbate this issue and have a knock-on effect across the city.

The application refers to the possibility that another Park and Ride location may be found but it does not include a timeframe for this, and it seems impossible that one of the same or better quality and location exists given that the current facility is located on the A48 - ideal for both cars and buses, and which has an unimpeded bus lane all the way to the hospital.

2. Data Centres are operational 24hr a day and the impact of constant noise is an unacceptable burden to neighbouring communities in this location and can be detrimental to health and wellbeing.

3. The application proposes to destroy a large number of trees and clear considerable habitat for birds, mammals and reptiles (aka "scrub"). This flora also represents considerable water absorption and CO2 sequestration. This destruction is in direct conflict to the nature and climate emergency and to Cardiff Council's One Planet strategy and commitments.

4. This is a poor location for a datacentre.

4.1 Datacentres need to be placed in locations with excess on-site renewable energy available. This location does not have that. The suggestion in the application that, because the National Grid sources some of its electricity from renewable sources, this is a suitable location for a datacentre is logically false.

4.2 Datacentres should ideally be located either in places where "free cooling" is available (eg. near large bodies of water) to reduce water and energy use or they should include district heating for surrounding houses etc. This proposal does not meet that standard.

4.3 Datacentres do not need to be adjacent to major roads. To place one in the proposed location would be a waste of a very valuable site - which is much better used as the current Park and Ride facility.

4.4 Modern Datacentre applications like AI do not require low network latency. Whilst some workloads might require low latency between the datacentre location and Cardiff City Centre, the low latency requirements of every business and public sector organisation in Cardiff would not require a datacentre of this size. Therefore we must assume that most of the workloads within this datacentre would work equally well in a more distant, less valuable location.

5. The current planning consent retains the Park and Ride facility so cannot meaningfully be used as a basis for this, very different, proposal.

6. I understand Cardiff Council has received a petition with over 2000 signatures against this application - which demonstrates both the popularity and importance of the current Park and Ride facility and the strength of public feeling against this change of use.

The current Park and Ride facility should be regarded as essential infrastructure and I urge you to reject this application.

Paul Rock MS for Caerdydd Ffynnon Taf