

DATA CENTRE DECODED
2026 SERIES

Disputes are becoming
a **defining feature**
of the data centre
lifecycle, driven by
the pace and scale
of **AI-led data
centre growth**



Disputes are appearing
**earlier in the project
lifecycle**, beginning
at site selection,
environmental
assessment, grid
queue position, power
strategy, procurement,
contract drafting
and risk allocation

Long lead in
**times, equipment
constraints, cost
inflation, high
energy costs
and regulatory
uncertainty** are
likely to increase
claims in the sector

Risks arising during construction are also putting **severe pressure on programmes,** resulting in a significant upturn in delay related claims

As data centres are increasingly framed as **critical infrastructure**, **cybersecurity threats** and **data privacy** are likely to become **key drivers** of future data centre disputes

AI compute could
account for **0.9–3.4%**
of UK emissions
between **2025 and**
2035, with increasing
scrutiny of its
environmental impact

With disputes becoming **more frequent, higher value and more strategic**, the market is moving from reactive claims management to proactive dispute prevention

Our specialist
CMS Disputes
practice boasts
**data centre specific
knowledge** and
expertise to guide
you through **dispute
prevention and
claims management**



To find out more
get in touch
with our team