
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 October 2017 15:42
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: The Scottish Government's Position on Unconventional Oil and Gas

The Scottish Government's cautious, evidence-led approach to considering unconventional oil and gas, which includes hydraulic fracturing and coalbed methane extraction, has involved a period of evidence gathering, public engagement, and dialogue on the issue. This culminated earlier this year with a four-month public consultation, Talking "Fracking", which closed on 31 May and received over 60,000 responses.

Today (03 October), Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy, confirmed to Parliament the Scottish Government's intention not to support unconventional oil and gas development in Scotland, subject to the completion of the necessary statutory assessments.

Mr Wheelhouse set out the Scottish Government's preferred position, based on the findings of the public consultation and the extensive evidence collated. Parliament will have the opportunity to vote on the Government's carefully considered position before the end of 2017. Further information, including the full text of the Minister's statement, can be found on the Scottish Government website at:
<https://news.gov.scot/news/scottish-government-says-no-to-fracking>
and
<https://news.gov.scot/speeches-and-briefings/unconventional-oil-and-gas-statement>

The position is implemented with immediate effect. The Scottish Government has written to Heads of Planning Scotland to confirm the Planning Directions, which gave force to the moratorium in January 2015, will remain in place indefinitely. These Directions have ensured that no planning or environmental consents for unconventional oil and gas have been issued in Scotland.

The consultation analysis report can be viewed at:
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/10/9813>

The published consultation responses can be viewed at:
https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/fracking-unconventional-oil-and-gas/consultation/published_select_respondent
and
https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/427a5cef/consultation/published_select_respondent

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