

From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 January 2017 15:43
To: Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy
Cc: First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work; Stark C (Chris); Ritchie D (David) SEPD; Miller D (David); [redacted]; Communications Economy; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: Submission: Unconventional Oil and Gas Consultation: IPQ and News Release
Attachments: Draft IPQ - UOG Consultation launch.docx; UOG Consultation - Draft News Release.docx; UOG Consultation Launch Media Q&A - Draft.docx

Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

UNCONVENTIONAL OIL AND GAS CONSULTATION: IPQ AND NEWS RELEASE

Purpose: To seek approval of the attached draft IPQ which informs MSPs of the publication the Scottish Government's public consultation on unconventional oil and gas (UOG). This minute also seeks approval of the draft news release promoting the consultation.

Priority: Urgent. A response by close, Thursday, 26 January would enable officials to take forward the arrangements for lodging the IPQ.

Background:

1. Talking "Fracking": A consultation on unconventional oil and gas is scheduled for publication on Tuesday, 31 January and will be hosted on the Scottish Government Citizen Space website.

Consultation Launch Logistics:

2. The main elements of launch day involve:

11:30 hours

A written IPQ announcing the launch of the consultation will be answered

12:30

First Minister's Official Spokesperson will brief that the consultation has gone "live" at the post cabinet media briefing

A press release is issued

The consultation goes "live" on Citizen Space

The dedicated consultation website goes "live"

13:30-14:00

Broadcast interviews with Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

14:00

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy records a 20-second video clip for use on SG social media platforms, encouraging the public to respond to the consultation

3. The IPQ answer and news release have been drafted together in order to ensure a consistent narrative across the two documents. Both documents have been discussed with SpAds and Communications colleagues.

4. A Q&A is available for the Minister and Communications colleagues and is attached to this minute.

Recommendation:

You are invited to note the content of this minute and indicate whether you are content to approve:

- a.) the draft IPQ answer; and
- b.) the draft news release.

[redacted] | Onshore Oil and Gas | The Scottish Government | Victoria Quay |
Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | Tel:
[redacted] | Mob: [redacted]

09 February 2017
[redacted]/ [redacted]

To: Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

UNCONVENTIONAL OIL AND GAS (UOG): APPROACH TO CONSULTATION ANALYSIS

Purpose: to advise on delivering a robust and independent analysis of the responses to the consultation on unconventional oil and gas.

Priority: Routine

Background

1. The Scottish Government is taking a cautious and evidence-led approach to Unconventional Oil and Gas (UOG), supported by a full public consultation.
2. On 08 Nov 2016, the Scottish Government published the results of the research programme. A public consultation commenced on 31 January running until 31 May and the responses will be independently analysed.

Proposed approach

3. In line with other high profile consultations, including the recent Referendum Bill consultation, we propose that an existing Framework Agreement for Consultation Analysis is used to commission the analysis. The framework enables us to competitively tender to a short-list of experienced contractors and access centrally agreed day rates. Officials will invite Initiations to Tender for the contract in line with Scottish Procurement guidance.
4. The specification for the analysis has been prepared in conjunction with the Scottish Government's analytical teams: the Office of the Chief Economic Advisor and the Office of the Chief Social Researcher.
5. All 10 consultation questions are open questions. The analysis of the consultation responses will therefore be qualitative, other than reporting the total number of responses received by response type and under different respondent categories, which would include respondent geography (including whether the response is within or outwith a Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences area), or whether it is a group or individual response.
6. This approach is in line with the Statement to the Scottish Parliament on 08 November, during which the Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy stated that *"The consultation...will not simply be an opinion poll - I do not believe that that would do justice to the broad and complex range of issues that people care about and that need to be debated."*
7. The contract will cover all routes for responding to the consultation. The primary route for responding to the consultation will be online through Citizen Space; however, we also expect to receive some responses (including campaign responses) by post and email. All responses received will be passed from the Scottish Government to the contractor for analysis.
8. Campaign responses will be handled in line with the precedent established during the analysis of responses to the Climate Change Act consultation in 2008. This approach is set out in

the “Analysis report of consultation responses received following the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Guidance Consultation” which was published in in 2011.

9. For each specific campaign: where responses simply cite their support for that campaign, or use the campaign’s standard text, only the core campaign text will be treated as a discrete response. Responses will be counted and the total number of responses reported.

10. Where the standard campaign text is amended or added to by individual respondents: these responses will be treated as ‘campaign plus’ substantive responses. They will be reviewed alongside those from individuals and organisations, and their additional comments will be taken into account in the overall analysis.

11. An overview of the proposed consultation analysis project aims and methods is provided at **Annex A**. The contract will include standard Scottish Government clauses, including a declaration of any potential conflicts of interest.

12. The contract will be managed by an analyst in the Office of the Chief Economic Advisor. A small technical panel will be established to oversee the delivery of the project. The panel will comprise of policy officials and analysts from the Office of the Chief Economic Adviser (a social researcher and an economist) who will provide expert technical advice throughout the project.

13. The contractor will be responsible for delivering:

- a final ‘clean’ dataset that includes all responses to the consultation and an assessment of whether the response made was valid (i.e. not a test response, not anonymous, readable, capable of being analysed, relevant to the consultation and not duplicate;
- a Final Report, including an Executive Summary, that meets the aims and objectives of the research specification. Policy recommendations are not required.

14. The final costs of the project will be determined by the number of responses received. Based on the responses received so far, for the purposes of framing the specification we have anticipated at least 30,000 campaign responses and at least 2000 responses through CitizenSpace.

15. [redacted]

16. Where respondents have given permission, their responses will be published in full separately to the analysis report. The Scottish Government will be responsible for identifying and redacting any defamatory comments.

Recommendation

You are asked to note the content of this submission and confirm that you are content with the approach proposed.

Contact: [redacted] x[redacted]; [redacted]x[redacted]

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness

First Minister		X			
Deputy First Minister					X
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work					X
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport					
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform					X
Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities					X
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity					X
Minister for Public Health and Sport					
Minister for Local Government and Housing					X
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science					X

Permanent Secretary
DG Economy
DG Communities
Chief Scientific Advisor
Chief Scientific Advisor for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment
Chris Stark
Kenneth Hogg
Bridget Campbell
David Ritchie
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
Simon Fuller
John Ireland
John McNairney
Katriona Carmichael
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
Kate Higgins
David Miller
Liz Lloyd
[redacted]
[redacted]
Jeanette Campbell
Comms Economy

PROJECT AIMS OBJECTIVE AND METHODS

Project aims

- Provide a robust and systematic analysis of all written responses to the consultation. This means the analysis of all written responses to the consultations, including general responses and responses to individual questions.
- Provide a detailed overview of the issues raised, reflecting the range and depth of views, and identifying any themes that emerge. This will include not only people's views as they have given them, but also of the *reasons* for their views, where they have been given, and the factors that appear to influence different responses to the consultation.

Objectives

- Ensure **all** consultation responses are accurately captured alongside respondent information and assessment of validity of response in a master database. This will require the contractor to enter responses received by post and email.
- Confirm the final number of valid responses received to the consultation, in total and by respondent categories (see below for definition of valid response).
- Undertake a transparent, rigorous and systematic analysis of the valid consultation responses, with reference to respondent categories.
- Produce a high-quality and impartial report of the analysis, ensuring that the full range and nature of views are presented.
- Produce accessible and digestible reports and presentations of the analysis that provide insight into public and stakeholder views on UOG.

Methods

- Established qualitative research methods will be used to analyse responses received. The consultation paper asks open questions rather than asking closed, agree/disagree questions. This allows respondents to record the range and complexity of their views, rather than simply indicating whether they agree with the proposed approach or not. Therefore, the proposed approach to analysis and reporting will focus primarily on using established qualitative methods.
- The qualitative analysis should reflect the full ranges of views submitted, and consideration should be given to respondent category and the extent to which there is consensus or disagreement between categories. The analysis will recognise that the responses, as a consultation rather than a survey with a robust, nationally representative sample, are unlikely to be representative of the population as a whole, and the report will present the overall balance of opinion and the most frequently raised points accordingly.
- Any differences in views according to main respondent type (organisation/individual, resident in/outside Scotland) will also be reported. Reporting of further sub-group differences, as identified on the respondent information form (e.g. academics, business, public body, NGO), will also be reported if patterns of responses are evident by these sub-groups.

[redacted]
16 May 2017

To: Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

UNCONVENTIONAL OIL AND GAS: COMMUNICATIONS AND HANDLING OF CONSULTATION CLOSE

Purpose: to update the Minister on the progress of the consultation on unconventional oil and gas, and confirm the communications and handling plan for the conclusion of the consultation.

Priority: Routine. (However, given the public holiday, a response by cop, 22 Monday would allow officials to take forward arrangements.)

Background

1. The Scottish Government is taking a cautious and evidence-led approach to unconventional oil and gas (UOG), supported by a full public consultation. The consultation, Talking "Fracking", was published on 31 January, with responses invited by 31 May.
2. The consultation was launched via a written IPQ and co-ordinated press release, with widespread local and national media coverage, and social media activity, taking place.
3. The UOG consultation has been accompanied by a temporary online micro-site, hosted by SG publisher, APS. The consultation has been hosted on the Scottish Government Citizen Space website.

Consultation Update – Participation Statistics

4. As anticipated, the Scottish Government has received a high volume of responses to this consultation, both through Citizen Space and via other channels, including from campaign groups.
5. To date, since the launch of the consultation, we have received a total of **19,835** responses.
6. To encourage wide participation, the Scottish Government created a number of ways for the public and stakeholders to engage in the consultation. This included a discussion pack, prepared to help communities and stakeholders to explore and discuss the issues in groups.
7. Since the launch of the consultation*, officials have issued:
 - **144** copies of the consultation document
 - **28** discussion packs
 - **36** copies of the research reports

These have been issued to a wide range of stakeholders, including campaign groups, community councils, and members of the public.

*Figures to 10 May 2017

Consultation Closure - Micro-Site and SG Topic Page

8. The consultation has been supported online both via a temporary consultation micro-site, and the Scottish Government's permanent Onshore Oil and Gas topics page.
9. The temporary online consultation micro-site has been hosted by SG publisher, APS, who are also the site's architects. The micro-site acts as a gateway to the main consultation and supporting evidence, and hosts user-friendly information on unconventional oil and gas for use by the public during the consultation.
10. Since the launch of the consultation*:
 - the micro-site has been visited by **4,500 users**;
 - these users have undertaken **6,000 sessions**;
 - **2,000** of these sessions were in the first two days of the consultation launch;
 - the average daily session has been **50 per day**;
 - **25%** of users return to the site.
11. On conclusion of the consultation, officials will direct APS to close down the micro-site. The domain name, www.talkingfracking.scot, will be retained by the Scottish Government permanently in order to protect the brand and legacy of the consultation.
12. The SG topic page will be updated to remove references to the live consultation and a reference will be inserted informing that the consultation is now closed.

Consultation Closure - Media Handling

13. We do not believe there to be benefit to be gained from carrying out proactive media activity to promote the closure of the consultation. However, due to the high-profile nature of this consultation, it is likely that we will be required to respond to a large volume of media enquiries around this time. Draft media holding lines are provided at **Annex A**.
14. We expect one of the main themes of enquiry will be what steps we have taken to ensure the consultation responses have been independently analysed.
15. If you wish to be proactive, a further step you may wish to consider would be a written IPQ which would enable you to inform Parliament that independent, expert, consultation analysts have been appointed to undertake the analysis of responses and reiterate the timescale for a Scottish Government recommendation. A draft IPQ and answer are provided at **Annex B**.
16. We also anticipate media activity by campaign groups. SpAds have asked that you be aware that Friends of the Earth Scotland (FoE) have requested you receive, in person, petitions from FoE and other campaign groups when the consultation closes.
17. SpAds' view is that you should accept such a request. Any presentation should take place in a controlled environment (such as the Parliament) and involve a small number of campaigners. Campaign groups would wish to take a photograph for social media use.

*Figures to 10 May 2017

This has been discussed with Comms Economy who note careful stakeholder management will be required with regard to managing campaigners expectations.

18. Similarly, you may be invited to accept a submission from pro-fracking organisations, should this be the case we would propose the request is handled in the same way.

Recommendation

You are asked to note the content of this minute and confirm whether you are content to approve:

- the draft IPQ and response (Annex B)

[redacted]

Ext: [redacted]

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
First Minister					X
Deputy First Minister			X		X
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work					
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform			X		
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity			X		

Permanent Secretary
DG Economy
DG Communities
Chris Stark
David Ritchie
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
Kate Higgins
David Miller
Liz Lloyd
[redacted]
[redacted]
Comms Economy

*Figures to 10 May 2017

Media Lines – Consultation Closure 31 May 2017

TOP LINE: No fracking or drilling for coal bed methane can take place in Scotland as a result of the moratorium this Government has put in place.

We have taken the right approach in providing everyone with an interest in unconventional oil and gas the opportunity to express their view via our consultation.

We recognise there are many differing views on this issue and thank everyone who has taken time to respond to the consultation.

Once the consultation responses have been independently analysed and published, we will make our recommendation on the future of unconventional oil and gas and allow Parliament to vote on it.

The Scottish Government will then come to a considered judgment on the future of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland, recognising the will of the Scottish Parliament.

CONSULTATION

What will happen after the consultation?

Once the results have been independently analysed and published, Ministers will make a recommendation on the future of unconventional oil and gas and allow Parliament to vote on it. The Scottish Government will then come to a considered judgment on the future of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland, recognising the will of the Scottish Parliament.

How many responses has the consultation received?

In order to encourage wide participation, the Scottish Government created a number of ways for the public and stakeholders to engage in the consultation. As a result, we have received responses from a broad range of stakeholders and members of the public. It would not be appropriate for the Scottish Government to comment on the nature of these responses prior to their independent analysis and publication.

Once the results have been independently analysed and published, Ministers will make a recommendation on the future of unconventional oil and gas and allow Parliament to vote on it. The Scottish Government will then come to a considered judgment on the future of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland, recognising the will of the Scottish Parliament.

Is this consultation a referendum on fracking?

This consultation is not simply an opinion poll - that would not do justice to a broad and complex that has stimulated intense debate, motivated by deeply held and sincere views on all sides. The consultation has provided a clear opportunity for everyone to put their views across on UOG and on specific topics or issues.

Once the results have been independently analysed and published, the Scottish Government will make a recommendation on the future of unconventional oil and gas and allow Parliament to vote on it. The Scottish Government will then come to a considered judgment on the future of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland, recognising the will of the Scottish Parliament.

Does the Scottish Government remain highly sceptical about fracking?

The Scottish Government is aware that many communities in Scotland are sceptical about unconventional oil and gas; the views of communities cannot be brushed aside. This is why we commissioned and published a comprehensive body of research to shed further light on the issues, which has been followed by a full and thorough public consultation.

CONSULTATION ANALYSIS

What arrangements have been made for handling and analysing consultation responses?

We have commissioned a thorough and independent analysis of all consultation responses and the report of the analysis will be published. The analysis will be undertaken by independent social policy research analysts.

What is the timescale for the analysis?

The consultation analysis will be undertaken over a four-month period by independent, social policy research analysts, after which Ministers will make a recommendation on the future of unconventional oil and gas and allow Parliament to vote on it. The Scottish Government will then come to a considered judgment on the future of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland, recognising the will of the Scottish Parliament.

The Scottish Government remains committed to a careful, considered and evidence-led approach, and the commissioning of a thorough and independent analysis of all consultation responses is a continuation of that approach. Given the complex nature of this issue, this is the right and proper way to proceed.

How has the consultation analysis been procured?

The contract for the independent analysis of the unconventional oil and gas public consultation follows Scottish Government procurement guidelines.

Why has this contract been awarded through a framework contract rather than an open tendering process?

Scottish Government procurement guidelines state that before commencing a new competition, the availability of existing contracts and framework agreements awarded or approved by Scottish Procurement must be considered. New competitions should normally only be launched where the requirement cannot be met through an existing contract.

The aim of the Framework Agreement is to aggregate estimated spend and deliver efficiency benefits to the Framework Public Bodies, while also providing those organisations with access to suitably qualified and experienced contractors.

How is the Scottish Government ensuring the contractors are fully impartial?

The Scottish Government is committed to the impartiality of the consultation process. This contract has been awarded following Scottish Government procurement guidelines, and subject to confirmation that there are no conflicts of interest present in carrying out the work.

LABOUR MEMBERS BILL

Do you support the Labour bill to ban fracking given that this Parliament has already set out its view that this industry should be banned?

It is the job of the Scottish Government to base decisions on evidence – taking proper account of public opinions – and to seek a collective way forward. This is why we put in place a carefully considered and democratic process for reaching a decision on the future of unconventional oil and gas.

As set out on 08 November 2016, once the consultation closes and the results have been independently analysed and published, we will make our recommendation on the future of unconventional oil and gas and allow Parliament to vote on it.

Our approach is the only way to ensure that evidenced and legally robust position is delivered for the people of Scotland. We will continue to take a careful, considered and evidence-led approach, and we do that alongside an informed public debate.

Why is the Scottish Government not taking a definitive position on UOG?

The Scottish Government's position on UOG remains consistent and clear - no decision on the future of unconventional oil and gas will be made before the public have had an opportunity to feed in their views, and the Scottish Parliament has had the opportunity to vote on the matter.

At each step toward reaching a final decision, we must take a careful, considered and evidence-led approach, and we must do that alongside an informed public debate. This is what the public and our stakeholders expect, and this is what we are delivering.

SNP MSPs have previously abstained on votes on UOG in Parliament. Will this remain the case?

Members of the Scottish Parliament will have an opportunity to vote on the future of UOG once our consultation closes and the results have been independently analysed and published.

Draft IPQ to update Parliament post-consultation

To ask the Scottish Government what steps it has taken to ensure the responses to the consultation on unconventional oil and gas are independently analysed.

The Scottish Government's consultation on unconventional oil and gas, Talking "Fracking", was published on 31 January, and closed on 31 May. This consultation has provided stakeholders and the public with the opportunity to express their view on this important issue.

The Scottish Government remains committed to a careful, considered and evidence-led approach to unconventional oil and gas, and the commissioning of a thorough and independent analysis of all consultation responses is a continuation of that approach.

The analysis will be undertaken by independent social policy research analysts, and the results of this analysis will be published. It would not be appropriate for the Scottish Government to comment on the nature of those responses prior to the analysis and their publication.

Once the results have been independently analysed and published, Ministers will make a recommendation on the future of unconventional oil and gas and allow Parliament to vote on it. The Scottish Government will then come to a considered judgment on the future of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland, recognising the will of the Scottish Parliament.

No fracking or drilling for coal bed methane can take place in Scotland as a result of the moratorium this Government has put in place.

[redacted]
06 July 2017

**To: First Minister
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work
Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy**

UNCONVENTIONAL OIL AND GAS (UOG): TIMETABLE FOR REACHING A CONSIDERED JUDGEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF UOG

Purpose: to provide advice on establishing a robust, evidence-led process and timetable for confirming a position on the future of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland.

Priority: Routine (a response by 14 July will help ensure the timetable can be met)

Background

1. The Scottish Government is maintaining its cautious, evidence-led approach to unconventional oil and gas (UOG), which has now included an extensive public consultation. The consultation, Talking “Fracking”, closed on 31 May. A summary of response numbers is provided in **Annex A**.
2. In line with the Scottish Government’s evidence-led approach, the consultation did not set out policy options or a preferred policy position; instead it created space for dialogue and encouraged different perspectives to come forward. This unique approach demonstrated the Scottish Government’s commitment to exploring both the evidence and the views of people across Scotland without bias or prejudgement.
3. On 08 Nov 2016, the Scottish Government confirmed that the process for reaching a decision on the future of UOG would include the following steps:
 - a recommendation on the future of UOG will be made after the consultation closes and the results have been independently analysed;
 - the Parliament will then be given an opportunity to vote on this issue;
 - the Scottish Government will then come to a considered judgment on the future of UOG in Scotland by the end of 2017.
4. Ministers have also confirmed that the Scottish Government’s position on UOG will be reflected in the Energy Strategy, and that the Climate Change Plan will be updated, if necessary, to reflect the final position on UOG.

UOG DECISION: CONSIDERATIONS

5. The Scottish Government has set in place a carefully considered process for reaching a robust decision on the future of UOG that ensures the scientific evidence-base, the views of the public and stakeholders, and the views of Parliament can be carefully considered.
6. In November 2016, the Scottish Government published independent research into UOG. This body of evidence examined potential health, environmental and economic impacts. The scope of this research was informed by the findings of the Independent Expert Scientific Panel on Unconventional Oil and Gas, who reported their findings in 2014.
7. Independent social policy research analysts Griesbach and Associates have been contracted through a Scottish Government framework agreement to undertake an independent analysis of

the consultation. Griesbach have experience of working on a number of high-profile consultations, including the 2017 consultation on a draft referendum bill. The draft final report is due on 25 August 2017, and an interim report is due on 07 August.

8. A number of stakeholders have presented evidence to the Scottish Government through the Talking “Fracking” consultation. In consultation with the Chief Scientific Adviser, officials are establishing a process for considering evidence submitted during the consultation.

9. Claudia Beamish has lodged a final proposal for a Member’s Bill to ban fracking and other forms of UOG. Ms Beamish has indicated on social media that she will progress her Bill if the Scottish Government does not come to a position that is consistent with her Bill proposal.
[redacted]

TIMETABLE AND MILESTONES FOR REACHING A CONSIDERED JUDGEMENT ON UOG

10. Ministers have previously indicated that Cabinet should consider the evidence on UOG before determining a position on the future of the industry. We have identified the following themes for incorporation in advice to Cabinet:

- the evidence prepared by the Scottish Government on potential impacts;
- the results of the consultation;
- the policy positions available and how they could be implemented;
- subsequent steps, including the motion for debate and statutory assessments.

11. In view of the timetable for the consultation analysis, we anticipate that advice for Cabinet could be prepared by September 2017. A provisional slot to discuss UOG at Cabinet on 29 Aug has been scheduled. The advice would draw on information from the interim consultation analysis report, which is due to be available on 7 August.

12. A comprehensive handling and stakeholder engagement strategy will be prepared, alongside a carefully planned programme of implementation. The position Cabinet adopted on UOG could have implications for this work, and the accompanying timetable.

13. The Energy Strategy is due to be finalised before the end of 2017, and the Climate Change Plan is due to be finalised in early 2018. Ministers have previously stated that a position on UOG will be reflected in the final Energy Strategy, and that the Climate Change Plan will be updated, if necessary, to reflect the final position on UOG. **The final form of the decision on UOG may influence the work required to finalise these documents.** The Climate Change Bill, which will set out the Scottish Government’s new Climate Change targets, is due to be laid in Parliament in Spring 2018.

14. As there is potential for significant environmental effects, either as a consequence of industrial activity or as a consequence of not permitting an industry, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required. This would have to be undertaken prior to establishing and implementing a final policy. Advice on this matter was provided on 20 September 2016 (Unconventional oil and gas: statutory and other assessments). The SEA process includes a full public consultation, and the whole process typically takes in the region of 6-8 months to complete.

15. The requirement to undertake a SEA does not prevent Ministers confirming a policy position, and Parliament voting on that position, prior to commencing a SEA, providing it is made clear that the preferred position is subject to the outcome of the SEA and associated consultation. This approach would be consistent with the approach adopted for Underground

Coal Gasification. To fulfil SEA requirements, a published policy position on UOG will need to accompany the SEA Environmental Report, as part of the public consultation process.

16. The indicative timetable below summarises the main milestones in the decision process.

Step	Date
Climate Change Bill consultation commences (3 months)	June 2017
UOG consultation analysis - interim report	07 Aug 2017
Commence preparation of Cabinet advice on UOG	Aug 2017
UOG consultation analysis – draft final report available	25 Aug 2017
Cabinet consider UOG advice	29 Aug 2017
Publication of UOG consultation analysis	Sept 2017
Debate and vote in parliament on UOG	Sept/Oct 2017
Publish policy statement on SG's considered judgment on future of UOG	Oct/Nov 2017
Commence Strategic Environmental Assessment on UOG	Oct/Nov 2017
Final Energy Strategy published	Dec 2017
Climate Change Plan published	Early 2018
Climate Change Bill introduced	March 2018
Complete Strategic Environmental Assessment on UOG	Summer 2018
Finalise and commence UOG policy	Summer 2018

COMMUNICATIONS AND HANDLING

17. The Scottish Government has adopted an open and transparent approach to UOG. Examples of this approach included publishing the full timetable and programme of work leading to consultation; publishing details of the research projects, and subsequently the research reports; and engaging with stakeholders on the scope and terms of the consultation exercise.

18. Officials will work with Communications colleagues to develop a handling and communications plan to accompany each stage in the process for reaching a considered judgement on UOG.

19. As part of the comprehensive handling and stakeholder engagement strategy, officials will outline key milestones, both internal and external, pertinent to the timeline. [redacted]

20. [redacted]

RECOMMENDATIONS

You are asked to note the content of this submission and confirm that you are content:

- with the timetable for reaching a considered judgement on UOG (paragraph 16);
- with the scope of the advice for Cabinet on UOG outlined at paragraph 10.

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Deputy First Minister					X
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport			X		
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform			X		
Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities			X		
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity			X		
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Constitution			X		
Minister for Public Health and Sport			X		
Minister for Local Government and Housing			X		
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science			X		
Minister for Parliamentary Business			X		

Permanent Secretary
DG Economy
DG Communities
Chief Scientific Adviser
Chief Scientific Adviser for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment
Chief Scientist (Health)
Cabinet Secretariat
Chris Stark
Mary McAllan
Kenneth Hogg
Bridget Campbell
David Ritchie
[redacted]
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[redacted]
Simon Fuller
John McNairney
Katriona Carmichael
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
Gareth Brown
[redacted]
Kate Higgins
David Miller
Liz Lloyd
[redacted]
[redacted]
Jeanette Campbell
Comms Economy

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES RECEIVED TO THE TALKING “FRACKING” CONSULTATION

Reponses are being verified by the contractor undertaking the consultation analysis.

	UOG Consultation
Total Responses	60,562
Citizen Space	2871
Campaign (petitions)	Circa 52500
Campaign “plus”*	Circa 5000
Other (individuals)	Circa 100
Organisations	Circa 160

* Campaign “plus” responses have been submitted as part of a campaign, but include personalised comments and viewpoints.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 13 June 2017 12:58
To: Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy
Cc: [redacted]; Ritchie D (David) SEPD; Miller D (David); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: UOG Consultation: Late Responses

Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy

UNCONVENTIONAL OIL AND GAS CONSULTATION: LATE RESPONSES

Purpose: To update the Minister on late responses submitted to the consultation on unconventional oil and gas.

Priority: Routine.

Background:

1. Talking "Fracking": A consultation on unconventional oil and gas closed on 31 May. We have since received 90 late response to the consultation, broken down as follows:

53 emailed campaign responses (these continue to be received daily)
34 campaign postcards (these continue to be received daily)
2 postal campaign responses; and
3 substantive consultation responses (Milton Community Council, Glasgow; East Ayrshire Council and an individual)

2. In view of the comprehensive publicity and awareness raising of the consultation, the Scottish Government has strongly encouraged stakeholders to submit responses within the consultation deadline and has made no commitment to consider late responses. In view of this position we do not intend to pass late campaign responses on to the analysts. However, in view of the time and effort which has gone into producing the three substantive consultation responses, particularly by community councils, and their desire to participate in the consultation, we therefore, intend to ask the analysts to consider them and advise on their treatment which may include making separate reference to late responses within the analysis report.

3. The three late substantive responses have asked we acknowledge their receipt and confirm they will be considered as part of the consultation. We propose acknowledging the three late substantive

responses as follows: “Thank you for your response to Talking “Fracking”: A consultation on unconventional oil and gas. All responses are gratefully received. Your response to the consultation was submitted past the deadline of 31 May however, we will pass on your response to the analysts who are considering the consultation responses.”

4. During the consultation period, we received a requests for an extension from the Natural Hydration Council, which, while not agreed to, we suggested they may wish to submit their views via the MACCs system.

5. To maintain consistency we would follow up with the Natural Hydration Council to confirm their views will be passed to the analysts considering the consultation responses.

6. This approach has been discussed with SpAds.

Recommendation:

7. The Minister is invited to note the content of this update and confirm that he is content with the proposed approach to handling late responses.

[redacted]

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