



## Fracking Survey 2016

I would very much like to know your views on shale gas exploration. I believe that shale gas should be part of the UK's energy mix but only if it is done in a balanced and measured way. This includes robust regulations in place to protect the environment and minimise the impact on communities, groundwater monitoring, community benefits and exclusion of hydraulic fracking in protected areas.

May I explain why I believe that fracking, provided it is properly monitored and delivered in a sustainable manner, is good for the country as part of our energy mix. I believe that fracking could provide national solutions to meet national needs, particularly in the areas of the economy, our security and the environment. According to current predictions, if we were able to extract even 10% of our shale gas reserves it could meet UK gas requirements for forty years and in the process create up to 64,000 jobs. I also believe that global energy markets are too dependent on trouble spots around the world, particularly in the Middle East and Russia. Shale gas should not be considered to be an alternative to investment in renewable energy, but an alternative to coal, widely accepted as the most damaging fossil fuel. Renewables are part of the future but only produce around 7% of our energy needs today, so we need a bridge to the carbon free future we would all like to see.

According to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), "Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 50% when shifting from the coal fired power plant to a modern natural gas plant," outlining how shale gas is a far better alternative when moving towards renewable energy. A recent report from the US Government attributed declining CO2 in US due to the switch from coal to gas and renewables.

Additionally, burning coal in our power stations causes many other health problems. According to a report by the Health and Environment Alliance, coal-fired power stations are

responsible for the following effects on UK citizens: 1,600 premature deaths, 68,000 additional days of medication, 363,266 working days lost and more than a million incidents of lower respiratory symptoms. The report states "As gas-fired power stations emit relatively fewer pollutants per kilowatt hour of electricity than coal-fired power stations, the share of coal in the total energy sector emissions is much higher than its 30% share in the electricity mix. Gas-fired power stations emit negligible amounts of particulate matter and sulphur dioxide."

[http://www.env-](http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/heal_briefing_what_does_coal_cost_health_in_the_uk_29112013final1_1.pdf)

[health.org/IMG/pdf/heal\\_briefing\\_what\\_does\\_coal\\_cost\\_health\\_in\\_the\\_uk\\_29112013final1\\_1.pdf](http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/heal_briefing_what_does_coal_cost_health_in_the_uk_29112013final1_1.pdf) . It is estimated that 500,000+ people die in China every year from inhalation of particulates

<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2015-12/07/beijing-smog-red-alert-pollution-china>

This year I intend to pursue a number of measures to make sure that any exploration is carried out safely and discreetly . I will hold a Producers Summit ( February 8th) to discuss a regional plan. I have invited the main shale gas extraction companies, Caudrilla, Third Energy, Ineos and IGas to attend. The aim will be to produce a visual model of what fracking would look like in terms of visual and environmental impact so we can assess the effect on our countryside. I shall continue to push for independent supervision of regulations, a five year local plan to cover traffic, distance from schools, town and villages, publicly available environmental monitoring and assurances that community financial benefits go direct to the communities affected. I will set up an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Shale Gas Regulation and Planning to ensure that measures are in place so that fracking is conducted safely and monitored step by step and I shall explore Northern Gas Networks' proposal to transport gas via plastic pipes straight into the local communities without the need for heavy transportation lorries.

Please would you be able to answer the questions below.

Kind regards, Kevin

1.

**I have arranged a Producers Summit on February 8th 2016 to discuss a regional plan. Invited are shale gas extraction companies with an interest in production in Thirsk and Malton. The aim of this meeting will be to create a model of what shale gas**

**extraction would look like in terms of visual and environmental impact and how this can be communicated.**

**Do you think a better understanding of the visual impact that demonstrated that the process could be done discreetly, would that ease any concerns you have regarding shale gas exploration?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**2.**

**I intend to keep up the pressure I began in 2015 to get some clear answers and commitments to key issues such as the independent supervision of regulations.**

**Would an independent body monitoring developments at every step of the process would reassure you that fracking was being delivered in a balanced and measured way.**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**3. I am pushing for a detailed five year local plan to deal with concerns such as traffic plans, distance from schools, town and villages and impacts on other important parts of our economy.**

**Do you believe that a comprehensive local plan will help address any concerns you have about the impact on the environment in Thirsk and Malton.**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**4. The Northern Gas Networks says it could transport the gas from the shale field and distribute it in plastic pipes to local networks. This would reduce the need for lorries to transport gas and could mean we would benefit from cheaper or even free gas for those with specific needs.**

**If your gas supply originated locally and was distributed locally without the need for heavy transportation would it make you more likely to favour shale gas extraction in Thirsk and Malton.**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**5. I believe that if fracking is to go ahead in Thirsk and Malton it should be done in a controlled and balanced way, in other words step by step, with proper checks in place.**

**Taking all the above issues into consideration would you support fracking in our communities.**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**6. If you wish please let me have your contact details**

Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Address 2	<input type="text"/>
Town	<input type="text"/>
Post Code	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>

Phone Number

Done

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