



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Climate

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Our ref: MCSL2022/22191

17 November 2022

Dear George,

Thank you for your email of 22 September addressed to the former Secretary of State, Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, on behalf of your constituents, regarding shale gas. I am responding as this matter falls under my Ministerial portfolio. I apologise for the delay in response, your correspondence was only recently brought to my attention.

As the Prime Minister set out when entering office, the Government supports the ambitions set out in the 2019 manifesto. The Government has therefore taken the decision to revert to a precautionary approach regarding shale gas exploration and will take a presumption against issuing any further hydraulic fracturing consents. As set out in the manifesto, the Government will not support shale gas extraction unless the science shows it can be done safely.

As made clear in the British Geological Survey report on the latest scientific evidence around shale gas extraction, forecasting the occurrence of significant seismic events and their expected magnitude remains a challenge with significant uncertainty.

The Government will only support shale gas exploration if it can be done in a way that is sustainable and protects local communities. We will be led by the evidence on whether this form of exploration can be done in a way which acceptably manages risk.

The Government issued a Written Ministerial Statement publicly setting out this position on 27 October 2022.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope you and your constituents find this response useful.

Yours ever,

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Climate