

Date

Dear MSP

Concerns about unconventional gas extraction and fracking

I am aware that a number of companies have initiated projects to extract unconventional gas - such as coalbed methane - in Scotland, and that in the coming months and years there could be many more such developments.

I think that the Scottish Government and Parliament should work towards a moratorium on fracking, coalbed methane extraction and unconventional gas extraction generally (until a full scientific assessment of the potential risks to the environment, including the impact on climate change, has been carried out) because:

- the risks to the environment and human health are too great
- using these new forms of gas will put our capacity to meet urgent climate targets at risk

Extracting coalbed methane involves drilling vertically and horizontally into the coal seam, removing water and extracting gas, and sometimes requires the use of 'fracking' technology.

Fracking is a particularly risky process, involving pumping a huge amount of water and toxic chemicals into the borehole at high pressure to release and capture the gas. There is a risk of the fracking fluid leaking into the surrounding earth and aquifers at various stages in the process. It has recently been confirmed that the technique caused earth tremors at a site near Blackpool, exacerbating the risk of chemical and methane leakage.

Even without the need for fracking, coalbed methane extraction carries a risk of water contamination because of the need to remove and dispose of very old water from the coal seam, and the risk of methane leakage into groundwater.

Unlike conventional gas drilling, coalbed methane or shale gas projects tend to need a great many wells, therefore significantly increasing the risk of something going wrong. I would not like to see Scotland open the door to these risks.

What's more, Scotland has plentiful renewable resources to harness for clean, green, safe energy. Exploiting new forms of unconventional gas is a dangerous distraction from the urgent need to transition to renewable energy, in order to avert climate change.

France and Bulgaria have banned fracking, and other states and regions are set to follow suit.

I want to live in a Scotland free of unconventional gas projects and fracking.

As my MSP, I am asking you to:

- Work towards a moratorium on fracking and unconventional gas exploration until a full assessment of all of the risks, including to the climate, has been carried out.

I look forward to your response.

Name

Address

Postcode