



Department
of Energy &
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Andrea Leadsom MP
Minister of State

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www.gov.uk

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Dear Michael,

I am writing to inform you that your constituency (or part of your constituency) is in an area where a Petroleum Exploration and Development License (PEDL) is being offered today by the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA).

I realise that some of your constituents may be concerned about this, so wanted to explain to you that PEDLs are for companies seeking to explore for and extract onshore oil and gas through conventional and unconventional means. These licences merely give exclusivity to the licensee and do **not** give any direct permission for conventional or unconventional operations to begin.

Before any operations can commence, the licensee will need to apply for and obtain various permissions and consents. These include for example:

- planning permission;
- environmental permits from the Environment Agency;
- Health & Safety Executive scrutiny of well designs; and
- further consent for drilling operations from the OGA.

The UK has a strong track record of robustly regulating the safe extraction of onshore oil and gas and has done over the past 50 years. We are bringing this experience to bear on unconventional operations, but where hydraulic fracturing is being considered additional regulatory requirements and consents will apply, including the requirement for consent from the Secretary of State.

The Government has an obligation to explore the potential for domestic energy sources. A successful UK oil and gas industry can help create jobs and grow local economies. If you

have any questions about our strategy for developing domestic energy or these licenses, please do contact my office and/or catch me in the lobby.

Best wishes

Andrea Leadsom

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