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FoI Requests on rationale	<a href="mailto:npcc.request@foi.pnn.police.uk">npcc.request@foi.pnn.police.uk</a>
Author	CC Justine Curran
Force/organisation	NPPOPS
NPCC Coordination Committee	Operations Coordination Committee
Telephone number	01482 560204
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Mr Keith Taylor MEP  
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49-51 East Road  
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16 January 2017

Dear Mr Taylor MEP,

Thank you for your letter addressed to Chief Constable Thornton dated 5 January 2017 on the policing of anti-fracking protests. As the National Policing Lead for Public Order and Public Safety, Chief Constable Thornton has remitted your letter to me in order to provide a response.

I note the issues that you raise in your letter and concerns raised by Netpol on the guidance document 'Policing Linked to Onshore Oil and Gas Operations' and as you may be aware these specific points were answered by ACC Hamlin and forwarded in a written response to Netpol on 5 August 2016 prior to her retirement.

Due to the retirement of ACC Hamlin I have appointed ACC Swann, Northamptonshire Police, as her successor as the NPCC Lead for Protest who has the responsibility to oversee the strategic coordination of policing protests.

However, with the likelihood of further exploration sites I believe that the police service will need to continue to consider matters of national consistency in policing protests associated with Shale Gas and Oil Exploration. The post of NPCC Lead for Shale Gas and Oil Exploration was until recently held by ACC O'Reilly, who developed the guidance on 'Policing Linked to Onshore Oil and Gas Operations', but he has now relinquished the post and I will be appointing a successor in the very near future.

Upon appointment of the new NPCC Lead for Shale Gas and Oil Exploration I shall request that a review of the guidance on 'Policing Linked to Onshore Oil and Gas Operations' is undertaken which will include consultation with key stakeholders. I shall ensure that you are kept informed of progress and receive the details of the new lead officer when appointed.

Yours faithfully

**Justine Curran, QPM**  
**Chief Constable.**

National Policing Lead for Public Order and Public Safety.

Cc: Chief Constable Thornton

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