

KEITH TAYLOR  
Green Party  
*for the South East of England*



6 February 2018

ACC Terence Woods  
Lancashire Constabulary Headquarters  
Saunders Lane  
Hutton nr Preston  
PR4 5SB

Dear Terry,

**Re: Review of guidelines 'Policing linked to Onshore Oil and Gas Operations'**

Thank you for your letter dated 18 January 2018. As discussed, I am still keen to help facilitate an exchange between you and interested parties involved with resisting oil and gas drilling proposals. I have spoken to a number of community groups, some of which have indicated they would like to make a submission and some of which have offered to coordinate responses. However, a number of questions, as outlined below, are outstanding before this process can commence.

I appreciate that you enquired with the College of Policing whether there were terms of reference relating to the 2015 guidance document.

Upon learning that this doesn't appear to be the case, I would like to reiterate once more how important I believe this would be in order to strengthen the review process and I would urge you to agree such terms for the review of the original guidance. Additionally, I feel it's critical that the process for evaluating and influencing the final review is an open and transparent one.

At this stage, I would be very grateful for your confirmation of intent on these issues.

I welcome that there now seems to be a set of clear questions to which the NPCC wants to seek responses, namely:

1. In the view of interested parties, what are the specific issues that make anti-fracking/oil and gas protests significantly different from other public order operations and therefore require separate guidance?
2. How do these issues impact on core planning principles, including the duty to both facilitate and protect human rights?
3. What particular challenges or concerns have interested parties faced in the course of policing operations at shale oil and gas protest sites since the release of the current guidance in 2015?
4. In relation to communication between campaigners and police officers, how do you feel this could be improved?
5. What do you feel the police could do to improve consistency at protest sites?
6. What do the police do that works well at the protest sites?
7. What are the three main concerns for campaigners relating to policing at protest sites?

With regard to question number 5, I would like to point out that it's unlikely that a protester at one site will know about what goes on elsewhere, except from hearsay, so I would recommend to exclude this question as it is questionable this is something they can usefully address.

Otherwise, please can you confirm you are happy for the questions to be circulated on that basis or will you need to get sign-off from within the NPCC again beforehand?

Due to the need for sufficient time to circulate these questions and to allow for the receipt of quality responses, a deadline at the end of February seems too soon. May I suggest that interested parties should be able to submit their responses by Friday 23 March instead?

Please can you also indicate to where feedback should be sent/emailed? Will there be an official consultation or survey interested parties can access and respond to, or an official email address at the NPCC I could pass on to them?

Once the NPCC has made progress on the guidelines, I would appreciate an opportunity to comment on the draft review.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Keith Taylor, Green MEP, South East England.