

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



PCC Katy Bourne  
Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner  
Sackville House  
Brooks Close  
Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN7 2FZ

13 December 2016

Dear Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne,

I am writing regarding the findings in a recent report - [‘Protecting the Protectors’](#) - by Netpol, The Network for Police Monitoring.

The report, as you may be aware, analyses the policing of protests against fracking and unconventional fossil fuel extraction since 2014, exposing the ‘chilling effect’ of politically charged policing on the freedom of protest. These findings are deeply concerning.

The concerns that Netpol have raised are related to guidance published by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) on ‘Policing Linked to Onshore Oil & Gas Operations’. According to the NPCC, despite the guidance being issued centrally, most operational decisions are, however, made by commanders on the ground. As such, Police and Crime Commissioners have potentially an important role to play in ensuring local peoples’ legitimate rights to oppose fracking are not undermined or disrupted.

Netpol is therefore urging Police & Crime Commissioners to draw up and consult on local plans that offer a clear set of minimum standards and expectations about the policing of protests, covering all the key contentious areas highlighted in the Netpol report. This includes the scale of policing operations, policy on the use of force, and on surveillance and intelligence gathering and data sharing, as well as relationships with fracking companies.

As a Police & Crime Commissioner for an area with potential fracking sites, can you please outline your response to the concerns raised, and suggestions put forward, by Netpol?

I look forward to receiving your response.

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.

Keith Taylor, Green MEP, South East England.