

KEITH TAYLOR
Green Party
for the South East of England



Chief Constable Sara Thornton
National Police Chiefs Council
1st Floor, 10 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0NN

05 July 2017

Dear Chief Constable Sara Thornton,

Thank you for passing my letter regarding the policing of anti-fracking protests¹ to the National Policing Lead for Public Order and Public Safety and for the response I received from Police Chief Constable Justine Curran on 16 January 2017.

I am writing to you to obtain an update on the issues raised in my letter since Ms Curran is no longer in post and because I remain deeply concerned about the impact policing operations are having on the right to freedom of assembly - particularly in light of the very recent reports coming from both Chesterfield and Lancashire.

As confirmed in a Home Office written question answered by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 15 December 2016², "The guidance [on policing linked to onshore oil and gas] is regularly reviewed by the National Police Lead responsible for Shale Oil and Gas Exploration on behalf of the NPCC."

In January, I was informed by Ms Curran that she was planning to appoint a new NPCC Lead for Shale Gas and Oil Exploration "in the very near future". Please can you advise if and when this post has been filled and provide me with the contact details of the new Lead in this area?

Further, can you please outline when the next review of your current guidance on policing linked to onshore oil and gas will take place, what form of consultation with key stakeholders is foreseen and whether you will take into consideration evidence gathered by external civil society organisations, including the Network for Police Monitoring?

I would also appreciate if you could confirm who has taken over from Ms Curran as National Policing Lead for Public Order and Public Safety.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "keith taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the first name.

Keith Taylor, Green MEP, South East England

¹ http://www.keithtaylormep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Letter-to-the-NPCC_freedom-to-protest_13122016.pdf

² <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-01/HL3757/>