Dear Mr Taylor,

Thank you for your letter dated 13th December in relation to the policing of protests against fracking and other unconventional fossil fuel extraction. I agree with the statement you make that local people should be allowed to exercise their rights to protest. Equally, the police must be allowed to uphold the law in what are inherently difficult circumstances. All those involved – police and protesters - must, of course, stay within the bounds of the law.

The policing of protests remains an operational matter and local commanders must be given the ability to make decisions based on specific local circumstances such as threat, risk and location. In my role as Police & Crime Commissioner, I will continue to keep oversight of any complaints received on this issue in the same way as I would for any other matter.

Yours sincerely,

David Munro
Police and Crime Commissioner