

Response ID ANON-WDST-KWW5-G

Submitted to Talking "Fracking": A Consultation on Unconventional Oil and Gas

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Community Considerations

1 What are your views on the potential social, community and health impacts of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?

What are your views on the potential social, community and health impacts of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?:

We consider that there are likely to be significant negative impacts on many communities and possibly negative impacts on health.

The shale deposits are in the central belt and so and fracking will have a direct effect on large numbers of people.

There will be a great increase in heavy goods vehicle movement in this area. Each well head will take up space that could be used in ways that would have a permanent benefit to local communities.

2 What are your views on the community benefit schemes that could apply, were an unconventional oil and gas industry to be developed in Scotland?

What are your views on the community benefit schemes that could apply, were an unconventional oil and gas industry to be developed in Scotland?:

Any benefits will be hard to distribute fairly. Financial compensation can be paid for things such as any reduced value of property but people are likely to be unable to sell property close to a fracking site, or close to potential sites. This may leave people feeling trapped.

Economic Considerations

3 What are your views on the potential impact of unconventional oil and gas industry on Scotland's economy and manufacturing sector?

What are your views on the potential impact of unconventional oil and gas industry on Scotland's economy and manufacturing sector?:

Scotland has a developing renewable energy industry and any investment in fracking is likely to reduce investment in renewable energy.

There will be a clean up cost at the end of the life of a fracking site and there is no guarantee that the cost of this will not fall on the public sector.

4 What are your views on the potential role of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland's energy mix?

What are your views on the potential role of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland's energy mix?:

As an organisation we have made the decision to disinvest in all fossil fuel companies. We do not believe that any increase in the use of fossil fuel is beneficial but feel that the money would be better spent on clean energy.

Scotland has developed some good renewable energy schemes and fracking would bring in a cheap, but harmful, fuel that would be detrimental to the renewable industry.

Environmental Considerations

5 What are your views on the potential environmental impacts of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?

What are your views on the potential environmental impacts of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?:

Locally the impact of increased road traffic will lead to higher levels of air pollution.

Wildlife will be disturbed by the 24 hour nature of the work and the necessary lighting will cause light pollution that will effect the habitats of local birds and animals. The use of flares to burn excess gas will be detrimental to wildlife as well as humans living nearby.

There is a potential for groundwater to be contaminated and this might effect drinking water supplies for people as well as for animals.

6 What are your views on the potential climate change impacts of unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?

What are your views on the potential climate change impacts of unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?:

Climate change must be a prime consideration in every decision. Fracking has the potential to release methane which is a very harmful greenhouse gas. It is impossible to guarantee that there will be leakage of methane during production and no-one can be certain the methane will not leak from decommissioned site years after they closed.

The use of carbon capture technology can reduce the impact on the use of oil and gas produced by fracking, as it can for other forms of fuel. Carbon capture is not yet fully developed and the costs of this are extremely high.

7 What are your views on the regulatory framework that would apply to an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?

What are your views on the regulatory framework that would apply to an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?:

There will be a potentially high cost to the government in developing such a framework. There are many issues that need to be addressed and there is no certainty that all of the costs can be recovered from the industry. There are many unknown factors which would mean a constant review of the regulations.

Potentially the regulations would need to be more complex and specific than those in the USA as in Scotland fracking would be taking place in a relatively densely populated area unlike in the USA where it is in areas with low population density. There appears to be a potential for seismic shocks (earthquakes) and these potential events would require comply regulation to minimise such risks.

Concluding Remarks

8 Overall, and in light of the available evidence, what do you think would be the main benefits, if any, of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?

Overall, and in light of the available evidence, what do you think would be the main benefits, if any, of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?:

The benefit in the short term might be the creation of some jobs and a source of cheaper fuel. Neither of these are long term benefits and anything that increases the use of fossil fuels is detrimental to the world.

The investment required is huge for minimal benefits and this investment would be better used to provide jobs in the renewables industry.

9 Overall, and in light of the available evidence, what do you think would be the main risks or challenges, if any, of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?

Overall, and in light of the available evidence, what do you think would be the main risks or challenges, if any, of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?:

The risks are too high to make it worthwhile.

Fuel poverty is a major concern and there can be no guarantee that fracking will address this. The use of renewable energy sources is a far more sustainable way forward.

10 If you have any other comments on the issues discussed in this consultation, please provide them here.

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Any consideration of proposed fracking needs to take into account the findings of the COP21 Paris Summit.

About You

What is your name?

Name:

John Collings

What is your email address?

Email:

johncollings4703@gmail.com

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

United Reformed Church, Church & Society Committee

Address

address:

John Collings
49 Rossllyn Ave
Rutherglen

Postcode:

postcode:

G73 3EZ

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please select a type/sector that best describes your organisation:

Third sector / NGO

If other, please specify::

Church

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference (we will not publish your email or address details):

Publish response only (without name)

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact

you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes