

Kwasi Kwarteng MP  
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Dear Mr Kwarteng,

I am writing to you to reassert that with the right government support the UK could unlock decades worth of indigenous natural gas, providing greater UK insulation from gas supply crunches while reducing our energy supply carbon footprint and levelling up the UK economy.

UKOOG and its members have made the case for the last decade and more that domestic natural gas production is vital to stop us becoming increasingly reliant on imported LNG to heat our homes and businesses and provide a feedstock for critical industry. BEIS ministers have said on several occasions that the UK has a diverse supply of natural gas and that this will secure best value for the consumer, but instead **BEIS has actively hindered that diversity of supply by not acting within the boundaries of its competence and remit to 'influence and promote' the UK onshore oil and gas industry.**

The onshore gas sector has to date received little support in its efforts to constructively engage with your officials at BEIS or with the Oil and Gas Authority to formulate a joined-up effort to address and resolve the issues cited by the Government when it imposed a moratorium on Hydraulic Fracturing in November 2019. In fact, the OGA have refused further meetings with the industry on the topic. If the same level of regulatory burden and scrutiny the shale sector has been subjected to was applied across the UK, there would be a great number of industries which would or could no longer exist. Our request, as UKOOG representing unconventional and conventional developers, is that the industry is treated fairly in line with broader UK regulation and wider UK industry.

In summary, what UKOOG and its board members are asking is for the Government, and BEIS specifically, to reassess its position on high volume hydraulic fracturing in England. Instead of actively hindering efforts to resolve the moratorium, the government could take measures to 'influence and promote' the industry through cooperative research, development and or policy, to develop shale gas in the United Kingdom. Doing so would be an important step in reducing the UK's carbon footprint, creating wealth for the UK and providing a greater degree of confidence that the UK natural gas supply is not reliant on price wars with LNG terminals from the four corners of the earth.

We would appreciate your constructive consideration on this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Charles McAllister  
Policy Manager, UKOOG