



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Lord Duncan of Springbank PhD FGS
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
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11th November 2019

Dear Peter,

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER HL588

On 4th November 2019 you asked the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy the following Question for Written Answer:

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the environmental impact of Cuadrilla's latest drilling programme in north west England. (HL588)

Please find my response below:

Before granting consent to drill a well, the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) checks with the Environment Agency (and other regulators) that they are content for the OGA to proceed. At Cuadrilla's site in north west England, the Environment Agency has been carrying out regular inspections, audits and unannounced spot checks to ensure that Cuadrilla is compliant with the legally binding conditions in the environmental permit. It regularly publishes information online including inspection reports and results from environmental monitoring [1].

Further to this, since 2015 the Department has grant funded a research consortium led by the British Geological Survey to deliver an environmental monitoring programme in and around the first shale sites in the Fylde (Lancashire) and Kirby Misperton (North Yorkshire) where applications for shale gas wells have been made. As a result of this programme researchers have been gathering data on a number of environmental parameters including air quality. This research is separate from monitoring carried out by the industry or the regulators. The information from the monitoring programme is made freely available to the public [2] and supports peer-reviewed science.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Lord Duncan of Springbank

[1]<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/onshore-oil-and-gas/information-on-cuadrillas-preston-new-road-site/>
[2]<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/research/groundwater/shalegas/monitoring/home.html>