

**Greg Clark, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

**Michael Gove, Secretary of state for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

**Mark Menzies, MP for Fylde**

14<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Dear Sirs

We were elected by our respective Town and Parish Councils to attend the Preston New Road Community Liaison Group (CLG), set up as part of the planning conditions at Cuadrilla's Exploratory Shale Gas site in Little Plumpton, Lancashire.

Our role on this is to receive site updates, ask questions of the Regulators and Industry, whilst presenting the concerns and interests of our communities, which include protesters, concerned residents as well as industry supporters.

The monthly meetings involve Councillors, residents, regulatory authorities, the police and other relevant bodies as required. Minutes are taken by Lexington Communications who also run the community helpline for Cuadrilla. Our own notes are shared on our personal social pages and issued to our Councils for information. As Town and Parish Councillors we take our responsibilities seriously and endeavour to be fair to all parties. However, recent events have revealed serious deficiencies in the power of regulators and highlight the bias demonstrated in favour of the Fracking Industry rather than in protecting our residents.

The Environment Agency published on Monday, details of warnings issued to Cuadrilla regarding breaches pertaining to the way they manage waste. Breaches include storing waste onsite for longer than permitted, using non licenced sub- contractors and missing paperwork. This brings the number of actionable breaches to six, all in the year before the company has even begun the fracking process.

This information has been previously unavailable, despite warnings being issued by the EA in April. The CLG has had no opportunity to question this development and update residents, which is in our opinion unacceptable.

To compound our concerns further, despite requests from the CLG to have sight of an off- site emergency and evacuation plan, we have been advised to "trust" plans are adequate. Given that Cuadrilla have breached environmental conditions already, we cannot trust their processes and safeguards. We have no confidence in the power of the Regulators.

If a Regulator is not sharing information with the Community Liaison Group there is no transparency in the system. The CLG is therefore undermined as it is clearly unable to provide the open forum for debate that is necessary around a controversial and untested industry.

The timing of this is deeply troubling given that Cuadrilla are currently preparing the site to commence fracking within the month.

The Government intends to take planning decisions for fracking away from local authorities and enable decisions to be fast tracked. In our opinion the robust regulation that we have been

promised is non-existent. The Regulatory authorities have been rendered ineffective by consistent cut backs and directives and therefore public safety is being compromised.

Yours faithfully

Miranda Cox

Julie Brickles

Dawn Ansell