



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP  
Secretary of State

Department of Energy & Climate Change  
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[www.gov.uk/decc](http://www.gov.uk/decc)

Our ref: [REDACTED]

Wenonah Hauter  
Executive Director  
Food and Water Europe  
Rue d'Edimbourg  
26, Brussels 1050

11 January 2016

Dear Ms Hauter,

I am writing in response to the Food and Water Europe campaign 'Will you force fracking?' I will be publishing my response on the DECC website and I hope you will share my response with your supporters on the Food and Water Europe website.

The Government is clear that the transition to a low carbon economy is key to our long-term economic and environmental prosperity. We also need to have more secure, home-grown energy supplies in our mix. Gas – the cleanest fossil fuel – still meets a third of our energy demand and we will need it for many years to come.

The Written Ministerial Statement made on 16 September 2015<sup>1</sup> set out the Government's view that there is a need to explore and develop our shale gas resources in a safe, sustainable and timely way, and the steps it is taking to support this. The Government remains committed to ensuring local communities are fully involved in planning decisions that affect them: any shale applications – whether decided by councils or by government – will continue to require a full consultation with local people.

The steps we are taking will make the planning system faster and fairer for those affected by new development, recognising that no one benefits from uncertainty caused by delay.

Yours sincerely,

**AMBER RUDD**

<sup>1</sup> See <http://tinyurl.com/pb7f3yj>.