

ANNEX E

Information held by the Department in terms of FOI/EIR request 2015/05770 for UKOOG and joint industry meetings

- *Speaking Note UKOOG Shale Reception, 15 December*

Speaking Note for Matt Hancock

UKOOG Shale Reception

Monday 15 December



There are a lot of misconceptions around the shale gas industry, much of it based on examples from jurisdictions where regulations are far less robust than the UK.

The UK has over 50 years' experience in regulating onshore oil and gas - the effectiveness of which has been demonstrated over its development and which is one of the strictest and safest in the world - and we are confident that the regulatory system will continue to provide robust protection for people and the environment.

We welcome commitment from industry to invest in shale gas development in the UK. This is testament to the great potential of shale gas to bolster our national energy security, create local jobs and provide a bridge to a cleaner, greener future. *Shale gas and oil can mean jobs and money flow into communities across Britain.*

We welcome too the community benefits package brought forward by industry and the Community Engagement Charter, produced by the UK Onshore Operators Group (UKOOG), which commits the industry to engage with local people, residents and other stakeholders.

The shale and geothermal industries have put forward further commitments in the form of a voluntary offer for a payment system - in return for the right to use deep-level land – if our proposed legislation goes through.

DECC will regularly monitor to ensure that the scheme is working well, and we will have power to enforce the payment and notification scheme if these commitments are not honoured.

This evening's event offers an opportunity for you to ask the industry about any concerns you have. My officials are also here to answer your questions, in case you missed their briefing sessions earlier today.