



# Oil & Gas Authority

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Mark Menzies MP  
House of Commons  
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*By e-mail to: [mark.menzies.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:mark.menzies.mp@parliament.uk)*

6th September 2019

Dear Mr Menzies

Thank you for your letter of 27 August in which you express concerns about Cuadrilla's hydraulic fracturing operations at Preston New Road and call for a cessation of such operations on the Fylde coast.

I welcome your ongoing engagement on this issue and fully recognise that the 2.9ML event has caused distress for a number of your constituents and led to reports of cosmetic damage. Two members of the OGA attended the Preston New Road Community Liaison Group on Monday 2nd September and heard your constituents' concerns first hand.

As you will be aware, the OGA has responded quickly and suspended operations at the site and we have written to Cuadrilla requesting specific further data and detailed analysis. Once provided, this will assist the OGA's full consideration of whether the assumptions and mitigations in Cuadrilla's PNR 2 Hydraulic Fracture Plan continue to be appropriate to manage the risk of induced seismicity at Preston New Road. I expect that it will take some time for Cuadrilla to respond and for the OGA then to consider those data and analysis.

Cuadrilla's consent for the hydraulic fracturing operations is dependent on (among other things) the Hydraulic Fracture Plan continuing to be appropriate to manage the risk of induced seismicity, and fracturing operations would only resume if the OGA concluded that to be the case.

I know you also met the OGA Chairman yesterday to discuss these matters. I hope you found that meeting and this response helpful and that it provides some reassurance.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Andy Samuel**  
*Chief Executive, Oil and Gas Authority*