



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

October 2018.

Dear Constituent,

**A Response to the Fracking Campaign**

Shale development has the potential to deliver substantial economic benefits to the UK economy and for local communities where supplies are located. Of course, safety and environmental protection are of paramount importance, and I believe that community engagement is vital.

As you may know, fracking is a devolved issue here in Scotland, meaning that it is for the Scottish Government to decide on policy and planning rules in this area.

In England, the UK Government is not bypassing local decision-making. A consultation has been launched to consider whether the early stages of shale exploration should be treated as permitted development, and in particular the circumstances where this might be appropriate. This would allow early exploratory work to proceed without requiring planning applications, although planning applications would still be required for fracking.

According to the Scottish Government's own scientists, the extraction of shale from Scotland, with the right safety checks, could be done safely. It could also support thousands of jobs and deliver economic benefits to communities.

Fracking would not preclude renewable investment, and I would like to see the two industries develop side by side. 50 per cent of Scottish electricity is derived from renewable sources, but gas is widely used in heating, which accounts for more than half of the energy consumed in Scotland. For as long as gas still plays a significant role, I hope the SNP drop their opposition to fracking.

Yours sincerely,

**Alister Jack DL MP**  
**Dumfries and Galloway constituency.**