

**By 2029 nearly two thirds of UK gas will be imported.**

**Meanwhile, 37.6 trillion cubic metres of gas sits under our feet here in the UK, completely unused. Just 10% of UK supplies are enough to provide us with 50 years of gas.**

**In the US, where they are allowed to use their own shale gas supply, gas prices are over six times lower than here in the UK. Without US shale gas shipped on LNG tankers the position of the UK and Europe would be even more precarious.**

**Local residents should receive a meaningful personal benefit from shale profits arising in their community. The Government should lift the moratorium on shale gas, unlocking its potential and enhancing our energy security:**

- ✓ Up to 75,000 well paid jobs
- ✓ £3.7bn investment every year
- ✓ Public consent unlocking local benefits
- ✓ Boost UK energy security
- ✓ End UK reliance on dirty imports
- ✓ Achieve Net Zero faster
- ✓ Millions of pounds in tax revenues for the public, local authorities and HM Treasury
- ✓ End our “addiction” to Putin’s gas

### **Follow the Science**

The Government has asked the British Geological Survey (BGS) to produce a ‘short report’ into shale gas extraction, which will be published in June 2022.

Since November 2019 the government has also given over £6.7m to the ‘Unconventional Hydrocarbons in the UK’ (UKUH) project “*to significantly improve the scientific evidence base on shale gas as a potential energy resource for the UK*”. The UKUH has already produced a series of reports.

Over 20 of the UK’s finest research institutions and universities have been working alongside BEIS on the project, and earlier this month their spokesperson confirmed that the science shows “*there are methods to assess, manage, and mitigate*” the risks associated with hydraulic fracturing. This is “new” science, which was not available to policymakers in 2019, but is not the first time that the science has concluded that the risks associated with fracking are minimal.

The Royal Society – an institution which has led British science for over 360 years and one of the world’s most reputable scientific organisations – has also concluded that “*the health, safety and environmental risks can be managed effectively in the UK*” and that “*seismic risks are low*” and less noticeable than the hundreds of naturally occurring seismic events which take place in the UK every year.

Similarly, new science emerged after the moratorium in an independent report commissioned by the UK’s regulator, the Oil and Gas Authority (now the North Sea Transition Authority). Having carried out a detailed assessment it said that the 2019 seismic events at the Preston New Road site were “*almost imperceptible*” and that it was “*difficult to justify*” the level of severity assigned.

## **Unlock Local and National Benefits**

Moving ahead with the principle of public consent is the right way forward. Lifting the moratorium on shale gas could lead to up to 75,000 well paid jobs and millions of pounds in tax revenues.

Shale gas companies could provide cash benefits to local residents or support them with their gas bills in exchange for planning approval. In addition, tax revenues could be used to boost local public services.

It would also see £3.7bn investment into the UK economy every year and lead to cheaper UK energy prices for all consumers. In the US, shale gas production means that gas prices are six times lower than they are in the UK.

Producing our own gas would also remove the need to import gas from overseas, with both cost benefits and reducing the environmental impact of shipping gas long distances to the UK.

## **Enhance our Energy Security**

With UK produced shale gas, we would boost UK energy security, ensuring an end to UK reliance on dirty imports, providing a reliable source of power that is not dependent on whether the sun shines or the wind blows, and ending our need to buy gas from regimes such as Putin’s Russia.

We are pleased that the Government review will be considering the unnecessarily restrictive seismicity limits that currently apply only to shale gas but not to other industries such as geothermal and construction. Reports commissioned by the North Sea Transition Authority, and only publicised last month confirm that tremors as high as 1.5ML are “imperceptible”, and many such events are detected by specialist equipment without any real-world effects being felt.

It's vital that the UK Government follows the science in order to unlock the benefits and enhance our energy security.

**Signatories:**

Craig Mackinlay MP

Steve Baker MP

Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP

Rt Hon Lord Frost

Greg Smith MP

Philip Davies MP

Anne Marie Morris MP

Howard Leigh MP

Rt Hon Lord Lilley

Andrew Lewer MP

Lee Anderson MP

Marcus Fysh MP

Esther McVey MP

Sir Robert Syms MP

Andrew Bridgen MP

Marco Longhi MP

Sammy Wilson MP

Lord Moylan

Baroness Foster of Oxton

Laurence Robertson MP

Adam Holloway MP

Sarah Atherton MP

Julian Knight MP

Richard Drax MP