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*Kevin*

Thank you for your letter dated 24 May 2018, which was addressed to the Prime Minister, James Brokenshire and myself, about the Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) on UK Shale Gas of 17 May 2018.

I fully appreciate the concerns that you raise in your letter, and I wish to reassure you that I remain committed to ensuring that local communities have a strong voice in how shale gas projects develop in their area.

I strongly believe that local communities should benefit financially for hosting shale gas extraction sites, both through jobs and local investment, as well as through the Shale Wealth Fund and industry schemes such as the community benefit. To this end, my officials are working closely with industry to see how the community benefit offer can be improved.

As set out in the WMS, development of onshore gas resources has the potential to deliver substantial economic benefits to the UK economy and for local communities where supplies are located by creating thousands of new jobs directly in extraction, local support services, and the rest of the supply chain.

I believe you will shortly be meeting with Claire Perry, to further discuss the concerns that you raised in your letter and I hope you find this discussion fruitful.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and for your continued engagement on shale gas extraction.

*with best wishes*

*G*

**THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP**  
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy