



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Kevin Hollinrake MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



Kit Malthouse MP
Minister of State for Housing

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3430
Email: kit.malthouse@communities.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/mhclg

Our Ref:3942764

November 2018

Dear Kevin,

Thank you for your letter of 22 October to the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, regarding the permitted development for shale gas exploration consultation. I am replying as the Minister of State for Housing.

The consultations on permitted development for shale gas exploration development, and the BEIS consultation on the inclusion of shale production projects into the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects regime, are now closed. The Government will consider your submission to the consultations, along with the other responses to the consultations, and publish its responses in due course.

The Government remains fully committed to making planning decisions faster and fairer for all those affected by new development, and to ensure that local communities are fully involved in planning decisions that affect them. That is why the consultation on the principle of a permitted development right for shale gas exploration development sought views on the conditions any permitted development right would be subject to. Conditions can include local consideration of particular planning impacts, and public engagement.

Further to this, we have published a separate consultation on whether developers should be required to conduct pre-application community consultation prior to submitting a planning application for shale gas development, and the process of community consultation that could be required. The consultation opened on 31 October 2018 and runs for a period of 10 weeks, ending on 7 January 2019.

The Government has been clear that shale gas exploration development must be safe and environmentally sound. The UK has world-class regulation to ensure that shale gas exploration can happen safely, respecting local communities and safeguarding the environment. Independent experts are clear the risks can be managed effectively with an industry that follows best practice enforced through regulation. We are confident we have a robust regulatory framework in place.

KIT MALTHOUSE MP