



# Oil & Gas Authority

21 Bloomsbury  
London WC1B 3HF

Richard Parker

By email to: [request-530166-fe6c8c8d@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-530166-fe6c8c8d@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our ref: FOI-2018-0067

3 December 2018

Dear Mr Parker,

Thank you for your 3 emails of 5 November 2018, in which you requested the following information:

*"Dear Oil and Gas Authority,*

*Please advise as to why no signatory appear on either the hydraulic plan 'pnrz1 hydraulic fracture plan' or the technically sparse approving review 'PO3 Approval compliance acceptance report 020718'.*

*Please confirm or otherwise, that two separate, identified and qualified 'senior geophysicists' cited as originators of the plan by Cuadrilla have been recorded.*

*Could you please publish or indicate the whereabouts of the full recorded technical review details of the hydraulic plan for the public to peruse. There is no evidence of any review of the detailed technical aspects of the geology interpretation by Cuadrilla, traffic light seismic monitoring scheme and the envisaged frack stage progression in the compliance acceptance report*

*Similarly could you please confirm that the individuals that have reviewed and authorised the hydraulic plan have been recorded.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*richard parker."*

And

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# Oil & Gas Authority

*"Dear Oil and Gas Authority,*

*I am disturbed that the schema for traffic light monitoring of seismic events at Preston New Road for the two development wells does not appear to have any contingency for fracking to be completely suspended if seismic levels reach a certain level.*

*Please could you advise what seismic levels and frequency are needed for fracking to be halted rather than simply paused?*

*Is there no schema in place to ensure that Cuadrilla cannot frack after significant trailing events are detected without your authority? It would appear that Cuadrilla are permitted to continue fracking if any number of trailing events are detected at any amplitude. They appear to have to only wait for a fixed duration of 14 hours after any event that occurs during fracking before fracking recommences.*

*On Sunday 4th November a trailing event of 0.7 occurred. This appears there seems to a potential latency of the micro earthquakes to the fracking process that is not deterministic. Please advise as to what the safe limits are for stopping the fracking whilst regulators review the events before fracking can recommences.*

*Please advise what procedures the OGA and BGS are following to ascertain these scenarios.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*richard parker"*

And

*"Thankyou for the provided information.*

*I understand from this information that the OGA is independently responsible for approval of the Hydraulic Fracture Plan and that the OGA is responsible for the approval of this plan with respect to aspects that relate to induced seismic activity.*

*You have mentioned that the BGS provided a consultancy role on the traffic light seismic monitoring array but did they provide any role in the review of the Hydraulic Fracture Plan especially with regard to the induced seismicity?"*

Your requests are being considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs') on the basis that the information you have sought disclosure of, does in our view, fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in the EIRs.

However, to the extent that any of the information requested may not be environmental, we have also considered your requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Accordingly, your requests have been dealt with under the terms of the EIRs and the FOIA

We are writing to advise you that the time limit for responding to your request for information needs to be extended.



## Oil & Gas Authority

Under the EIRs, we are required to respond to requests as soon as possible, and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving a request. However, by regulation 7 the period of 20 working days may be extended up to a total of 40 working days if we reasonably believe that the complexity and volume of the information requested means that it is impractical to comply with a request within the earlier period or to make a decision to refuse to do so.

In respect of your request, we believe that regulation 7 applies. Therefore, although we shall not be able to respond fully to your request within the 20 working day period, we shall do so as soon as possible within the extended period.

Under the FOIA a public authority is also permitted to extend the period of time in which to reply when it is necessary to consider a test of the public interest.

We hope to provide you with a response by 3 January 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Strategy Directorate