

FOI Office

From: Paul Younger
Sent: 20 November 2014 16:35
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Interview bid for tonight from BBC Scotland re shale gas

Hi [REDACTED]

I'm not saying I'll never do it again, but this is still pretty raw for me just now. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Paul

From: [REDACTED] [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]@sciencemediacentre.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@sciencemediacentre.org)]
Sent: 20 November 2014 16:04
To: Paul Younger
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Interview bid for tonight from BBC Scotland re shale gas

Oh god - sorry to hear that Paul. That's pretty sickening.

I've also come across this a lot with other scientists – it's very common, much more than you'd think. I know loads of climate scientists who were threatened multiple times at time of climategate; I know a food scientist who did a study which found organic food had no nutritional benefit over conventional, and he got death threats for that. Similarly scientists who research the psychological causes of ME/CFS.

Do you think it was a serious one? Actually genuine and intentional? If so I really would recommended you tell the police, for what it's worth. This stuff does get investigated and sometimes gets results. I would hate to think this kind of thing goes unreported.

The other alternative is that it was a more idle threat, without any intention, or just designed to scare you – there are a lot of those (such as the ones above). And that worries me too –because it clearly has worked, to a degree. I hate the thought that someone like you – with so much sensible stuff to say on this subject – has now been scared off any public engagement and silenced by some shithead on the internet, who would like nothing more than to not hear from you again.

Sorry for your trouble Paul, this must be a nasty experience. CCing my boss [REDACTED] because she is also very familiar with this kind of thing.

Hope you're ok.
[REDACTED]

From: Paul Younger [<mailto:Paul.Younger@glasgow.ac.uk>]
Sent: 20 November 2014 15:41
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Interview bid for tonight from BBC Scotland re shale gas

Hi [REDACTED]

They contacted me first thing, but I told them that I am not prepared to do it as I received a death threat on the weekend following last week's coverage of our paper on fracking-induced seismicity.

I am committed to public understanding of science, but not to the extent I am prepared to put my life on the line.

Paul Y

From: [REDACTED] [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]@sciencemediacentre.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@sciencemediacentre.org)]
Sent: 20 November 2014 14:37
To: Paul Younger
Subject: FW: Interview bid for tonight from BBC Scotland re shale gas
Importance: High

Hi Paul

See below – would you like to do this? You would be perfect for it – but it is live in studio at 10.30pm...sorry about that

Please let me know and I'll do all the arranging!

Cheers

[REDACTED]

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We have received a request from BBC Scotland's [Scotland 2014](#) (their Newsnight equivalent) for an expert to talk about the safety issues around fracking for gas in the wake of Ineos' announcement [this morning](#) of their new investment in shale gas extraction. (Interesting I thought that they plan to use it for chemical feedstock.)

Interview would be live at 10.30pm (would need to be at the studio by about 10.15) and could be done from a remote studio by live link to their studio in Glasgow – but it would be in a discussion format with someone who is 'anti-fracking' – not clear at this stage who this might be, they mentioned Friends of the Earth but also 'other campaign groups'.

The producer assured me discussion would be properly moderated by the presenter [REDACTED] so that both speakers get to make their points properly. It will be preceded by a package featuring interviews with Ineos and the Minister.

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