

FOI Office

From: Paul Younger
Sent: 19 January 2015 11:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Fracking Debate Inverness

Dear [REDACTED]

I slept on this over the weekend, discussed it with my wife etc, and on balance I have decided I will decline the invitation. My many efforts to present an informed subsurface engineering and groundwater protection perspective on fracking are all well-documented and freely available in the public domain, and people can already access this information if they are sufficiently open-minded to do so. I do not wish to stand on a platform of advocating shale gas development. All I advocate is a science-based approach to risk, and that does not support the loud and hysterical anti-fracking claims being made. That does not, however, amount to me advocating for shale gas. I think the country needs gas and will go on needing it for decades, but if we decide it's wiser to import it from Russia than produce our own, then so be it.

Paul Y

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: 16 January 2015 14:37
To: Paul Younger
Subject: RE: Fracking Debate Inverness

Dear paul

I can understand your worries. I can assure you that the debate wont be advertised with my groups name on it at all. My aim is to educate the public on fracking and the pros and cons if it. Not to rely upon the media to form an opinion.

I am aware of the fracking used in the highlands for water supplies etc.

Its not a problem if you are not interested i just thought i would ask you anyway.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

On 16 Jan 2015 14:29, "Paul Younger" <Paul.Younger@glasgow.ac.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

I am not so much pro-fracking as pro-truth, but have previously had very bad experiences (including a death threat) when I have articulated scientifically-based, rational discussions of the risk and potential benefits of shale gas in public forums. Furthermore, conservative politicians (who tend to be anti-renewables) are not my natural allies either.

Add to this the expense of time and money I would incur coming to Inverness for a very long day (on what should be a day off for me), and I confess the overall package is not especially attractive. The only thing that would motivate me to bother would be the hope of helping some people get the risks and benefits in perspective. However, it is

difficult to imagine that people attending an event billed as “Highlands Against Fracking” are really coming to hear an objective discussion of the science and engineering issues, which is what I can speak about.

Just as a matter of interest, how many members of Highlands Against Fracking do you suppose are aware that fracking has been extensively used in the Highlands to develop the public water supply wells which now provide clear (as opposed to previous brown) drinking water to several Highland communities?

In general, I am increasingly hesitant to bother trying to persuade the UK public that we need jobs and energy – I prefer to put my efforts into renewables projects in Africa, where there is an uninhibited desire for both.

Best wishes

Paul Younger

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From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@gmail.com]
Sent: 16 January 2015 09:47
To: Paul Younger
Subject: Re: Fracking Debate Inverness

Dear paul

Its time would be from 1-4pm in the thistle hotel, milburn rd, inverness.

Im organising it as part of highlands against fracking.

Please note that this is not an anti fracking debate as it will cover roughly 6 aspects of fracking and will be debated to the public so they can have some insight into nature of the processes involved both sides of fracking to be debated by both sides.

There will be an audience mixed if both for/against/unsure.

On your side there will be a scottish conservative msp. On the other a independent msp and a prof of health from stirling and an impartial chair. The audience will be roughly 100+ i have arranged for a total of 200.

I hope this is ok for you.

Many Thanks
[redacted]

On 16 Jan 2015 08:16, "Paul Younger" <Paul.Younger@glasgow.ac.uk> wrote:

Dear [redacted]

I would need to check work and home diaries, as it would take out at least one whole day for me.

Could you please clarify:

- The time of day
- the auspices under which it is organised (i.e. Which organisation is heading it up)
- estimated audience size and nature

Best wishes

Paul Younger

Sent from my iPhone

On 15 Jan 2015, at 19:59, [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Professor Paul Younger

I would like to query if you would be willing to be part of a Fracking Debate that I am organising to be held in Inverness on Saturday the 28th Feb 2015 in the Thistle Hotel.

At the moment I have one Professor of health and a green Msp on the against side and one conservative Msp on the for side and I am short one speaker for the for side.

I am trying to make the debate as balanced as possible and I would like the for side to be as strong as the against side so the public have all the information at hand and can be made aware of both sides of the argument.

Your input on the issue of Fracking would be greatly appreciated.

If you can indicate to me if you would be willing to speak at the debate and I will email you the debate format.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.