



# Oil & Gas Authority

21 Bloomsbury  
London WC1B 3HF

Lorraine Inglis

By email to: [request-421390-2514f3c7@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-421390-2514f3c7@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our ref: FOI-2017-0049

11 September 2017

Dear Ms Inglis,

Thank you for your email of 27 July 2017, in which you request:

*" Dear Oil and Gas Authority,*

*In this website <http://www.ukoog.org.uk/onshore-extraction/where-we-operate> it indicates that around 2,000 wells have now been drilled in the UK, with about 10% of them having been hydraulically fractured.*

*Could you please provide the list of drill sites/areas that you include in this 10% of being hydraulically fractured."*

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the amount of time it has taken to respond to your request for information.

We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (**FOIA**) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (**EIRs**).

The website you refer to belongs to United Kingdom Onshore Oil and Gas (UKOOG), and not the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA). UKOOG is the representative body for the UK onshore oil and gas industry. We are generally unable to comment on information from external bodies or organisations, and as such we are unable to provide the information you request regarding the statistic cited by UKOOG.

In order to try and assist you with your query, we would offer the comment that the statistic used by UKOOG is similar to that used within the 2012 Royal Society report entitled "*Shale gas extraction in the UK: a review of hydraulic fracturing*". The report includes the statement:

*"Over the last 30 years more than 2,000 wells have been drilled onshore in the UK, approximately 200 (10%) of which have been hydraulically fractured to enhance recovery".*

Until the recent increased public interest in hydraulic fracturing, well stimulation was regarded as a routine aspect of well operations, and was not subject to specific consent, and its use may not have been systematically recorded.



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The figure quoted by the Royal Society was compiled by staff at the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) using information from historical records, company information and personal recollections. This approach suggested that the technique of hydraulic fracturing has been deployed in at least 200 onshore wells.

## **Appeals procedure**

If you are unhappy with the way the OGA has handled your request, you may request an internal review. A request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your request and should be addressed to:

Strategy Directorate, Oil and Gas Authority, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3HF  
Email: [foirequests@ogauthority.co.uk](mailto:foirequests@ogauthority.co.uk)

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications with regard to this request.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of the internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) or at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Strategy Directorate