



DLA Piper Scotland LLP  
Collins House  
Rutland Square  
Edinburgh  
EH1 2AA

Your ref: SRT/MB/359051/29  
19 December 2019

Dear Sandy,

**RE: APPEALS PPA-240-2032 & PPA 390-2029**

Thank you for your letter of 19 November 2019 requesting advice on the practical application of the Scottish Government's finalised policy position on onshore unconventional oil and gas (UOG) development.

You will be aware that the Scottish Government published its finalised policy position on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The statement outlining this policy position is available online on the Scottish Government web pages at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-governments-finalised-policy-position-unconventional-oil-gas-development/>

That statement sets out the particular concerns identified by the Scottish Government as the basis of the policy of no support for the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland. These include the insufficiency of epidemiological evidence on health impacts highlighted by Health Protection Scotland; the concerns from communities across Scotland regarding the disruption they anticipate on matters such as transport impacts, risks of pollution, and on their general health and wellbeing; and, concern regarding the compatibility of an unconventional oil and gas industry with Scotland's climate change targets<sup>1</sup>.

As you indicate in your letter, planning decisions must be determined on their individual merits. Further, and as the Scottish Government's 2019 consultation addendum<sup>2</sup> and

<sup>1</sup> The Committee on Climate Change's report (LINK) stated that, in order to be compatible with Scottish climate change targets, emissions from production of unconventional oil and gas would require to be not only tightly regulated and closely monitored to ensure rapid action to address leaks, but also offset through reductions in emissions elsewhere in the Scottish economy.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/addendum-2018-consultation-policy-position-unconventional-oil-gas-uog-sea-environmental-report-bria/>

finalised policy position expressly set out, Scottish Ministers recognise that applications for planning and other necessary consents may be made by those holding Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences (PEDLs), and that these will require to be determined by the relevant authorities (or decision makers) according to the law and policy in force at the relevant time.

Yours Sincerely,

John McNairney,  
**CHIEF PLANNER**