Defra responsibilities for fracking

Thank you for giving evidence to the Committee in September on Defra’s responsibilities for fracking and for your letter of 25 September with the further information requested on decommissioning of wells.

It was most helpful to hear from you about the regulatory regime for which Defra has responsibility with regard to fracking and from Dr Leinster about the Environment Agency’s role in delivering this effectively. We were also grateful for the information you were able to provide during the oral evidence session on Defra’s interaction with other Government departments. It would, however, be helpful to receive a note with a more detailed picture of Defra’s role in ensuring that the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Energy and Climate Change consider fully the wider environmental impacts of fracking on local communities when making planning and licensing decisions. Effects on local environments such as noise, visual intrusion and large scale transport movements are of considerable concern to many constituents and it would be helpful to understand the mechanisms for ensuring a robust and integrated assessment of environmental impacts.

It would be helpful to have a note addressing these issues by 3 November. I am copying this letter to Eric Pickles and Ed Davey.

Anne McIntosh MP
Chair of the Committee

cc Rt Hon Ed Davey MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change
Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government