

Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol  
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-422  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/00631/15

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

 May 2015

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 21 April regarding a moratorium on fracking in Wales.

A moratorium is defined as a temporary prohibition of an activity. The Notification Direction I issued in February 2015 provides that where local planning authorities are minded to approve planning applications for the exploration, appraisal or extraction of unconventional oil and gas which would utilise unconventional techniques (including hydraulic fracturing) they must be referred to Welsh Ministers. Therefore, the Notification Direction that I have issued prevents planning applications from being approved by local planning authorities which equates to a temporary prohibition.

Yours sincerely



**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol  
Minister for Natural Resources