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Press Release (For Immediate Release)

Ministers Plot to Foil Opponents of Fracking

Defend Lytham have learned today, from revelations in the Daily Telegraph, that three Cabinet Ministers - the portfolio holders for Energy & Climate Change, Environment and Communities and Local Government wrote to George Osborne immediately after last July's rejection by Lancashire County Council of Cuadrilla's application to frack at two sites in Lancashire.

In this letter the trio outline their "ambitious strategy" for ensuring that this industry is implanted within the next 10 years and they provide a "narrative" that is to be used to persuade the general public that shale gas is necessary.

Defend Lytham chairman, John Hobson responded:

"People are outraged at the level of the cynicism we are seeing from our government.

Greg Clarke, the Minister for Communities and Local Government, has the power to decide Cuadrilla's appeal in February. Lancashire County Council wrote to David Cameron in December expressing concerns that Greg Clark might be seen to have predetermined the issue. We can now see that this was not only quite justified, it was also something of an understatement.

In the light of his involvement with this inept attempt to push fracking onto an unwilling population, no decision on his part to allow the appeal can now be seen as legitimate. The people of the Fylde, and elsewhere, will be justifiably angry and that anger can only make it more difficult than ever for the government to get the social licence to operate that they need."

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<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/energy/fracking/12130801/Ministers-plot-to-foil-anti-frackers.html>