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Press Release

Cuadrilla announces updates its Lancashire exploration programme

Cuadrilla today released further information about its plans for further shale gas exploration in Lancashire. We have learned that they plan to drill and frack 6 more wells and drill 3 more without fracking. They will also apply for permission to frack at their existing Banks site.

Whilst **Defend Lytham** welcomes the fact that we are finally being told a little more about Cuadrilla's plans we note that no planning applications have yet been submitted.

There is very little of substance in Cuadrilla's announcements today and much that is open to question. We are being asked to believe that work on the Anna's Road site has been halted because of over wintering birds when precisely the same issue affects the Banks site, which they intend to go ahead with and frack. Clearly we are not being given a complete or accurate story here.

Cuadrilla's announcement contains a number of questionable statements. We are surprised that Mr Egan should claim that "The British Geological Survey last week confirmed the exciting scale of Lancashire's gas resource" as the information provided last week from the BGS was in the form of an estimate of total gas in place and they were very careful to state that any attempt to derive recoverable reserve estimates would be premature.

Mr Egan also repeated the discredited claim that shale gas will bring down gas prices in spite of the fact that Cuadrilla have previously admitted that this is not the case. In April two parliamentary reports decried the notion of cheap gas.

Cuadrilla's Press Release even contained the same claim that "Cuadrilla uses proven, safe technologies to explore for and recover natural gas" which was ruled to breach the Advertising Standards Authority code on misleading advertising, substantiation, and exaggeration.

We have no doubt that when the detail of Cuadrilla's plans starts to emerge the local community will make their feelings very clear to the planning officers at Lancashire County Council.

Defend Lytham call upon Cuadrilla to start being more open and honest with local people about their plans and their impact on the local and national economy and environment.

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