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**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

Mr Keith Taylor
Green MEP for South East England
(via email)

16 June 2017

Dear Mr Taylor

Broadford Bridge drill site at Billingshurst

Thank you for your letter dated 1 June.

I questioned the Chief Constable at my Performance & Accountability Meeting last month on Operation Edmond, the force response to any potential protests at Broadford Bridge.

I asked the Chief Constable how prepared Sussex Police are to respond to any protests and was reassured to note that plans are in place to facilitate peaceful protests, should they arise, in order to allow the drilling site to operate within the guidelines and licence and to manage any crime and disorder effectively, should it occur.

The Force's priority is the safety of everyone involved in and around the sites and the local communities which may be affected in order that any emergencies can be effectively responded to.

Sussex Police are allowing vehicles leaving the site to be obstructed for up to 20 minutes and may tolerate obstruction of vehicles arriving on site. However, this will only be on a dedicated stretch of road, which will be published to the protestors, and dependant on the circumstances and whether it is safe to do so.

Sussex Police have previous experience of managing anti-oil exploration protests in Balcombe in 2013 and have supported other police forces in the development of similar plans nationally.

You may be interested to watch this Performance & Accountability Meeting, which is available on my website here; <https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/webcasting/>.

Thank you for contacting me about this important issue, which I will continue to challenge the Chief Constable on.

*Yours sincerely
Katy Bourne*

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