



Mr Keith Taylor MP  
Office of the Green MEPs  
CAN Mezzanine  
49-51 East Road  
London  
N1 6AH

6 February 2017

*Dear Mr Taylor*

Thank you for your letter dated 13 December 2016 following the release of Netpol's 'Protecting the Protestors' report.

I acknowledge the contents of the report by the Network of Police Monitoring and, following enquiries by my office, can confirm that Sussex Police are fully cognisant of the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) Guidance 'Policing Linked to Onshore Oil and Gas Operations' which was reviewed in March 2016.

The guidance sets out some of the lessons learnt from policing protest activities around the country in the last two years and seeks to achieve a balanced policing operation from beginning to end, focusing on the Operational Management Model (Preparation, Response, Recovery and Mitigation).

There are 27 recommendations within the guidance, which may or may not, apply to an incident depending on the circumstances.

In Sussex, demonstrations are overseen by nationally qualified Public Order Commanders, who must attend the College of Policing competency based accredited course.

All Public Order Commanders are selected on their continued ability to display a high level of professional competence and skills. They are required to adhere to national guidance, policies and legislation and when making decisions on strategy and tactics must consider the application of the following;

- European Convention of Human Rights Act
- Sec 3 Criminal Law Act (use of force)
- Sec 117 PACE (use of force)
- National Decision Making Model
- Code of Ethics
- APP Guidance
- HMIC publications

The overarching aim of policing operations concerning oil and gas exploration across Sussex and Surrey is 'to facilitate the right of people to peacefully protest against oil and gas exploration, whilst enabling local communities and businesses the freedom to use their land and possessions.'

Sussex Police assure me that they recognise that there is a complex balance between rights and views in relation to oil and gas exploration and continue to work with local communities, protestors and businesses to achieve a mutually peaceful agreement to policing action. The effectiveness of how Sussex Police implement such policies in policing public protests is an area that I will continue to scrutinise as part of my role as PCC both through my Performance & Accountability Meetings and HMIC PEEL Reviews.

Thank you once again for contacting me.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Katy Bourne*

Katy Bourne  
Police & Crime Commissioner