Olympians: "Fracking has no place in Great Britain's energy policy"

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Dr Robin Russell-Jones (Letters 27th Sept, [Role of shale gas as a bridge fuel is overstated](#)) is absolutely right that fracking is only possible with a government in defiance of local democracy. We strongly object that three 'conscientious protectors' of clean water were sent to jail last week.

It is not surprising that the government's proposal to allow shale gas exploration (fracking) without planning approval is angering so many - including MPs - and sparking a Conservative rebellion. [Fracking plans spark Conservative rebellion threat](#) FT, Sept 18th, by Laura Hughes.

It is greatly angering the many who say no to fracking, who are understandably unhappy that "the will of the people" is being tossed aside. Lancashire said a resounding democratic "No" - after listening very carefully (as local people would) to the arguments for and against. Yet this Government prefers to protect, and even subsidise, their political friends in shale companies: recent studies in the US have shown shale to be heavily subsidised by the American taxpayer. So, fracking isn't just daft, dirty and dangerous - financially, it's a 'dog'. A loss, leading to losses.

The aggregation of multiple losses - relating to wanton water waste, water pollution, air pollution and climate change, not to mention the fact that shale is essentially the tail end of a 'ponzi scheme' - make it simple for us to conclude that fracking has no place in a winning energy policy for Great Britain. The Government must abandon its progress down this 'ecocidal' blind alley.

We aspire to a legacy (not of needlessly polluted air and water, dumped on our own children, but) of resilient, renewable energy. A future, way beyond dirty fossil fuel 'dope', of fresh clean- energy hope.

We are not a lone voice.

Yours

Pauline Peel née Bird
Olympian, 1976 and 1980

Etienne Stott
Olympian (Gold), London 2012

David Hampton
World Championships 1982, Champions for Earth