

**DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY**

**DIRECTIONS TO THE OIL AND GAS AUTHORITY IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS POWERS TO GRANT COMPLETION WORK APPROVAL**

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 9 of the Energy Act 2016<sup>1</sup> gives the following directions to the Oil and Gas Authority:

1. These directions come into force on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017.
2. These directions apply whenever the Oil and Gas Authority considers issuing Completion Work Approval, on application, under the terms of a landward licence to search and bore for and get petroleum.
3. These directions do not apply where the Well Consent issued under a licence is subject to a requirement for Hydraulic Fracturing Consent as defined in section 4A of the Petroleum Act 1998<sup>2</sup>.
4. Where, as part of its programme of completion work, a licensee has submitted to the Oil and Gas Authority proposals to hydraulically fracture, and the licensee is proposing the injection of:
  - (i) more than 1,000 cubic meters of fluid at any stage, or expected stage, of hydraulic fracturing; or
  - (ii) more than 10,000 cubic metres of fluid in total,

before issuing Completion Work Approval, the Oil and Gas Authority must require a licensee to share such information with the Secretary of State as necessary to allow the Secretary of State to consider whether the conditions in section 4A are met and whether the Secretary of State is otherwise satisfied.

5. Before issuing Completion Work Approval, the Oil and Gas Authority must consult the Secretary of State and in determining the application for Completion Work Approval, the Oil and Gas Authority must take account of the Secretary of State's view on the matters in paragraph 4 above.
6. These directions may be varied or revoked by further directions given under section 9 of the Energy Act 2016.



Signed by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> 2016 c. 20.

<sup>2</sup> 1998 c. 17; section 4A was inserted by section 50 of the Infrastructure Act 2015 (c. 7).