



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Union Intervention on Fracking

The North East's biggest general trade union has welcomed a briefing to businesses on fracking taking place in Newcastle today.

The GMB Union noted that at its Congress last week an important document on Fracking was discussed and acknowledged that while there are important considerations, the economic, indigenous energy and employment benefits cannot be ignored.

Billy Coates GMB Northern Regional Secretary said:

"This is very much work in progress. The strategic importance of fracking within the UK's balanced energy mix must not be ignored. Along with nuclear, renewables, green coal, oil and gas, fracking could be absolutely essential to achieving near self sufficiency which will benefit domestic and business need"

"Fracking has in effect being going on for years as a by product of oil and gas exploration. Given the fragility of the oil and gas sector due to price pressures, diversification through shale gas could well become a key employer within the energy sector. Policy makers need to take this into account as we look to sustainable communities through employment, investment, secure energy through supply, price and use".

