

Councillor Briefing Note
No.305

Service: Economic Development
and Planning

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Update on 14th Onshore Oil & Gas Licensing Round

An article has been published by the 'Drill and Drop - Independent journalism on fracking, onshore oil and gas and the reactions to it' website regarding the offer of the Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences (PEDLs) by Government for four blocks of land in Wiltshire, as reported in Councillor Briefing Note 271.

The full article can be found via this link:

<https://drillordrop.com/2016/09/14/breaking-sw-energy-gives-up-forest-of-dean-and-wiltshire-exploration-licences/>

The article reports that South Western Energy would not be accepting the offer of licenses in Wiltshire due to low energy prices and financial viability. However, it also states that the company might reapply outside of a formal licensing round. The company would be accepting licenses in Somerset and Dorset.

A spokesperson for the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA), made the following comment:

"The OGA can confirm that some blocks offered under the 14th Onshore Licensing Round have not been accepted by those to whom they were offered.

"This means that the licenses pertaining to these blocks will not be awarded."

We will continue to monitor the situation as it applies to Wiltshire and its environs.