

# Academic spat

*Sir,*

*Old Sparky (Eye 1460) reports the complaints made to Lord Gnome by Quentin Fisher and two others on alleged inaccuracies in his earlier report on water pollution at Cuadrilla's current fracking site in Lancashire (Eye 1458). Could this be the same Quentin Fisher, Professor of Petroleum Engineering at Leeds University, who frequently pops up in the media in defence of the fracking industry? Since his whole research career depends on grants from the fossil fuel industry, he is hardly an independent expert.*

*Prof Fisher's latest academic publication (or "output" as it is known in the trade) on which he is lead author is an article on whether crushing samples of shale in the lab makes for better measurements of the shale's physical properties. In short, a typical example of frackademia at work.*

*Yours, from the country that banned  
fracking in 2011,  
DAVID SMYTHE,*

*Emeritus Professor of Geophysics,  
University of Glasgow.*

---