



LOCAL AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATION

PRESS RELEASE

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KIMO UK fears the Gannet Alpha spill is the first of many



KIMO UK fear that the oil spill at the Gannet Alpha pipeline maybe the first of many. A significant number of the 107 oil platforms, 181 gas platforms, 14,000km of pipeline and numerous subsea installations are now operating well beyond their design life in an environment that is tough on hardware.

Shell technical director, Glen Cayley, has been quoted saying that *“the company’s pipeline maintenance programme had let it down”*, he continued *“We’re making every effort to improve our inspection program and revisit our maintenance priorities.”* He has in effect pre-empted official reports and hinted that this leak has probably been caused by aging infrastructure.

Norman MacDonald, KIMO UK Chair said *“A company the size of shell should not be reacting to events like this, they should have a proactive system of prevention in place that looks to ensure the highest standards and therefore*

lead the industry by example. We ask Shell to release the last maintenance review of the pipeline.”

Inspectors from the Department for Energy and Climate Change and the Health Safety Executive are beginning to look into the causes of the accident. Their report will be submitted to the Scottish Procurator Fiscal who will make a final decision on whether to prosecute Shell.

Tom Piper of KIMO UK said *“If the authorities choose to prosecute Shell for the Gannet Alpha spill KIMO UK urge they send out the strongest possible message to the oil and gas industry, complacency should not be tolerated. Only such action will ensure that the aging infrastructure is suitably maintained.*

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Notes to editors

1) KIMO (Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation) is an association of coastal local authorities whose goal is to eliminate pollution from the Northern Seas for more information see www.kimointernational.org