

'INTERNAL LOBBYING' - this should be addressed in the 'Lobbying Bill':

To what extent are MPs going to tolerate the increasingly pervasive embedding of vested corporate interests within government before they can stand up and admit that beyond a **'red line'** this comes within the category of 'corruption' and should be outlawed?

We have rules within local government that try to prevent conflicts of interest. Why not also in central government?

Here I focus on evidence re fossil fuel interests, especially on the extreme and unacceptable conflicts of interest to do with fracking, but also add notes on other matters affected.

Previous title:

Corruption of government by fracking interests - unacceptable extreme 'conflicts of interest'

The most dangerous form of 'lobbying' to our democracy, social justice and environment is *internal*

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Version date: 24 November 2013 (it will evolve as further important evidence and thoughts are incorporated)

This document is an evolving compilation of evidence and thoughts arising on one of the worst examples of the alarming increase of corporatocracy: that of vested corporate interests at the heart of government and pervasive like a parasite through its departments, which seriously undermines democracy and corrupts independent judgement and governance. And just at a time when it is becoming increasingly important to tackle such major issues as climate change, environmental destruction, loss of biodiversity, and increasing income inequality. The appendix summarizes evidence of this corporate capture of government over a variety of subject areas, but the main section focuses on fossil fuels (particularly in relation to climate change) - especially here on fracking for shale gas and other methods of unconventional gas extraction. *Add most suitable Monbiot refs*

The World Development Movement's **'Carbon Capital'** campaign research shows that "A third of UK government ministers are embroiled in a web of influence" with the fossil fuel industry and the finance sector which bankrolls it - and thus also "bank-rolling climate change". WDM have produced an infographic named **'THE FOSSIL FUEL WEB OF POWER'** which highlights these connections which keep the UK government and finance sector "hooked on fossil fuels".

BOX 1: Revelatory text copied from [WDM Carbon Capital](#) and a related WDM article:

What is the UK government's relationship with the finance and energy industries?

A web of close links exists between the UK government and the finance and energy industries. **One third of ministers in the current government have links with these industries**, whether through former employment, receipt of donations, or use of their influence in favour of particular companies. Meanwhile, executives at big finance and energy firms are often appointed to serve on government committees or regulatory bodies.

The estimated RBS carbon footprint for 2012 is **1.6 times the emissions of the whole of the UK** in 2012, as well as **18 times the emissions of Scotland in 2011**, the latest year for which figures are available. Read more [here: 'RBS carbon emissions up to 1,200 times higher than reported figure'](#) (27aug13 Miriam Ross WDM)

South Lakeland WDM publicized the 'Carbon Capital' at the Bird Cage in Kendal on Saturday 6th July (9:30-14:00), and infographic-posters showing the web of power interlocking the UK Government, the fossil fuel industry, and the finance sector were displayed - including [one specific to fracking](#). I quote from the latter (especially re fracking): "How can we possibly trust our government to have a credible regard to our **health and environment** with such **pervasive embedding** of fossil fuel interests within government and departments?"

Bernadette Meaden’s excellent article [‘Who needs lobbying?’](#) in Ekklesia shows that lobbying (or “external lobbying” as she more specifically puts it) is being increasingly surpassed in influential effectiveness by big corporate interests actually embedding themselves within government (we could call this **‘internal lobbying’** to increase its word-connection with the Lobbying Bill - though this expression is not used in her article). She writes: “In many major policy areas vested interests are right at the heart of government, in what amounts to a **serious subversion of democracy**”.

Caroline Lucas MP brought up in Parliament the unacceptable level of embedding of fossil fuel interests within government. She highlighted this by saying that: (via Frack Off link) **Fifty people inside government are paid by the oil and gas industry.** [‘Energy companies have lent more than 50 staff to government departments - Oil and nuclear industries’ presence throughout Whitehall exposed by Green MP \[Caroline Lucas\], who warns of undue influence on policy’](#) - Damian Carrington, 5dec11 - The Guardian.

So is it surprising that we see the Big Six having an overly huge oligopolistic influence on UK energy policy and, aided by Cameron, resisting green measures (eg house insulation for those in fuel poverty), and Osborne subsidizing the fossil fuel industry instead of curbing it ([FoE ref](#), ODI report Nov2013).

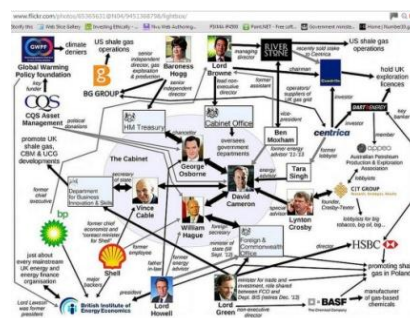
FRACKING: One of the most extreme examples of this embedded conflict of interest or ‘internal lobbying’ concerns government policy on **fracking for shale gas**, and other extreme energies - and I will dual-focus on this here as well as on this embedded influence as a subject in itself.



NexusForFrackingA4.pdf

Click thumbnail image to see the full pdf in my webspace. This infographic is based on the WDM's infographic which is linked to here: [THE FOSSIL FUEL WEB OF POWER](#)

NB: do not distribute full-size image (yet to obtain permission from all sources)



**FRACKING -
Who stands
to profit**
Nigel Pugh
[@nspugh](#)

Click thumbnail
to see full-size
image on flickr

We cannot possibly trust our government to have a credible regard to our health and environment when it promotes exploiting shale gas, with the Chairman of the Cuadrilla fracking company - **Lord Browne** - in the Cabinet Office, and not just having an “advisory” role, but also for example with the power to appoint like-minded people to government departments - which he has used to his commercial advantage for example by appointing **Baroness Hogg**, [Non-Executive Director of a gas company involved in fracking](#) - to The Treasury. How did Lord Browne get appointed? Francis Maude played a part - he is MP for the still very attractive Balcombe area in the Sussex Weald - which is now under threat of being despoiled by Cuadrilla, and Maude is ignoring his Balcombe constituents.

BOX 2: The following text box shows the government-embedded fracking conflicts-of-interest in more detail, copied from Phil England and team's excellent **Climate Radio** article: '[No dash for Fracking Gas](#)', which copies in turn from the highly informative [Frack Off](#) website:

As we reported in our show on the UK's democratic deficit, the gas lobby has key allies in every government department that might have a bearing on gas policy. The details ([compiled by Frack Off](#)) are worth repeating in detail for the shocking conflict of interest they reveal:

- **Lord Browne** – former CEO of BP, the man responsible for ushering in the poor safety culture at BP which resulted in the Deepwater Horizon disaster – is Chair of UK gas fracking company Cuadrilla. He is also board member at Riverstone which owns 40% of Cuadrilla. Browne is lead non-executive director at the Cabinet Office.
- **Ben Moxham** – David Cameron's special advisor on energy [until recently](#), previously on the board of Riverstone alongside Lord Browne.
- **Lord Howell** – an oil and gas lobbyist who acts as personal advisor to Foreign Secretary William Hague and is also the father-in-law of Chancellor George Osborne.
- **Lord Green** – is a minister at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office who heads UK Trade & Investment which has been promoting gas fracking worldwide. He is also non-executive director at BASF which produces the chemicals used in the production of gas from fracking.
- **Baroness Hogg** – a non-executive director at the Treasury and multinational oil and gas company BG Group which would profit from gas fracking in UK and already profits from fracking in US.
- **Ian Taylor** – donated £0.5 million to Conservative Party. He's president of multinational energy and commodity trading company Vitol which owns 5% of extreme gas company Dart energy.
- **Guy Robinson** – special advisor to Environment Secretary Owen Paterson and a former lobbyist at Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, whose members would profit from UK gas fracking/dash for gas.

Climate Radio's article goes on to summarize the conflict of interest in the increasing powers related to fracking given to "climate denier" **Peter Lilley** who has big vested interests in the oil industry. And other examples of unacceptable corporate influence.

The FRACK OFF web-site opens up a big "can of worms" on fracking corruption within and close to government e.g.:

Re 'internal lobbying' by Lord Browne:
[Cuadrilla boss continues lobbying from inside government](#) 26aug13 Frack Off
[Cuadrilla boss in new lobbying scandal](#) 25jul13 Frack Off - refers and links to DECC response to **FOI request by Caroline Lucas**: [lordbrownemtg \(pdf\)](#)
[Fracking in the UK: FOI's show Lord Browne intervened to try and water down environmental regulations for Cuadrilla](#) Damian Kahya 19aug13 ENERGYDESK Greenpeace UK

WDM's Carbon Capital considers not just government connections with the fossil fuel industry but also the "bank-rolling of the fossil fuel industry and climate change" by banks. HSBC is involved in financing fracking in the UK and is linked to government and the fracking industry via Lord Green (FRACK OFF describes this [HERE](#)).

[Fears grow over Conservatives' links to fossil fuel lobbyists](#) 21oct12 The Observer

Furthermore - it is apparent that **BBC** news are unquestioningly regurgitating Government and industry-related pro-fracking propaganda without due thorough criticism, as if with a naive acceptance that if it is government-promoted - it must be safe for us, and without mentioning the above conflicts

of interest. It makes you wonder whether the fossil-fuel-connected BBC Chairman (Tory Chris Patten) is having some sort of chilling effect on fully informative reporting by the BBC.

ACTION POINTS: So what can we do to tackle ‘internal lobbying’, with pro-fracking conflicts-of-interest our most urgent example?

1. **The Lobbying bill (aka “gagging bill”)** presents us with a timely ‘open goal’ opportunity, and the fracking conflicts-of-interest are wonderfully co-incident.

I won’t here go into the badly-written negative aspects of the bill as it now stands, i.e. the way it does the opposite of what it should be doing, as this is being well covered by charities and NGOs such as 38 degrees, but instead I would like to show how we can turn it to our advantage by adding an amendment to cover an aspect of lobbying that it fails to deal with: within-government lobbying, which could be called ‘internal lobbying’, to give it a name-labelling relevance to the bill.

This petition to our local MP Tim Farron shows how it can be done:

Please sign this petition if you would like give support to **Tim Farron MP** for taking a lead in getting an amendment into the **Lobbying bill** to control ‘internal lobbying’ (i.e. within-government lobbying): to put in place rules that at the very least, **as an initial minimum, outlaw people in government from influencing matters with which they have a vested or potentially remunerative interest, especially if they stand to gain financially from the outcome, and to highlight fracking conflicts of interest as an example.** (Such rules are in local government - Councils - why not also in central government?)

Name

Address

Harry Adams
100% Support
Sally Adams
Molly Adams
Jan Adams
Chris Adams

St Stephen's Church, Exeter
St Stephen's Church
St Stephen's Church
St Stephen's Church
St Stephen's Church
St Stephen's Church

Tim Farron likes the wording of this petition - and I incorporated his word ‘outlaw’ into it as he told me he would like to see the misuse of vested conflicts of interest outlawed from within government.

If you have an MP also likely to support this proposed amendment do try the same.

Do watch out for a national petition I am planning to launch along the same lines.

This could be with 38 degrees, or preferably both 38 degrees AND e-petitions, and maybe also with an EDM of similar wording.

This e-petition is very similar, but targeted at Parliament:

@Naomi_Fowler 30jun13

A petition against MPs speaking or voting in Parliament on issues in which they have financial interests/links>
epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/44971

Retweeted by [Henry Adams](#) and by e.g. Jem Bendell

Where should the line be drawn?

Of course a government cannot work cut off from how companies and business work: what is practicably possible and impossible, workable or unworkable. So contact (within firm guidelines) is arguably beneficial to some degree, but things are now much too far in the wrong direction - in which a few of the biggest corporations - often multi-nationals - are having control over government not just from outside government but within government. Electable and accountable people in government should always have the upper hand within government in such contacts, and they should not have a vested interest in their remit. Business interests should not be inside government. Their motives are primarily for profit, not for helping the majority of people.

Some relevant considerations:

There are 2 main overall issues here, so if PQ's were tabled, maybe it would be best to address both as a pair together:

1. **Excessive vested conflict-of-interest AND corporate power over government** (of which shale gas is just one example of a great many) - which I reckon is not being kept as part of what some might view as a stable equilibrium state of all influences over government but is continually increasing, such as we are now having increasingly a corporatocracy replacing what should be a democracy.

2. From the viewpoint on the **more specific** example here of fracking and other extreme energy projects: we are seeing a suppression of consideration (both by government and the establishment media such as the BBC) of what should be **basic human rights** - the **fundamental necessities for life** of **clean air to breathe, pure water to drink, uncontaminated food to eat**, and their being wrongly trumped by a blinkered demand for profits under the banner of 'economic growth', or 'sustainable economic growth' - the latter so as to try to 'weasel-ify' and thus render useless the concept of 'sustainable' or 'sustainability' - as applied to resource use rather than profits. (And it's not just human rights that are being ignored).

(We can put aside the '**energy security**' aspect here as applied for a "need for (home-grown) gas production" - because if that is a priority to government - then why did they put such little and relatively tiny concern to the more important need to reduce gas consumption for heating houses? - by making such a uselessly unappealing **Green Deal**. (E.g. It misses the target customer by being debt-based & with a high interest rate etc etc - as if made to deliberately fail (apart from as a help to those who can afford to do the actions anyhow) - for the possible reason not to threaten reduction in the market for profits to fracking and Big Six interests, both these being within government?).

We must be wise about (so we can pre-empt) the high likelihood that fossil fuel interests will try to increase further their take-over of government as climate change impacts increase - so as to protect and thicken the skin of the **carbon bubble** they are continuing to inflate. They are going to fight even harder to delay, dilute or delete any upcoming potentially effective climate change legislation that might threaten to turn their investments into '**stranded assets**'.

WARNING: If we don't arrest corporate control over UK government:

The corruption of government in the **USA** and **Canada** by fossil fuel interests should be heeded as examples of just how much worse the corporatization of government could become in the UK if its trajectory isn't arrested soon - before it gets harder to counteract.

In the **USA** - the oil industry for example has 'bought' almost all of Republicans and thus much of Congress - and this has been shown well in the battle over the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, and also of course in the failure of climate action by the US Government. More specifically regarding fracking - this polluting activity has been exempted from air and water pollution legislation (Dick Cheney exempted it from the Safe Drinking Water Act (this exemption has become known as the [Halliburton Loophole](#))).

And in **Canada** the Alberta government and Harper's Canada government are in the pockets of the tar sands industry in their blinkered desire to triple tar sands production, to such an excessive and indeed evil extent that environmental laws are being gutted, environmental and climate scientists are being sacked and gagged, indigenous First Nations treaty rights to a sustainable traditional way of life are being ignored and removed, and even their basic human rights for un-toxified good health are being violated. And regards fracking - Gwen Harrison, Sue Walley and I heard first hand from Canadian former oil and gas employee [Jessica Ernst](#) of how government bodies sided with her former employer Encana when this fracking company permanently polluted both her drinking water-supply and the nearby fields (so they can no longer support live-stock), and that wasn't all! Alberta is becoming a "petro-state" of people being deprived of basic human rights by depraved people in power. And the latter reminds me of PM Harper - who when visited by Cameron to discuss tar sands issues found they had more in common than being Conservative PMs.

Other examples of embedded corporate interest are given in the appendix.

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Based on ideology? or just a cloak of pseudo-economics to give a pretence of justification to mask grabbing for even more corporate power over government?

Free-market and small-government ideologies are often put forward, but these ideologies are being distorted or used as a cover to what is in reality a push towards an oligopoly of a few big corporate players on a far from level playing field with centralized corporate-controlled government - re-directing

government funding (tax-payers money) to the big corporate players who replace in-house public bodies (still big government - but much in the hands of the private sector). The government will soon be paying more to G4S to enforce their evil trajectory unless we act soon.

[Oliver Huitson](#), Co-Editor of openDemocracy's 'OurKingdom', writes an insightful assessment of examples of the effects of increasing corporate capture of not just government but of the biggest political parties including Labour: '[Russell Brand, populism and a collapsing centre](#)' (11nov13 openDemocracy): Even the successful state-run East Coast mainline is to be privatized - showing the power of private interests over government: an ideology-cloaked greed for grabbing potential profits trumping even good evidence against that ideology (might is right? destroy the evidence?).

APPENDIX

Planning

The increased pervasion of corporate interests with departments has an important bearing on a matter which most people may not realize:

There is an undemocratic aspect of planning legislation that has become increasingly in need of being urgently addressed and re-written with the increasingly known global impacts of proposed developments within the UK, together with the increasing corporate pervasion into government. This is the disregard of the planning system to public concerns over global impacts of development proposals on climate, and also on local public health concerns etc, within public consultations and planning inquiries. It is blatant mindless arrogance of the establishment that denies any weight being given to such concerns - as if to proclaim: you do realize that democracy is simply a picture we must maintain for the sake of public order; surely you can't expect to actually be able to exercise democracy here where your elite superiors should decide for you what is for the national good - in collaboration with the corporations that run the world.

Other examples of embedded corporate interests:

NB: just a sample, as at least one thick book would be needed to comprehensively cover this subject!

The U-turn of MP Norman Baker from being pro-green to pro-high-emissions-oil on entering government is a good example of the power of fossil fuel interests within government. Before entering government he was considered by his party as being one of the most pro-green MPs in the LibDem Party. But within government he has been parroting the deceitful lobbying words of the Conservative Harper Government of Canada and the carbon-intensive tar sands industry (which both "sing from the same hymn sheet"), in their efforts to try and delay, dilute or destroy EU's Fuel Quality Directive from limiting imports of tar sands fuel into the EU and UK. (I have much information on this). This is a huge turnaround, and makes one wonder how that power of oil interests took hold on him. Was it via Shell's "Contact Minister for Shell", Vince Cable - who received a letter from his past employer Shell requesting he choose a method for the FQD which would be ineffective? Or had oil interests offered him some reward, or was it blackmail due to past hidden misdemeanours? Or was it an overwhelming tribal group allegiance to oil interests within the DfT Department? Hard to tell - but it was certainly powerful unless his earlier work was a complete sham.

Just a (dis-)“taste” of a few - of what would take up a very lengthy report or book to fully cover:

Other fossil fuel interests. - see e.g. WDM’s Carbon Capital.

Tar sands industry, arctic/deep-sea drilling - Shell, BP. Huge subjects I’ll continue tackling (but in other documents).

The [Not so] Green Investment Bank (GIB)

I quote from [biofuelwatch’s GIB-Grangemouth alert](#) in relation to the GIB’s consideration of investing into Forth Energy’s proposed highly polluting, health-damaging, environmentally destructive, high carbon -emitting (higher than coal per KW), thus climate-changing, big-biomass power station for Grangemouth:

“A clear *clash of interest*: Lord Smith of Kelvin is Chair of the GIB as well as Chairman of SSE who own 50% of the shares in Forth Energy.”

It’s little wonder that the GIB has already been investing in the most opposite-to-green projects imaginable - such as continuing the life of Drax coal-burning by co-burning big-biomass (in the form of wood pellets from abroad - including the clear-felling of biodiverse old-growth forests and incurring a huge carbon-debt. Truly disgusting and deceitful - under the very false pretence of being an investment into green renewable energy. It is most certainly **not** a clean green renewable source of energy. Far from it. But government reckon repetitive lying will convince the uninformed public. (As it seems to be working in the evil divide-and-rule generation of hate for disabled and disadvantaged people as if welfare payments caused the recession - a diversion from the real culprits who are the millionaire tax-dodgers - who if also landowners - live on CAP welfare funded by taxpayers.)

Another unacceptable consequence is that our corporate-government wants us to be forced to subsidize this Drax-burning environmental disaster by more than £1billion from our electricity bills: BBC News - [‘Renewable energy: Burning US trees in UK power stations’](#) Roger Harrabin, 28may13, from which I quote: “Liberal Democrat MP **Nick Harvey** has tabled an amendment to the UK Energy Bill insisting that long-term subsidies for biomass burning should only be agreed for plants that capture and store CO2 emissions, or use the waste heat for other purposes. (Drax alone expects subsidies of more than £1bn in coming years from people's electricity bills.) But the amendment is not supported by any of the major parties.”

Q: Vince Cable (SoS, BIS): have you answered the letter you received from biofuelwatch on this issue?

Q: Vince Cable (SoS, BIS) and Greg Barker (MoS for CC, DECC) - to what extent are these two Ministers individually responsible for the unacceptably deceitful green-washing of GIB investments?

Q: What % of investment money so far has been for truly clean green energy projects as opposed to non-green, dirty renewables, and of the latter how much of these have been used to extend the life of fossil fuel burning such as in Drax? I’ll have to check [GIB’s first Annual Report](#), of 25jun13.

As a result, our corporate-government wants us to be forced to subsidize Drax-burning environmental disaster by more than £1billion from our electricity bills:

BBC News - [‘Renewable energy: Burning US trees in UK power stations’](#) Roger Harrabin, 28may13, from which I quote: “Liberal Democrat MP **Nick Harvey** has tabled an amendment to the UK Energy Bill insisting that long-term subsidies for biomass burning should only be agreed for plants that capture and store CO2 emissions, or use the waste heat for other purposes. (Drax alone expects subsidies of more than £1bn in coming years from people's electricity bills.) But the amendment is not supported by any of the major parties.”

The Big Four and corporate tax dodging

The embedding of the **Big Four** multi-national accountancy firms (**PwC, KPMG, Deloitte, Ernst & Young**) within government - more specifically within The Treasury / HMRC with 'revolving door' secondments/assignments is resulting in the legalization rather than blocking, of former loop-holes for tax-dodging by big companies and the wealthy, and the creation of new tax-dodging mechanisms for multinationals including ways to make easier their use of tax havens. These four firms have an enormous income from advising big corporations and wealthy people on tax avoidance, and their role in this is very important to the tax avoidance system not just in the UK but globally. REF LINKS:

['A short report on the Big 4 accountancy firms and their ties to government'](#) (pdf) June 2013 - SpinWatch
WhoReallyRunsThisPlace

['Big four' accountants 'use knowledge of Treasury to help rich avoid tax'](#) Experts offering advice on legislation they helped to create is 'ridiculous conflict of interest', says select committee chair Margaret Hodge [Rajeev Syal](#), [Simon Bowers](#) and [Patrick Wintour](#) 26apr13 Business The Guardian.

Also see extensive work by Richard Murphy <http://www.taxresearch.org.uk/Blog/richard-murphy/> and the [Tax Justice Network](#). Nicholas Shaxson's book [Treasure Islands](#) explains the use of tax havens aka secret jurisdictions.

[More than a lobby: finance in the UK](#) 26sep13 Tamasin Cave - openDemocracy

BANKING / financial sector

Huge subject which I will only touch upon here. Part of the Fossil Fuel Web of Power which I've already explained (work by WDM). Also a significant number of MPs in government have been part of the financial sector (in which ethical or moral standards are often considered a naive character fault), and have built up networks of chums. The contraction of the manufacturing sector in the UK has given too much regard to City interests ("too many eggs in one basket") which has given them too much power which they (and their Tory MP chums) misuse by exaggerating threats of what the UK will suffer if their interests are disregarded. When RBS and other banks were in trouble this gave the UK gov a great opportunity to impose conditions on RBS and other banks but the then Labour government "blew it". Now - while writing this, Osborne is fighting the EU not to cap bankers' bonuses while at the same time capping and cutting the real income of poor people and stirring up hatreds in the deluded aspirational "hard-working people" to facilitate diversionary and divide-and-rule tactics. Evil?

[More than a lobby: finance in the UK](#) 26sep13 Tamasin Cave - openDemocracy

The pesticides and GM industry - with **Monsanto** being most probably the worst offender (the world's most evil company?)

The main reason why Cameron and Paterson & co. are keen on (i) a 0.7% of budget to ostensibly go to aid the poor abroad and (ii) to promote GM in the UK, is primarily to aid these companies get or maintain their corrosive foot-hold: for example:

In the case of (i) - to use the aid money to bribe poor nations in Africa to allow Monsanto and other big multi-nationals to take over their agri-economies. This would displace food sovereignty by the industrial-scale production of food for profits instead of for healthy uncontaminated food for the hungry. The inevitable environmental destruction, pollution and carbon footprint of agrichemical-based industrialized food production is ignored, ditto the alternative big potential for healthy food crops from small-scale farming protected from land-grabbing by enhanced food sovereignty.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jun/10/african-hunger-help-g8-grab>

Another related benefit to multinational corporate interests operating in poor countries is the way Osborne has made it legally easier for them to avoid paying corporate taxes to the poor countries so that they can further maximise the profits they shift to tax havens with minimal benefit to the local poor people. This is especially bad with extractive industries - who leave the poor people suffering land-loss, degradation and pollution, increased violence including death. This is the unacceptable paradox for resource-rich poor countries.

Cameron and Osborne are guilty of these crimes against humanity and the planet by their secret REF of closed meeting btwn gov and agribiz. -lacking repress. And [Bono & co. hijacking the indigenous voice](#).

Privatization of the NHS - numerous vested-interest beneficiaries in the MPs especially those in government or with influence over government. They are greedily looking forward to receiving diversions of taxpayers' money from sick patients to the morally sick. Little wonder they are so keen to pursue the privatisation of the NHS! These MPs are named and shamed on websites, but clearly predict that their financial rewards will be worth their exposure. Such corruption appears to have become 'normalized' amongst their peer-group - though not so amongst the public - who are disgusted but can wrongfully tar all politicians with the same brush - and thus mistakenly not bother to take action but leave the guilty MPs at it.

Social Investigations '18feb12' though states: "Note this research is up-to-date as of May 2013:" [NHS privatisation Compilation of financial and vested interests](#).
[What is the evidence that Cabinet Ministers have interests in health corporations?](#) 12oct13 (Weston General Hospital Patients Before Profit Campaign)

And many more - the list is too long for this document - and would mean writing a book to fully cover !

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I'll state the obvious, that it is the main aim of a company to make profit for its shareholders or owners. This should not be the main aim of government - yet it is increasingly becoming so as business interests increasingly capture government including its departments. Osborne is pushing for "economic growth" to be the all-overriding aim - with arrogant disregard for non-monetary non-profit aims, despite the truth of the expression "the best things in life are free".
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REFERENCES

- organisation of this section needs improving

My website

<http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/topics.html> = hub page for whole website, which links to e.g.:

<http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/FRACKING.html> on fracking

Other Ref/links:

Background climate change related essential reading: [Unburnable carbon 2013 - Carbon Tracker](#)

WDM - World Development Movement:

CARBON CAPITAL: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/carbon-capital> - links to e.g.:

THE FOSSIL FUEL WEB OF POWER: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/carbon-capital/nexus>

'**RBS carbon emissions up to 1,200 times higher than reported figure**' (27aug13 Miriam Ross WDM) "The estimated RBS carbon footprint for 2012 is **1.6 times the emissions of the whole of the UK** in 2012, as well as **18 times the emissions of Scotland in 2011**, the latest year for which figures are available." [My bolding]

['Barclays, HSBC and RBS linked to 'dirty financing' for fossil fuels](#) - Henry Gass - The Ecologist 14jun11

'Energy companies have lent more than 50 staff to government departments - Oil and nuclear industries' presence throughout Whitehall exposed by Green MP [Caroline Lucas], who warns of undue influence on policy' - Damian Carrington, 5dec11 - The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2011/dec/05/energy-companies-lend-staff-government>

'[Who needs lobbying?](#)' Bernadette Meaden @BernaMeaden in Ekklesia <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/18552>

11nov13 George Monbiot: '[It's business that really rules us now](#)' Lobbying is the least of it: corporate interests have captured the entire democratic process. No wonder so many have given up on politics - Comment is free - The Guardian

11nov13 Damian Kahya: '[Who is on secondment at DECC right now?](#)' [FOI request reveals who] ENERGYDESK, Greenpeace UK. *Could that include e.g. Centrica and Shell?!*

10nov13 Damian Carrington & Andrew Sparrow: '[Gas industry employee seconded to draft UK's energy policy](#)' 'Documents reveal Decc's head of capacity market design comes from ESB, which owns three gas-fired power plants' - Environment - The Guardian

NB: 16dec10 announcement by Cabinet Office of appointments (Minister: Francis Maude MP), including of Lord Browne:

[UK leaders appointed to support Whitehall's transformation](#) - Announcements - GOV.UK via Guy Shrubsole FoE

Corruption Frack Off <http://frack-off.org.uk/tag/corruption/>

Frack Off: [Three lords and one Baroness – frackings vested interests inside government](#) Lord Green (in FCO, BASF etc) Lord Howell (was FCO [now?], Osborne's Father-in-Law, oil&gas), Lord Browne (Cabinet Office, Cuadrilla), Baroness Hogg (Treasury, BG Group [fracking etc]).

Re 'internal lobbying' by Lord Browne:

[Cuadrilla boss continues lobbying from inside government](#) 26aug13 Frack Off

[Cuadrilla boss in new lobbying scandal](#) 25jul13 Frack Off - refers and links to DECC response to **FOI request by Caroline Lucas**: [lordbrownemtg \(pdf\)](#)

[Fracking in the UK: FOI's show Lord Browne intervened to try and water down environmental regulations for Cuadrilla](#) Damian Kahya 19aug13 ENERGYDESK Greenpeace UK

HSBC – The Fracking Bank & Another Fracking Lord [Lord Green] Frack Off <http://frack-off.org.uk/hsbc-the-fracking-bank-another-fracking-lord/>

'Gas pollution seeps into government' Frack Off 26jul12 <http://frack-off.org.uk/gas-pollution-seeps-into-government/>

Phil England and team's **Climate Radio** article: 'No dash for Fracking Gas' <http://climateradio.org/no-dash-for-fracking-gas/>

Baroness Hogg - BG GROUP plc <http://www.bg-group.com/AboutBG/BoardofDirectors/Pages/pgBaronessHogg.aspx>

'David Cameron under attack over **fracking firm** links to **Lynton Crosby**' - Nicholas Watt - The Guardian 19jul13 http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2013/jul/19/david-cameron-fracking-lynton-crosby?CMP=tw_t_gu "Jon Trickett, the shadow Cabinet Office minister, pointed out that the lobbyist's firm [Crosby Textor represents the Australian Petroleum Exploration Association](#). One of its members, Dart [Energy](#), has a UK subsidiary, Dart Europe Limited, which has an interest in the Bowland Shale site in Lancashire and Yorkshire, which contains 1,300tn cubic feet of gas."

'Oil company mega-profits and the dwindling public purse' - Sarah Shoraka, 18feb13, PLATFORM London <http://platformlondon.org/2013/02/18/making-a-killing-oil-companies-tax-avoidance-subsidies/>

George Monbiot – Corporate Carve-Up - 10jun13 <http://www.monbiot.com/2013/06/10/corporate-carve-up/>
G8: "Under the pretext of preventing hunger, the rich nations are engineering a new scramble for Africa."

GIB - Green Investment Bank

BBC News - '[Renewable energy: Burning US trees in UK power stations](#)' Roger Harrabin, 28may13.

GIB: Green Investment Bank publishes Annual Report Green Investment Bank 25jun13
<http://www.greeninvestmentbank.com/media-centre/press-releases/green-investment-bank-publishes-annual-report.html>

Fracking in Alberta, Canada:

Jessica Ernst vs Encana <http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/> - true facts 1st hand

On 7mar13 I attended a talk with 'slides' by Jessica Ernst at [Lytham] St Annes (S. of Blackpool) hosted by RAFF. RAFF's introduction: "Jessica is a Canadian Environmental Scientist with 30 years of oil and gas industry experience [including with fracking company Encana]. She is currently suing the Canadian authorities for unlawful activities related to hydraulic fracturing and undertaking a tour of locations at risk from the shale gas industry. Jessica has valuable, first-hand information to share with our community and this is a rare opportunity to hear her experiences of the dangers of shale gas development." My additions: her experience especially concerned fracking of coal seams - including shallow seams - these obviously being nearer to aquifers. Encana fracked near her house and polluted her well drinking water supply, the air and the nearby farmland soil - making it unfit for grazing livestock (they suffered from the toxins from eg the polluted well-spoil which was spread over nearby farmland). The corrupted oil and gas regulating agency, the police and government all sided with Encana.

Video of Jessica Ernst's presentation in Dublin:

<http://forum.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs/index.php/topic,1897.msg3968/topicseen.html#new> - via FoE link.

Corruption of HMRC

'A short report on the Big 4 accountancy firms and their ties to government' - pdf on PwC, KPMG, Deloitte, Ernst & Young. June 2013 12pp, 15pp incl refs SpinWatch_WhoReallyRunsThisPlace

http://www.spinwatch.org/images/Reports/SpinWatch_WhoReallyRunsThisPlace.pdf

George Monbiot has many articles categorized under '**corporate power**'

<http://www.monbiot.com/category/corporate-power/> and ... but ...

On the corruption of politics and government by money.

George Monbiot – Money Spinners 29oct12 <http://www.monbiot.com/2012/10/29/money-spinners/>

Neoliberal think-tanks with secret corporate/wealthy donors: George Monbiot – & George Monbiot – Secrets of the Rich 18feb13 <http://www.monbiot.com/2013/02/18/secrets-of-the-rich/> and Plutocracy's

Boot Boys 1oct12 <http://www.monbiot.com/2012/10/01/plutocracys-boot-boys/> and 'Plutocracy, Pure and Simple' <http://www.monbiot.com/2012/02/20/plutocracy-pure-and-simple/>

Monbiot wants Fol on private companies and corporations - as they both gain from taxpayers money (by privatization of public services & by control over government) as well as by having their losses and negative externalities paid by the taxpayer. 'A Monstrous Proposal' 7may12
<http://www.monbiot.com/category/corporate-power/>

Corporate control of government by a web of unelected bodies 'The Shadow Government' 12mar12
<http://www.monbiot.com/2012/03/12/the-shadow-government/>

George Monbiot – 'In Praise of Distrust - Cameron tells us to trust business: as he hands it the keys to the nation' 27feb12 <http://www.monbiot.com/2012/02/27/in-praise-of-distrust/>

George Monbiot – Britain's Shock Doctrine 18oct10
<http://www.monbiot.com/category/corporate-power/>

www.monbiot.com/2013/08/20/resource-testeria/ - re fracking
<http://www.monbiot.com/2013/07/22/ghost-plane/> - lobbying by aviation industry interests
<http://www.monbiot.com/2013/07/15/smoking-gun/> - re Lynton Crosby, Mark Littlewood (Institute of Economic Affairs) etc
<http://www.monbiot.com/2013/05/10/via-dolorosa/>
<http://www.monbiot.com/2013/03/14/frozen-assets/> - fracking

BEES & SYNGENTA: Government bee scientist behind controversial study joins pesticide firm 26jul13
http://m.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/jul/26/government-bee-scientist-pesticide-firm?CMP=tw_t_fd