



**ExxonMobil Chemical Limited**  
Fife Ethylene Plant  
Beverkae House  
Mossmorran, Cowdenbeath  
Fife KY4 8EP

Tel 01383 737000  
Fax 01383 515253

## **Statement**

**Date: 22 May 2018**

**Time: 15.45hrs**

**Statement: 04**

The ExxonMobil Maintenance Teams supported by specialist pump suppliers are working round the clock to resume normal operations at the Fife Ethylene Plant at Mossmorran. The pump will be installed this evening, following the resolution of some alignment challenges and the current outlook is elevated flaring will cease on Thursday.

Sonia Bingham, ExxonMobil Chemical Limited FEP plant manager, said: “The focus of my dedicated team at FEP is to return this pump to service as soon as possible and I reassure everyone we are working tirelessly to resolve this issue as quickly and diligently as possible.

“We are doing everything we can to minimise the size of the flare and any disturbance to the local community.

“Nobody wants flaring, but it is necessary when a production issue occurs, and is permitted by SEPA subject to strict regulation.”

### **Flaring is a safety measure**

The flare is an essential part of the plant’s safety systems, which is designed specifically to handle gas when there is an interruption to the production process, and there is no danger to local communities or employees. As [SEPA makes clear](#), “Flaring remains an important safety mechanism and is permitted through licence conditions”.

More follows/-

**Minimising Flaring Impact**

We are working to minimise any impact of flaring by minimising the amount of gas being flared, optimising steam levels to the flare to ensure clean burning while reducing noise, and monitoring noise levels within the local community.

**Complex production process**

Ethylene production is a complex industrial process – there are over 200 pumps at FEP – and the work to bring the new pump into operation will involve (amongst other things) cooling and drying it with nitrogen to remove any moisture, before chilling it to around -40°C – a process that can take many hours. This is an essential part of the recommissioning process.

We continue to work closely with SEPA as we resolve the issue. We apologise to local communities for any disturbance and are in contact with local agencies and community groups to ensure local residents are kept informed.

For further details about flaring, please see the latest issue [FEP's Community Matters publication](#).

If you require any further information please contact Public Affairs on Tel 01383 737 000, or contact us via our general enquiries email address [fep@exxonmobil.com](mailto:fep@exxonmobil.com).

Ends