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## **Extinction Rebellion Scotland protest the annual Scottish Oil Club Dinner at the National Museum Scotland, Friday 8th March 2019**

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[www.rebellion.earth](http://www.rebellion.earth)

Images: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1I1T9FJOKpN6YZjMw7gxlj5CR-uS\\_ef4F](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1I1T9FJOKpN6YZjMw7gxlj5CR-uS_ef4F)

Event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2331558576862930/>

On Friday 8th of March the Scottish Oil Club, an exclusive body representing the oil and gas industry, will hold their annual dinner at the National Museum of Scotland. 890 fossil fuel industry leaders, representing some of the wealthiest 1% in this country, will celebrate the success of their trade and network to further its interests. Extinction Rebellion Scotland believe this is fundamentally wrong.

The oil and gas industry should not be celebrated. They are not an asset to Scotland – only kept afloat by £10.5 billion in subsidies every year, they profit at our expense. The Scottish Oil Club Dinner is sponsored by Shell, Total, BP and others. These companies were among just 25 corporate entities traced to over half of global industrial emissions since human induced climate change was officially recognised - according to the Carbon Majors report.

**Extinction Rebellion Scotland will hold a demonstration on Friday March 8th 5-9pm outside the museum in protest at this dinner.**

We come together to voice our anger and our hope. To show that the people of Scotland believe in the need for a rapid transition away from fossil fuels by having an even bigger party than them, driven by love and compassion rather than greed and profit.

The actions of the Scottish Oil Club are damaging our health, polluting our seas and poisoning our skies. The fossil fuel industry poses an existential threat to life. Stopping them is an act of defence.

Robert Alcock commented; *“I am disrupting the Scottish Oil Club annual dinner because we shouldn't allow this industry, which profits from destroying the earth, to celebrate in our museum. In 2002 I witnessed the Prestige oil spill, which devastated the beautiful northern coast of Spain where I was living and working. This made me realise that oil and life just don't mix. Sooner or later we have to get rid of fossil fuels all together and the sooner the better.”*

Mim Black, 26, commented *“The fossil fuel industry has hoodwinked the British public into believing they are an asset to the country - I believe it is a drain. Fossil fuel lobbying threatens democracy. Climate chaos is already underway across the planet, and we know that the fossil fuel industry is a major driver of this. We must immediately start putting safety before profit.”*

Extinction Rebellion Scotland is a non-violent direct-action movement formed to take urgent action in the face of climate emergency and ecological catastrophe, as part of the global justice movement.

#### **We demand:**

- (1) Our Governments must force fossil fuel companies to stop their search for new reserves, to wind down existing extraction, and to make big oil pay for the damage they have caused. This is a key part of Scotland's transition to a just and sustainable society.**
- (2) The National Museum is a public body. It belongs to the people, not to the 1%, and should be used for public benefit, not harm. It should reject fossil fuel companies and their dirty cash from its premises.**
- (3) The Museum is an educational institution. Instead of wining and dining the oil executives, it has a duty to inform the public about the dire consequences of oil and gas extraction and the climate crisis it's driving.**
- (4) The museum overlooks the Sheriff Court, a place of justice. Climate change is the biggest social justice issue of our time. We believe the fossil fuel industry are criminals and there should be an investigation into how long members of the Scottish Oil Club have known about climate change, the damage caused by their activities, and why they have failed to act - and they should face justice for their violent acts against people and the planet.**

#### **Oil and gas facts**

- Scotland hosts one of Europe's largest oil and gas industries.

- Refineries at Grangemouth and Mossmorran are Scotland's largest single-point CO2 emitters.
- The UK Government spends £10.5 bn per year subsidising the fossil fuel industry, 40% more than is spent on renewable energy.  
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=COM:2019:1:FIN&from=EN>
- 99% of the UK's export finance scheme was given to fossil fuel companies, ensuring developing countries get locked into a fossil fuel economy for decades -  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/feb/24/ban-ki-moon-uk-must-stop-investing-in-fossil-fuels-in-developing-countries>
- The Scottish Government provides finance for oil and gas businesses, including via Scottish Enterprise
- Scotland's energy policy supports "maximising economic recovery of North Sea oil"
- In 2015 the Scottish Government called for the UK Government to urgently implement tax breaks for oil and gas companies to avert job losses, and in 2018 the SNP supported a UK Government tax break for oil and gas.
- There have been a number of big new oil discoveries in Scotland including in deep water West of Shetland,
- The Oil and Gas Authority estimate there are 10 to 20 billion boe remaining in the UK, including discovered and undiscovered petroleum resources.<https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/news-publications/news/2018/significant-uk-petroleum-reserves-could-sustain-production-for-next-20-years/>
- Decommissioning old rigs in the North Sea expected to cost UK taxpayer an additional £24bn in tax relief given to oil companies.<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/jan/25/british-taxpayers-bill-tax-relief-oil-gas-companies>
- Despite these tax breaks, companies like Shell have proposed leaving structures in place including oil and chemicals, posing a long-term environmental danger.  
<https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2019/02/18/shell-north-sea-oil-michael-gove-germany/>
- Companies active and subsidised in the North Sea are also drilling for new oil around the world.  
E.G. BP are developing new oil fields on every continent, and have plans to increase production by an additional 900 million barrels of oil per day by 2021.  
<https://www.bp.com/en/global/corporate/investors/upstream-major-projects.html>
- Equinor (formerly Statoil), whose chair will give the key address the Scottish Oil Club dinner, have been criticised for drilling in incredibly sensitive regions, including in the Great Australian Bight  
<https://www.offshore-technology.com/news/great-australian-bight-protest/> and the Arctic  
<http://www.rcinet.ca/eye-on-the-arctic/2017/08/15/statoil-spuds-controversial-prospect-in-northern-barents-sea/>)
- The Norwegian governments decision to open up Arctic regions of the Barents Sea to oil companies, mainly Equinor, is the subject of a groundbreaking lawsuit claiming this contravenes the Paris agreement  
<https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/ecology/2016/10/groundbreaking-lawsuit-field-against-norway-over-arctic-oil-drilling>

- Shell and Exxon each run plants in Mossmorran, Fife, which turn waste gas into feedstocks to manufacture plastics. They are Scotland's second largest source of CO2 and the subject of local criticism due to the health impacts of flaring activities.
- Exxon also sponsor the Edinburgh Science Festival's schools programme, and as such are a target of the Science Unstained campaign.
- New report shows just 100 companies are source of over 70% of emissions  
<https://www.cdp.net/en/articles/media/new-report-shows-just-100-companies-are-source-of-over-70-of-emissions>

## Notes to editors

### About Extinction Rebellion

Time has almost entirely run out to address the ecological crisis which is upon us, including the 6th mass species extinction and abrupt, runaway climate change.

Societal collapse and mass death are seen as inevitable by scientists and other credible voices, with human extinction also a possibility, if rapid action is not taken.

Extinction Rebellion believes it is a citizen's duty to rebel, using peaceful civil disobedience, when faced with criminal inactivity by its Government.

Extinction Rebellion's topline demands:

- The Government must admit the truth about the ecological emergency, reverse all policies inconsistent with addressing climate change, and work alongside the media to communicate with citizens
- The Government must enact legally binding policy measures to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2025 and to reduce consumption levels
- A national Citizens' Assembly must be created, to oversee the changes, as part of creating a democracy fit for purpose.

Declaration of Rebellion: <https://rebellion.earth/declaration/>

The Extinction Rebellion Climate Factsheet for Rebels

<https://rebellion.earth/the-climate-factsheet-for-rebels/>

Get involved in Extinction Rebellion's other events

- In the UK, come to one of our [events](#), [join the Rebellion Network and let us know how you can help out](#)
- Start a group where you are – [locally in the UK](#) or [in your country around the world](#)
- Find your local group:  
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=11jUqqjTHMThksd4KbvGGzb3l3Cr3PkBI&usp=sharing>
- Check out the [International XR website](#), with links to the French, German, Italian and UK websites
- We are holding [Collaborative Leadership Calls](#) to help coach people to improve their leadership skills and capacities

- And while your time and energy are the most important things, if you are financially able to donate money, see our [Fundrazr](#) crowdfunder.