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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

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Palais des Nations, Room 429-2
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Ref: ACCC/C/2013/86

27 February 2014

Ahmed Azam
Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
Nobel House (Area 2E)
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Azam,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom in connection with access to justice in private nuisance proceedings (ACCC/C/2013/86)

I refer to our recent telephone conversation in which I informed you that the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee will discuss the substance of communication ACCC/C/2013/86 at its forty-fourth meeting (Palais des Nations, Geneva, 25–28 March 2014).

The discussion of the above communication is scheduled for **Wednesday 26 March 2014**, starting at 11 am and concluding by 5 pm.

In accordance with chapter IX of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, both parties are entitled to participate in the discussion on the subject matter of the communication, though not in the preparation or adoption of any findings, measures or recommendations of the Committee.

According to the Committee's normal practice, the discussion of the communication, which will be held in open session, will be interspersed with at least one closed session in which the Committee will begin the process of preparing draft findings. It is envisaged that the first part of the discussion in open session will take the following form:

- introduction by the Chair;
- opening of the discussion by the curator for the case;
- concise presentations by the communicant and by the Party concerned, including possible joint proposals;
- questions from Committee members, responses from the Party concerned and the communicant;
- comments from other observers at the invitation of the Chair;
- final comments by the communicant;
- final comments by the Party concerned.

During the second part of the discussion (i.e. following the closed session), the Committee may pose additional questions to you or the communicant, or invite reactions to any tentative conclusions it has reached. Further details concerning the timetable for the discussions during the day will be provided nearer the time.

Should you or any other representative(s), as appropriate, wish to attend the meeting, the attached registration form should be completed for each participant and sent to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, attention of Ms. Maricar de la Cruz (aarhus.compliance@unece.org), by 12 March 2014.

The Committee has indicated that the meeting should not be used as an occasion to introduce substantial amounts of information that could or should have been provided to it at an earlier stage, unless this is unavoidable (e.g. because it concerns very recent developments). Should you wish to present any (further) substantial written material related to the matter, you should take into account that where such information is received less than two weeks before the scheduled meeting, it is doubtful whether the Committee would be able to take it into consideration when it is discussing the matter, even where the information is provided in English.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Paul Stookes Richard Buxton Environmental & Public Law Solicitors

Enc. Registration form for the forty-fourth meeting of the Compliance Committee