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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

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Ref: ACCC/C/2014/100

20 May 2015

Mr. Christopher Stanwell
Nabarro LLP
London
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Stanwell,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom in connection with the proposed construction of the “High Speed 2” railway (ACCC/C/2014/100)

At its forty-eighth meeting (Geneva, 24-27 March 2015), the Committee noted that the Party concerned had provided its response to the communication on time on 9 February 2015 and the communicant had provided comments on that response on 17 March 2015. In light of the submissions made by the Party concerned at pages 3-8 of its response that one of the communicants, London Borough of Hillingdon, was a public authority within the definition of article 2, paragraph 2 of the Convention, and thus not a member of the public within the scope of article 2, paragraph 4 of the Convention, the Committee requested the secretariat to write to the communicants to invite them to give their view on the matter. The Committee agreed that it would consider how to proceed at its forty-ninth meeting.

In the light of the Committee's above request, you are hereby invited to provide your view on the following:

- (a) Whether you agree with the Party concerned's submission that London Borough of Hillingdon is a public authority within the definition of article 2, paragraph 2 of the Convention;
- (b) Whether, if you agree that London Borough of Hillingdon is indeed a public authority within the definition of article 2, paragraph 2 of the Convention, you contend that it should nevertheless be understood to be a member of the public within the scope of article 2, paragraph 4 of the Convention and if so, on what legal basis;
- (c) Whether, if you agree that London Borough of Hillingdon is indeed a public authority within the definition of article 2, paragraph 2 of the Convention, you contend that it should nevertheless be entitled to submit a communication in accordance with article 15 of the Convention and part VI of the annex to decision I/7, and if so, on what legal basis.

Please provide your reply (of up to than 2-3 pages in length) by **Friday, 5 June 2015**, copying the Party concerned on your reply. The Party concerned will thereafter have two weeks to comment (up to 2-3 pages in length) should it wish to do so. The Committee will take into account the responses received when considering how to proceed at its upcoming forty-ninth meeting (Geneva, 30 June – 3 July 2015).

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Mr. Ahmed Azam, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom