

From: Pat Swords <email address redacted>
To: Aarhus Compliance
Date: 28/06/2015 22:55
Subject: Brief Update on Communication ACCC/C/2014/112

Dear Fiona, Maricar

I see that Communication ACCC/C/2014/112 is listed in the Agenda for this week's Compliance Committee meeting. To briefly update the Compliance Committee, judgement was reserved in *Swords V Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources* at the conclusion of the High Court hearing on the 12th March 2015. It was expected according to the Court's list, see attached, that this would be delivered within the three month period, i.e. by the 13th May. However, this did not occur and the next entry scheduled on the Court's list is the 29th July.

In the last few months a number of other cases have been progressed in the Irish High Court related to the renewable energy programme. While these were not directly based on public participation issues, although the access to justice provisions relied on the terms of the Aarhus Convention, there has been two cases in relation to 'project splitting' and Natura Assessments, where the judgements have gone against the public authorities. However, costs have not yet been assessed and officially published. When this occurs I will update you accordingly, although I see that Communication ACCC/C/2014/113 continues to also deal with the costs of access to the Irish Courts.

Regards

Pat