

Nobel House
17, Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR



Telephone: 020 7238 4462
Email: Barbara.anning@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Web: www.defra.gov.uk

Date: 22 March 2012

Aphrodite Smagadi
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance
Committee
Economic Commission for Europe
Environment, Housing and Land
Management Division
Bureau 348
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Dear Ms Smagadi

Re: Decision IV/9i on compliance by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with its obligations under the Convention, as adopted by the Meeting of Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters at its fourth session

As you are aware, the United Kingdom was due to update the Aarhus Compliance Committee on its progress regarding Decision IV/9i in February, to be considered by the Compliance Committee at its thirty-sixth meeting on 27th to the 30th March 2012.

We regret to inform you that it will not be possible to provide a meaningful update to the Compliance Committee at this time. This is due in large part to the consultation that the United Kingdom has launched in the aim of remedying the non-compliance identified in decision IV/9i. We are still considering the consultation and cannot pre-empt that consideration by setting out to the Committee the steps that we will take.

We therefore consider it would be more beneficial to update the Compliance Committee once the results of the consultation have been fully analysed and a common United Kingdom position has been agreed. We would aim to respond in time for the thirty-seventh meeting of the Compliance Committee on 26th to the 29th June 2012.

We sincerely apologise to the Compliance Committee for any inconvenience caused by this delay.

Regards



Barbara Anning