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Date: 01/08/2017 10:24  
Subject: Re: Decision V/9n (United Kingdom) - Committee's report to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties

Dear Fiona,

Many thanks for keeping me updated, especially re developments in Northern Ireland. My own judicial review case which concerns the A6 dualling through internationally important wetlands that I believe will have a profound impact on the Lough Neagh & Lough Beg SPA, Ramsar, ASSI and adjacent, new Lough Beg RSPB Nature Reserve will be heard in the Court of Appeal, Belfast on 11 August. By then the legal challenge will be one year old.

The integrity of Strangford Lough, the UK's longest sea inlet and another internationally important wetland, is also threatened. Plans to implement a six year, government-funded study to support the expansion of a private shellfish business are at an advanced stage. Owing to the small size of one of the sites identified, Tully Hill bay near Kilclief in a part of the SPA, SAC, etc known as Strangford Narrows, would not be suitable for this activity owing to the significant disturbance that will be caused to feeding and roosting waterbirds including Golden Plover, an Annex 1 species.

As in the case of Lough Neagh & Lough Beg where of the larger eNGOs only FoE have challenged the NI government, ornithological NGOs do not object to this proposal which is surprising, especially owing to their interests in the area.

I expect to have more to say on these matters following the A6 appeal hearing.

Kindest regards,

Chris Murphy