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26 June 2020

**By email only**

Ms Fiona Marshal  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee  
[aarhus.compliance@un.org](mailto:aarhus.compliance@un.org)

**Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Ireland with the provisions of the Convention on access to information on the environment by Right to Know CLG**

Dear Ms Marshal

I refer to the above communication and to the hearing which took place on 8 November 2018.

At the hearing the Party Concerned indicated that while the proportion of decided cases which are appealed is rising the time taken by the Commissioner for Environmental Information (the "Commissioner") to deal with appeals is on average decreasing<sup>1</sup>.

While not wishing to burden the Committee with more documentation, the Communicant considers it appropriate to provide a copy of the 2019 annual report of the Commissioner which was published on or around 17 June 2020. This report contains the most recent official statistics concerning the handling of appeals by the Commissioner<sup>2</sup>.

The Communicant draws the Committee's particular attention to the following:

1. While there was an appreciable increase in the number of appeals in 2020, the number of decisions made did not increase relative to the previous three years<sup>3</sup>.
2. The proportion of cases appealed to the Commissioner was unknown in 2019<sup>4</sup>.
3. The average number of days taken for an appeal to be closed was 249 days in 2019, a decrease of 30 days (10.8%) from 279 in 2018<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 18 of the Opening Comments on Behalf of Ireland (8 November 2018).

<sup>2</sup> The Commissioner's annual report is extracted from the Information Commissioner's report.

<sup>3</sup> Chart 1 on Page 74.

<sup>4</sup> Chart 2 on Page 75.

<sup>5</sup> Page 73.

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The Communicant respectfully requests the Committee to take this report into account during its deliberations.

Yours sincerely

**Fred Logue**

**Copy to:** Irish Environmental Pillar

The Party Concerned

**Encl:** 2019 Annual Report from the Commissioner for Environmental Information