

From: Magowan, Robert <Robert.Magowan@defra.gov.uk>

Sent: 24 July 2020 2:26 PM

To: ECE-Aarhus-Compliance; Carol Day

Cc: Angelopoulou, Danielle; Adisa Solanke, Grace; rosie.sutherland; will.rundle; mchurch; rowans; katie.dekauwe; geneva.un@fco.gov.uk; Jamie Beagent; Aaron, Rachel; Allman, Tony

Subject: RE: ACCC/C/2017/156 (United Kingdom) - comments on the parties' replies

Dear Fiona

We note from your correspondence with the Communicant that the Chair granted an extension of time to 24 July for both parties to file any comments on the responses of 29 June 2020 to the Committee's questions in this matter.

We are writing respectfully to request the Chair grant a further short extension of time for our response, to 7 August 2020. Like the Communicant we had inadvertently overlooked the deadline set out in your letter of 1 June. We do not wish to cause any significant delay or disruption to the work of the Committee, but would ask that the Chair considers the following in relation to our request:

1. In these last months much of the focus of central government, including the departments which are instructing on this matter, has been directed towards addressing the covid-19 pandemic, and the continued safe running of public services. Resources are therefore stretched for some other ongoing work and, unfortunately this is the reason the deadline was overlooked.
2. We have spent time this week liaising with Counsel. Due to the paternity leave of one, and an ongoing long court hearing of the other, we are unable to file our response by today, 24 July.
3. However, we consider there are some important comments to make on the Communicant's response, and believe they will be of assistance to the Committee in their deliberations on this matter.
4. In order to keep any delay to a minimum, we seek a very short extension of time to 7 August 2020. We will make every effort to file the response before this date if possible, but the request is made to allow reasonable time needed with Counsel who are currently unavailable.
5. While the Communicant will file further comments today, we will of course restrict our comment to the Communicant's answers to the Committee's questions submitted 29 June 2020.

In all the circumstances, we hope that the Committee will grant this short extension of time. We are content to provide any further information that the Committee would like in relation to this request.

Best wishes

Robert

Robert Magowan

Europe Strategy and Capability (including Aarhus Convention) | Europe Relations & Transition Negotiations (ERTN) | EU Strategy & Negotiations (EUSN)

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