

22 March 2018

Ahmed Azam  
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
London, United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Azam,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the provisions of the Convention on access to justice concerning the review of substantive legality (ACCC/C/2017/156)**

On 7 December 2017, the secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) received the above communication addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the provisions of the Convention in connection with its alleged failure to provide access to justice due to its standard of review of the “substantive legality” of certain decisions, acts and omissions. The communication was submitted in accordance with the provisions of chapter VI of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties.

The communication has been registered under the symbol ACCC/C/2017/156 which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter. All documentation relating to the communication is available on the Committee’s web site at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/cc/com.html>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its sixtieth meeting (Geneva, 12-15 March 2018), has on a preliminary basis determined it to be admissible in accordance with paragraph 20 of the annex to decision I/7. A copy of the preliminary determination on admissibility is attached. Please note, however, that the Committee has not reached any conclusions with respect to the compliance issues referred to in the communication.

Having regard to paragraph 23 of the annex to decision I/7, you are kindly invited to submit to the Committee, as soon as possible but at the latest within five months of the date of this letter (i.e. by **22 August 2018**), any written explanations or statements clarifying the matter referred to in the communication and describing any response that may have been made in the meantime.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



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Fiona Marshall  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

- Cc: Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Friends of the Earth (England, Wales and Northern Ireland), Friends of the Earth Scotland and Leigh Day Solicitors – communicants of communicant ACCC/C/2017/156
- Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility