

22 March 2018

Carol Day and Rosie Sutherland  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
Beldforshire, United Kingdom

Will Rundle  
Friends of the Earth (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)  
London, United Kingdom

Mary Church  
Friends of the Earth Scotland  
Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Rosa Curling and Rowan Smith  
Leigh Day  
London, United Kingdom

Dear Madams, dear Sirs,

**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 from you 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 concerning the review of substantive legality. 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. The main 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.

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  
Mr. Ahmed Azam, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland – National Focal Point
- Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility