

21 February 2023

Ms. Justine Solomons-Moat
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Bristol, United Kingdom

Dear Ms. Solomons-Moat,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with access to justice regarding planning decisions (ACCC/C/2022/196)

On 29 August 2022, 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 from the non-governmental organization, Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland, and others, addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by the United Kingdom with articles 9 (2) – (4) of the Convention with respect to access to justice regarding planning decisions. 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/2022/196, which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter. All documentation relating to the communication is available on the Committee's website at: <https://unece.org/env/pp/cc/communications-from-the-public>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its seventy-seventh meeting (Geneva, 13–16 December 2022), 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 **21 July 2023**), 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,



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
- Cc: The communicants of communication ACCC/C/2022/196:
Mr. Ben Christman, Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland
Ms. Clare Symonds, Planning Democracy
Ms. Mary Church, Friends of the Earth Scotland
Ms. Rosie Sutherland, RSPB
- Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility