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Ref: ACCC/C/2013/85 and ACCC/C/2013/85 (United Kingdom)

14 April 2015

Ahmed Azam
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House (Area 2E)
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Azam,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom with the access to justice provisions of the Convention in relation to the in relation to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and the Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (ACCC/C/2013/85)

and

Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom in connection with access to justice in private nuisance proceedings (ACCC/C/2013/86)

At its forty-eighth meeting (Geneva, 24-27 March 2015), the Compliance Committee considered in closed session the comments received on its draft findings forwarded to the parties on 23 February 2015. In this regard, comments were received from the communicant of communication ACCC/C/2013/86 on 9 March 2015 and the Party concerned on 23 March 2015. No comments were received from the communicant of communication ACCC/C/2013/85.

In the light of the comments received, the Committee prepared a revised draft of its findings and requested the secretariat to forward the revised draft findings to the parties for their consideration and possible further comments pursuant to paragraph 34 of the annex to decision I/7. The Committee indicated that it intended to finalize and adopt the findings through its electronic decision-making procedure prior to its forty-ninth meeting (Geneva, 30 June – 3 July 2015).

Please find attached the revised draft findings for your consideration and possible comments. All revisions to the draft findings are shown in track changes in the attached document. We would be grateful to receive any comments you wish to make on these revisions by **5 May 2015**. In finalizing its findings, the Committee will take into account any comments received by the set deadline.

With respect to paragraph 39 of your letter of 23 March 2015, in the light of the revisions made to the draft findings, the text has been drafted on the assumption that your Government will now agree with the Committee making recommendations in accordance with paragraph 36 (b) of the annex to decision I/7. If this is not the case, please indicate this in your reply. Given the lengthy timeframe until the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties, Committee considers that the making of recommendations directly to the Party concerned, coupled with timely action by the Party to implement such recommendations, would enable the matters to be resolved in the most expeditious way.

Should you have any questions with regard to the procedure, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

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 international organizations in Geneva
Gareth Morgan, Hugh James Solicitors, on behalf of the communicant of communication ACCC/C/2013/85, Environmental Law Foundation
Paul Stookes, Richard Buxton Environmental & Public Law Solicitors, on behalf of the communicant of communication ACCC/C/2013/86, Alyson Austin
- Enc: Revised draft findings