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FOR EUROPE

Tel: +41 (0)22 917 4226 (direct)
+41 (0)22 917 1234 (Palais des Nations)
E-mail: aarhus.compliance@unece.org

Palais des Nations, Room 429-4
CH-1211 GENEVA 10

Ref: ACCC/C/2013/90

29 June 2015

Mr. Ahmed AZAM
Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
London
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Azam,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom with provisions of the Convention in connection with the River Faughan (ACCC/C/2013/90)

On 4 June 2013, 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 with the provisions of the Convention in connection with its alleged refusal to provide access to information, public participation and access to justice with respect to the River Faughan. 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.

At its forty-second meeting (24-27 September 2013), the Committee determined the communication to be admissible on a preliminary basis in accordance with paragraph 20 of the annex to decision I/7. However, the Committee decided that the communication should be suspended pending the outcome of the communicant's domestic court proceedings.

By email of 12 December 2014, the communicant indicated that all domestic remedies reasonably available had been exhausted. In the light of the information received from the communicant, the Compliance Committee, at its forty-seventh meeting (16-19 December 2014), agreed to forward the communication to the Party concerned for its response in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 23 of the annex to decision I/7.

Please find enclosed a copy of the communication, which is being forwarded to you at the request of the Committee for your response. Please note that the Committee has not reached any conclusions with respect to the compliance issues referred to in the communication.

As previously indicated, the communication is registered under the symbol ACCC/C/2013/90, 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/pubcom.html>.

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 **29 November 2015**), 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
Dean Blackwood, representing River Faughan Anglers Ltd. (communicant of communication ACCC/C/2013/90)
- Enc: Communication ACCC/C/2013/90 (including one file of supporting documents and four subsequent documents)