

Dear Committee Members,

Re. letter from DEFRA to the Committee. 20th.December.2012.

Our response to the submission from DEFRA is one of concerned protest. It is clear to us, and from reactions heard from other Community Councils, that no-one should be prevented from submitting a representation to this Committee on behalf of their Communities and C.C. colleagues.

These valuable voluntary organisations are the *direct* representatives of the electorate at the first stage of the increasingly threatened democratic process. It has also been made abundantly clear from both mainstream and local media coverage, that both our submission and the Hearing attendance thus far, have raised widespread awareness previously almost completely absent, about UNECE and the role of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee.

Our representation was accepted as valid for consideration as it complied with the rules of acceptance as listed. It is therefore trusted that the Committee will continue to accept any further submissions from such sources should they also fulfil the same necessary criteria, and will overrule any challenges to this absolute right to be heard.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. V.C.K. Metcalfe. Avich & Kilchrenan Community Council.