



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

T: 08459 335577
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk

Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee
Economic Commission for Europe
Environment, Housing and Land
Management Division
Bureau 348
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

6 September 2013

Dear Ms Marshall,

**AARHUS CONVENTION COMMUNICATION ACCC/C/2012/68: ADDITIONAL
COMMENTS FROM THE UK**

1. We refer to the communicant's comments on the draft findings of 23rd August and 2nd September 2013 and draw the Committee's attention to the following points.
2. The communicant suggests that the finding in paragraph 106 in respect of article 7 and the UK's NREAP represents a failure with regard to articles 6(8) and 7 in respect of the planning processes and renewable energy policy documents. Having considered all the questions on matters for which the Scottish Government has direct responsibility put before it by the communicant, including public participation in the development of Scottish renewables policy and handling of the Carraig Gheal wind farm consent application, as well as access to and dissemination of information, it is clear that the Compliance Committee did not find the United Kingdom to be in breach of the Convention in relation to these matters. The finding in paragraph 106 does not invalidate its other findings that the United Kingdom was not in non-compliance.
3. The communicant also makes reference to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) requirements in relation to these documents. The Scottish Government fully

complied with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC. The Scottish Government completed the SEA consultation and took opinions into account, prior to adoption of the policies. As required by Article 9(1) of the Directive an SEA statement was published following adoption of the policies.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ceri Morgan', with a large, stylized 'C' and 'M'.

Ceri Morgan