

From: ian miller [email address redacted]
To: aarhus compliance
Date: 14/12/2014 15:18
Subject: Communication concerning the UK and Newborough Forest

Re.: Ombudsman-Wales response to queries to the complainant from the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Attention: Maricar Dela Cruz/Fiona Marshall

Re.: Communication regarding the UK and Newborough Forest

Dear Ms Marshall & Ms Dela Cruz,

The Committee in its request for further information asked whether the Ombudsman service could have dealt with various aspects of the complaint made to the Committee. I contacted the Ombudsman and put the Committee's queries to the Ombudsman-Wales service. The enclosed is their response to the Committee's questions.

My understanding of their response is that because impartial and independent arbitration is not a statutory requirement then reneging on that commitment does not come under the remit of the Ombudsman's competence.

Ensuring 'effective public participation' in the decision making process again seems to not be a 'statutory' requirement. The conservation agency and Forestry Commission Wales' presentation of the finalized Forest Management Plan 2010-15 to the public for 'comment' appears to have satisfied the Ombudsman's concept of effective public participation.

These answers to the Committee's queries are obviously pertinent to the Committee's review of the complaint so I hope the information can be made available to the Committee before the meeting on the 16-19th December.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Ian Miller



Info for Aarhus Convn Ombuds response 091214.doc