

22 March 2018

Ahmed Azam
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
London, United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Azam,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance
by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the provisions of the
Convention on access to justice in relation to the costs regime for planning appeals
(ACCC/C/2017/157)**

On 20 December 2017, 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 of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the provisions of the Convention in connection with the costs regime for appeals under section 288 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. 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.

The communication has been registered under the symbol ACCC/C/2017/157 which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter. All documentation relating to the communication is available on the Committee's web site at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/cc/com.html>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its sixtieth meeting (Geneva, 12-15 March 2018), has on a preliminary basis determined it to be admissible in accordance with paragraph 20 of the annex to decision I/7. A copy of the preliminary determination on admissibility is attached. Please note, however, that the Committee has not reached any conclusions with respect to the compliance issues referred to in the communication.

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 **22 August 2018**), 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
Mr. Andrew Dean Hardwick – communicant of communication ACCC/C/2017/157

Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility