

22 March 2019

Ms. Aoife Joyce  
Aarhus, Bioeconomy and Environment Awareness  
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment  
Wexford, Ireland

Dear Ms. Joyce,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Ireland with regard to the disclosure of sensitive environmental information (ACCC/C/2019/164)**

On 25 January 2019, the secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) received from the Irish Raptor Study Group the above communication addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by Ireland with articles 3(1), 5(10), 6(6) and (7) and 9(2) and (3) of the Convention in relation to disclosure of sensitive environmental information and access to justice to challenge the publication of such information. 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/2019/164, 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 sixty-third meeting (Geneva, 11-15 March 2019), 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 2019**), 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,



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Fiona Marshall  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

- Cc: Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva  
Mr. Fred Logue, representing the communicant of communication ACCC/C/2019/164
- Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility