

6 November 2020

Ms. Danielle Angelopoulou
Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
United Kingdom

Ms. Tracy Breakell
United Kingdom

Dear Ms. Angelopoulou,
Dear Ms. Breakell,

Re: Communication concerning compliance by the United Kingdom with the provisions of the Convention in connection with planning consent for the redevelopment of a former hospital site (ACCC/C/2015/131)

I write to inform you that at its virtual meeting earlier today the Compliance Committee considered the comments received by yesterday's extended deadline regarding the need for the Committee to hold a hearing to discuss the substance of the above communication before commencing its deliberations on its draft findings. The Committee noted that the Party concerned had submitted comments by the extended deadline and that no comments had been received from the communicant.

After taking into account the comments received from the Party concerned, the Committee agreed to hold a hearing to discuss the substance of communication ACCC/C/2015/131 at its sixty-eighth meeting on 23-27 November 2020.

The hearing of the communication is scheduled for **Thursday, 26 November 2020**, starting at 10:30 am CET and concluding by 4.30 pm CET. Due to the exceptional circumstances of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the hearing will be held virtually.

In accordance with chapter IX of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, both parties are entitled to participate in the hearing on the subject matter of the communication, though not in the preparation or adoption of any findings, measures or recommendations of the Committee.

According to the Committee's normal practice, the hearing of the communication, which will be held in open session, will be interspersed with at least one closed session in which the Committee will begin the process of preparing draft findings. It is envisaged that the first part of the hearing in open session will take the following form:

- introduction by the Chair;
- opening of the hearing by the curator for the case (10-15 minutes);
- concise presentations by the communicant and by the Party concerned, including possible joint proposals (10-15 minutes each);
- questions from Committee members, responses from the Party concerned and the communicant (30 minutes);
- comments from other observers at the invitation of the Chair (10 minutes);
- final comments by the communicant (5-10 minutes);
- final comments by the Party concerned (5-10 minutes).

Further details concerning the timetable for the hearing will be provided in the provisional timeline for the meeting to be published nearer the time on the webpage for the sixty-eighth meeting, <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53239>.

During the second part of the hearing (i.e. following the closed session), the Committee may pose additional questions to the Party concerned or the communicant, or invite reactions to any tentative conclusions it has reached. In accordance with its usual practice, the Committee may also invite the Party concerned to indicate whether, should the Committee ultimately find the Party to be in non-compliance, it would agree to the Committee making its recommendations to it directly, in accordance with paragraph 36(b) of the annex to decision I/7.

I would be grateful if you would confirm to aarhus.compliance@un.org before **Monday, 16 November** that you or a representative will participate in the hearing. All participants wishing to attend the meeting should thereafter register online at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53239> by Friday, 20 November.

Finally, as I indicated in my letter of 29 October, the Committee has invited each party to provide a brief written update on any relevant developments in this case before **Friday, 20 November**. While the parties are under no obligation to do so, if you wish to submit any final written submissions you are invited to do so by the same date.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you have any questions regarding the above.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall

Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva