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16 December 2024

Dear Edward,

## **Environmental Governance Review**

I am writing to you in your role as convener of the NZET Committee to follow up with some further information following the evidence that I gave to the Committee on 10 December.

In my evidence, I referred to recent evidence that Siobhian Brown MSP, the Minister for Victims and Community Safety, had given to the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee. At that session, she explained that the Aarhus Convention consists of three pillars: access to environmental information for any citizen; the right to public participation in decision making; and access to justice in environmental matters. As her portfolio responsibilities relate to the access to justice pillar, she explained the progress that has been made in addressing the concerns raised by the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee on this issue. As I said in my evidence, I recommend that members consider the full evidence she gave, that starts on collum 20 of the Official Report of the Committee's meeting on 12 November.

I can confirm that the latest UK communication to the Compliance Committee, incorporating the Scottish Government's contributions, has now been submitted. This can be found on the Convention's website, alongside a history of the case [Decision VII/8s concerning United Kingdom | UNECE](https://unece.org/env/pp/cc/decision-vii8s-concerning-united-kingdom) (<https://unece.org/env/pp/cc/decision-vii8s-concerning-united-kingdom>).

Yours sincerely,

**GILLIAN MARTIN**

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