



**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe  
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil**  
Department of Communications,  
Climate Action & Environment

13<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**Re: Circular EPS/1/2016: Launch of Public Consultation for Ireland's second Aarhus Convention National Implementation Report 2017**

A Chara,

Please find enclosed:

- Circular EPS/1/2016: Launch of Public Consultation for Ireland's second Aarhus Convention National Implementation Report 2017

The attached circular announces the launch of the public consultation for Ireland's second National Implementation Report under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (known as the Aarhus Convention). In meeting our obligations under Article 10 of the Convention, which requires the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to keep the implementation of the Convention under continuous review, Ireland has to submit a National Implementation Report on the implementation of the Convention in Ireland.

The National Implementation Report is not just concerned with the laws, regulations or official instructions or guidance that have been enacted to implement the Convention; it is also concerned with the practical measures or institutional arrangements that have been introduced by public authorities to promote the rights contained within the Convention, both at national and local level.

The guidance document for drafting the report issued by the UNECE advocates inter-agency and intra-agency consultation and states that the information contained in the report should also reflect any steps undertaken by other relevant Ministers, agencies and authorities. Therefore it is imperative that other relevant Government Departments, agencies and authorities actively engage in the reporting process.

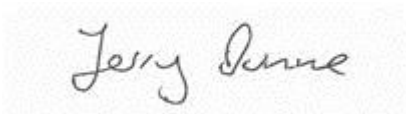
In addition to inter and intra agency consultations, the guidance document stresses the importance of consulting with the public in an active and varied manner and, also in a timely manner to ensure that all stakeholders have time to respond to the published drafts of the report. As a result, it is imperative that as many people and groups as possible are informed that Ireland is preparing its second National Implementation Report and to encourage public participation in the preparation of this report. Where possible we are asking public authorities, in addition to submitting any comments they have to the Department, to disseminate information on the public consultation to as wide an audience as possible, and where possible, members of the public.

Please ensure that the attached circular is brought to the attention of all relevant staff in your Department and that it is circulated to all bodies / agencies under the remit of your Department which are subject to AIE. It is important to note that the Ireland's obligations under the Aarhus Convention apply to a broad range of activities and public bodies. Public bodies subject to the Convention include:

1. Government Departments e.g. the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment,
2. Local authorities e.g. Cork County Council
3. Non-commercial state agencies e.g. the Environmental Protection Agency
4. Commercial state agencies e.g. EirGrid
5. Regulatory bodies e.g. the Commission for Energy Regulation

If you have any queries please email [ACConsultation@dccae.gov.ie](mailto:ACConsultation@dccae.gov.ie).

Is mise le meas,



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Terry Dunne

Principal Officer

Environment Policy & Awareness