

UPDATE ON STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Purpose

1. To update members on progress with stakeholder engagement meetings.

Background

2. In August 2025, Council members agreed it would be helpful for the Council to engage with interested groups on the Aarhus Convention. Malcom Graham, Thomas Docherty and Sheriff Frances McCartney agreed to meet with groups on behalf of the Council.
3. In December 2025, the Council agreed its approach to the Aarhus Convention. An offer was then made to meet with any group who had provided a consultation response to the earlier 2025 consultation.
4. In March 2026, the following meetings proceeded with those who took up that offer to meet:

Date	Meeting held with
27 Mar 2026	Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland (ERCS)
30 Mar 2026	Professor Tom Mullen (Glasgow University)
31 Mar 2026	Open Seas Trust

5. Positive feedback was received at all 3 meetings. Those attending were very appreciative of the approach taken by the Council to Aarhus, as seen in the Aarhus strategy adopted by the Council in December 2025 and understood why the Council had taken the decision to consult again during 2026. Those attending also welcomed the opportunity to meet directly with Council members. Discussions reflected the content of previous responses lodged regarding cost protection in environmental cases, and wider discussions as to taking environmental challenges forward.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that the Council notes the round of engagement meetings that have taken place

**Secretariat to the Scottish Civil Justice Council
June 2026**