

THE COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

5th MEETING OF 2011

MINUTES

23 MAY, 2011

CONFERENCE ROOM

COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT:	Karin M. Thompson	Chair
	Nyda Mae Flatley	Member
	Roy McTaggart	Member
	Hedley Robinson	Member
	Pastor Winston Rose	Member

APOLOGIES: N/A

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Ebanks Analyst, Commissions Secretariat

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:45pm. Pastor Rose opened the meeting with a prayer and the Chair then welcomed all members of the Commission.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 May, 2011 were approved.

3. Outstanding Business

a. Update on SPL Bill 2011 (Fourth Draft)

Members were advised that the fourth draft of the SPL Bill was sent to Professor Jowell for his review prior to visiting Cayman in June 2011. During his week in Cayman the Commission will meet with Professor Jowell to discuss, inter alia, the Bill in general as well as specific queries of the CSPL in relation to the scope and ambit of the Commission's remit.

b. Lesser Contracts Falling Outside the Remit of the CTC

The Commission has continued to examine the current legislation and regulations as it relates to lesser contracts falling outside the remit of the CTC. The Chair indicated to members that the Financial Regulations (2008 Revision) appears to be the principle framework pertaining to such contracts. Based on initial reviews of the Financial Regulations, Chief Officers are granted exceptional discretion with respect to lesser contracts. While such discretion may indeed be necessary for efficiency purposes, the Commission is keen to review the regulations with a goal of identifying possible weaknesses with respect to safe guards, checks and balances, sanctions and penalties for non-compliance, ethical standards, and conflicts of interest. The Commission will focus its attention on lesser contracts above \$20,000 but not exceeding \$250,000. The Commission will deliver recommendations on the subject matter with the aim of enhancing policy, directives, and legislation to promote transparency and accountability.

c. Questions to be posed to Professor Jowell

The Commission has formulated a set of five questions that outline queries regarding the scope and ambit remit of the CSPL. It was agreed that these questions will form the basis of discussion between the Commission and Professor Jowell during his upcoming visit to Grand Cayman.

d. Correspondence from the Constitutional Commission

The Chair distributed a response by the Constitutional Commission on the query received pertaining to civil servants' ability to sign petitions. The Chair requested members review the correspondence and invited all members to bring any outstanding concerns in relation to the remit of CSPL on the subject matter to the next meeting of the Commission.

e. Constitution Week (July 4th – 9th)

The Secretariat updated the Commission on Constitution Week including public and media engagements will take place during Constitution Week and the coordination of a 2-mile walk/run which will be held on Saturday July 9th as a closing event for the week.

4. Any other business

a. Meeting with the Auditor General's Offices

The Chair confirmed that on May 4, 2011 she met with Mr. Mark Rubin and Mr. Allan Quinn. The Chair was informed that a report prepared by the two gentlemen has been completed and will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in the near future, at which time the report will become a public document.

b. Postponement of June 20, 2011 Meeting

The Commission agreed to postpone the meeting of June 20, 2011 due to the arrival of Professor Jowell and subsequent meetings with him scheduled for the week of June 20th – 24th. As a result, the CSPL will meet on June 27, 2011.

5. Items to be discussed at next the meeting

- a. Lesser Contracts Falling Outside the Remit of the CTC;
- b. Meeting with Professor Jowell and matters arising therefrom;
- c. Correspondence from the Constitutional Commission;
- d. Constitution Week 2011; and
- e. Obtaining Public Input.

6. Action List

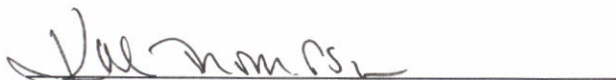
- a. Members will review the correspondence of the Constitutional Commission on civil servants and petitions and prepare any queries or concerns in relation to the remit of the CSPL, which will be discussed at the following meeting; and
- b. Members will ensure they have reviewed Part IX of the Financial Regulations (2008 Revision) detailing the policies on awarding "lesser" contracts.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting of the CSPL will be held on 27 June, 2011 at 2:30 pm in the Commissions Secretariat boardroom.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.



Karin Thompson
CHAIRMAN
COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE