

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
1st MEETING OF 2014
MINUTES
14 JANUARY, 2014
CONFERENCE ROOM, COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT:	Karin M. Thompson	Chairman
	Nyda Mae Flatley	Member
	Hedley Robinson	Member (for part)
	Ian Wight	Member

APOLOGIES: N/A

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deborah Bodden	Manager, Commissions Secretariat
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1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:20pm and a prayer was offered.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 December, 2013 were approved.

3. Outstanding Business

a. Update on the SPL Bill

Members were advised that the Manager met with Members of Caucus on 13th January to discuss an issue that has been raised regarding the impact that the SPL will have on potential and existing members of Government Boards, Authorities, etc.

It was unanimously agreed that the Manager be authorised to liaise with the Legal Draftsman with a view to ensuring that the concern raised regarding the broad reaching implications to board members do not go against its spirit and intent with specific reference having been made to subsection (4) which expressly makes provision to reflect the spirit and intent of the requirement of a declaration being limited to any interest which is likely to conflict or may be perceived to conflict, with his or her functions on the entity to which he or she is appointed.

It was also agreed that the Chairman will accompany the Manager to the proposed meeting. Members were further informed that the SPL Bill is scheduled to have its first reading in the Legislative Assembly, when it next opens (29th January 2014). The Commission agreed that prior to the Legislative Assembly being opened it would be beneficial for the Opposition Members to be afforded the opportunity to receive the same presentation that was given to Cabinet in order that any questions and/or concerns can be raised and answered.

b. Register of Interests

The Chairman confirmed that she met with the Registrar of Interests, Mrs. Zena Merren, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on 17 December 2013 at which time she did not glean any further information as to why the declarations of those persons who ran in the General Election were combined with those serving members of the Legislative Assembly.

4. Any Other Business

a. Eighth Report of the Commission

The draft report will be forwarded to all members for their review and agreement in the near future. The Chairman is hoping to update the report once the SPL Bill is given its first reading in the LA.

b. Appointment Dates

In light of the date in which the SPL Bill will be discussed in the LA and also in order to complete a report at the six month stage the members have agreed to the Governor's request that they extend their appointments by one month.

5. Any Other Business

a. Government Professional Week

The Chairman fulfilled the request by the organisers of the Government Professional Week 2013 to speak on the Commission, its constitutional mandate, conflicts of interest, and other relevant topics. Attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions following the presentation which was well received.

b. Meeting with Governor

The Chairman met with the Governor on 18 December, 2013 in order to brief her on the work of the Commission over the Chairman's four year term.

6. Next meeting

It is anticipated that this will be the last formal meeting of the Commission as it is currently comprised. As such the Chairman thanked each of the members for their guidance, support and dedication over the past four years.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.



Karin Thompson

CHAIRMAN

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