

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
5th MEETING OF 2017
MINUTES
27 JUNE 2017
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT:	Rosie Whittaker-Myles	Chairman
	Sheenah Hislop	Member
	Pastor Shian O'Connor	Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheila Alvarez	Administrator/Analyst, Commissions Secretariat
Lise Hurlstone	Administrator/Analyst, Commissions Secretariat

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:43pm. The Chairman thanked all for attending and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9 May 2017 were approved with minor changes.

3. Outstanding Business**a. Procurement Legislation**

i. The Commission was informed that the Secretariat has still not received a response on a commencement date for the Procurement Law (2016) and the drafting of the Regulations which the Secretariat last followed up via email on 2 May 2017. The Commission agreed that as the General Election has passed, it is now an appropriate time for the Secretariat to issue a formal follow-up letter to the Minister of Finance regarding this matter.

ii. Through the media, the Commission has become aware of various large scale projects being on which RFPs are being sought. The Commission discussed the current procurement process and queried whether that procurement process is being followed across the board, prior to implementation of the Procurement Legislation. Members agreed to have the Secretariat inquire further into this matter.

b. Standards in Public Life Regulations/Legislation

The Commission was informed that the follow-up letter to the Premier regarding matters related to the Standards in Public Life Regulations, and the commencement of the Law, was approved by the Chairman and will be issued by the Secretariat.

c. Draft Ministerial Code of Conduct

Members advised that their review of the comparison of the 2013 and 2017 versions of the draft Code remains ongoing. The Commission will continue to review these documents and agreed to circulate their comments via email within two weeks.

d. Gender Equality Tribunal Findings

The Commission was informed that the response to the Deputy Governor's correspondence was issued on 16 May 2017 and was acknowledged on 17 May 2017. Members agreed that the Secretariat can now follow-up with the Deputy Governor on this matter.

e. Public Authorities Law, 2016

Members were informed that the Chairman approved the draft letter to the Deputy Governor's Office which outlined the Commission's feedback on the Law, noting in particular several areas of overlap between this Law and the Standards in Public Life Law. It was agreed that the Secretariat will now issue the correspondence to the Deputy Governor's Office to address these matters and to seek clarification on how that office intends to approach the areas of overlap.

f. Twelfth Report of the Commission

The Commission was informed that its Twelfth Report was submitted for tabling at the next session of the Legislative Assembly.

g. Cross Referencing of CIG Issued Documents (Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Planning, PoCS Records Retention Policy; Anti-Fraud Policy; Code of Business Ethics and Conduct; Offering Or Receiving Hospitality, Entertainment Or Gifts; and Whistle Blower Policy)

The Commission discussed these documents and agreed that the Secretariat will prepare a draft letter to the Deputy Governor to ensure that any breaches of the Standards in Public Life Law are directed to the Commission for investigation if necessary. The correspondence will also emphasise the importance of ensuring that all civil servants receive training and adequate sensitisation on the said policies/documents and to inquire whether plans are underway to facilitate such.

h. Meeting with the CPA Elections Observation Mission

The Chairman updated Members on the meeting and noted that in her view the meeting was useful and informative for all participants. One area in which the team expressed interest was that relating to scrutiny of election and campaign finance. The Chairman relayed that in its Preliminary Report, the team was pleased overall with how well the General Election was managed, however, areas for improvement were identified, including that of election and campaign finance which the Commission will give further consideration to.

i. Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies (CCAICACB) Executive Committee Meeting

The Chairman was present for an online meeting of the Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies Conference ("CCAICACB") which was facilitated on 22 June 2017. She commented that the Executive Committee had a good second meeting. An update was also provided at that meeting on the Regional Center of Excellence, a centre for training in regional anti-corruption and good governance being hosted in Grenada which is anticipated to be ready at the end of this year.

j. Commissions Presentations to newly elected Ministers and MLAs

The Commission was advised that the presentations have been postponed until further notice.

4. New Business

a. Register of Interests

i. Inspection of Current Register

The Commission was informed that they can arrange to meet with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to inspect the Current Register of Interests and were asked to advise of their availability. Members advised that the first week of September 2017 would be suitable for all. The Secretariat will proceed to arrange the said meeting.

ii. Proposed Meeting with ROI Committee

The Commission was further informed that they can arrange to meet with the ROI Committee to discuss their role and were asked to advise of their availability. Members advised that the first week of September 2017 would be suitable for all. The Secretariat will proceed to arrange the said meeting.

5. Any Other Business

a. Anti-Fraud Hotline

The Commission discussed the recent announcement that the Cayman Islands Government has partnered with a local accounting firm and set up a hotline for reporting fraud or wrongdoing by its employees, separate from the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service or the imminent independent ombudsman's office. Members agreed that any concerns they had about the hotline were covered in point 3.g above.

6. Action List

Members were asked to:

- a. Review the tracked changes made to the Ministerial Code of Conduct and revert with comments via email as indicated above.

The Secretariat was asked to:

- a. Follow-up with the Minister of Finance on the Procurement Legislation as indicated above;
- b. Follow-up with the Premier regarding the Standards in Public Life Regulations/Legislation as indicated above;
- c. Follow-up with the Deputy Governor to clarify the concerns of the Commission regarding the findings of the Gender Equality Tribunal; and
- d. Update and issue correspondence regarding the Public Authorities Law, 2016 as detailed above.

7. Items to be discussed at the next meeting

- a. Procurement Legislation
- b. Standards in Public Life Regulations/Legislation
- c. Ministerial Code of Conduct
- d. Gender Equality Tribunal Findings
- e. Public Authorities Bill, 2016
- f. Cross Referencing of the CIG Issued Documents

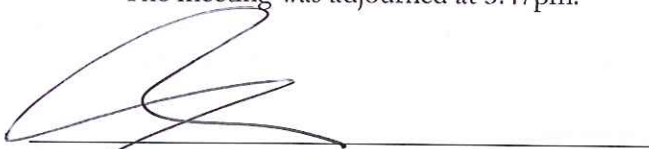
- g. Commissions Presentations to newly elected Ministers and MLAs
- h. Inspection of Current Register
- i. Proposed Meeting with ROI Committee

8. **Next meeting**

The next meeting date is to be determined.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47pm.



Rosie Whittaker-Myles

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE