

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
6th MEETING OF 2017
MINUTES
2 NOVEMBER 2017
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

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

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deborah Bodden	Manager, Commissions Secretariat (via telephone)
Sheila Alvarez	Administrator/Analyst, Commissions Secretariat

1. Meeting called to order and Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 2:35pm. The Chairman thanked all for attending and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 27 June 2017 were approved with minor changes.

3. Outstanding Business**a. Procurement Legislation****i. Commencement Date/Regulations**

The Commission was informed that the Secretariat followed up with the Director of the Central Procurement Office ("CPO"), to inquire on the status of the Procurement Legislation. The Director of CPO responded on 30 October 2017 and confirmed that a Paper had been submitted to Cabinet, seeking approval for a commencement date for the Law and for approval of the draft Regulations.

In addition, the Secretariat followed up on the Commission's correspondence of 4 July 2017 to the Minister of Finance. A substantive response is forthcoming.

The Secretariat will follow up with the Minister of Finance prior to the next meeting in regards to both of these matters.

ii. Current Procurement Process

The Commission discussed the Director of CPO's response to its query of 21 June 2017 regarding the current procurement process. It was noted that the current procurement process will remain guided by the Public Management and Finance Law (PMFL) and the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) Guidelines until the Procurement Law and Regulations come into effect. The Director further advised that the department is in the process of building a new website for the CPO.

b. Standards in Public Life Regulations/Legislation

The Commission was advised that the proposed meeting between the Chairman, Secretariat Manager and Honourable Premier, concerning the progress with implementation of the Standards in Public Life legislation, was postponed due to scheduling conflicts. Members asked the Manager to determine whether the current draft Regulations could be amended to reflect the SPL (Amendment) Law 2016 with a view to getting Cabinet's approval in a timelier manner with the additional amendments to the Regulations being postponed for now. The Manager will raise this query with the Premier.

c. Draft Ministerial Code of Conduct

The Commission was informed that its comments on the Draft Ministerial Code of Conduct were submitted to the Cabinet Secretary who acknowledged receipt and advised that a substantive response will be provided shortly.

d. Gender Equality Tribunal Findings

The Commission was informed that its response to the Deputy Governor's correspondence was issued on 16 May 2017, receipt of which was acknowledged on 17 May 2017. The Commission awaits a substantive response to its letter of 16 May 2017.

e. Public Authorities Law, 2017

The Commission discussed the Deputy Governor's response of 17 July 2017 regarding its concerns with the areas of inconsistency between the Public Authorities Law, 2017, the Standards in Public Life Law, 2014, and the Standards in Public Life (Amendment) Law, 2016. Members agreed that they had no further queries/concerns regarding the Law.

f. 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 the Deputy Governor's response of 13 July 2017 in which he thanked the Commission for its positive feedback on the said policies. Moreover, he confirmed that the government's Internal Audit Staff recently completed anti-fraud training and that wider training will be available to all current civil servants in the near future. The Commission agreed it would be beneficial for all board members to receive such training and will revisit this recommendation in due course.

g. Register of Interests

i. Inspection of Current Register

The Commission discussed reviewing the current Register of Interests at the Legislative Assembly. Members agreed that the last week in November would be suitable for all. The Secretariat will proceed to arrange the said appointment with the Clerk of the LA.

ii. Proposed Meeting with ROI Committee

The Commission discussed the proposed meeting with the ROI Committee and agreed it best to schedule the meeting on the same day that they review the ROI. The Secretariat will proceed to arrange the said meeting.

h. Twelfth and Thirteenth Report of the Commission

The Commission was updated that its Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports were submitted to the LA last week for tabling at its next sitting.

4. Any Other Business

a. Introductory Meeting with Ombudsman

The Commission was informed that the Secretariat Manager recently met with the newly appointed Ombudsman to debrief her about the Secretariat and the work of each of its Commissions. Members agreed that an introductory meeting with the Ombudsman would be beneficial to all. The Secretariat will assist in arranging for the Ombudsman to meet the members at the next Commission meeting.

b. Introductory Meeting with Members of the Legislative Assembly

Having regard to the fact that the meeting with the newly appointed Members of the Legislative Assembly was not convened due to conflicts in their schedule, the Commission asked the Manager to ascertain whether Members wished to meet with the Commission at a date in the New Year, and if so, to proceed with making arrangements.

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

The Chairman informed the Commission that a CCAICACB Executive Committee Meeting scheduled for the month of July 2017 was adjourned due to lack of quorum. Due to travel schedules of members, the next scheduled meeting of the CCAICACB was set for 28 September 2017; however, due to the devastating impact of hurricanes Irma and Maria on Turks and Caicos and Dominica, had to cancel until further notice.

5. Action List

The Secretariat was asked to:

- a. Continue to follow-up with the Minister of Finance on the Procurement Legislation concerns;
- b. Liaise with the Honourable Premier regarding the Standards in Public Life Law/Regulations;
- c. Make arrangements with the Clerk of the LA for the Commission to meet with the ROI Committee and to review the current ROI concurrently;
- d. Invite the new Ombudsman to meet with the Commission during its next meeting; and
- e. Liaise with the Clerk of the LA to request her assistance in extending an invitation to all Ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly to meet with the Commission in the New Year.

6. Items to be discussed at the next meeting

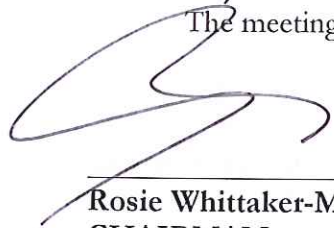
- a. Procurement Legislation
- b. Standards in Public Life Regulations/Legislation
- c. Inspection of Current Register
- d. Proposed Meeting with ROI Committee
- e. Twelfth and Thirteenth Report of the Commission
- f. Commission meeting with newly appointed Ombudsman
- g. Commission meeting with newly elected Ministers and MLAs

7. **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 5 December 2017 at 2:30pm.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22pm.



Rosie Whittaker-Myles

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE