

**COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
10th MEETING OF 2020
MINUTES
30 OCTOBER 2020**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

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| Rosie Whittaker-Myles | Chairman |
| Sheenah Hislop | Member |
| Isatou Smith | Member |

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

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| Deborah Bodden | Manager |
| Lise Hurlstone | Administrator/Analyst |

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting commenced at 10:10am. The Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting was opened with a prayer.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 21 July 2020 and 13 August 2020 were approved by Members.

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

a. Queries Related to the Submission of Declarations

Members have had sight of advice related to the submission of declarations from various persons as to whether or not they come within the definition of “persons in public life”. An initial discussion ensued but it was agreed that further consideration was required. In addition, it was agreed that a meeting with the Honourable Attorney General would be beneficial. The Manager was asked to schedule such a meeting.

4. New Business

a. Amendments to the SPL Law

The Chairman and Manager met with His Excellency the Governor, the Honourable Deputy Governor, the Honourable Attorney General, and the Solicitor General on 3 September 2020 (via Zoom) in order to discuss general queries which had arisen in relation to the Standards in Public Life Law (the “Law”) during the recent submission of declarations. The Commission was informed that following the meeting of 3 September 2020, the Honourable Attorney General discussed the matter with the Honourable Premier and it was agreed that the Law required general clarifying amendments. The Chairman and Manager subsequently met with Legal Drafting on 16 September 2020 following which a Draft SPL (Amendment) Law 2020

was produced by the Legal Draftsman and circulated to Members via the Manager. Members agreed to review the draft and revert with any comments by 20 October 2020. It is noted that following this exercise there may also need to be amendments undertaken to the Regulations.

b. Register of Interests

A number of actions/discussions took place regarding the ROI including:

- a review of a portion of the declarations entered into the Register in accordance with the SPL Law;
- consideration of both the current and possible future processes used to index and store/make available for public inspection the declarations;
- the project being undertaken by the Secretariat to increase the efficiency of the submission of declarations through an electronic system;
- the unintended consequence arising from allowing declarants to submit their completed declarations electronically through Chief Officers/Heads of Departments/Boards due to the global health pandemic, i.e., duplicate copies of the declarations being retained by human resources or other managers. It was agreed that Chief Officers (copied to the Deputy Governor) will be advised that such duplicate declarations should be discarded in accordance with the Law;
- in order to establish whether all persons required to submit declarations have done so, correspondence will be sent to Chief Officers/Heads of Departments and Boards to confirm positions of persons in public life which are filled for comparison against declarations received by the Commission; and
- in the case of non-compliance, all Chief Officers will be informed of the Declarations which have not been received (to date) from the persons in public life who fall under their remit.

5. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

6. Action Items

- Schedule a meeting with the Attorney General (Manager);
- Provide comments on the Draft SPL (Amendment) Law 2020 (Members);
- Progress the project related to electronic submissions (PR&EDU); and
- Draft correspondence to CO's (and the DG) re declarations received and discarding of duplicate copies (Manager & Administrator/Analyst).

7. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Amendments to the SPL Law
- b. Register of Interests

8. Next meeting

The next meeting date will be confirmed based on the date of the meeting agreed with the Attorney General.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.



Rosie Whittaker-Myles
CHAIRMAN
COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE