

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
1st MEETING OF 2021
MINUTES
27 JANUARY 2021

PRESENT:

Rosie Whittaker-Myles	Chairman
Sheenah Hislop	Member
Isatou Smith	Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deborah Bodden	Manager, Secretariat
Lise Hurlstone	Administrator/Analyst

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting commenced at 4:13pm. The Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting was opened with a prayer.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2020 would be confirmed via e-mail round robin.

3. Outstanding Business

a. Amendments to SPL Law and Regs

Members reviewed the latest version of the draft amendments to the SPL Law. Members agreed on the majority of the changes, and provided additional clarification where requested. The comments will be communicated to the Legislative Counsel.

Members additionally reviewed the latest draft amendments to the SPL Regulations, including the prescribed declaration forms found in the Schedules. Some minor comments will be communicated to the Legislative Counsel.

The Secretariat Manager will arrange a meeting with the Legislative Counsel to consolidate and address the final comments on the amendments.

b. Submissions of Declarations

- i. Notes from Members’ reviews of the Register continued to be followed up on. Any issues requiring the Commission’s intervention encountered in this process will be referred as needed.
- ii. Members discussed a request made by the RCIPS regarding declarations and agreed on a response to be drafted.

- iii. Outstanding declarations were discussed and Members agreed to remind all persons in public life of their duties under the SPL Law via a public notice.
- iv. Members agreed to follow up with the Attorney General's Office on the advice required by this office, as well as additional clarification to be provided on certain matters identified.

c. Ministerial Code of Conduct

Members discussed comments on the draft Ministerial Code of Conduct (the "Code") circulated by the Chairman which were previously raised by the Commission to the Cabinet Office but were not reflected in the latest draft of the Code which was shared with the Commission (in 2019). It was agreed to draft a letter to the Cabinet Secretary to highlight these points and ascertain the current status of the Code.

Members also agreed to write to the Premier asking if Government proposes to take any further action regarding upholding standards of accountability in the matter of the recent court ruling against the Speaker.

4. New Business

a. Media request for comment re: Parliamentary severance pay provision

Members agreed on a response to be provided to the media request regarding the parliamentary severance pay provision recently in the news. A statement would be drafted and released accordingly.

5. Action Items

Secretariat Staff:

- Circulate previous minutes for members' review and approval via email round robin;
- Arrange a meeting with the Legislative Counsel to consolidate and resolve final comments on the amendments to the draft SPL Law and Regulations;
- Draft correspondence to declarants to continue to follow up on outstanding submissions to the Register of Interest;
- Issue a public notice reminding all persons in public life of their duties under the SPL Law;
- Follow up with relevant parties, including the Attorney General's Office, to assist in compliance with declaration submission requirements;
- Draft letter to Cabinet Secretary regarding points previously raised by the CSPL on the Code;
- Draft letter to the Premier regarding upholding standards of accountability in the recent court ruling against the Speaker; and
- Draft Responses to the media per item 4(a) above.

6. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

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

7. Next meeting

The next meeting date will be agreed via round robin.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.



Rosie Whittaker-Myles

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE