

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
6th MEETING OF 2012
MINUTES
13th AUGUST, 2012
CONFERENCE ROOM, COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT: Karin M. Thompson Chairman
 Nyda Mae Flatley Member
 Pastor Winston Rose Member

APOLOGIES: Roy McTaggart Member
 Hedley Robinson Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:
 Deborah Bodden Manager, Commissions Secretariat

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm and a prayer was offered.

2. Outstanding Business

a. Submission of the Fourth Report of the Commission

The CSPL continues to wait for its Fourth Report, dated 17 February, 2012, to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The Honourable Deputy Governor has confirmed that the report is due to be tabled at the next sitting of the House. Based on the preliminary legal advice received on the matter, the Commission has now agreed that future reports of the Commission will be submitted directly to the Honourable Speaker of the House and as such the Chairman will request a meeting with the Honourable Speaker to discuss the way forward to ensure the Commission's reports are tabled in a timely manner.

b. Status of the draft SPL Bill

The Commission has received a final draft version of the SPL Bill and the Chairman will be meeting with His Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Attorney General to discuss policy matters in relation to the Bill. Once this has occurred the Chairman expects the Bill to progress through the normal route to the Honourable Ministers and Members of Cabinet and then on to the Legislative Assembly for a first reading before the public are engaged in the public consultation process. The Commission will further discuss the option of engaging with the public during this time at its next meeting.

c. Protocols for monitoring ethical conduct

The Commission has requested a legal opinion on this matter and continues to liaise with its legal representative regarding the opinion. The Chairman will report back to the Commission once this opinion has been received.

d. Updated Informational Flyer

The Commission members had previously been provided with an updated informational flyer for review and approval. Members are now content for this flyer to be printed and distributed.

e. Code of Conduct

The Commission's recommended Code of Conduct has been forwarded to the Honourable Deputy Governor who in turn has shared the document with all Chief Officers. The document was well received by the same. The document has also been placed on the Commission's website. The document was also forwarded to His Excellency the Governor with a request that he share the same with all Statutory Authorities.

f. Register of Interests

The Commission's recommended Register of Interests has been forwarded to the Honourable Deputy Governor who in turn has shared the document with all Chief Officers. It was noted by the Chief Officers that in order to enforce the completion of such a document, legislation would need to be created. The Commission understands this concern and has communicated that it is one which is addressed in their draft legislation. The document has also been placed on the Commission's website. The document was also forwarded to His Excellency the Governor with a request that he share the same with all Statutory Authorities. It was recognised that Chief Officer Stran Bodden from the Ministry of Finance, Tourism and Development had forwarded through the Honourable Deputy Governor a sample copy of the document they use as a Register of Interests. The Ministry is commended by the Commission for their proactive approach in this area.

3. New Business

a. Letter of Complaint

The Commission members were informed by the Chairman that it had been copied in to a complaint however the Commission has no legal powers at this time to investigate such a complaint and as such the complaint had simply been acknowledged. The Commission will be working with the other agencies to whom the complaint was directed to determine any other steps the Commission may wish to and be able to take in regards to the complaint.

b. Fifth Report of the Commission

Members were provided with a draft copy of the Fifth Report of the Commission. The contents of the report were discussed during the meeting and members were asked to review the same and provide any feedback by the close of the day on 14 August. The report is due to be submitted on 17 August, 2012 to the Honourable Speaker of the House with advance courtesy copies being provided, as is usual, to His Excellency the Governor, the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Deputy Governor.

4. Update on the Working Group on Procurement

Members were advised that the Group has now met a total of six times and at the last meeting a Sub-Committee was formed after the Chairman and His Excellency the Governor discussed the work of the Group. The Sub-Committee will meet to identify areas of the procurement process which need to be changed and the timeline in which those changes can be made. It was agreed that the Sub-Committee would consist of Max Jones, Reshma Sharma, Peter Gough and Alastair Swarbrick (as an Advisor). Working Group Member Nick Freeland indicated that he would tentatively accept an appointment to the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee agreed to meet from 3-5p on 13 August, 2012 and report back to the Working Group at their next meeting on 11 September, 2012.

5. Action List

- a. Request a meeting with the Honourable Speaker of the House (Secretariat);
- b. Liaise with legal representative re: opinion (Secretariat);

- c. Print and distribute updated informational flyer (Secretariat); and
- d. Review Draft Fifth Report and provide feedback to the Secretariat by the close of day on 14 August, 2012 (Members).

6. Items to be discussed at the next meeting

- a. Status of tabling of the Fourth Report of the Commission dated 17th February 2012;
- b. Status of the SPL Bill;
- c. Legal clarification on the Commission's mandate for monitoring ethical behaviour of public officials;
- d. Status of tabling of the Fifth Report of the Commission dated 17th August, 2012; and
- e. Update on the Working Group and its Sub-Committee on Procurement.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 17 September, 2012 at 2:30pm.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.



Karin Thompson

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE