

**COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE  
2<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF 2021  
MINUTES  
16 FEBRUARY 2021**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Rosie Whittaker-Myles	Chairman
	Sheenah Hislop	Member
	Isatou Smith	Member

<b>SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>		
	Deborah Bodden	Manager, Secretariat
	Lise Hurlstone	Administrator/Analyst

**1. Meeting called to order**

The meeting commenced at 3:10pm. The Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting was opened with a prayer.

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2020 were confirmed with one minor grammatical correction. The minutes of 27 January 2021 will be circulated via round robin email for Members’ consideration.

**3. Outstanding Business**

**a. Submissions of Declarations**

- i. Notes from Members’ reviews of the Register prior to this meeting have now all been followed up on and as such Members were updated on the responses and relevant decisions made. During the meeting Members reviewed several additional declarations and requested that correspondence be sent to one declarant to clarify a detail included in the declaration.
- ii. Public notices to candidates in the 2021 General Election reminding them to submit their declarations before submitting their nomination papers have now been placed on media websites and recorded as a PSA on Radio Cayman. Public notices to other persons who are required to submit annual declarations under the Act will be placed following the expiration of the timeframe in which candidates in the General Election are required to file to avoid confusion.
- iii. The Chairman approved the correspondence to the Attorney General’s Office on the advice that was to be provided in relation to ascertaining enforcement measures for non-compliance, as well as additional clarification that was determined to be needed after discussing submissions of declarations.

**b. Ministerial Code of Conduct**

It was agreed to approve further correspondence to the Cabinet Secretary seeking clarity regarding unaddressed comments, from the Commission, to the Ministerial Code of Conduct (the “Code”). It was also agreed to request the most recent version of the Code.

It was noted that the Commission had not yet received a response to its letter dated 15 December 2020 to the Premier in relation to the Commission's concerns by the delay in addressing and informing the public of any decision taken in relation to the Honourable Speaker's entering of guilty pleas on two counts of assault and on one count of disorderly conduct in his criminal trial. Notwithstanding the Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor to dissolve Parliament, given the gravity of the matter, the Commission agreed to follow up with a subsequent letter to the Premier expressing its dissatisfaction with the lack of response to its communication on the matter.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **a. Correspondence from the Office of His Excellency**

The Chairman received correspondence from the Office of His Excellency (the "Office") following the provision by the Office of a response to a media request for comment. The request for comment surrounded a Facebook post by the Honourable Speaker of the House regarding his provision of bicycles and electronic devices to children in his constituency. The Office forwarded the correspondence to the CSPL for any relevant consideration in accordance with the CSPL's remit.

Following discussions, Members agreed that the matter was not one which falls under the remit of the CSPL however it was agreed that a statement should be issued reminding candidates standing for the 2021 General Elections of the Nolan Principles which seek to guide persons in public life in their decision-making and acts.

##### **b. Correspondence related to Public Accounts Committee (the "PAC") hearings**

The Commission received correspondence related to the recent PAC hearings into the Cayman Turtle Conservation and Education Centre ("CTCEC") annual reports and other financial matters. Further information is required, and will therefore be requested, in order to properly consider the matter.

##### **c. Election Related Surveys**

Members discussed a press release related to surveys currently being undertaken, in some neighbourhoods, door-to-door. The Commission will be following up on this to determine the legality and/or appropriateness of such.

##### **d. Meeting with Legal Drafting Re: Amendments to SPL Law**

Members spoke with Legislative Counsel via telephone to clarify the Commission's response on one requested amendment. Once research has been conducted into the matter the Legislative Counsel will communicate again with the Commission.

##### **e. Twentieth Report of the Commission**

The Commission was informed that its Twentieth Report has been drafted and is with the Chairman for review.

## 5. Action Items

Members:

- Chairman to review Twentieth Report prior to circulating to Members.

Secretariat Staff:

- Circulate the January 2021 minutes for members' review and approval via email round robin;
- Draft correspondence to the referenced declarant to follow up the query on the declaration;
- Issue a public notice reminding all persons in public life of their duties under the SPL Law (once the public notices to candidates standing for the 2021 General Election have expired);
- Issue the correspondence as detailed above to the Attorney General's Office, the Cabinet Secretary, and the Premier;
- Draft an email response to the Office of His Excellency and a public statement as set out in 4a above;
- Draft correspondence to obtain additional information as referred to in 4b above; and
- Verify the information referred to in 4c above.

## 6. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Amendments to the SPL Law
- b. Register of Interests
- c. Correspondence from the PAC

## 7. Next meeting

The next meeting date will be agreed via round robin as the terms of both the Chairman and Member Sheenah Hislop come to an end on 28 February 2021.

## 8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18pm.



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**Rosie Whittaker-Myles**  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**