

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
1st MEETING OF 2018
MINUTES
30 JANUARY 2018
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

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

APOLOGIES: Sheenah Hislop Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deborah Bodden	Manager, Commissions Secretariat
Sheila Alvarez	Administrator/Analyst, Commissions Secretariat
Lise Hurlstone	Administrator/Analyst, Commissions Secretariat

1. Meeting called to order and Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm. The Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting was opened with a prayer.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 5 December 2017 were approved.

3. Outstanding Business

a. Procurement Legislation - Commencement Date/Regulations

The Commission reviewed the response received from the Minister of Public Finance and Economic Development (PFED), received on 7 December 2017, regarding its enquires on the procurement legislation. Inter alia, the letter stated that draft regulations are in the process of being reviewed and no commencement date for the legislation has yet been assigned.

Some concerns remain regarding the Commission's constitutional mandate to review the procedures for awarding public contracts. The Commission agreed to gather background information on the Commission's previous recommendation to have a member of the Commission sit on the Public Procurement Committee, and the Chairman agreed to liaise with the previous Commission Chairman, Mrs. Karin Thompson, to discuss this. A response will be prepared for the Commission's review once the required background information is ascertained.

b. Standards in Public Life Regulations/Legislation

The Chairman recapped her meeting with the Hon. Premier on 11 January 2018 on behalf of the Commission. After reviewing the procedure for drafting the regulations, the Chairman

requested that the Secretariat follow up with the Hon. Premier regarding the status of the Cabinet Paper seeking approval for the drafting instructions for the regulations.

c. Register of Interests - Inspection of Current Register/Proposed Meeting with ROI Committee

A meeting of the Commission and the ROI Committee was arranged for 10 January 2018 for a discussion about the eventual hand-over of the Register, and for Commission members to view the current Register. Much to the Commission's disappointment, however, the full complement of the ROI Committee was not present with the result that the meeting did not take place as scheduled. A formal apology from a representative of the Hon. Premier was subsequently provided stating that the low attendance was due to a miscommunication regarding a conflicting meeting between some members of the Committee and the Hon. Premier.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to reach out to the ROI Committee outlining the issues it wished to discuss in the meeting, and asking for dates for its availability to meet with Commission members after the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

4. New Business

a. Educational Materials

The Commission agreed to distribute pamphlets designed to educate public officials on various components of the Commission's remit, including ethical behaviour, conflicts of interest and general information on the Commission. The Chairman approved a letter to accompany each set of pamphlets to be distributed to the various departments and units.

5. Any Other Business

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

The Chairman informed the Commission that CCAICACB Executive Committee Meeting scheduled for January 2018 had to be postponed due to the body's Chairman having a family emergency. The Chairman will provide an update when the next meeting is scheduled.

b. Farewell Lunch for the Governor

The Chairman, along with other Commission Chairpersons, will be attending a farewell lunch for HE Governor Kilpatrick, CB on Thursday, 1 February 2018.

6. Action Items

The Chairman agreed to:

- a. liaise with previous Chairman, Mrs. Katin Thompson, to ascertain background information on the Commission's recommendation to include a member of the Commission on the Public Procurement Committee.

The Secretariat was asked to:

- a. assist in ascertaining background information referred to in 6.a. above.
- b. follow-up with the Honourable Premier regarding the Cabinet Paper seeking approval for the drafting instructions for the Standards in Public Life Law regulations;

- c. follow-up with the ROI Committee regarding the issues to be discussed in the proposed meeting and request to schedule a meeting with the Commission after the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly; and
- d. distribute the educational pamphlets as outlined above.

7. Items to be discussed at the next meeting

- a. Procurement Legislation
- b. Standards in Public Life Regulations/Legislation
- c. Register of Interests - Inspection of Current Register/Proposed Meeting with ROI Committee
- d. Educational Materials

8. Next meeting

Members will provide their availability to the Secretariat to schedule the next meeting via email.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.



Rosie Whittaker-Myles

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

