

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
4th MEETING OF 2021
MINUTES
17 JUNE 2021

PRESENT:

Dr. Sonia Bush	Chairman
Richard Addlestone	Member
Keith Blake	Member (via Zoom)
Isatou Smith	Member

APOLOGIES:

J. Rosalie Twohey	Member
-------------------	--------

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deborah Bodden	Manager, Secretariat (for part)
Lise Hurlstone	Research Analyst
Sheila Watler	Administrative Officer

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting commenced at 2:07 pm. The Chairman thanked all for attending and offered apologies on behalf of Member J. Rosalie Twohey who could not attend today's meeting.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20 May 2021 were approved.

3. Outstanding Business**a. CSPL Code of Conduct**

Members discussed the Commission's Code of Conduct ("the CoC") and agreed on various amendments. Members considered the addition of a remedial section to where contraventions of the CoC occur. The Secretariat was requested to conduct research on the CoCs of other countries, such as the UK, to ascertain how this feature functions elsewhere. The Secretariat will circulate its research to Members who will provide feedback via email.

b. Amendments to the SPL Act and SPL Regs

The Commission discussed the comments submitted by Members on 10 June 2021 to the proposed amendments to the Standards in Public Life ("the SPL") Act, and SPL Regulations. Members agreed on some amendments but were not able to finalise all changes within the time allotted. Members agreed to complete their discussion of all remaining comments at the next meeting.

c. Ministerial Code of Conduct

The Chairman advised that correspondence was issued to the Hon. Premier on 16 June 2021 to enquire about the status of the draft Ministerial CoC and its anticipated implementation. The Commission also invited the Premier to meet to discuss its role in general and previous feedback on the Ministerial CoC. The Commission currently awaits the Hon. Premier's response.

d. Correspondence from the PAC

The Chairman discussed the correspondence received from the Auditor General on 27 April 2021 regarding an active complaint received from the former Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee ("the PAC") on 12 February 2021. Members agreed that further consideration is needed on this matter and to defer it until the next meeting. In the meantime Members requested clarification on the Commission's remit in this matter.

e. Review of Declarations of Interest Guidance Notes

Members discussed their comments and concerns on the Declarations of Interest Guidance Notes ("the Guidance Notes") based on recent updates and approved the suggested changes. The Secretariat will revise the Guidance Notes.

f. CSPL Work Plan

The Chairman commented on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's ("UNODC") Education For Justice ("E4J") educational programme and the work that the previous Commission undertook to raise awareness of E4J in primary, secondary and tertiary schools. In light of this, the Chairman proposed for the Commission to focus on carrying out more community and school outreach in its Work Plan utilising the E4J materials. The Public Relations and Education Coordinator can assist the Commission with such projects upon her return from maternity leave.

In the interim, Members were asked to think about other subject areas that they would like the Commission to address in its Work Plan. The Secretariat was requested to circulate information on the E4J programme so that Members can familiarise themselves with it.

4. New Business

a. Election Observer's Report

The Commission was briefed on a locally produced report titled the Domestic Observers' Report (the "local report"), as well as the overseas report currently being prepared by the UK CPA BIMR Election Mission (the "Mission"); both of which were based on the Cayman Islands General Election 2021. Members agreed to review the local report and the Mission's report (when available) to determine whether a comment is necessary. The Secretariat will assist by circulating the reports to Members for their review and feedback once available.

5. Any Other Business

a. The Research Analyst advised that follow-up correspondence was submitted to the Attorney General's ("AG's") Chambers on 16 June 2021 regarding the previous Commission's request

for advice on its challenges with specific areas of the SPL Act. The Secretariat will circulate the AG's Chambers' response to Members once received.

- b. It was queried whether any action had been taken by the previous Commission in relation to the concerns raised in the media relating to the Utility Regulation and Competition Office ("OfReg") Chairman, and the PAC, in late 2020. The Research Analyst noted that this information was not readily available and that the Secretariat will assist by reviewing past correspondence to confirm any previous comment on this matter.
- c. Members were informed that the online portal for submitting Declarations of Interest will be ready on 21 June 2021. The Commission will be asked to participate in a small pilot project to ensure that the portal is working. The Research Analyst added that the Secretariat sought legal advice from the AG's Chambers at the recommendation of Government's Chief Information Security Officer to determine the viability of including a feature for ID verification. Whilst the current timeline would not allow for the inclusion of the feature at this time it would still be considered for further inclusion. The Secretariat will circulate the AG's Chambers response to the Commission once received.
- d. It was noted that Members Isatou Smith, Keith Blake and Richard Addlestone attended the Commonwealth Anti-Corruption Benchmarks Webinar held on Wednesday, 2 June 2021.

6. Action Items

Members:

- Provide feedback on the Secretariat's research on the CoCs of other countries as outlined in item 3. a. above;
- Consider additional subject areas for the Commission's Work Plan as outlined in item 3. f. above;
- Review the reports as outlined in item 4. a. above when they become available and provide feedback via email.

Secretariat Staff:

- Conduct research as outlined in item 3. a. above and circulate it to Members for comment;
- Compile Members' comments on the draft SPL Amendment Bill and Regulations as outlined in item 3. b. above;
- Revise the Declarations of Interest Guidance Notes as outlined in item 3. e. above;
- Circulate the information on E4J, to Members, as outlined in item 3. f. above;
- Circulate the reports to Members for comment as outlined in item 4. a. above;
- Conduct research on the past Commission's correspondence as outlined in item 5. a. above and advise the Commission of findings;
- Circulate the advice received from the AG's Chambers, to the Commission, as outlined in 5. c. above; and
- Continue to follow up on any outstanding correspondence.

7. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. CSPL Code of Conduct
- b. Amendments to the SPL Act and SPL Regs
- c. Ministerial Code of Conduct
- d. Correspondence from the PAC
- e. CSPL Work Plan
- f. Election Observer's Report
- g. OfReg Matter
- h. Register of Interests 2021
- i. Advice from the AG's Chambers on Submissions of Declarations

8. Next meeting

The next meeting date will be held on 15 July at 2:00pm.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.



Dr. Sonia Bush

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE