

**3rd MEETING OF THE
COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
29 MAY 2023 @ 10:00AM
MINUTES
VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT:	Dr. Sonia Bush	Chairman
	J. Rosalie Twohey	Member
	Keith Blake	Member

COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marilyn Conolly	Manager
Sheila Watler	Administrator/Analyst
Lise Hurlstone	Research Analyst (for part)

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am. The Chairman welcomed all in attendance and opened with a prayer.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of 19 April 2023 were approved with minor changes and will be amended and uploaded to the CSPL website.

3. Outstanding Business**a. Update on Amendments to SPL Act and Regs**

Members discussed correspondence from the Attorney General Chambers (AGC) wherein the AGC requested clarification on the CSPL's rationale to change the word *shall* to *may* by amending s.22(2)(a) of the SPL Act. This section of the Act reads: *"In any case where the Commission determines that the subject matter of an enquiry under this Part is — (a) already under investigation by the police whether or not charges have been preferred; or (b) already the subject matter of proceedings in a court of law, the Commission shall hold its own enquiry in abeyance, pending final disposition of that investigation and those proceedings."*

The effect of that amendment would be that the CSPL would be given discretion to continue with its own enquiry where the CSPL determines that *"the subject matter of an enquiry"* under Part 5 is already being investigated by the RCIPS or is already the subject matter of proceedings in court. Members agreed to revert to the AGC to confirm that this is the intent of the CSPL.

b. Correspondence from Anti-Corruption Commission ("ACC")

Members considered the ACC's letter of 2 February 2023 wherein it informed the CSPL of a matter which may require the CSPL's attention under s.9 of the SPL Act. Members agreed to acknowledge receipt of the letter and to make some initial inquiries, with the

ACC, about the matter. The Secretariat will prepare the draft letter for the CSPL's approval.

4. Any Other Business

a. CCAICACB Conference

Members were informed that the Manager virtually attended some of the CCAICACB Conference sessions, held on 17th – 21st April 2023 under the theme 'Resetting the Anti-Corruption Agenda: Assessing Achievements and Challenges in the Commonwealth Caribbean' and brought greetings on behalf of the CSPL.

b. Production Order

Members discussed correspondence pertaining to a production order received from the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) on 5 May 2023 and agreed to further consider it.

c. ROI Declaration Records

The Research Analyst gave an overview of the ROI data entry spreadsheet and how the ROI declarations are currently filed.

Members were asked to give consideration to allowing the Secretariat to scan hardcopy Register of Interest (ROI) declaration forms and save said documents in its electronic database. Members agreed to seek a legal opinion from the AGC on whether the Secretariat staff/entity maintaining the register can scan declarations into its searchable electronic database.

d. Resource Allocation to the Secretariat

Members further noted that the Manager has been given permission to hire a Public Relations and Education Coordinator, to fill the Deputy Manager post, and to convert an existing ACC post to an administrative post. Members were informed that two university level summer interns have been hired for June, July and August to assist with the ROI submission period.

With respect to sections 18 – 20 of the SPL Act (Part 5 – Power of Investigation), Members discussed the lack of staffing to conduct an enquiry should the CSPL chose to carry out an investigation. Members discussed the option of retaining someone on a consultancy or temporary basis should the CSPL choose to activate this option.

Accordingly, members were asked to give consideration to the Terms of Reference (ToR) to hire an investigative officer in accordance with sections 18 and 19 of the SPL Act which grants the CSPL powers of investigation. The Secretariat will research this matter and provide Members with copies of similar investigatory job descriptions to assist with preparing the ToR.

e. Annual Reports

Members were informed that the 23rd CSPL Annual Report is still pending previous Members' approval before it can be finalised. In the interim, drafting of the 24th CSPL Annual Report has commenced. The Administrator/Analyst will continue to follow-up

on the previous Members' comments on the draft 23rd Annual Report and continue to work on the 24th Annual Report for the CSPL's review and comments.

5. Action Items

Members:

- a. Give consideration to the ToR to hire an investigating officer as outlined in item 4. above; and
- b. Give further consideration to correspondence regarding a production order as outlined in item 5.b. above.

The Secretariat:

- a. Make amendments to the 19 April 2023 minutes and upload the finalised version to the CSPL website as outlined in item 2. above;
- b. Revert to the AGC to clarify the intent of the CSPL as outlined in item 3.a. above;
- c. Prepare correspondence to the ACC as outlined in item 3.b. above;
- d. Research relevant job descriptions and provide copies to Members as outlined in item 4. above;
- e. Seek a legal opinion from the AGC as outlined in item 5.b. above; and
- f. Continue to follow-up on the previous Members' comments on the draft 23rd Annual Report and continue to work on the 24th Annual Report for the CSPL's review as outlined in item 5.d. above.

6. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Annual Reports
- b. Update on Amendments to SPL Act and Regs
- c. CSPL Policies and Procedures
- d. Update re Parliamentary Code of Conduct
- e. Elections Observer's Report
- f. United Nations Education for Justice (E4J) Programme
- g. Register of Interests
- h. Appointment of New CSPL Members
- i. Secretariat HR Update
- j. Correspondence from Anti-Corruption Commission ("ACC")
- k. Production Order

7. Date of the Next meeting

The next meeting will be agreed via round robin.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:28am.



Dr. Sonia Bush
CHAIRMAN
COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE