

**9th (EXTRAORDINARY) MEETING OF THE
COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
21 NOVEMBER 2024 @ 2:00 PM
MINUTES
VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT:	Dr Sonia Bush	Chairman
	Keith Blake	Member (via Zoom)
	Woody Foster	Member (via Zoom)

COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Francis Kearns	Deputy Manager
Lise Hurlstone	Research Analyst

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm. The Chairman opened with a prayer and welcomed new member, Mr Woody Foster. Both the Chairman and Member Blake thanked Member Foster for his willingness to join the Commission and expressed that they looked forward to working with him.

2. Matters Arising

a. Panton/Turner Loan

Reference is made to media articles published by the Cayman Compass on [4 September 2024](#) and [6 September 2024](#) regarding the personal loan of a substantial sum of money from former Premier, Wayne Panton, to then Health & Wellness Minister, Sabrina Turner, in 2023. The Deputy Manager reviewed the Secretariat's research into the issue for the Commission to consider. Members discussed the articles, public response to the matter and the research provided by the Secretariat. Members agreed to write a media statement in response to the matter, noting the outcome of its examination of the issue and encouraging declarants to be transparent in their future declarations. The Secretariat was asked to draft the same and circulate to Members for approval.

Members further considered whether the CSPL is empowered to proactively examine declarations to identify potential breaches of the Standards in Public Life Act (SPLA). The Chair proposed instituting a policy to facilitate staff/investigators proactively examining declarations to increase the likelihood that issues such as this can be identified earlier, which members agreed with. The Secretariat was asked to draft and circulate this to members.

The Chair also requested that the Secretariat follow up with the Attorney General's

Chambers on the status of the SPLA legislative amendments, and that a review of the guidance notes for declarants be conducted to improve their robustness, if necessary. Additionally, she requested that a copy of legal advice relevant to this matter which had been provided to the CSPL in 2012 be provided to Member Foster.

b. Complaints/Enquiries

i. CSPL COMP 001/2023

The Deputy Manager reviewed the background and recent updates to this complaint and Members discussed. It was agreed that, as responses to the Commission's initial inquiries to seek more information from related parties had not been forthcoming, the Commission would approach the Respondent directly.

The Secretariat was therefore asked to draft correspondence to the Respondent to request any additional information be provided in order for the Commission to properly consider the matter. Additionally, the Secretariat was also asked to draft correspondence to a related public authority advising of the actions being taken, and potential next steps.

c. Register of Interests Update

i. Presentation on 2023-2024 Declarations

The Secretariat presented the results of the 2023-2024 Register of Interests annual declaration period to the Commission. The purpose of the presentation was to review the submissions from this period, the Secretariat's analysis and interpretation, and proposed next steps to increase submission rates. The focus would be on which groups to target in short-, medium- and long-term actions to increase submission rates.

After the presentation members thanked the Secretariat for its work and approved the Secretariat to begin the agreed actions, starting with contacting the members of Boards with a 0% submission rate in 2023-2024.

3. Any Other Business

a. Lunch with Governor

The Deputy Manager advised that the Governor's Office contacted the Secretariat with a proposed date of 22 January 2025 to invite current CSPL members, along with former member Rosalie Twohey, to lunch with the Governor, as she usually does annually. Members agreed that this date was suitable. The Secretariat advised that it would subsequently confirm former member Twohey's availability and revert to the Governor's Office. A placeholder invitation would be circulated to members.

b. Statement on New Appointment

Member Blake enquired about the possibility of a press statement announcing the

appointment of the new member. The Deputy Manager agreed to draft a statement and circulate to members for their review.

4. Action Items

The Secretariat will:

- a. Draft media statement on the Panton/Turner loan issue as noted in item 2.a. above;
- b. Draft a policy on proactive examination of declarations as noted in item 2.a. above;
- c. Follow up with AG's Chambers on the SPLA amendment bill as noted in item 2.a. above;
- d. Review ROI guidance notes to consider any changes needed as noted in item 2.a. above;
- e. Provide Member Foster with a copy of legal advice as noted in item 2.a. above;
- f. Draft letter to the Respondent in CSPL COMP 001/2023 as noted in item 2.b.i. above;
- g. Draft letter to a public authority re CSPL COMP 001/2023 as noted in item 2.b.i. above;
- h. Begin compliance checks with outstanding ROI declarants as noted in item 2.c.i. above;
- i. Liaise with Governor's Office as noted in item 3.a. above;
- j. Circulate a calendar invitation for the Governor's lunch as noted in item 3.a. above; and
- k. Draft a press statement on new appointments to the CSPL as noted in item 3.b. above.

5. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meetings

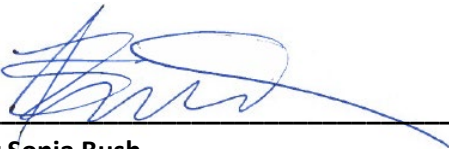
- a. Update: Parliamentary Code of Conduct
- b. Update: Election Observers' Report
- c. Conflict of Interest Issues Reported on at the Department of Tourism
- d. Meeting with Auditor General
- e. PR & Education Initiatives
 - i. Video Update
- f. Trials of the Former Speaker of the House

6. Next Meeting

Members agreed for the next meeting to be scheduled for 5 December at 2:00 pm. The Secretariat will circulate a meeting invitation with Zoom details.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.



Dr Sonia Bush

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE