

**10<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE  
COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE  
5 DECEMBER 2024 @ 2:00 PM  
MINUTES  
VIA ZOOM**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Dr Sonia Bush	Chairman (via Zoom)
	Keith Blake	Member (via Zoom)
	Woody Foster	Member (via Zoom)

**COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Melanie McField	Manager (via Zoom)
Francis Kearns	Deputy Manager
Lise Hurlstone	Research Analyst

**1. Meeting called to order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:09 pm. The Chairman opened with a prayer.

**2. Minutes from Previous Meeting****a. Meeting held on 18 July 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2024 were approved with minor changes. The Secretariat was asked to circulate the draft to former member Rosalie Twohey for her review and feedback, after which the minutes can then be uploaded to the CSPL website.

**b. Meeting held on 21 November 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2024 were approved with no changes. The Secretariat was asked to upload them to the CSPL website.

**3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes****a. Update: Parliamentary Code of Conduct**

The Commission was updated that there has been no substantive response to the Secretariat's follow ups with the Attorney General's Chambers regarding the status of the changes to the Parliamentary Code of Conduct and the corresponding updates to the Standards in Public Life draft amendment bill. As the Attorney General is currently on leave, the Manager agreed to follow up with the Legislative Draughting Department for any updates, and will continue regular follow ups with the Attorney General in the New Year when he returns from leave. The Commission asked for any updates to be included in the next meeting pack. The Chairman further requested that any follow ups regarding the Parliamentary Code of Conduct and the Standards in Public Life Act amendments be kept in separate email chains.

A discussion also took place on the Ministerial Code of Conduct and whether sufficient sanctions exist for those who breach it. No further action was requested at this time.

**b. Update: Election Observers' Report**

It was agreed to update the draft letter to the Premier and send it as soon as possible. Members also considered whether it might be useful to spearhead a good governance campaign amongst local interest groups and media in light of the upcoming election. The Secretariat was asked to prepare a draft campaign proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

**c. Conflict of Interest Issues Reported on at the Department of Tourism**

It was agreed to update the draft letter to the Director of the Department of Tourism on this issue and send it as soon as possible.

**d. Meeting with Auditor General**

The Auditor General had provided dates of availability for January and members agreed to propose a meeting for 13 January 2025. The Secretariat was asked to prepare an agenda and supplementary documents in advance of the meeting to circulate to all attendees. The Secretariat was also asked to prepare a responsibilities matrix for the Commission to assist members in understanding where the Commission's role may overlap with other Government entities.

**e. PR & Education Initiatives**

**i. Video Update**

The Deputy Manager updated members on the status of the CSPL introductory video, which has now been completed and shared with members. The video will be posted on the CSPL 'About Us' page on its website, and will also be included in the Civil Servants Orientation training. Members were pleased with the video and asked for it to be progressed accordingly.

**f. Trials of the Former Speaker of the House**

The Commission was updated that the appeal of the indecent assault trial of the former Speaker of the House, Mr McKeever Bush, has been scheduled for May 2025. The Secretariat will continue to monitor the media and add the matter to future CSPL meeting agendas as updates arise.

**4. Any Other Business**

**a. Latest issues with the former Speaker Mr Bush**

The Commission was updated regarding a news story relating to former Speaker, Mr Bush. Members agreed to wait and see whether the matter is investigated by the Royal Cayman Islands Police and the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Chairman will continue to consider what role the Commission has in this matter, if any. The Secretariat was asked

to develop a process map relating to the functions and powers of the Commission, as well as what consequences it is empowered to apply.

**b. New Members**

The Secretariat updated the Commission that a new member has recently been approved for appointment to the CSPL, and formal correspondence regarding this would be sent to finalise the appointment in the near future. The Secretariat will continue to seek names for a 5<sup>th</sup> member via a strategic recruitment campaign.

**c. Lunch with Governor**

Members were reminded of the scheduled lunch with Governor to be held on 22 January 2025. The Secretariat was asked to circulate meeting notes in advance of the meeting.

**5. Action Items**

**The Secretariat will:**

- a. Amend and post meeting minutes, as appropriate, as noted in item 2.a. and 2.b. above;
- b. Follow up with Legislative Draughting Dept re: Parliamentary Code of Conduct as noted in item 3.a. above;
- c. Continue following up with AG re: Parliamentary Code of Conduct as noted in item 3.a. above;
- d. Draft proposal for good governance elections campaign as noted in item 3.b. above;
- e. Update and issue letter to Premier re: elections issues as noted in item 3.b. above;
- f. Update an issue letter to Director of Department of Tourism as noted in item 3.c. above;
- g. Confirm meeting date with Auditor General for January as noted in item 3.d. above;
- h. Prepare meeting agenda and pack for Auditor General meeting as noted in item 3.d. above;
- i. Proceed with circulating CSPL intro video as noted in item 3.e.i. above;
- j. Continue to monitor for updates on trials of the former Speaker as noted in item 3.f. above;
- k. Develop a process map for the Commission as noted in item 4.a. above;
- l. Proceed with strategic recruitment campaign for new members as noted in item 4.b. above; and
- m. Circulate talking points in advance of lunch with Governor as noted in item 4.c. above.

**6. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meetings**

- a. Update: Parliamentary Code of Conduct
- b. Update: Election Observers' Report / Campaign Financing
  - i. Update on pre-election ROI Period
- c. Conflict of Interest Issues Reported on at the Department of Tourism
- d. Meeting with Auditor General
  - i. MOU
  - ii. Lateral Flow Tests/Procurement Procedures

- iii. OAG Investigation into Government Procurement Practices
- e. PR & Education Initiatives
  - i. Video Update
- f. Register of Interests Update
- g. Complaints/Enquiries
  - i. CSPL COMP 001/2023
- h. Trials of the Former Speaker of the House

**7. Next Meeting**

Members agreed for the next meeting to be scheduled for 28 January 2025 at 1:00 pm. The Secretariat will circulate a meeting invitation with Zoom details.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.



**Dr Sonia Bush**

**CHAIRMAN**

**COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**