

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement by the Anti-Corruption Commission

The newly appointed members of the Anti-Corruption Commission held their inaugural meeting last week. Chaired by Richard Coles, all members discussed in depth the role and the work of the Commission.

The Commission was created under the Anti-Corruption Law, 2008 (the “Law”) which came into effect on 1 January 2010. The Commission is responsible for the administration of the Law. The Law gives the Commission broad powers to receive and investigate reports of corruption or suspected corruption. The Commission is also permitted to freeze assets with the approval of the court and to assist and receive assistance from overseas anti-corruption agencies. In each case the allegation will be fully recorded, and a decision taken as to what, if any, further investigation or action is appropriate including referral to the Director of Public Prosecutions for disposition.

Under the Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Law 2016 all the members of the Commission are from civil society; there are no ex-officio police or government members. In addition, the Commissions Secretariat now employs Investigators who conduct the day-to-day investigatory work of the Commission. These Investigators have the power of arrest and, subject to the approval of the Court, the power to obtain search warrants for evidence.

All members have signed an inclusion/confidentiality agreement, made statements as to the absence of any current conflicts of interest, and discussed amendments to the policies and procedures of the Commission including the introduction of a code of conduct for members. Also considered was the forging of relationships with other local, regional and international bodies as a necessary component to carrying out its functions.

Members agreed that Commission meetings would be held on an as needed basis and at least quarterly. Minutes of meetings would continue to be made public via the Commission’s website, once confirmed at the following meeting. The Commissions Secretariat is in the process of re-developing and improving the Commission’s website, which the Commission hopes to unveil in the near future.

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Members agreed that, as previously, details of investigations will not be released into the public domain as premature release is prejudicial to the effective operations of the Commission and to the rights and interests of relevant parties. Updates will be released when appropriate. Whilst the Chairman is the official spokesperson for the Commission, all requests for information should be directed to the Manager: deborah.bodden@gov.ky.

“Confidentiality is an integral part of any investigation and especially for the work of the Anti-Corruption Commission” said the Chairman, Richard Coles. “The confidence and trust of the community in the Commission is critical to its success. The newly appointed members are gratified by Her Excellency’s confidence in them and are committed to fulfilling our mandate to the best of our abilities” he continued.

The Commission meets again in three weeks.

Ends.