

Press Release by the Anti-Corruption Commission

Following his arrest on 28 August 2014 Mr. Canover Watson, a 45 year old businessman from the Prospect area, has been found guilty today, 4 February 2016, by a jury of his peers of the following five counts:

1. Two counts of Conspiracy to Defraud contrary to Common Law;
2. One count of Conflict of Interest contrary to sections 19(2) and 19(3) Anti-Corruption Law 2008;
3. One count of Fraud on the Government contrary to section 11(1)(c) Anti-Corruption Law 2008; and
4. One count of Breach of Trust contrary to section 13 Anti-Corruption Law, 2008.

Mr. Watson was found not guilty of one count of Transferring Criminal Property contrary to section 133(1)(d) of the Proceeds of Crime Law (2008 Revision).

Mr. Watson has been remanded into custody. Sentencing proceedings will take place at 10:30a on 5 February 2016.

The charges relate to Mr. Watson's involvement in the CarePay Scheme whilst he served as Chairman of the Health Services Board between 1st August 2010 and 31st December 2013.

The investigation in this case was performed by members of the Anti-Corruption Unit ("the Unit") of the Anti-Corruption Commission ("the Commission") with assistance from Officers of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service ("the RCIPS").

The investigation was a protracted and complicated one during which the Investigators of the Unit worked methodically and tirelessly interviewing witnesses, analyzing, assessing and recording data in order to progress the investigation to the point where Mr. Watson, and others, could be charged and prosecuted for these crimes.

The concerns which resulted in the investigation of Mr. Watson, and others, were brought to the Commission's attention by individuals who took an active stand against corruption in the Cayman Islands. The Commission wishes to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to these persons who assisted our Investigators during the course of its investigation. In addition, the Commission would like to recognise the hard work and efforts of the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Patrick Moran, and his team.

The Commission has continually reiterated the importance of the role of public officials and the positions of trust assigned to those roles. The Commission will continue to do its part to hold accountable those public officials who do not perform their duties honestly or with integrity and subsequently break the Law.

Ends.