

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
12 MARCH 2015
CONFERENCE ROOM
CAYMAN CORPORATE CENTRE**

PRESENT:	James Austin-Smith	Chairman
	Reverend Donovan Myers	Member
	Ben Tonner	Member

APOLOGIES:	Chelsea Frazier-Rivers	Member
	Lisa-Ann Hurlston-McKenzie	Member

COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:	Deborah Bodden	Manager
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1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30pm.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The 5 February 2015 minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

**a. Outstanding Research Projects
Deportation and Prohibited Immigrants**

The Commission has received word that a substantive response will be received by Senior Government Officials within the next two weeks on matters related to this research project. The matter is therefore deferred until that information is received and reviewed.

b. 2014 Annual Report

The 2014 Annual Report was forwarded to the Deputy Governor and the Legislative Assembly in order for the document to be laid in the House. As the House has not sat since the beginning of the year, and is not due to sit for another few months, the members agreed it would inform the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly that it intends to publish the report on its website within 7 business days of the date of the letter. The policies and procedures manual will be updated to reflect this decision with all annual reports moving forward.

c. 2015 Strategic Plan

Due to the lack of a full membership in attendance this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

d. Matters arising from the meeting with HM Prisons Inspectorate Team

The Chairman and Manager met with the Commissioner of Police to discuss matters which arose during the meeting with the HM Prisons Inspectorate team. Members agreed that as a first step they will correspond with the relevant senior government

officials requesting an update on the situation with the use of the current police cells and the modular ones which arrived on island some time ago.

4. **New Business**

a. **Cancer Registry Bill 2015**

The Commission has submitted its comments on the Cancer Registry Bill 2015 during the public consultation period. The comments have been posted on the website, Facebook page and forwarded to the media. As a result an HRC representative will attend Rooster Cross Talk Show on 16 March and has also been asked to attend a Talk Today segment. Along with an HRC representative on the Cross Talk Show will be a representative of the Cancer Society and the Chief Officer of the Ministry of Health.

b. **HR Seminar**

The Commission was asked to provide input into the topics to be discussed at an upcoming seminar (20 April) by Mark Summers, QC and others at Matrix Chamber. Follow-up correspondence will be sent enquiring as to whether a topic has been confirmed and whether the HRC can assist by promoting the event on its Facebook page.

5. **Human Rights Complaints**

a. **Update on Human Rights Complaint 014/2013**

Members were updated on this complaint. No further action by the Commission is necessary at this time as the public authority is working with the complainant to resolve the matter.

b. **Update on Human Rights Complaint 019/2013**

Members were updated on this complaint. The Manager met with the relevant public authority and will draft relevant correspondence which indicates the HRC's recommendations at this juncture. The public authority will then continue to work with the complainant to resolve the matter.

c. **Update on Human Rights Complaint 006/2014**

Members were updated on this complaint. No further action by the Commission is necessary at this time.

d. **Update on Human Rights Complaint 014/2014**

Members were updated on this complaint. The public authority has indicated a substantive response will be provided within the next week on this matter.

e. **Human Rights Complaint 002/2015**

The Commission considered the complaint form and supporting documents in this matter and agreed to draft a letter to the public authority requesting further information.

f. **Human Rights Complaint 003/2015**

The Commission considered the complaint form and supporting documents in this matter and agreed to draft a letter to the public authority requesting further information.

6. Any Other Business

a. Legal Aid Bill 2015

The Commission understands the Legal Aid Bill 2015 is being reviewed however it has not been asked to comment or received a copy of the Bill. Members agreed this legislation should be reviewed and as such correspondence will be sent to the Law Reform Commission enquiring as to the HRC's ability to provide input at this stage.

b. Human Rights Complaint 004/2015

This complaint was only received prior to the meeting and thus was not originally intended to be dealt with at today's meeting. Having reviewed the complaint however the Manager requested the Commission consider the first part (of two parts) that made up the complaint as it was considered urgent. The Commission considered the first part of the complaint and agreed to draft a letter to the public authority requesting immediate attention to the alleged problem.

7. Action Items

The Secretariat was asked to:

- a. Draft a letter to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly about the Commission's intention to publish its 2014 Annual Report;
- b. Draft a letter to the relevant senior government officials requesting an update on the issue of police cells;
- c. Confirm attendance for member Ben Tonner on the Rooster Cross Talk Show on 16 March;
- d. Correspond with Matrix Chambers regarding the upcoming human rights seminar;
- e. Draft appropriate correspondence for HRC complaints; and
- f. Draft correspondence to the Law Reform Commission regarding the ability of HRC to review the Legal Aid Bill, 2015.

8. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Deportation and Prohibited Immigrants
- b. 2014 Annual Report
- c. 2015 Strategic Plan
- d. Use of Police Cells
- e. Cancer Registry Bill 2015
- f. HR Seminar
- g. Legal Aid Bill
- h. New and Outstanding Human Rights Complaints

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the HRC is scheduled for 16 April 2015 at 2:30pm at the offices of the Commissions Secretariat.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm.



James Austin-Smith
CHAIRMAN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION