



Her Majesty's Cayman Islands Prison Service (HMCIPS)
Box 1807 | 24 Sheffield Drive, Northward
Grand Cayman, KY1-1109 | Cayman Islands, BWI
Ph: 1 345 947 3000 ext 425 | Fx: 1 345 947 4662

Tuesday, November 22, 2016

James Austin-Smith
Chairman of Cayman Islands Human Rights Commission
P.O. Box 391
Grand Cayman, KY1-1106
Cayman Islands

Ref: HRC-COMP-2016-027

Dear Mr. Austin Smith

Thank you for your letter dated 15th November 2016 in which you raised a number of points reference to conditions of the prison. I will address each point individually but want to also to state that we have not had any major structural changes in any of the living areas since the 2015 report. The only significant work that has been completed is the refurbished kitchen in Northward which is a major improvement.

In relation to the specific points:

- 1) Any leaking roofs are addressed promptly and the only leak that has recently been reported to us was in F-Wing. This was repaired by an external contractor.
- 2) Cockroaches are an ongoing problem with a building of this age. We have exterminators visit on a monthly basis and we also request additional visits if required.
- 3) The only time that we seem to have complaints about odors is when the cesspit is full. This is reported promptly to a private sector company who empties it for us. However, there is a need to look at improving the management of solid waste.
- 4) Since the report some fans have been purchased and installed on wings. We are also in the process of installing exhaust fans on Bravo Wing, and we have some on order for the laundry and other living areas.
- 5) There have been very few complaints about the food from prisoners during the last 6 months. We provide meals that meet the needs of 220 prisoners of various cultures and preferences over a five week cycle. .



6) The installation of exhaust fans will assist with the ventilation.

I hope this answers your concerns; we continually try to improve conditions as far as resources and funding allow.

Neil Lavis
Director of Prisons
HMCIPS