



Cayman Islands Human Rights Commission

promoting, protecting and preserving human rights

Ref: HRC-RES-MIGRANTS

Mr. Steven Barrett
Director of Prisons
P.O. Box 1807
Grand Cayman, KY1-1109
CAYMAN ISLANDS

VIA E-MAIL: steven.barrett@gov.ky

13 December 2018

Dear Mr. Barrett,

The Commission has received a number of complaints from migrants currently housed at the Immigration Detention Centre ("the IDC"). Specifically, the complainants allege that some of the conditions at the IDC are substandard and in instances, they have been denied basic personal necessities.

We list below some of the allegations and concerns that have been made by the migrants:

1. Some migrants have no shoes, clothes or basic toiletries (eg. deodorant).
2. The IDC does not have a dining table (or sufficient numbers of them).
3. The IDC does not have a washing machine that works and migrants have to wash their clothes by hand.
4. Migrants have no access to information to guide them on the asylum process etc.
5. Migrants have no privacy from IDC staff when they use the telephone.
6. The IDC has a rat problem.
7. The conditions at IDC are not hygienic as the centre is currently under repair.

The Commission appreciates that you have addressed many of these issues before but would be grateful if you would confirm that these concerns have been addressed and the problems referred to are not ongoing.

The migrants further complain that they have limited access to the telephone. We understand that the IDC provides phone cards to migrants, but would recommend that you consider whether any other

options, such as an internet phone based service, could be offered to increase their ability to communicate with their families whilst decreasing costs for the Cayman Islands Government.

We recognise that you have already worked extensively with the Manager, Commissions Secretariat and Deputy Chief Immigration Officer (Enforcement) to remedy the situation regarding the lack of visitors and hand-ins, and take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and for endeavouring to ensure that the IDC is compliant with human rights standards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Austin-Smith', written in a cursive style.

James Austin-Smith
Chairman