MINUTES

MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION 11 JUNE 2015

COMMISSION'S SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE ROOM ARTMEMIS HOUSE

PRESENT: James Austin-Smith Chairman

Chelsea Frazier-Rivers Member
Lisa-Ann Hurlston-McKenzie Member
Reverend Donovan Myers Member
Ben Tonner Member

APOLOGIES: N/A

COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deborah Bodden Manager

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:10pm.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The 14 May 2015 minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

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

Two separate matters arose out of this meeting which the Commission has addressed with the public authority. A substantive response has been received in both matters however follow-up, by the Commission, will be required in both matters.

b. Non-Profit Organisation Bill 2015

The Commission briefly discussed areas of possible concern in the Bill and intends to conduct a further review in order to submit comments to the Law Reform Commission.

c. Meeting with Representative of UNHCR

Following his meeting with the Regional Representative of the UNHCR, the Chairman has written to the Ministry of Home Affairs requesting more information any treaties governing migration.

d. Report Re: Sexual Abuse

Following the last meeting the Commission sought to conduct a more in-depth review of the Report to review the statistics on a local level. The Commission will release a statement on the subject matter.

4. New Business

a. Report on Mental Health Inadequacies

The Ministry of Health has released a copy of the report entitled World Health Organisation Assessment Instrument for Mental Health Systems (WHO-AIMS). The

Commission will review the Report and release a statement on the subject matter. In addition the Commission notes the Guidance Notes released by the Ministry indicating they will seek to engage with the Commission to develop training in this subject area. The Commission will also correspond with the Ministry in this regard.

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

c. Update on Human Rights Complaint 006/2014

Members were updated on this complaint. The Commission continues to liaise with the public authority to find a suitable resolution to this complaint.

d. Update on Human Rights Complaint 014/2014

Members were updated on this complaint. The Commission continues to liaise with the public authority to find a suitable resolution to this complaint.

e. Update on Human Rights Complaint 002/2015

The Commission has still not received a substantive reply to the enquiry regarding this matter. Follow-up correspondence will be sent to the public authority.

f. Update on Human Rights Complaint 003/2015

Members were updated on this complaint. The Commission continues to liaise with the public authority to find a suitable resolution to this complaint.

g. Update on Human Rights Complaint 004/2015

The complainant has yet to submit the additional documents he indicated he wished to submit and therefore the second part of the complaint is again deferred until the next meeting.

h. Update on Human Rights Complaint 005/2015

The Commission has yet to receive the relevant information necessary to consider the complaint and thus followed-up with the complainant indicating that the file will be closed in 45 days if the information is not received.

i. Update on Human Rights Complaint 008/2015

The Commission has now received a more substantive response to its request for relevant information necessary to consider the complaint from the complainant's legal representative. The Commission will now send follow-up correspondence to the complainant's legal representative requesting further specifics.

j. Update on Human Rights Complaint 009/2015

The Commission has now received a substantive response to its request for relevant information necessary to consider the complaint from the public authority. The Commission will now send follow-up correspondence to the complainant's legal representative requesting further specifics.

k. Human Rights Complaint 010/2015

The Commission reviewed the complaint form and supporting documents in this matter which was referred from the Office of the Complaints Commissioner (OCC). In order to not duplicate the work of the OCC the Commission will request copies of the relevant reports and documentation in order to assist in its review.

1. Human Rights Complaint 011/2015

The Commission reviewed the complaint form and supporting documents. The Commission will request clarification from the public authority that the complaint has been made against.

6. Human Rights Enquiries

a. Update on Human Rights Enquiry 004/2015

As the information was in draft form the Commission consulted with the public authority as to its ability to refer to the information when replying to the enquirer. The Commission was advised this was acceptable and will now draft correspondence to the enquirer and close the file.

7. Any Other Business

a. Issues at the Light House School

The Commission read in the Cayman Compass that parents of students at the Lighthouse School had expressed concern regarding the behaviour of staff during a school event in which staff sought to impersonate students. The Commission agreed it would contact the parent whose name was referred to in the paper to determine whether he, or other parents, would wish to speak to the Commission about the matter.

b. Blue Spot Handicapped Spots

The Commission is extremely concerned that persons in the community continue to park in handicapped spaces which are clearly marked as being reserved for the disabled. The latest picture being circulated is that of a police car parked in a handicapped space outside a coffee store. The Commission will correspond with the Commissioner enquiring what is being done to educate Officers about not parking in handicapped spaces.

c. Education Bill (2015)

The Secretariat conducted research into the Education Bill (2015) as to its compliance with the Bill of Rights. The Commission will review the research and consider its response.

d. Conditional Release Law

The Commission notes that whilst the Conditional Release Law was passed by the Legislative Assembly the Governor has yet to give it a commencement date due to the

lack of resources by the Department of Community Rehabilitation. The Commission will try to ascertain exactly what resources are needed in this regard.

8. Action Items

Members were asked to:

a. Review the research on the Education Bill 2015.

The Secretariat was asked to:

- **a.** Follow up with the matters arising from the meeting with the HM Prisons Inspectorate Team;
- b. Send draft comments on the Non-Profit Organisation Bill 2015 to Member Ben Tonner;
- c. Follow-up with the request for information re treaties governing migration;
- **d.** Draft a statement on the Report Re: Sexual Abuse;
- e. Draft a statement on the Report Re: Mental Health;
- f. Draft relevant correspondence for all human rights complaints and enquiries;
- g. Contact the relevant persons regarding the issues at the Lighthouse School;
- **h.** Draft correspondence to the Commissioner re: Officers parking in handicapped parking; and
- i. Draft correspondence re the Conditional Release Law.
- j. Draft correspondence to both the CIG and the UNHCR regarding migration.

9. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Matters arising from the meeting with HM Prisons Inspectorate Team
- **b.** Non-Profit Organisation Bill (2015)
- c. Meeting with Representative of UNHCR
- d. Report on Mental Health Inadequacies
- e. Report Re: Sexual Abuse
- f. Issues at Lighthouse School
- g. Blue Spot Handicapped Spots
- h. Education Bill 2015
- i. Conditional Release Law
- j. New and Outstanding Human Rights Complaints and Enquiries

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the HRC is scheduled for 8 July 2015 at 3:00pm at the offices of the Commissions Secretariat.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

James Austin-Smith

CHAIRMAN

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION