

# BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

## PRESS STATEMENT

28 January 2021

The independent Commission of Inquiry was appointed by the previous Governor Augustus J.U. Jaspert on 18 January to look into whether corruption, abuse of office or other serious dishonesty may have taken place amongst public, elected and statutory officials in recent years. On 22 January, the Right Honourable Sir Gary Hickinbottom was sworn in as the sole Commissioner and subsequently delivered a press conference to provide more information on the process. At this press conference, he explained that there was an independent and secure Inquiry website ([www.bvi.public-inquiry.uk](http://www.bvi.public-inquiry.uk)) which not only has information about the Inquiry, but has a portal by which anyone can raise queries and submit information which falls within the Inquiry's Terms of Reference and which they consider may be helpful.

The Commissioner welcomes and encourages public input into the Inquiry and therefore places great importance on the Inquiry website. Anyone with information to share is encouraged to safely and securely contact the Inquiry team using the website.

There are extremely robust security and privacy measures in place to protect information submitted to the Inquiry team via the website, or any other means, including both the information submitted and the privacy of the individual submitting it. The website has undergone substantial penetration testing and safeguarding to ensure its security. Any data shared through the website will be stored in the UK, protected by UK GDPR laws. There are also robust safeguards in place to ensure only authenticated users can access the website. Security testing takes place on a regular basis to ensure the safety of the website and users, and ensure full compliance with international standards.

The Inquiry team would like to reassure those who wish to make contact, or submit information, via the website that they can do so in the knowledge that their personal information will be treated in absolute confidence and held securely by the Inquiry team. Neither the information nor its source, nor anything that might indicate its source, will be made public without an individual's express agreement.

Steven Chandler  
Secretary to the Commission

28 January 2021