

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

PRESS NOTICE

COI REVISED PRIVACY NOTICE

The Commission of Inquiry (“the COI”) was issued on 19 January 2021 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; and to make appropriate recommendations as to governance and the operation of the law enforcement and justice systems in the BVI. The Rt Hon Sir Gary Hickinbottom is the sole Commissioner.

The COI has revised its Privacy Notice to reflect the fact that for the purposes of applicable UK data protection legislation, the COI is the sole data controller of the data it collects and holds. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office’s (FCDO’s) role is restricted to providing IT infrastructure (with its sub-processors) to the COI. That has been the case since the COI was established. The FCDO’s role throughout has thus been as a data processor.

At the hearing yesterday the Commissioner reiterated that his is an independent inquiry. As the sole “data controller” under UK data protection law, the COI exercises overall control over the purposes and means of the processing of personal data. A “data processor” under UK data protection law cannot decide what to do with personal data. All personnel who process data on behalf of the COI only do so on instructions from the COI and owe a duty of confidentiality to the Commissioner.

Throughout the course of his inquiry, the Commissioner has ensured that all information provided to him is held securely. The IT systems used by the COI have been robustly tested to ensure they meet the required standards of data security. Those who have made contact with the COI or who wish to do so or to submit information to it can continue to do so in the knowledge that any information provided will continue to be held securely and safely.

Steven Chandler
Secretary to the Commission

3 June 2021