

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

PRESS NOTICE

COI HEARINGS AND COVID-19

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.

Whilst the Commissioner wishes to complete the Inquiry expeditiously, the health and safety of all involved remains paramount. In the Press Notice of 7 July 2021, he announced strengthened COVID-19 measures for COI hearings. In line with the current health advice, further to the measures then announced, with immediate effect, witnesses will now not be able to attend hearings in person. They will instead attend remotely via video link. Relevant documents will be sent to them and any legal representatives electronically.

The Commissioner remains very sensitive to the evolving situation with regard to COVID-19, about which he has spoken with the Governor. The Commissioner will continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis.

Steven Chandler
Secretary to the Commission

9 July 2021