



**THE ROYAL  
VIRGIN ISLANDS  
POLICE FORCE**

**Commissioner of Police  
POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
P. O. Box 64  
Main Street  
Road Town  
Tortola, B.V.I.**

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7th July, 2021

Sir Gary Hickinbottom  
Commissioner of Inquiry,  
International Arbitration Centre, 3rd Floor, Ritter House,  
Wickham's Cay II,  
Tortola, VG 1110  
British Virgin Islands

Dear Commissioner,

As a result of a further submission to the Commission of Inquiry by my predecessor Mr. Michael Matthews, QPM and comments made by Mr. Julian Willock, The Honourable Speaker of the House, I wanted to clarify my position on the matters that have been discussed relating to my oral evidence and position statement.

In relation to Business Interests, the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF) has a Business Interest Register that was introduced during the tenure of Mr. Matthews and is held by the Professional Standards Department. I am in the process of reviewing the policy and want to ensure that all employees of the RVIPF that need to register an interest have done so, I do not believe this is the case at the moment. In addition to this, I also want to review the Business Interest that people have to ensure they are compatible with being a police officer or a member of police staff. This will ensure that there are no reputational issues and provide greater confidence levels within the organization and the communities of the British Virgin Islands. As I said in my oral evidence the process will take place under wider professional standards review.

I also mentioned the need for better vetting processes, in this regard, I am referring primarily to new recruits where the vetting needs to go deeper and wider to ensure recruits are of the right standard to join the police force. I was referring to social media checks and financial checks. Further, I would also like to review the vetting for specialist posts.

**All replies should be addressed to the  
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE**

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Again, I am looking to the wider Professional Standards review to make recommendations here. I believe the force would benefit from a recruitment/vetting officer to lead on this work. As you will be aware we are sometimes asked to carry out vetting checks for other agencies (Immigration and Customs Departments).

The Honourable Speaker of The House stated in his position statement, "Immediately after hurricane Irma and Maria, that the Commissioner of Police hired a number of foreign nationals as police officers without doing the appropriate background checks whatsoever. In fact, it is extremely likely that he would have hired persons that were well known criminals elsewhere to the region" There is no evidence to support this at all, following the hurricanes a mutual aid request was made by the RVIPF, and officers from the United Kingdom, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands came to assist the RVIPF on a rotational basis. All were serving officers and all would have been vetted within their own police organizations.

As a serving UK Chief Constable in Dyfed-Powys Police at the time, I was very pleased to allow some of my officers to go to the BVI to support local officers and the wider community. In addition to this, many of the officers deployed were trained in specialist areas of policing, meaning they would have been vetted to a higher level than non-specialist role post holders.

I hope this clarifies the points referred to as I believe my evidence and position statement has been taken out of context.

Yours Sincerely,



Mark Collins, QPM, B.Sc., FCIM  
Commissioner of Police  
Royal Virgin Islands Police Force

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