

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

PRESS NOTICE

COI TEAM RETURN TO BVI

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.

As envisaged, the COI team will be returning to the British Virgin Islands during the coming week to recommence hearings on Monday 6 September 2021. A provisional hearing programme will be published shortly.

In the meantime, in the light of the continuing Covid restrictions, the Commissioner has issued an amended protocol concerning the provision of written evidence to allow for evidence to be admitted in unsworn form, which can be found on the COI website.

Further to publishing reports issued by the Auditor General which were considered at hearings before the Commissioner, the COI has also, following redaction of personal data, recently published on its website nine reports issued by the Internal Auditor which were also considered at earlier hearings, namely:

1. COVID-19 Stimulus Draft Audit Report and Appendices I to III (2020).
2. Assistance Grants Programme 2006 to 2008 (2009).
3. House of Assembly – Assistance Grant Programme – Follow-Up Audit Report (2011).
4. Government Ministries – Assistance Grants Programmes Draft Audit Report (2014)
5. Her Majesty’s Customs – Courier Clearance Operations and Partial Payment Programme (2020)
6. Her Majesty’s Customs – Missing Revenue – Suspicion of Fraud – Investigation Report (2015)
7. Immigration Board: Belonger Application Process (2012)
8. Department of Immigration – Belonger Application Process – Follow-Up Audit Report (2014)
9. Petty Contract Administration (2012)

The COI has additionally published on its website HE the Governor’s response to the BVI Government Ministers’ Position Statement on Governance etc.

Steven Chandler
Secretary to the Commission

24 August 2021