

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

PRESS NOTICE

RESUMPTION OF COI HEARINGS

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 Hickenbottom is the sole Commissioner.

As previously indicated, the COI team will be returning to the British Virgin Islands during the coming week to resume hearings on Monday 6 September. The first six days of hearings will deal with the composition and function of Statutory Boards. A current hearing schedule is attached to this Notice. Updates to the schedule will be available on the COI’s website as the hearings progress. Hearings will continue to be conducted in public via a live stream on the COI’s dedicated [YouTube channel](#).

Following the directions hearing on 13 July 2021, at which the applicability of the rules of procedural fairness to the work of the COI was considered, the resumed hearings will be used in part to afford public officials the opportunity to respond to potential criticisms arising from evidence received by the COI. However, in order to protect the interests of all who might be concerned and to safeguard their rights to confidentiality, neither details of potential criticisms nor the identification of those at whom they may be directed will be publicised in advance of the hearings.

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions allowing, witnesses will be expected to attend hearings in person. COVID-19 safety measures will continue to be implemented at the COI’s offices and hearing room in the International Arbitration Centre (IAC) in Road Town, and remain under constant review.

Steven Chandler
Secretary to the Commission

25 August 2021

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Commissioner: The Rt Hon Sir Gary Hickinbottom

Secretary: Steven Chandler

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List of Hearings

(as at 25 August 2021)

(To be live streamed. Link available at: [BVI COI YouTube channel](#))

This following List of Hearings is correct as at 25 August 2021. However, the timetable is subject to change. Revised Lists will be published on the COI website.

Week commencing 6 September 2021

The hearings scheduled this week deal with **the composition and function of statutory boards**.

| DATE/TIME | PERSON |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday 6/9/21 at 10.00am | Directions hearing |
| Monday 6/9/21 at 2.00pm | Mr Edward Childs |
| Tuesday 7/9/21 at 10.00am | Ms Tasha Bertie |
| Tuesday 7/9/21 at 2.00pm | Hon Carvin Malone |
| Wednesday 8/9/21 at 10.00am | Mr Joseph Abbott-Smith |
| Wednesday 8/9/21 at 2.00pm | Hon Vincent O Wheatley |
| Thursday 9/9/21 at 10.00am | Dr Carolyn O'Neal-Morton |

Week commencing 13 September 2021

The hearings scheduled on 13 and 14 September deal with **the composition and function of statutory boards**.

| DATE/TIME | PERSON |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday 13/9/21 at 10.00am | Dr Carolyn O'Neal-Morton |
| Tuesday 14/9/21 at 10.00am | Hon Andrew A Fahie |

25 August 2021