

## **BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

### **PRESS NOTICE**

#### **COI HEARINGS RESUME ON MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2021**

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 set out in the COI’s Press Notice of 25 August, witnesses are currently expected to attend hearings in person unless they have good reason not to do so, for example they are quarantining, which requires them to attend remotely via video link. If a witness considers he or she has good reason to appear remotely, then they must contact the Secretary ([steven.chandler@bvi.public-inquiry.uk](mailto:steven.chandler@bvi.public-inquiry.uk)) and the Assistant Secretary ([juienna.tasaddiq@bvi.public-inquiry.uk](mailto:juienna.tasaddiq@bvi.public-inquiry.uk)) as soon as possible after notification that they are required to give evidence.

In addition, in the light of current BVI Government guidelines and in order to keep to a minimum the number of people in the International Arbitration Centre (IAC) and in the hearing room at any time, only one legal representative should accompany the witness in person. Other legal representatives for the witness, if they choose, can attend remotely via video link. They should let the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary know 24 hours in advance if they wish to do so. Alternatively, of course, they can follow proceedings via the COI’s YouTube channel.

Legal representatives of participants whose clients are not that day giving evidence can only attend remotely. They should again let the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary know 24 hours in advance if they wish to do so. Alternatively, of course, they too can follow proceedings via the COI’s YouTube channel.

COVID-19 safety measures at the COI’s offices in the IAC remain under constant review.

Steven Chandler  
Secretary to the Commission

3 September 2021