

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

### **PRESS NOTICE**

#### **EVIDENCE IN RELATION TO BELONGERSHIP**

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.

The Attorney General wrote to the Commissioner on 30 September 2021, a letter which she made public, raising a number of concerns about the evidence given to the COI by the Hon Vincent Wheatley on 28 September 2021 on issues pertaining to Belongership.

The Commissioner sent the Attorney General a response to her letter on the day he received it. However, prior to the Attorney General’s letter, the Commissioner had written to her seeking further information in relation to the relevant matters, in respect of which the Attorney General has asked for more time to respond. Given that these matters may be the subject of further evidence in due course, the Commissioner does not consider it would be appropriate to publish his correspondence with the Attorney General, at least at this stage in the COI’s proceedings: as always, he is anxious to maintain the integrity of evidence, and procedural fairness for all.

Steven Chandler  
Secretary to the Commission

5 October 2021