



5th MEETING OF 2025
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION
14 JULY 2025
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT:

J. Lemuel Hurlston	Chairman
Annalisa Shibli	Member
Hon. Alex Henderson KC	Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melanie McField	Manager
Lise Hurlstone	Research Analyst

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am. The Chairman thanked all for attending.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting**a. Minutes of Meeting Held on 9 June 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 9 June 2025 were approved with no changes. The Secretariat will upload these to the Commission's website accordingly.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**a. Reporting Procedures**

Members discussed the Reporting Procedures which were drafted by Member Annalisa Shibli, which the Chairman thanked her for taking the time to work on. A few queries were resolved and members agreed that the reporting procedures were approved. The Secretariat was asked to incorporate these into the larger Policies and Procedures Manual for the Commission.

b. Constitutional Issues for Discussion**i. Segregation of Prisoners by Conviction Status**

Members noted the response of the Director of Prisons (DoP), sent on 30 June 2025. The comprehensiveness of the response from the DoP was noted, and it was agreed that this should be communicated to the DoP by the Secretariat.

ii. Segregation of Prisoners by Age

This issue was incorporated into the communication mentioned in item 3.b.i. above.

iii. Entitlement to Legal Aid

Members noted the response of the Director of Legal Aid on 9 July 2025. There was a discussion on how legal aid is provided for applicants with civil matters, as this was not mentioned in the Director's response. Members wondered whether recipients of legal aid are receiving enough funds in general, and whether there might be consideration given to updating the legal aid legislation like there was for the Financial Assistance Act in recent years.

The Commission agreed to revert to the Director to ask her to comment on the provision of legal aid in civil matters (e.g. family and landlord/tenant/eviction matters), and whether recipients of legal aid are receiving enough funds in general.

iv. Right to Private and Family Life and Deportation

Members noted the response from the Director of Customs and Border Control (CBC) on 9 June 2025. No further action was required on this.

4. New Business

a. Constitution Day

The Chairman noted to members that he was invited to the West Bay Church of God Chapel service on Constitution Day, Sunday, 6 July 2025. At the church service a speech on the history of the Constitution was provided by Mr Roy Bodden which was very informative. Additionally, hand-outs from the Commission, such as copies of the Constitution and the Constitution Comic Book were offered to attendees. It was also noted that a press release announcing the Commission's membership was issued on 4 July 2025. Additionally, a Constitution Day message from the Attorney General was shared with members.

b. Email re Eligibility of Voters

Members reviewed correspondence which the Commission was copied into from a member of the public regarding the obligation that persons who have been living off-island for two or more years be disqualified from registration as electors (see section 90(1)(b)(iv) of the Constitution). It was requested that this query be deferred to the next meeting for further consideration.

c. Constitutional Commission Events Schedule

Members reviewed the draft Schedule of Regular events prepared by the Secretariat which covers meetings, quarterly reports, and proposed education/outreach opportunities into June 2026. It was agreed to adjust the reporting dates to match calendar quarters. Members also agreed to keep the schedule flexible and 'live'.

Member Shibli suggested that the Commission continue the relationship with Collas Crill to be involved in the annual schools' moot competition, indicating that she can liaise with Collas

Crill initially and then loop the Commission in when needed. Member Alex Henderson queried what other legislative framework consultations might arise, but it was agreed that Advisory District Councils would be the focus for now. Members also discussed that the school presentations/educational outreach could be amended to take place any time in the school year, and that morning assemblies might be a convenient time for this. It was also agreed to discuss with education officials the feasibility of incorporating constitutional education in the curriculum. The Secretariat was asked to add these changes into the Events Schedule.

5. Any Other Business

a. Meeting with Premier

Members raised three issues which could be discussed at the meeting between the Premier and the Chairman, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 17 July 2025. Members agreed on the following issues:

- Engagement with CIG stakeholders/responsiveness has historically been problematic. How can this be improved?
- Based on recent correspondence with the Director of Prisons, convicted prisoners and remand prisoners not always being separated. What is the plan to rectify this? Perhaps a phased introduction?
- Advisory District Councils.
- What issues would the Premier like the Constitutional Commission to focus on?

Secretariat will also be present at the meeting and was asked to prepare discussion notes to the Chairman as above, and to liaise with the Premier's Office to finalise the location of the meeting.

b. August Meeting

It was noted that due to Secretariat staff leave no meeting will be held in August. The next meeting to be held will be on 8 September 2025.

c. Secretariat Staff Changes

The Manager Noted some upcoming staff changes to the Secretariat, including the current Deputy Manager, Francis Kearns will be leaving his post to take up a new post at the Governor's Office, and the PR & Education Coordinator, Jessica Ebanks, will be going on study leave for 14 months to complete her master's degree. The Manager noted that a strategy is being devised to cover the Deputy Manager's departure, and a plan is in place to outsource the PR & Education Coordinator's responsibilities while she is undertaking her studies.

6. Action Items

The Secretariat was asked to:

- a.** Upload meeting minutes to the Commission website as outlined in item 2.a. above;
- b.** Incorporate the Reporting Procedures into the larger Policies and Procedures Manual, as outlined in item 3.a. above;
- c.** Reply to the Director of Prisons, as outlined in item 3.b.i. above;
- d.** Respond to the Director of Legal Aid, as outlined in item 3.b.iii. above;
- e.** Update the Commission's Schedule of Events, as outlined in item 4.c. above; and

- f. Prepare discussion notes for the Chairman's meeting with the Premier, as outlined in item 5.a. above.

7. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Reporting Procedures
- b. Constitutional Issues for Discussion
 - i. Entitlement to Legal Aid
- c. Email re Eligibility of Voters
- d. Meeting with the Premier
- e. Schedule of Events

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 8 September 2025 at 11:30 am at the Commissions Secretariat offices.

9. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 12:19 pm.



J. Lemuel Hurlston
CHAIRMAN
CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION