



**8<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF 2025**  
**THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION**  
**24 NOVEMBER 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 this final meeting for the year and for the support throughout 2025, noting that he looked forward to continuing the Commission's work in 2026.

**2. Minutes from Previous Meeting****a. Minutes of Meeting Held on 27 October 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2025 were confirmed with no changes. The Secretariat was asked to upload these to the website.

**3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes****a. Constitutional Issues for Discussion****i. Entitlement to Legal Aid**

The Commission was updated that the Director of Legal Aid was emailed to request the statistics on the proportion of civil vs criminal legal aid applications received annually, and how many of each was approved every year, but a response has not yet been received. Additionally, in the same email, the Secretariat extended an invitation for the Director of Legal Aid to attend this Commission meeting but continues to await a response, despite follow ups by phone and email. The Secretariat will continue to follow up and, if there continues to be no response, the Commission requested reaching out to the appropriate supervising authorities.

**b. Legal Advice**

The Commission noted that, after discussions with the Human Rights Commission, with whom the advice from the King's Counsel was jointly requested, it was agreed to share the advice with the Premier. A joint cover letter was prepared, signed by the CC and HRC Chairs, and sent to the Premier on Friday, 14 November 2025, in advance of his trip to the UK to attend the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council. Members noted their pleasure in having being asked to assist in this matter, and having submitted the requested information in good time.

**c. Advisory District Councils**

The Chairman thanked the Secretariat for providing the requested research on Advisory District Councils (ADCs) in other jurisdictions, and what makes them successful. Members discussed the political context around this topic in Cayman, noting that there seems to be little appetite for implementing ADCs at this time. It was agreed that having a better understanding of the current Government's reasons for possibly implementing this would be helpful. The small size of Cayman compared to other jurisdictions, and the change to single member constituencies in 2017 among other things, may mean that ADCs are no longer relevant. The Commission agreed to carry this item over into next year and continue to monitor discussions around this.

**d. Quarterly Report – Q3 2025**

The Chairman updated Members that he requested the Secretariat defer the preparation of this report, so that the month of December could be included in the draft. Therefore, a draft report for the period of September – December 2025 would be prepared for the next meeting.

**4. New Business**

**a. Constitutional History Display**

The Chairman shared an idea the Speaker suggested requesting that the Commission provide a historical informational display for the wall of the Constitution Hall in George Town. Member Alex Henderson suggested a digital display may be more cost effective and easier to update/edit to maintain its relevance. The Chairman requested that the Secretariat begin work on pulling together content, and seeking quotes for the design work required, for this project.

**5. Any Other Business**

**a. Election Observers Reports**

The Chairman noted that the Commission has an interest in reviewing any recommendations made by the Supervisor of Elections on recommended changes to the Elections Act based on the recommendations of the Election Observer reports. The Secretariat advised that it would ask the Supervisor of Elections to share the proposals for legislative amendments with the Constitutional Commission for review.

**b. Relationship with the Government and other Commissions**

The Commission would like to extend a request to the Governor, Premier and Leader of the Opposition to see if they have any questions or concerns about any of the reports submitted. Secretariat would include this request in its next report submission from the Commission. The Chairman further asked about the possibility of arranging a meeting between the Chairpersons of all the Commissions supported by the Secretariat – not necessarily for administrative purposes, but more informally to share helpful information on overlapping projects to understand how each Commission might be of assistance to the others. The Manager will consider this and revert.

**c. Student Moot**

An update on the Student Moot was requested from Member Annalisa Shibli, but she noted that the position is still the same – the team within Collas Crill handling the Student Moot has changed and the question for the upcoming moot in January will likely not be constitutionally based. This will be held in January. This event will therefore likely be irrelevant to the Commission.

**d. Youth Parliament**

The Secretariat was asked to confirm the date of the next Youth Parliament Debate to advise the Commission at its next meeting.

**6. Action Items**

**The Secretariat was asked to:**

- a. Upload meeting minutes to the Commission website as outlined in item 2.a. above;
- b. Follow up with the Director of Legal Aid for a response, and escalate as necessary, as outlined in 3.a.i. above;
- c. Carry over Advisory District Councils to the next agenda to continue to monitor discussions, as outlined in 3.c. above;
- d. Draft the Third Report for 2025 for the period September-December for the next meeting, as outlined in 3.d. above;
- e. Begin work on a constitutional history display for Constitution Hall, as outlined in 4.a. above;
- f. Request proposals for legislative amendments from the Supervisor of Elections, as outlined in 5.a. above;
- g. Request feedback on the Commission’s quarterly reports from specified parties, as outlined in 5.b. above;
- h. Consider arranging an informal meeting between all Chairpersons of commissions supported by the Secretariat, as outlined in 5.b. above;
- i. Confirm the date of the next Youth Parliament Debate, as outlined in 5.d. above; and
- j. Schedule all meetings for 2026 and circulate to members, as outlined in 8 below.

**7. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting**

- a. Third Report for 2025
- b. Constitutional Issues for Discussion

