



1st MEETING OF 2026
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION
2 FEBRUARY 2026
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT:

J. Lemuel Hurlston	Chairman
Hon. Alex Henderson KC	Member

APOLOGIES:

Annalisa Shibli	Member
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SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melanie McField	Manager
Lise Hurlstone	Research Analyst

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 11:31 am.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting**a. Minutes of Meeting Held on 24 November 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 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 reviewed the letter received from the Director of Legal Aid on 8 December 2025. The Commission agreed that in their reply they will provide questions in writing, but reiterate the preference for the opportunity to discuss the questions in live conversation, either over Zoom or in-person. Additionally, the response should emphasize the Commission's intention to understand whether it can be of any assistance in helping the Legal Aid Office achieve its objectives under the Constitution. The Secretariat will draft a letter for the Chairman's review.

b. Third Report for 2025

Members approved the draft Third Report for 2025, and the Chairman reiterated his wish to

offer an in-person meeting to discuss the work to date when sending the Report to the Governor, Premier, and Leader of the Opposition. The Secretariat will circulate the Report accordingly.

c. Education Activities

i. Youth Parliament Debate

It was noted that the Youth Parliament Date takes place each Commonwealth Day, which is celebrated on the second Monday in March – 9 March this year. The Secretariat updated members that the Clerk of Parliament is reviewing the current schedule to determine whether there is space to accommodate a module lead by the Commission, and will revert in due course.

ii. Constitutional History Display

The Secretariat noted that they have begun looking into the possibility of having a constitutional educational display installed at Constitution Hall, as was suggested by the Speaker of Parliament to the Chairman in 2025. It was determined that as the building is managed by CIG Facilities Management, no permanent installations can be made, and a presentation on the TV screen will be difficult since the facility is rented often. The Manager discussed the possibility of using light boxes as a more practical idea, which are moveable and lower profile. The Secretariat will continue to explore this, and pull together content, and report back to the Commission.

d. Advisory District Councils

The Commission noted an article from the Cayman Compass dated 7 January 2026 titled [PPM calls for the establishment of district councils](#), focusing on MP Kenneth Bryan's initiative to bring into force the Advisory District Councils Act, which was passed in 2011 but never enacted. The Chairman further noted that he had received informal word from the Premier that he wished to revisit the issue of Advisory District Councils in the near future. The Commission asked the Secretariat to assist by reaching out to the Premier's Office to arrange a meeting to discuss its research findings on this topic, which they would provide to him in advance of the meeting.

e. Beneficial Ownership Register Update

Further to the legal advice which the Commission provided to the Premier in November 2025 on this matter, some more recent developments on this issue were noted, including the outcome of Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council and the sentiments of UK Minister for Overseas Territories Stephen Doughty, the discussion of the topic by other UK MPs reported in the [Caymanian Times](#) on 7 January 2026, and the possibility of seeing the results of trialling the 'legitimate interest' access system before any decisions on full implementation are made. The Commission will continue to monitor this topic.

4. New Business

a. Amendments to the Elections Act

Members were updated that the Supervisor of Elections had replied that morning to give permission for the draft cabinet paper on proposed amendments to the Elections Act to be shared with the Constitutional Commission. The Secretariat will circulate these documents after the meeting.

b. Remand and the Court System

Member Alex Henderson clarified that his intention in raising this topic had less to do with the prison remand system than with the resourcing of the Courts. He noted that this is primarily a query about the lack of resources, explaining that long remand times for individuals awaiting trial can result in issues with national security. This is due to the perceived incentive to plead not-guilty when it is likely that one will be released on bail due to long trial scheduling wait times, as there is a Constitutional limit on how long persons can be remanded for. One of the reasons the Chief Justice identified in her speech for the Opening of the Grand Court in January 2026 is a lack of staffing to support the running of hearings in a timely manner. The Secretariat was asked to obtain a verbatim copy of the Chief Justice's comments during the Grand Court Opening for review of the issue by members.

c. TBLs Research Ethics Committee

Members reviewed a request circulated by the Secretariat on behalf of the Truman Bodden Law School (TBLs) Research Ethics Committee to seek lay-members to join the Committee. The Research Analyst clarified that the request was for members to participate in their capacities as private individuals, as opposed to representing the interests of the Constitutional Commission, on the Research Ethics Commission. Member Henderson noted his willingness to participate in this, and the Secretariat agreed to pass his name along to the relevant contact persons at TBLs.

d. Chairpersons Meeting

The possibility of hosting a Chairpersons' meeting for those Commissions supported by the Secretariat was discussed. The Manager advised that a more informal setting for this may work well, and she would reach out to the other Chairs to seek their feedback on participating in such a meeting. The Secretariat will revert in due course.

5. Any Other Business

a. Commission Meetings

Constitutional Commission meetings are currently scheduled through April 2026 due to members' availability. At the March meeting, when all members plan to be present, it was agreed to discuss which day of the week it is preferred to hold meetings thereafter.

6. Action Items

The Secretariat was asked to:

- a.** upload the minutes to the website, per item 2.a. above;
- b.** draft a letter to the Director of Legal Aid for the Chairman's review, per item 3.a.i. above;

- c. circulate the Commission's Third Report for 2025, per item 3.b. above;
- d. liaise with Parliament staff on opportunities to assist in the Youth Parliament Debate, and revert to members, per item 3.c.i. above;
- e. continue to explore options for a constitutional history display, and pull together content, per item 3.c.ii above;
- f. arrange a meeting with the Premier to discuss Advisory District Councils, and provide a copy of its research, per item 3.d. above;
- g. continue to monitor the topic of a public Beneficial Ownership Register, per item 3.e. above;
- h. circulate the Elections Act draft cabinet paper and supplementary documents to members, per item 4.a. above;
- i. request a verbatim copy of the Chief Justice's comments during the Grand Court Opening and circulate to members, per item 4.b. above;
- j. share Member Henderson's interest in participating in the TBLS Research Ethics Committee with the relevant persons, per item 4.c. above; and
- k. seek other Secretariat-supported Commission Chairs feedback on participating in a Chairpersons meeting, per item 4.d. above.

7. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Third Report for 2025
- b. Constitutional Issues for Discussion
 - i. Entitlement to Legal Aid
- c. Advisory District Councils
- d. Education Activities
 - i. Youth Parliament Debate
 - ii. Display in Constitution Hall
- e. Amendments to the Elections Act
- f. Resourcing of the Courts
- g. Chairpersons Meeting
- h. Commission Meetings for 2026

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting scheduled for 6 March 2026 at 11:30 am.

9. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 12:30 pm.



J. Lemuel Hurlston
CHAIRMAN
CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION