



**INVESTIGATION INTO THE
FAILURE OF AN EMPLOYEE
OF SERHA TO FILE STATUTORY
DECLARATIONS WITH THE
COMMISSION**

**INTEGRITY COMMISSION
JANUARY 2022**



This Publication until tabled in Parliament shall be confidential.

Section 55 and 56 of the Integrity Commission Act states:

“(4) Anything said or information supplied or any document or thing produced by any person for the purpose or in the course of any investigation by or proceedings before the Commission under this Act, shall be absolutely privileged in the same manner as if the investigation or proceedings were proceedings in a court of law.

(5) For the purposes of the Defamation Act, any report made by the Commission under this Act and any fair and accurate comment thereon shall be deemed to be privileged.

56.—(1) Subject to section 42(3)(b), every person having an official duty under this Act, or being employed or otherwise concerned in the administration of this Act (hereinafter called a concerned person) shall regard and deal with as secret and confidential, all information, statutory declarations, government contracts, prescribed licences and all other matters relating to any matter before the Commission, except that no disclosure made by the Commission or other concerned person in the proceedings for an offence under this Act or under the Perjury Act, by virtue of section 17(2) of that Act, shall be deemed inconsistent with any duty imposed by this subsection.

(2) The obligation as to secrecy and confidentiality imposed by this section, in relation to any documents, or information obtained under this Act continues to apply to a person despite the person having ceased to have an official duty, be employed or otherwise concerned in the administration of this Act.

(3) Every concerned person who is required under subsection (1) to deal with matters specified therein as secret and confidential who at any time communicates or attempts to communicate any such information, declaration, letter and other document or thing referred to in subsection (1) disclosed to his in the execution of any of the provisions of this Act to any person—

- (a) other than a person to whom he is authorized under this Act to communicate it; or
- (b) otherwise than for the purpose of this Act,

commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction in a Parish Court to a fine not exceeding one million dollars or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year.

Integrity Commission
1st Floor, PIOJ Building
16 Oxford Road
P.O. BOX 540
Kingston 5
Telephone: 876-929-6460/876-929-8560/876-929-6466
Fax: 876-929-7335

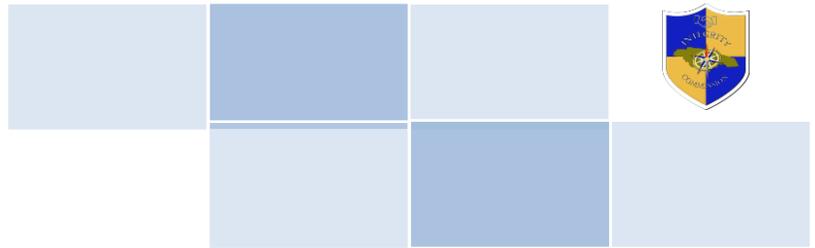
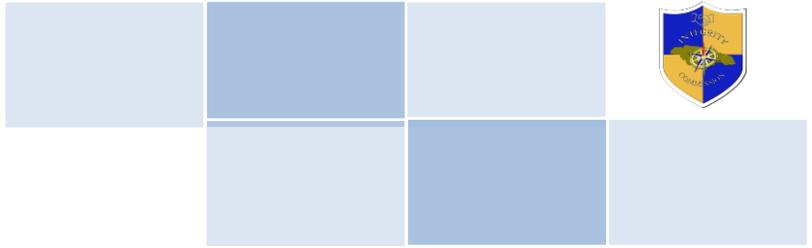


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1. Summary of Investigation and Findings

- 1.1 This investigation by the Director of Investigation concerned the allegation that Dr. Heather White, an employee of South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA) failed to file with the Commission, statutory declaration for the periods ending December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2017.
- 1.2 Under **Section 4(1) and 3(1) of the Corruption Prevention Act** and the **Corruption Prevention Regulation, 2003** respectively, public servants who are in receipt of emoluments of two million dollars or more are required to file a statutory declaration with the Commission.
- 1.3 The evidence provided by SERHA showed that Dr. Heather White is a public servant and that she is in receipt of emoluments in excess of the threshold of two million dollars.
- 1.4 The evidence provided by the System Support Officer who has responsibility for the daily receipt of the statutory declaration at the Commission showed that Dr. Heather White was delinquent in that she failed to file the required statutory declaration for the period outlined.

Table 1: Outstanding Declaration

Declaration Period	Declaration Due	Declaration Filed	Outstanding Declaration
December 31, 2015	March 31, 2016	Nil	December 31, 2015
December 31, 2016	March 31, 2017	Nil	December 31, 2016



Declaration Period	Declaration Due	Declaration Filed	Outstanding Declaration
December 31, 2017	March 31, 2018	Nil	December 31, 2017

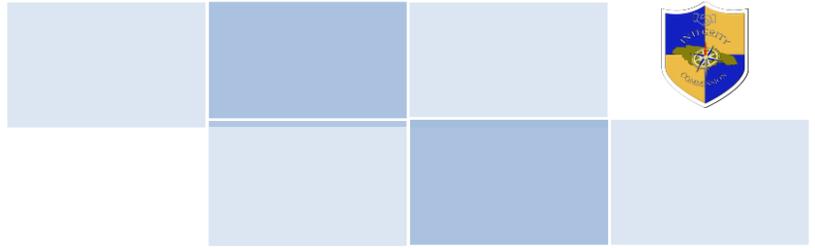
1.5 The concerned public officer was notified and given 30 days to file the outstanding declaration. She acknowledged receipt of the notice however, she failed to comply within the time specified in the notice. This was confirmed by the evidence provided by the Director of Information and Complaints. A copy of the notice and the signed acknowledgement is shown at appendices 1 - 3 below.

1.6 The failure to file a statutory declaration is an offence under Section **15(2)(a) of the Corruption Prevention Act.**

1.7 The concerned public officer has provided no lawful justification or excuse for her failure to file the required statutory declaration.

1.8 Findings

1.8.1 The Director of Investigation has reasonable grounds to conclude based on the foregoing, that the concerned public officer is in breach of **Section 15(2)(a) of the Corruption Prevention Act** for the periods specified in table 1 above.



1.9 Recommendation

1.9.1 The Director of Investigation recommends that this report be referred to the Director of Corruption Prosecution for consideration.



2. Chapter 1 – Background

2.1 This chapter sets out the background information concerning the investigation, the jurisdiction and the decision to investigate, the scope of the investigation and provides a profile of the individual pertinent to the investigation.

2.2 How did this investigation come about?

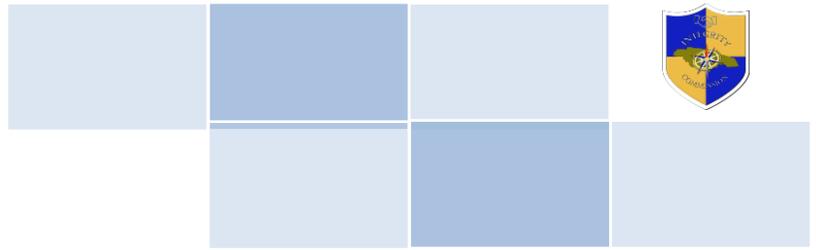
2.2.1 The investigation into the concerned public officer's originated from a referral by Director of Information and Complaints. The complaint alleges that the concerned public officer had failed to file statutory declaration for the period ending December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2017, in compliance with **Section 4(1) of the Corruption Prevention Act**.

2.3 Jurisdiction and decision to investigate

2.3.1 Under **Section 33(1)(a) of the said Act**

“(1) The Director of Investigation shall-

(a) without prejudice to the provisions of any other enactment, and subject to any general or specific direction of the Commission, investigate, in the manner specified by or under this Act, any allegation that involves or may involve an act of corruption or any allegation relating to non-compliance with the provisions of this Act.”



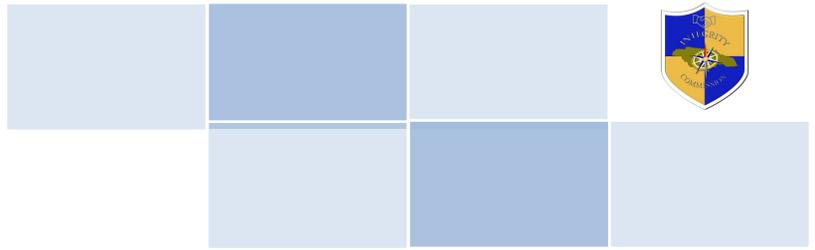
2.3.2 The Director of Investigation deemed that an investigation was warranted under **Section 47 of the Act.** See **Section 47 of the Integrity Commission Act** captioned at appendix 4.

2.3.3 Section 63 empowers the Director of Investigation to continue investigations initiated by the legacy Commission for the Prevention of Corruption. See **Section 63 of the Integrity Commission Act** captioned at appendix 4.

2.4 The Investigation

2.4.1 During the course of the investigation, Officers of the Investigation Division under the authority of the Director of Investigation pursued the following lines of enquiry:

- a) obtained information and witness statements from the responsible officers at:
 - (i) South East Regional Health Authority; and
 - (i) Information and Complaints Division of the Integrity Commission;
- b) reviewed the information and statements collected and prepared the case file and report.



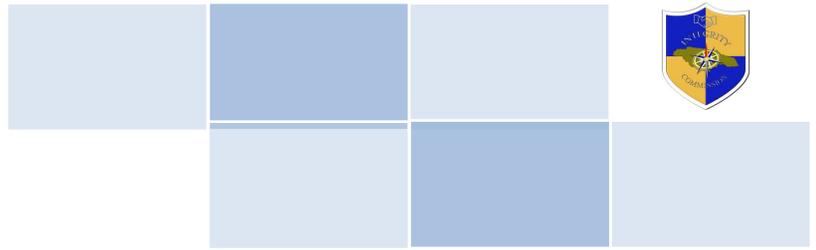
2.5 *Who is the Individual Pertinent to the Investigation?*

2.5.1 Dr. Heather White was considered pertinent to the investigation. Dr. White is employed to SERHA. She was in their employment during the investigation periods December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2017.



3. Chapter 2 – Terms of Reference

- 3.1 This chapter sets out the scope of the investigation and the issues that were explored.
- 3.2 In conducting the investigation, the Director of Investigation sought to establish whether:
- a) the concerned public officer is a public servant as set out under **Section 2(1) of the Corruption Prevention Act**;
 - b) the concerned public officer was in receipt of the qualifying emoluments as prescribed under **Section 3(1) of the Corruption Prevention Regulation (2003)**, occupies a post that is listed in **Part I or Part II of the said Regulations** or was written to under **Section 4(5A)(a) of the Corruption Prevention Act** and requested to file the statutory declaration;
 - c) the concerned public officer failed to file the required statutory declaration as prescribed under **Section 4(1) of the Corruption Prevention Act** and **Section 3(1) of the Corruption Prevention Regulation (2003)**;
 - d) the concerned public officer was notified of her failure and warned of consequences;



- e) the concerned public officer's failure to file the required statutory declaration constitutes an offence under the Act;
- f) the concerned public officer has a lawful justification or excuse for her failure to file;
- g) recommendations ought to be made to the Director of Corruption Prosecution; and
- h) recommendations ought to be made in respect of any act of corruption and/or anti-corruption initiatives.



4. Chapter 3 – The Law, Evidence and the Discussion of the Findings

4.1 This chapter sets out the relevant laws in respect of the investigation, the evidence gathered and the discussion of the findings.

4.2.1 The Law

4.2.1 The object of the Commission's investigation was to determine whether there is merit in the allegation that Dr. Heather White failed to file the required statutory declaration. The legal implications of the foregoing are described under **Section 4(1) and 3(1) of the Corruption Prevention Act and Corruption Prevention Regulation (2003)** respectively, which states:

Section 4(1) of the Corruption Prevention Act:

“every person who, on or after the appointed day, is a public servant shall subject to subsection (2), (3) and 4), furnish to the Commission a statutory declaration of his assets and liability and his income in the form set out as form A in the Second schedule.”

Subsection 3 states:

“Subsection (1) shall not apply to a public servant –

(a) Who is in receipt of total emoluments less than the prescribed amount.”



Section 3(1) of the Corruption Prevention Regulation (2003):

“Subject to paragraph (2), the statutory declaration required by Section 4(1) of the Act shall not be furnished by a public servant who is in receipt of total emoluments of less than two million dollars per annum.”

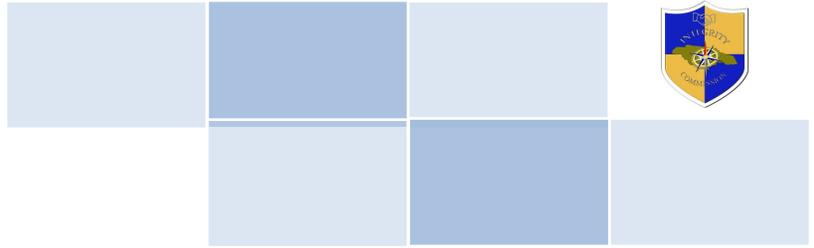
The penalty for the failure to file a statutory declaration under Section 15(2) is:

Section 15(2) of the Corruption Prevention Act:

“Any person who –

(a) Fails, without reasonable cause, to furnish to the Commission a statutory declaration which he is required to furnish in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

commits an offence, and shall on summary conviction in a Resident Magistrate’s Court be liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both such fine and imprisonment.”



4.3 The Evidence

4.3.1 Is the concerned public officer a public servant as described under Section 2(1) of the Corruption Prevention Act?

4.3.1.1 The concerned public officer was employed at SERHA during the period January 19, 2015 to present. This was established in the evidence provided by the Director of Human Resource and Industrial Relations at SERHA. The concerned public officer therefore falls within the definition of a “public servant” under **Section 2(1) of the Corruption Prevention Act**.

4.3.2 Is the concerned public officer in receipt of the qualifying emoluments as prescribed under Section 3(1) of the Corruption Prevention Regulation, 2003, occupies a post listed under Part I or Part II of the said Regulations or was written to under Section 4(5A)(a) of the Corruption Prevention Act and requested to file the statutory declaration?

4.3.2.1 The concerned public officer was in receipt of the qualifying emoluments of \$2 million or above as prescribed under **Section 3(1) of the Corruption Prevention Regulation** during the period of concern. This was established in the evidence provided by the Director of Human Resource and Industrial Relations at SERHA as shown below:



Table 2: Total Emoluments

Period	Emoluments
December 31, 2015	\$2,348,864.00
December 31, 2016	\$2,933,942.76
December 31, 2017	\$6,218,051.37

4.3.2.2 The concerned public officer was therefore required to file the statutory declaration for these periods.

4.3.3 Did the concerned public officer fail to file a statutory declaration as required under [Section 4\(1\) of the Corruption Prevention Act](#)?

4.3.3.1 The procedure for identifying a declarant who has not filed a statutory declaration begins with the Director of information and Complaints writing the heads of all Ministries, Departments and Agencies and requesting a list of those persons who qualify to file the statutory declaration. When the referred lists are received, the information is entered into a database, which provides the list of prospective declarants. Dr. White's name appeared on this list for the periods ending December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2017.

4.3.3.2 The Commission through the media, internet, seminars and various other forms of communication informed declarants of their obligation and the deadline for the filing of statutory declaration. The evidence provided



by the Director of Information and Complaints showed publications as outlined below:

Table 3: Publication in Respect of the Statutory Declarations

TYPE OF PUBLICATION	DATE OF PUBLICATION	DECLARATION PERIOD ENDING
The Jamaica Gazette	December 1, 2015	December 31, 2015
The Sunday Gleaner	March 13, 2016	December 31, 2015
The Sunday Gleaner	March 20, 2016	December 31, 2015
The Sunday Gleaner	March 27, 2016	December 31, 2015
The Sunday Observer	March 13, 2016	December 31, 2015
The Jamaica Gazette	December 1, 2016	December 31, 2016
The Sunday Gleaner	March 12, 2017	December 31, 2016
The Sunday Gleaner	March 19, 2017	December 31, 2016
The Sunday Gleaner	March 26, 2017	December 31, 2016
The Sunday Observer	March 12, 2017	December 31, 2016
The Sunday Observer	March 19, 2017	December 31, 2016
The Sunday Observer	March 26, 2017	December 31, 2016
The Jamaica Gazette	December 1, 2017	December 31, 2017
The Sunday Gleaner	March 11, 2018	December 31, 2017
The Sunday Gleaner	March 18, 2018	December 31, 2017
The Sunday Gleaner	March 25, 2018	December 31, 2017



TYPE OF PUBLICATION	DATE OF PUBLICATION	DECLARATION PERIOD ENDING
The Sunday Observer	March 11, 2018	December 31, 2017
The Sunday Observer	March 18, 2018	December 31, 2017
The Sunday Observer	March 25, 2018	December 31, 2017

4.3.3.3 When the statutory declarations are filed they are also entered into a database. This enables the Commission to generate a list of those persons who have not complied with their statutory obligations under **Section 4(1) of the Corruption Prevention Act.**

4.3.3.4 The evidence provided by the System Support Officer who has responsible for the daily receipt of the statutory declarations at the Commission showed that Dr. Heather White had not filed the required statutory declaration as outlined below:

Table 4: Outstanding Declaration

Declaration Period	Declaration Due	Declaration Filed	Outstanding Declaration
December 31, 2015	March 31, 2016	Nil	December 31, 2015
December 31, 2016	March 31, 2017	Nil	December 31, 2016
December 31, 2017	March 31, 2018	Nil	December 31, 2017



4.3.4 Was the concerned public officer notified of her failure to file the required statutory declaration and warned of consequential penalties?

4.3.4.1 The concerned public officer was notified and given 30 days to file the outstanding declaration. Dr. White acknowledged receipt of the notice however, she failed to comply within the time specified in the notice. This was confirmed by the evidence provided by the Director of Information and Complaints. A copy of the notice and the signed acknowledgement is shown at appendices 1 - 3 below.

4.3.5 Does the concerned public officer's failure to file the required statutory declaration constitute an offence under the Act?

4.3.5.1 The failure to file a statutory declaration is an offence under **Section 15(2)(a) of the Corruption Prevention Act**, which states:

“Any person who –

(b) Fails, without reasonable cause, to furnish to the Commission a statutory declaration which she is required to furnish in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

commits an offence, and shall on summary conviction in a Resident Magistrate's Court be liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both such fine and imprisonment.”



4.3.6 Did the concerned public officer have a lawful explanation or excuse for her failure to file the statutory declaration?

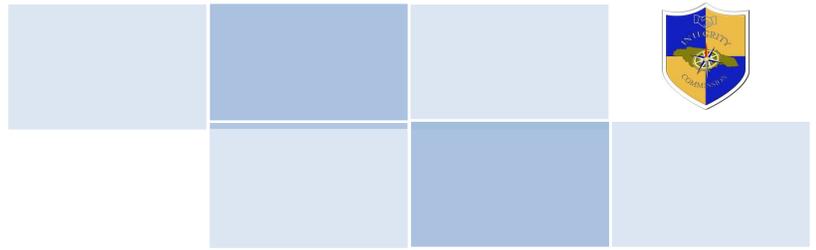
4.3.6.1 The concerned public officer has provided no lawful justification or excuse for her failure to file the required statutory declaration.

4.4 Discussion of the Findings

4.4.1 During the course of the investigation into the allegations against the concerned public officer, the Director of Investigation followed all reasonable lines of enquiry, gathered evidential material and collected/recorded the statements of witnesses deemed necessary. Upon analyzing the evidential materials collected, the Director of investigation is satisfied that there is evidence to support the allegation that the concerned public officer failed to file the required statutory declaration with the Commission.

4.4.2 Based upon the evidence set out in this chapter, the Director of Investigation finds reasonable grounds to believe that the following have been established:

- a) The concerned public officer was a public servant as described under **Section 2(1) of the Corruption Prevention Act**;
- b) The concerned public officer was in receipt of the qualifying amount of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) or above and was therefore required to file statutory declaration;



- c) The concerned public officer failed to file the required statutory declaration;
- d) The concerned public officer was notified of her failure to file the required statutory declarations and warned of the consequences should she fail to file the said statutory declaration;
- e) The concerned public officer's failure to file the required statutory declaration constitutes an offence under **Section 15(2)(a) of the Corruption Prevention Act**; and
- f) The concerned public officer has provided no lawful justification or excuse for her failure to file the required statutory declaration.



5. Chapter 4 – Conclusion and Recommendations

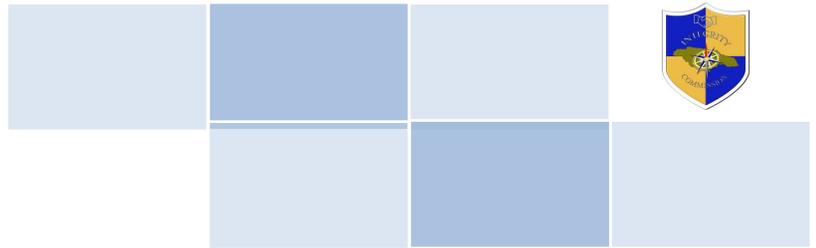
5.1 This chapter sets out the conclusions drawn from the investigation and the recommendations made to improve compliance with the law.

5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 This investigation was initiated to examine the allegation that Dr. Heather White, an officer employed to SERHA failed to file with the Commission, the statutory declaration as required under **Section 4(1) and 3(1) of the Corruption Prevention Act and Corruption Prevention Regulation (2003)** respectively.

5.2.2 The evidence provided by the Director of Human Resource and Industrial Relations at SERHA, proves that Dr. Heather White was a public servant as defined under **Section 2(1) of the Corruption Prevention Act**. Dr. Heather White is also in receipt of emoluments in excess of Two Million Dollars and is therefore required to file the respective statutory declaration. The evidence also showed that she has failed to make the required submissions, even after being notified of her failure to file and given time to comply.

5.2.3 Based upon the foregoing, the Director of Investigation concludes that the concerned public officer has failed to file his statutory declaration under **Section 15(2)(a) of the Corruption Prevention Act** for the periods specified in table 4 of this report.

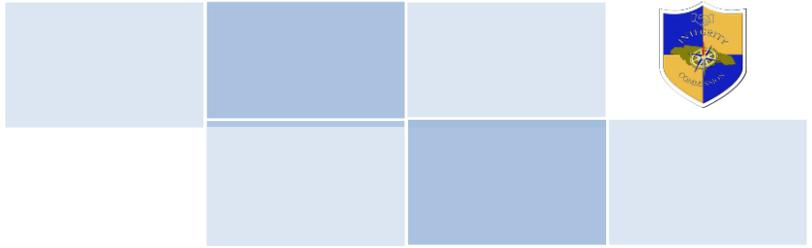


5.2.4 The Director of Investigation concludes that Dr. Heather White's failure to file a statutory declaration constitutes a breach of **Section 15(2)(a) of the Corruption Prevention Act.**

5.2.5 The Director of Investigation further concludes that the concerned public officer herein has provided no lawful justification or excuse for her failure to file the required statutory declaration.

5.3 Recommendations

5.3.2 The Director of Investigation recommends that this report be referred to the Director of Corruption Prosecution for consideration.



6. Chapter 5 – Corruption Prevention Initiatives

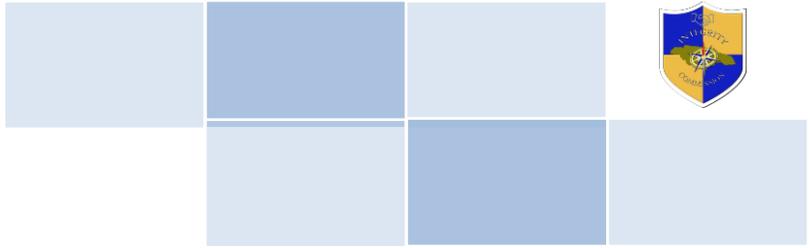
- 6.1 This chapter examines recommendations that could improve the compliance with the law.
- 6.2 Public entities should ensure that the public officers provide, annually, proof that they are compliant with the law in respect of filing their statutory declarations. Public Bodies and the Office of the Services Commission should be engaged to ensure that compliance with **the Integrity Commission Act** becomes a requirement for employment and continued employment in the public service.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Stephenson'.

Kevon A. Stephenson, J.P.
Director of Investigation

January 13, 2022

Date



APPENDICES



Appendix 1: Copy of the Notice of Delinquency



INTEGRITY COMMISSION

3RD FLOOR
41-47 BARRACKS AVENUE, KINGSTON 5
P.O. BOX 178 KINGSTON 01, JAMAICA
TELEPHONE: 868-6021, 868-6476; FAX: 868-5877

IP 4

Ref. No. IC/D01

May 24, 2019

Dr. Heather White
South East Regional Health Authority
35 Dominion Drive
Kingston 5

COPY

Dear Dr. White:

Re: Statutory Declaration of Assets, Liabilities and Income

The Integrity Commission Act, 2017 requires certain public servants to file a Statutory Declaration of Assets, Liabilities and Income at specified intervals as indicated in the Integrity Commission Act, 2017, and the Gazette issued by the Commission.

Our records indicate that you have not furnished to the Director of Information and Compliance the Statutory Declaration(s) as indicated below:

PERIOD	STATUS
January 31, 2003	Not Applicable
December 31, 2003	Not Applicable
December 31, 2004	Not Applicable
December 31, 2005	Not Applicable
December 31, 2006	Not Applicable
December 31, 2007	Not Applicable
December 31, 2008	Not Applicable
December 31, 2009	Not Applicable
December 31, 2010	Not Applicable
December 31, 2011	Not Applicable
December 31, 2012	Not Applicable
December 31, 2013	Not Applicable
December 31, 2014	OUTSTANDING
December 31, 2015	OUTSTANDING
December 31, 2016	OUTSTANDING
December 31, 2017	OUTSTANDING

Key: Not Applicable - Filled or Not required to file for the period(s); Outstanding - Failed to file for the period(s).

Kindly submit the outstanding Statutory Declaration(s) within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice, failing which the Commission will commence proceedings pursuant to Section 43 of the Integrity Commission Act, 2017.


The Hon. Mr. Justice (Ret'd) Earl Harrison, CD
Chairman

gjh

Secretaries: The Hon. Mr. Justice (Ret'd) Earl Harrison, CD (Chair); The Hon. Mr. Justice (Ret'd) Bryson Parris, DC, CD; Mrs. Pamela Moore EBA, FOMA, CA; Mr. Eric Crawford, CD; Dr. Derrick McKay, CD, IP



Appendix 2: Response from SERHA with Signature Sheets



South East Regional Health Authority

Regional Office
The Towers, 2nd Floor, 28 Dominica Drive, Kingston 5
Voice: (876) 754-3439 Fax: (876) 829-8818, Emergency: 1-800-80-SERHA
Website: www.serha.gov.jm E-mail: email@serha.gov.jm



2019, July 11

RECEIVED

15 JUL 2019

INTEGRITY COMMISSION

Mrs Joy A. Powell
Director of Information and Complaints (Acting)
Integrity Commission
45-47 Barbados Avenue
Kingston 5

Dear Miss Powell

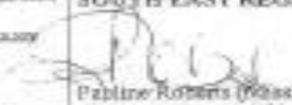
This serves to acknowledge receipt of a letter from the Integrity Commission dated May 24, 2019 with sealed envelopes that were addressed to staff members who are required to file their Statutory Declaration in compliance with the Integrity Act 2017.

The letters were arranged by Hospitals and Health Facilities and distributed accordingly.

The following are enclosed as requested:

Signature Sheets	Staff members of the Kingston Public Hospital
"	Staff members of the Victoria Jubilee Hospital
"	Staff members of the Regional Office
"	Staff Members of the Saint Thomas Health Department
Letters being returned for staff members who separated	A spreadsheet is enclosed with the envelopes.

Yours truly,
SOUTH EAST REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY



Pauline Roberts (P.O. Box)
Director, Human Resource Management & Industrial Relations

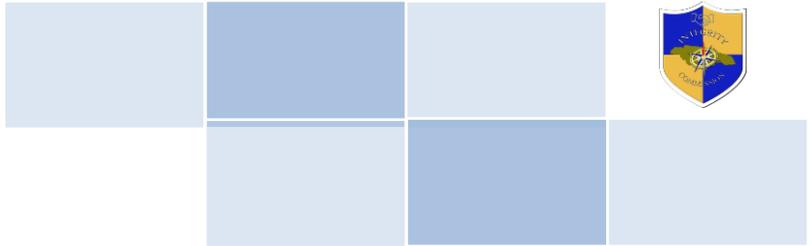
St. Catherine Health Department: (876) 463-3554-2262 Fax: (876) 463-3550 email: info@serha.gov.jm

St. Elizabeth Hospital: (876) 463-3554-2262 Fax: (876) 463-3550 email: info@serha.gov.jm

St. James Health Department: (876) 463-3554-2262 Fax: (876) 463-3550 email: info@serha.gov.jm

St. Thomas Health Department: (876) 463-3554-2262 Fax: (876) 463-3550 email: info@serha.gov.jm

Board of Directors: Mr. Warwick Charles-Chalmers (Chairman); Mr. Maureen Colding (Regional Director); Dr. Doreen Byrnes (Regional Technical Director); Mrs. Colleen Wright (CEO Aug. 2019-PV); Dr. Nadine Rhoads (Senior Medical Officer, 2019-20); Angus Dennis, Mr. Andrew Galambos, Mr. Brandon Smith, Mr. Alfonso Johnson, Mrs. Kelly Smith, Mrs. Shirley Pittman, Mr. William Brown, Mrs. Lisa A. Coates Lewis, Mr. Peter Jones, Dr. Karen Weldon-Gay.



Appendix 3: Signature Sheet with signed Acknowledgement of receiving Notice

Names	TEN	DATE	SIGNATURE	REMARKS / JOB TITLE
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77 C				
70 A				



Appendix 4: Sections 47 & 63 of the Integrity Commission Act

Section 47 of the Act:

47.—(1) *The Director of Investigation, shall upon receipt of a matter pursuant to section 46, examine the matter in order to determine whether or not an investigation in relation to the matter is warranted.*

(2) *The Director of Investigation shall, in determining whether to investigate a matter that has been referred to him, consider—*

(a) *the seriousness of the conduct to which the matter relates;*

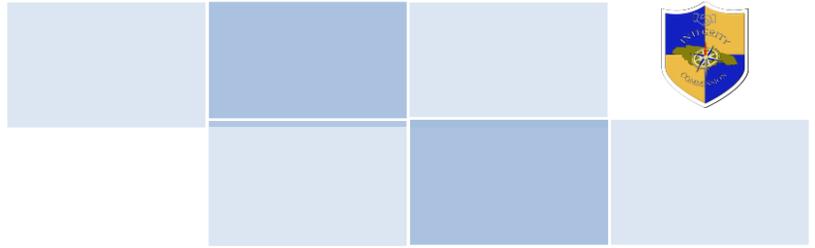
(b) *whether or not the matter is frivolous or vexatious;*

whether or not the conduct to which the matter relates is or has been the subject of an investigation or other action by any other authority under any other enactment.

whether or not the conduct to which the matter relates is or has been the subject of an investigation or other action by any other authority under any other enactment.”

Section 63 of the Integrity Commission Act

“63.—(1) *Notwithstanding the amendment or repeal of an Act under this Part, as from the appointed day any legal proceedings or claim pending immediately before the appointed day, which, before the appointed day, were brought, continued or enforced by or against any of the respective Commissions, shall be brought,*



continued or enforced by or against the Commission in the same manner as they would have been brought, continued or enforced before the appointed day.

(2) The Commission established under this Act may—

(a) commence or assume any investigation, swear any information or commence or conduct any prosecution in respect of an offence committed, or alleged to be committed before the appointed day under a provision of either of the amended Acts that has been amended or repealed by this Act, or under the repealed Act, and each such amended or repealed provision and the repealed Act shall be deemed to remain in full force and effect, for the purposes of any such investigation, information and prosecution as it had been immediately before the appointed day; or

(b) continue or do any act, thing or investigation which was pending before the appointed day.

(3) The Court shall, in respect of any proceedings instituted following any investigation under subsection (2), have all the powers that it could exercise pursuant to the amended Acts and the repealed Act as if they remain in full force and effect.”