

Fw: JIS Media Inquiry - Integrity Commission's Code of Conduct Leadership Commitment Document - The Seven Principles of Public Life

From: Greg Christie

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 1:45 PM

To: Shanice Brown

Subject: JIS Media Inquiry - Integrity Commission's Code of Conduct Leadership Commitment Document - The Seven Principles of Public Life

Dear Mrs. Brown-Lewis:

Reference is made to your email correspondence below regarding the recent Leadership Commitment Code of Conduct Document that was conveyed, by the Integrity Commission, to the Most Hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Andrew Holness, MP, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Mark Golding, MP.

In response to the queries which have been raised by you, I must first direct your attention to Sections 6 (1)(g)

and 6(1)(o) of the Integrity Commission Act, 2017. They provide as follows:

"Subject to the provisions of this Act, the functions of the Commission shall be to -

(g) prepare codes of conduct and other advisory material relating to corruption and guide public bodies in respect of matters within the purview of this Act:

(o) adopt and strengthen mechanisms for educating the public in matters relating to corruption."

Given its statutory functions and mandates and, as expressed in its recent Media Release, the Commission, during the period 2020- 2022, embarked upon a Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Workshop Series for which members of both the Cabinet and the Shadow Cabinet were beneficiaries.

The **Seven Principles of Public Life**, as laid out in the referenced Leadership Commitment Code of Conduct Document, are long-standing principles that have been advanced as underpinning conduct in public life, and which warrant reaffirmation.

The referenced principles, which have been fully agreed to and endorsed by the Commissioners of the Integrity Commission, were first advanced in the United Kingdom in 1995. They are documented in the First Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life in the House of Commons (the "Nolan Committee").

Subsequent to the issue of the Report of the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life, it must be noted that Jamaica, on April 29th 2002, through the then Prime Minister, the Right Hon. P.J. Patterson, advanced 'Ministry Paper No.19/2002 - Conduct of Ministers' which was *"...informed by the Code applicable to Members of the Government of the United Kingdom, and, in particular, the Recommendations of a Committee headed by Lord Nolan..."*.

The Right Hon. Mr. P.J. Patterson, in the referenced Ministry Paper, which was brought before the Jamaica Parliament, expressly stated that "It is anticipated that this Code of Conduct will contribute to enhancing the quality of governance in Jamaica."

The Commission, recognizing its statutory mandates, and the importance of establishing appropriate principles and codes of conduct of integrity and good governance to guide those who discharge public functions in Jamaica, has now formally invited Jamaica's Prime Minister and Opposition Leader to formally sign, subscribe and commit to the referenced principles in the fulfilment of their roles in public life.

However, while there is no legal compulsion or requirement placed upon them to commit to the Code of Conduct, their formal subscription to these Principles will be a clear demonstration to the People of Jamaica of the standards of integrity, governance and accountability that they are prepared to submit themselves to as holders of the highest public offices in Jamaica.

Likewise, a failure to formally commit to the Code will also signal to the citizens of Jamaica, the type of leadership that they should not expect from the country's highest office holders.

I am to respectfully advise, therefore, that the only consequence that the Integrity Commission rightly expects from its overture, is conformity by our leaders with the **Seven Principles of Public Life**.

The Jamaica Information Service may wish to undertake further research on the matter to, among other things, satisfy itself as to the applicability and adoption of these principles and codes of conduct in other jurisdictions.

Please accept my warm regards.

Respectfully,

Greg Christie
Executive Director
Integrity Commission
