



## **INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

1st Floor, PIOJ Building  
16 Oxford Road  
P.O. BOX 540  
Kingston 5  
Telephone: (876)929-6460/ (876)929-8560/929-6466, Fax: 929-7335  
Email: [communications@integrity.gov.jm](mailto:communications@integrity.gov.jm)

---

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Integrity Commission Serves Notice of its Intention to Monitor the Government of Jamaica's Covid-19 Related Expenditures and Contract Awards**

**Kingston; June 4, 2020** – The Integrity Commission has served formal written Notice upon several Government of Jamaica (GOJ) authorities that it intends to comprehensively monitor the Government's expenditures and contract awards in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Commission's letter, which was dated and dispatched on June 2, 2020, was written under the hand of the Commission's recently appointed Executive Director, Greg Christie. The Notice was directed to all GOJ Permanent Secretaries and Principal and Accounting Officers. The letter, which was copied to Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness; Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clark; and Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon Christopher Tufton, among others, states in part as follows:

“The Integrity Commission commends the GOJ and, in particular, its Ministry of Health and Wellness, inclusive of its partner agencies, for their responsiveness to the challenges that the pandemic has presented. The Commission also acknowledges the selfless acts that have been displayed by many of the Health Ministry's frontline staff, and others, to ensure the safety of Jamaicans.

Given, in particular, the unprecedented levels of expenditures that the GOJ has committed to fighting the pandemic over the past few months, the adverse fiscal implications of same, and having regard also to the additional funds that it intends to spend in combating the virus, the Commission is now obliged to fulfil its statutory obligations, under the Integrity Commission Act, by responding in an appropriate and likewise heightened manner. The Commission intends to do this forthrightly and dispassionately.

---

Commissioners: The Hon. Mr. Justice (Ret'd) Seymour Panton, OJ, CD (Chairman); Mrs. Pamela Monroe Ellis, FCCA, CA; The Hon. Justice (Ret'd) Lloyd Hibbert, CD; Mr. Eric Crawford, CD; Mr. H. Wayne Powell, OD, JP



## INTEGRITY COMMISSION

1st Floor, PIOJ Building

16 Oxford Road

P.O. BOX 540

Kingston 5

Telephone: (876)929-6460/ (876)929-8560/929-6466, Fax: 929-7335

Email: [communications@integrity.gov.jm](mailto:communications@integrity.gov.jm)

---

The Commission, as you are aware, is bound, under law, by an over-arching mandate which is dictated by the expressed objects of the Integrity Commission Act. Paramount among the Act's objectives are the following:

- (1) "To encourage and promote propriety and integrity among persons who exercise public functions in Jamaica";
- (2) "To ensure that government contracts are awarded, varied, renewed or terminated impartially, on merit and in a financially prudent manner; and
- (3) "To enhance public confidence that acts of corruption and impropriety, committed by persons exercising public functions, will be appropriately investigated and dealt with in a manner which achieves transparency, accountability and fairness."

The Commission is aware that at least one recent Media Report has indicated, *inter alia*, that "*The Ministry of Health and Wellness has so far spent \$2.5 billion, of an initial \$2.8 billion allocation from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, on efforts to contain the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and to ensure the best possible health outcomes for those affected by the disease.*"

The Commission is also cognizant of the fact that numerous GOJ entities have likewise expended funds and, in doing so, would have awarded a wide variety of contracts, and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Additionally, the Commission is aware that several donations and grants, totalling several millions of dollars have reportedly been received by the GOJ, public bodies and/or public officials, from private sector entities, individuals and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Against this background, and in keeping with the statutory mandates of the Commission, alongside international best practices, the Commission's Monitoring Programme will, therefore, seek to ensure that there is integrity, probity, accountability and independent oversight in the Government's COVID-19 expenditure response and contract awards, as well as in the decision making processes that are associated with same.



## **INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

1st Floor, PIOJ Building

16 Oxford Road

P.O. BOX 540

Kingston 5

Telephone: (876)929-6460/ (876)929-8560/929-6466, Fax: 929-7335

Email: [communications@integrity.gov.jm](mailto:communications@integrity.gov.jm)

---

The Integrity Commission, acting through its Director of Investigation, pursuant, inter alia, to Sections 6 and 33 of the Integrity Commission Act (2017), now, therefore, hereby formally advises you of its intention to embark upon the strategic monitoring of the GOJ's contract award practices and expenditures, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commission's Director of Investigations will, in due course, by way of separate written correspondence, request specific information from all pertinent GOJ Ministries and Agencies to facilitate the Commission's stated objectives.

The Commission expresses its sincere best wishes to you and to your respective teams, and anticipates that your usual cooperation in this very urgent and critical national endeavour will be forthcoming."

**END-**

Contact: The Communications Department, Integrity Commission

E-mail: [communications@integrity.gov.jm](mailto:communications@integrity.gov.jm)

Tel: 929-6460/929-8560/929-6466, Fax: 929-7335

---

Commissioners: The Hon. Mr. Justice (Ret'd) Seymour Panton, OJ, CD (Chairman); Mrs. Pamela Monroe Ellis, FCCA, CA;  
The Hon. Justice (Ret'd) Lloyd Hibbert, CD; Mr. Eric Crawford, CD; Mr. H. Wayne Powell, OD, JP