



INTEGRITY COMMISSION

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Media Release

Integrity Commission Requisitions Public Bodies to Provide Particulars of Prescribed Licences/Permits

November 29, 2022 - The Integrity Commission has requisitioned ten (10) Government of Jamaica (GOJ) Ministries, Departments and Agencies (hereinafter referred to as Public Bodies) to provide to it, by February 28, 2023, detailed particulars concerning Prescribed Licences/Permits that were issued, revoked, or suspended by them, during the period October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. This includes warrants and exemptions.

The Commission's initiative, which will be supported by a new internally designed and developed web-based application, is geared towards ensuring enhanced compliance, accountability and transparency in the grant and revocation of prescribed GOJ licences/permits.

Upon full implementation, Public Bodies will be required to submit the referenced information to the Commission's Director of Investigation, on a quarterly basis, in the form of the "Quarterly Prescribed Licenses Report (QPLR)". The QPLR will be a critical component of the Commission's monitoring and investigation activities.

The formal Requisition, which was issued under the hand of the Commission's Director of Investigation, Mr. Kevon Stephenson, requires the Accounting Officers of the ten (10) Public Bodies selected, to participate in the Pilot phase of the referenced initiative to provide the required information in respect of all licences issued, revoked, suspended, or varied, for selected categories of GOJ licences/permits.

The ten (10) Public Bodies selected are:

1. National Environmental and Planning Agency
2. Betting, Gaming and Lottery Commission
3. Mines and Geology Division
4. Water Resource Authority
5. Office of Utilities Regulation
6. Kingston and St. Andrew Municipal Corporation
7. Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority
8. Cannabis Licensing Authority Jamaica
9. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
10. Bank of Jamaica

Section 2 of the Integrity Commission Act (the Act) defines a Prescribed Licence as “*any licence, certificate, quota, permit, concession, or authority or warrant issued or granted pursuant to any enactment by a public body or an officer thereof*”.

Section 51(1) of the Act provides that, in relation to Government contracts and prescribed licences, the Director of Investigation shall, on behalf of the Commission, be entitled, among other things, to be advised of the award and, where applicable, the variation and termination of any government contract (which includes a prescribed licence), by the Public Body responsible for such contracts (inclusive of a prescribed licence).

The Accounting Officers for the selected Public Bodies have been given detailed instructions on how the required data should be formulated and submitted to the Integrity Commission.

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