



INTEGRITY COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clarification of Nationwide News Article titled 'Christie Asks Parliamentary Committee Not to Discuss Corruption complaint Against the IC'

October 19, 2023 – Reference is made to a Nationwide News Network (NNN) story titled 'Christie Asks Parliamentary Committee Not to Discuss Corruption Complaint Against the IC.' The story was broadcast today, October 19, 2023.

The Integrity Commission believes that the matter which gave rise to the NNN story needs to be clarified in the public interest.

The NNN story alludes to a letter, dated September 27, 2023, that was written by the Integrity Commission's Executive Director, Greg Christie, to the Hon. Edmund Bartlett, CD, MP, in Mr. Bartlett's capacity as the Chairman of the Integrity Commission Oversight Committee and the Joint Select Committee to Review the Integrity Commission Act.

In that letter, the Executive Director made reference to a letter, dated September 6, 2023, that was written to Mr. Bartlett by the Commission's External Counsel, Mrs. Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, KC, in which he, Mr. Bartlett, was advised:

- (a) That the Commission had initiated litigation in the Supreme Court against one Ms. Julie Malcolm and that it had secured interim injunctions prohibiting her from publishing further defamatory statements against the Commission and/or its Officers, as well as to compel her to take down such statements that were already published by her on social media platforms.
- (b) That in a letter, dated September 21, 2023, which was addressed to Mrs. Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, KC, by Ms. Camesha Bailey, Senior Committee Clerk, Houses of Parliament, Jamaica, in response to Mrs. Jacqueline Samuels-Brown's letter of September 6, 2023, the following statement was made: "... *note has been taken of the legal injunctions against the aforementioned defendant, and the matter will be brought to the attention of the Committee at the next meeting.*"
- (c) That, having regard to the requirements of the *sub-judice* rule, Mr. Bartlett was, therefore, advised as follows by the Executive Director:

*"While the matter can be properly brought to the attention of the Integrity Commission Oversight Committee and the Joint Select Committee to Review the Integrity Commission Act, we would nevertheless humbly recommend that it ought not to be discussed at the sittings of the Committees, **as the substantive matter is currently before the Court.**"*

In the interest of public transparency, and to ensure that the public is apprised of all the material facts of the matter, the Commission has appended to this Media Release copies of the following three (3) letters:

- (1) Letter, dated September 6, 2023, from the Integrity Commission's External Counsel, Mrs. Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, to the Hon. Edmund Bartlett
- (2) Letter, dated September 21, 2023, from Ms. Camesha Bailey, Senior Parliamentary Clerk, to Mrs. Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, KC
- (3) Letter, dated September 27, 2023, from the Integrity Commission's Executive Director, Greg Christie, to the Hon. Edmund Bartlett

END

Contact: Mrs. Gillian Haughton, Communications Officer, Communications Department, Integrity Commission
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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

FIRMLAW

Attorneys-at-law

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September 6, 2023

BY HAND

The Hon. Edmund Bartlett, CD, MP,
Chairman
Integrity Commission Oversight Committee
c/o The Ministry of Tourism
64 Knutsford Boulevard
Kingston 5
St. Andrew

Dear Sir,

Re: Defamatory Publications by Julie Malcolm

I act for the Integrity Commission in relation to the captioned and now write to you as per my instructions.

The Integrity Commission became aware of defamatory publications by Julie Malcolm which contain false allegations of impropriety and criminality by the Commission and its officers. These publications were, *inter alia*, broadcasted multiple times and worldwide on social media and also directed to particular individuals including yourself.

Being aware that such publications have the foreseeable potential effect of impugning the character of its officers and the effectiveness of the Commission in carrying out its core functions, the Commission by direct communication with Ms. Malcolm, and later by a formal demand via its attorney-at-law, urged Ms. Malcolm to discontinue these groundless allegations. Despite this, Ms. Malcolm persisted in further defamatory publications.

As a result, it became necessary to initiate litigation in the Supreme Court naming Ms. Malcolm as a defendant. By way of this litigation, the Integrity Commission provided details of the unsubstantiated defamatory publications and sought orders from the court, including interim and final injunctions, ordering the defendant to cease and discontinue such publications and to remove those already published on social media platforms. On the 16th of August, a hearing of the application for the interim injunction was proceeded and court made orders as follows:-

.../2

September 6, 2023

Ms. Jeanette Calder
Executive Director
Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal

- a. An injunction requiring the Defendant her servants and/or agents to take down/remove all Twitter, YouTube, Tik Tok, Facebook and other social media posts including but not limited to posts relating to the Claimants and allegations of corruption by the Respondent in relation to the Complaint submitted by her to the Integrity Commission on April 29, 2022.
- b. An injunction restraining the Defendant, her servants and/or agents from uploading, publishing or communicating the posts to Twitter, Facebook or other social media posts at Orders 1 above as well as any further words of the same or similar content as that of the videos and posts that are the subject of this order.
- c. The Orders made above will remain in force until the determination of this claim or until further order from the court.

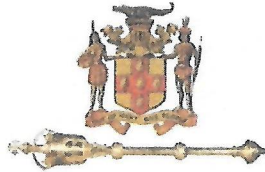
The Commission considers itself duty-bound to inform you of the above considering that you are the Chairman of the Integrity Commission Oversight Committee and the Chairman of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament to review the Integrity Commission Act, and to reiterate that contrary to what has been communicated to you, the Commission and its officers entirely deny Ms. Malcolm's defamatory assertions and that at all times, the Commission and its officers have acted in accordance with the law and continue to remain resolute in carrying out its statutory mandate.

We also ask that should Ms. Malcolm make any further communication with you in relation to the subject matter you bring this to the attention of the Commission. We remain available to dialogue with you in relation to any aspect of this matter, should you deem it so appropriate.

Regards,


.....
JACQUELINE SAMUELS-BROWN, K.C.

JSB/jb



Houses of Parliament

Jamaica

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September 21, 2023

Mrs Jacqueline Samuels-Brown
Attorney-at-law
66-68 Barry Street
Kingston

Dear Mrs Samuels-Brown:

I have been directed by Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Chairman of the Integrity Commission Oversight Committee, to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 6, 2023 regarding defamatory publications by Julie Malcom. Please be advised that note has been taken of the legal injunctions against the aforementioned defendant, and the matter will be brought to the attention of the Committee at the next meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Camesha Bailey (Ms)
Senior Committee Clerk

RECEIVED

DATE 22/9/2023

J. Bailey



INTEGRITY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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BY EMAIL

September 27, 2023

The Hon. Edmund Bartlett, CD, MP
Chairman, Integrity Commission Oversight Committee
Chairman, Joint Select Committee to Review the Integrity Commission Act
c/o The Ministry of Tourism
64 Knutsford Boulevard
Kingston 5

Dear Hon. Minister:

Re: Defamatory Publications Made by Ms. Julie Malcolm

I write with reference to the captioned matter and further to a letter, dated September 6, 2023, addressed to you by the Commission's external counsel, Mrs. Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, K.C. of Firmlaw, Attorneys-at-Law. The referenced letter advised, among other things, that the Commission had initiated litigation in the Supreme Court against one Ms. Julie Malcolm and that it had secured interim injunctions prohibiting her from publishing further defamatory statements against the Commission and/or its Officers, as well as to compel her to take down such statements that were already published by her on social media platforms.

The Commission also makes reference to a letter, dated September 21, 2023, which was addressed to the Commission's external counsel, Mrs. Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, K.C. of Firmlaw, Attorneys-at-Law, by Ms. Camesha Bailey, Senior Committee Clerk, Houses of Parliament, Jamaica, in response to Firmlaw's letter of September 6, 2023. The Commission notes, in particular, the statement in the subject letter to the effect that "*note has been taken of the legal injunctions against the aforementioned defendant, and the matter will be brought to the attention of the Committee at the next meeting.*"

While the matter can be properly brought to the attention of the Integrity Commission Oversight Committee and the Joint Select Committee to Review the Integrity Commission Act, we would nevertheless humbly recommend that it ought not to be discussed at the sittings of the Committees, as the substantive matter is currently before the Court. Please accept my gratitude for your kind considerations.

Yours respectfully,

Greg Christie
Executive Director
For and on behalf of the Integrity Commission

Copy: The Hon. Mr. Justice (Ret'd) Seymour Panton, Chairman, Integrity Commission
Mrs. Evian Ortiz, Legal Counsel (Acting), Integrity Commission

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