



INTEGRITY COMMISSION

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Statement by the Integrity Commission on Court Matter involving Ian Hayles

December 23, 2021– The Integrity Commission takes note of the article entitled “*Pressure mounts for action on shelved Hayles OCG report,*” which was published in the Jamaica Gleaner on December 22, 2021.

On March 13, 2017, Ian Hayles filed an Application for Leave to Apply for Judicial Review Proceedings with the Contractor General named as a Respondent. The Application relates to an investigation carried out by the then Contractor General into *allegations of conflict of interest, irregularity and/or impropriety in relation to the construction of building by Ian Hayles, MP for Western Hanover without approval from the Hanover Parish Council.*

Mr. Hayles applied to the Court for declarations and orders in relation to the report arising from the investigation. Mr. Hayles obtained a temporary/interim injunction restraining the publication of the report arising out of the investigation, until the full hearing of the Judicial Review. The report had already been submitted to Parliament on February 13, 2017 but, as a result of the injunction, was not made public.

The Office of the Contractor General (OCG)/Integrity Commission (IC) was at all times ready and awaiting the full hearing of the matter. In fact, the process commenced before Justice N. Simmons on May 11, 2017, but was adjourned on the application of Mr. Hayles’ Attorney on July 27, 2017. The elevation of Miss Justice N. Simmons to the Court of Appeal, meant that she was no longer available to continue the matter and, in this regard, the Integrity Commission communicated to the Registrar of the Supreme Court indicating that it had no objection to the matter starting afresh before a new Judge.

The Commission, notwithstanding the fact that the application for Judicial Review is not its application, but in order to meet its statutory obligation to the public and recognizing that an injunction is in place, has taken several steps, to include a formal application on the 17th of August, 2018 for a date for a full hearing to be set. There is, in fact, a record of correspondence from the OCG/IC to the Registrar of the Supreme Court ending with one on May 13, 2021, urging that the hearing of the matter be proceeded with.

The Commission will continue to communicate with the Registrar of the Supreme Court who possesses the authority to list the matter involving Mr. Hayles’ Application for Judicial Review to be heard.

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