



Any reply or subsequent reference to this communication should be addressed to the Contractor-General and the following reference quoted:-

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MEDIA RELEASE

OCG Concludes Investigation into PBX Telephone System Contract Award by Accountant General's Department

Kingston; July 18, 2012 – The Office of the Contractor General (OCG) has concluded its Special Investigation into allegations of impropriety and/or irregularity in the circumstances surrounding the award of a contract, by the Accountant General's Department (AGD), to a named contractor, for the supply and installation of a telephone system at the AGD's offices.

The OCG's Investigation follows a Preliminary Enquiry into the matter which was initiated following upon the OCG's receipt, on February 27, 2009, of an anonymous call, which implicated the AGD's management in allegations of 'the doctoring of tender documents' to suit a specific contractor.

The OCG's Investigation was also prompted by two (2) further sets of allegations which were received from separate but highly placed and concerned individuals – one of which was a senior AGD official – who have requested to remain anonymous. The first of these subsequent allegations was made via a telephone call to the OCG on March 9, 2010 and the second, from the AGD official, by way of letter that was dated September 10, 2010.

The AGD official, in his/her letter to the OCG, stated that *"it is with deep regret that I bring to your attention the Accountant General Department's outright refusal to follow GOJ guidelines and exercise of due care, prudence and transparency..."*.

The AGD official, who was also interviewed under oath by the OCG, alleged several instances of irregularity which he/she had observed during the procurement process of the referenced telephone system by the AGD.

In keeping with the requirements of the Contractor General Act, copies of the OCG's Report of Investigation into the matter were today despatched by the Contractor General to 10 State Authorities.

Pursuant to Section 20 (1) of the Act, copies of the referenced Report were conveyed this morning to Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips, the Minister of Finance and Planning, Ms. Millicent Hughes, the Accountant General and Dr. Wesley Hughes, the Financial Secretary.

Section 20 (1) of the Act provides as follows:



“After conducting an investigation under this Act, a Contractor General shall, in writing, inform the principal officer of the public body concerned and the Minister having portfolio responsibility therefor of the result of that investigation and make such recommendations as he considers necessary in respect of the matter which was investigated”.

In compliance with the obligations that are imposed upon him by Section 21 of the Contractor General Act, the Contractor General has also despatched copies of the Investigation Report to the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Auditor General, the Financial Secretary and the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.

Section 21 of the Contractor General Act provides as follows:

“If a Contractor General finds, during the course of his investigations or on the conclusion thereof that there is evidence of a breach of duty or misconduct or criminal offence on the part of an officer or member of a Public Body, he shall refer the matter to the person or persons competent to take such disciplinary or other proceeding as may be appropriate against that officer or member and in all such cases shall lay a special report before Parliament”.

The Contractor General, pursuant to the requirements of Section 21 of the Act, has also formally sent copies of the Report to the Hon. Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon. President of the Senate, and the Clerk to the Houses.

Section 28 (3) of the Act requires the Speaker and the President to have the Report tabled in both Houses of Parliament *‘as soon as possible’*. As is customary, the Clerk to the Houses has been provided with a compact disc which bears a full electronic copy of the OCG’s Special Report of Investigation.

In the interest of public transparency, and acting in pursuance of the special powers that are reserved to a Contractor General by Section 28 (4) of the Contractor General Act, the OCG’s 194 page Special Report of Investigation into the matter will be published on the OCG’s website at www.ocg.gov.jm, but only after the Report has been formally laid in both Houses of Parliament.

The OCG wishes to caution that where Reports of its Special Investigations find their way into the Media prior to the tabling of the said Reports in the Houses of Parliament, or before the formal posting of same on the OCG’s official website, care should be taken to disassociate any such publication from the OCG.

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