



**PARLIAMENT OF THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS
2022-2023 Session**

2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE TO
OVERSEE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

Laid on the Table of the Parliament on this day of 2023

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STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

1. REFERENCE

The Standing Select Committee to Oversee the Performance of the Office of the Ombudsman, established by Government Motion No. 3 of 2021/2022, met regularly throughout the reporting period (21st April, 2021 to 12th July, 2022) to consider and deal with the following matters:

- Review and approve monthly invoices submitted for payment by the Office of the Ombudsman;
- Consider Reports of the Office of the Ombudsman that were prepared and submitted by the Ombudsman and her office;
- Review and approve the Annual Budget Statement and Annual Plan and Estimates of the Office of the Ombudsman; and
- Review and discuss documents submitted by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Details of all matters brought before the Committee for consideration are disclosed in the Minutes of Proceedings.

2. CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The following Members of the Parliament are the present duly elected Members of the Standing Select Committee to Oversee the Performance of the Office of the Ombudsman:

- Hon. Bernie Bush, MP, Chairman
- Hon. Johany “Jay” Ebanks, MP, Member
- Mr. Joseph Hew, MP, Member
- Hon. Christopher Saunders, MP, Member
- Mr. David Wight, MP, Member

3. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee met on the following dates during the reporting period:

- Wednesday, 9th June, 2021
- Wednesday, 22nd September, 2021

- Wednesday, 6th April, 2022
- Wednesday, 1st June, 2022

4. PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE:

The following persons were in attendance, either in person or via electronic means, at the meetings which were held in the Large Committee Room of the Parliament on the dates recorded in the disclosed Minutes of Proceedings:

- Mrs. Sharon Roulstone – Ombudsman, Office of the Ombudsman
- Mrs. Sandy Hermiston – former Ombudsman, Office of the Ombudsman
- Ms. Tiffany Ebanks – Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Ombudsman
- Mr. Jan Liebaers – Deputy Ombudsman, Office of the Ombudsman

Mrs. Hermiston was the Ombudsman up to her resignation effective 31st January 2022, at which point Mr. Jan Liebaers was appointed by H.E. the Governor as Acting Ombudsman. Mrs. Sharon Roulstone was Deputy Ombudsman until her appointment by H.E. the Governor as Ombudsman, effective 4th April 2022.

5. REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

The Committee considered the following reports and documents:

a. Invoices approved by the Committee:

In accordance with the requirements under section 45 of the Public Management and Finance Law (2020 Revision) and section 6 (3) of the Ombudsman Act (2021 Revision), the following invoices for Cabinet Billing were submitted and approved by the Committee:

- No. 2100002561 dated 1st June 2021 for \$189,916.00
- No. 2100002581 dated 6th July 2021 for \$189,916.00
- No. 2100002601 dated 12th August 2021 for \$189,916.00
- No. 2100002621 dated 2nd September 2021 for \$189,916.00
- No. 2100002641 dated 5th October 2021 for \$189,916.00
- No. 2100002661 dated 2nd November 2021 for \$189,916.00
- No. 2100002681 dated 6th December 2021 for \$189,916.00
- No. 2100002701 dated 17th January 2022 for \$206,978.00
- No. 2100002721 dated 3rd February 2022 for \$206,978.00
- No. 2100002741 dated 7th March 2022 for \$206,978.00
- No. 2100002761 dated 5th April 2022 for \$206,978.00
- No. 2100002781 dated 3rd May 2022 for \$206,978.00

The invoices prior to 1st June 2021 were approved by the previous Committee per the meetings of their last meeting on 21st January 2021, which fall outside the 2021-2022 session and are therefore not included in this report. Additionally, the invoices increased as of January 2022 due to the new budget for 2022.

b. Reports and Documents Received by the Committee for Information:

In accordance with section 6 (3) of the Ombudsman Act (2021 Revision) the following reports were submitted by the Ombudsman and noted by the Committee during the reporting period:

- Select Committee to Oversee Performance of the Office of the Ombudsman 2nd Quarter Report 2021
- Select Committee to Oversee Performance of the Office of the Ombudsman 3rd Quarter Report 2021
- Select Committee to Oversee Performance of the Office of the Ombudsman 4th Quarter Report 2021
- Select Committee to Oversee Performance of the Office of the Ombudsman 1st Quarter Report 2022
- Select Committee to Oversee Performance of the Office of the Ombudsman 2nd Quarter Report 2022
- Select Committee to Oversee Performance of the Office of the Ombudsman 3rd Quarter Report 2022
- Office of the Ombudsman Own-motion Report on Election Registration and Processing of Voter Data (April 2022)

c. Reports for Tabling in the Parliament:

The Committee considered the **Office of the Ombudsman Annual Report 2020** on 9th June 2021 and agreed that it be Tabled in Parliament by the Chair in accordance with section 11 of the Ombudsman Act (2021 Revision).

The Committee considered the **2019-2020 Annual Report of the Select Committee to Oversee the Performance of the Office of the Ombudsman** on 22nd September 2021 and agreed that it be Tabled in Parliament by the Chair in accordance with section 81 of the Parliament Standing Orders (2022 Consolidation).

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The Committee is most appreciative of the efforts of the Ombudsman and her staff in presenting detailed and informative reports. The Committee also thanks the Clerk and Chief Officer of Parliament and the Parliamentary Procedural Clerk for the assistance provided.

7. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE HOUSE:

The Committee hereby agrees that this Report be the Annual Report of the Standing Select Committee to Oversee the Performance of the Office of the Ombudsman to the House for the year 2021-2022.

Hon. Bernie Bush
MP, Chairman

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