



PARLIAMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

2023-2024 Session

2022-2023

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 2024

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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 2022-2023 Session for the **Parliamentary reporting period (12th September 2022 to 31st July 2023 in accordance with Proclamation No. 4 of 2022 and Proclamation No. 2 of 2023)** 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:

- Mr. Bernie Bush, MP, Chairman
- Hon. Johany “Jay” Ebanks, MP, Member
- Mr. Joseph Hew, MP, Member
- Mr. 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:

- Friday, 28th October, 2022
- Wednesday, 8th February, 2023
- Monday, 24th April, 2023

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
- Ms. Tiffany Ebanks – Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Ombudsman

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. 2100002801 dated 7th June 2022 for \$206,978.00
- No. 2100002821 dated 7th July 2022 for \$206,978.00
- No. 2100002841 dated 2nd August 2022 for \$206,978.00
- No. 2100002861 dated 1st September 2022 for \$206,978.00
- Equity Injection Funding dated 25th October 2022 for \$1,178.00
- No. 2100002881 dated 3rd February 2023 for \$34,997.18
- No. 2100002882 dated 3rd February 2023 for \$208,204.00
- No. 2100002901 dated 7th February 2023 for \$208,204.00
- No. 2100002921 dated 3rd April 2023 for \$208,204.00
- No. 2100002942 dated 28th April 2023 for \$208,204.00
- No. 2100002961 dated 8th June 2023 for \$208,204.00
- No. 2100002981 dated 14th July 2023 for \$208,204.00

The final invoice covering the month of July was not included in the annual report as the approval of the invoice occurred during a Committee meeting that took place outside of the reporting period (6th September, 2023). That July invoice (No. 2100003001) was approved by the Committee in the amount of \$208,204.00.

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:

- Office of the Ombudsman 4th Quarter Report 2022
- Office of the Ombudsman 1st Quarter Report 2023

c. Reports for Tabling in the Parliament:

The Committee considered the **Office of the Ombudsman Freedom of Information Statistics Report (2021)** on 28th October 2022 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 **2021-2022 Annual Report of the Select Committee to Oversee the Performance of the Office of the Ombudsman** on 8th February 2023 and agreed that it be Tabled in Parliament by the Chair in accordance with section 81 of the Parliament Standing Orders (2022 Consolidation).

The Committee considered the 2020-2022 Annual Report of the Select Committee to Oversee the Performance of the Office of the Ombudsman on 8th February 2023 and agreed to “note” the report from the previous Committee but did not agree to Table it in the Parliament.

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 2022-2023.



Mr. Bernie Bush
MP, Chairman