



PARLIAMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

2024-2025 Session

2023-2024

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 2025

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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 2023-2024 Session for the **Parliamentary reporting period (19th September 2023 to 19th September 2024 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
- Hon. 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:

- Wednesday, 15th November 2023
- Wednesday, 13th March 2024
- Wednesday, 5th June 2024

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:

- Invoice No. 2100003041 dated 30th September 2023 for \$208,204.00
- Invoice No. 2100003061 dated October 2023 for \$208,204.00
- Invoice No. 2100003081 dated 30th November 2023 for \$208,204.00
- Invoice No. 2100003101 dated 31st January 2024 for \$210,409.00
- Invoice No. 2100003121 dated 29th February 2024 for \$210,409.00
- Invoice No. 2100003141 dated 31st March 2024 for \$210,409.00
- Invoice No. 2100003161 dated 30th April 2024 for \$210,409.00
- Invoice No. 2100003181 dated 31st May 2024 for \$210,409.00
- Invoice No. 2100003201 dated 30th June 2024 for \$210,409.00
- Invoice No. 2100003221 dated 31st July 2024 for \$210,409.00
- Invoice No. 2100003241 dated 31st August 2024 for \$210,409.00
- Capital Purchases Memo dated 6th September 2024 for \$6,594.44
- Invoice No. 2100003261 dated 30th September 2024 for \$210,409.00

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:

- Freedom of Information 2022 Annual Statistics Report
- Office of the Ombudsman 3rd Quarter Report 2023

- Office of the Ombudsman 4th Quarter Report 2023
- Own-Initiative Investigation Report - FOI Government Websites (December 2023)
- Office of the Ombudsman Annual Report 2023
- Office of the Ombudsman 1st Quarter Report 2024
- Office of the Ombudsman 2nd-3rd Quarter Report 2024

c. Reports for Tabling in the Parliament:

The Committee considered the **Office of the Ombudsman Freedom of Information Statistics Report (2022)** on 15th November 2023 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 **Office of the Ombudsman Own-Initiative Investigation Report - FOI Government Websites (December 2023)** on 13th March 2024 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 **2022-2023 Annual Report of the Select Committee to Oversee the Performance of the Office of the Ombudsman** on 5th June 2024 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 thanked the Clerk 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 for the year 2023-2024 and the Report is to be laid on the Table of the House of Parliament.



Mr. Bernie Bush, MP
Chairman