



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 24
Answered on 30 September 2026
Second Meeting 2026-2027 Session – First Sitting

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY**

**MR. ROY TATUM
ELECTED MEMBER FOR RED BAY**

TO

**HON. JOHANY EBANKS
MINISTER PLANNING, LANDS, AGRICULTURE, HOUSING
& INFRASTRUCTURE**

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister state what guidance the Government provides on:

- (a) the public's rights to access and use beaches for recreation, including areas above the high-water mark; and
- (b) the restrictions imposed by beachfront property owners through ropes or other barriers?

ANSWER:

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Tourism has issued guidance to beachfront property owners. As reported, that guidance says the public may use beaches for recreation, including areas above the mean high-water mark that form part of a beach, while respecting privately owned facilities such as beach furniture.

The Public Lands Commission's guidance distinguishes the shoreline seaward of the high-water mark, which the public may access and use, from private property landward of that mark. The Prescription Act also provides for public rights to use a beach and its access route where the statutory conditions, including twenty years of uninterrupted use, are met. Where those rights are disputed, the Grand Court may settle the matter.

On ropes and barriers, the Public Lands Commission does not recommend or encourage cordoning off areas of Seven Mile Beach. Its inspectors engage property owners or managers when a complaint is received and seek to resolve any interference with public access or use. Whether a particular barrier infringes a public right depends on the boundary and the rights applying at that location.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.