



**Summary of Proceedings
Public Hearing**

Joint Select Committee on Local Authorities, Service Commissions and Statutory Authorities
(including the THA)

Held on Wednesday February 24th, 2016

Subject matter: Follow-up session with the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) re: on the implementation of recommendations set out in the *12th Report of the Joint Select Committee on Ministries, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (Group 1), on the inquiry into the administration and operations of the Police Complaints Authority.*

Venue: The hearing was held on Wednesday February 24th 2016 from 10:05 a.m. to 11:22 a.m. in the A.N.R. Robinson (East) Meeting Room, 9th Floor, Office of the Parliament, Tower D, The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre, 1A Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain.

Committee members

The following committee members were present:

- i. Mr. H. R. Ian Roach (Chairman)
- ii. Ms. Ramona Ramdial MP (Vice-Chairman)
- iii. Mr. Darryl Smith, MP
- iv. Mr. Faris Al-Rawi, MP
- v. Mrs. Jennifer Baptiste-Primus
- vi. Mr. Nigel De Freitas
- vii. Mr. Daniel Solomon

Witnesses who appeared

The following officials of the PCA appeared before the Committee:

- Mr. David West, Director, PCA;
- Ms. Lisa-Marie Robertson, Head of Legal;

- Ms Janet Best, Manager Finance and Accounts;
- Ms. Crisaly Rajpaulsingh, Human Resource Coordinator; and
- Mr. Wellington Virgil, Investigations Consultant.

Key Issues Discussed

The following are the key subject areas/issued discussed during the hearing:

- i. The vacant position of Deputy Director of the PCA;
- ii. The status of the proposed amendments to the PCA Act which were formulated by the PCA and submitted to the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs;
- iii. The main issues affecting the efficient operation of the PCA. These include:
 - an absence of the necessary powers, privileges and immunities
 - insufficient budgetary allocationS;
- iv. The success and possible expansion of the Authority's outreach programme;
- v. the possibility of the PCA being vested with the power to investigate and prosecute matters which fall within its purview;
- vi. The working relationship between the PCA and the Commissioner of Police and by extension the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service;
- vii. The status of the proposed database of photographs of police officers;
- viii. The PCA's ability to facilitate witness protection;
- ix. The initiation of investigations based on media reports and Social Media posts;
- x. Benchmarking the PCA against its regional and international counterparts;
- xi. The rate of turnover of professional staff at the PCA;
- xii. The impact of the absence of staff on the work of the PCA;
- xiii. Whether an incentive programme exists for members of staff;
- xiv. The feasibility of a reward system for witnesses.

You may contact the Committee's Secretary at jsclasasc@tparliament.org or 624-7275 Ext. 2283

Committees Unit

Thursday 25th February 2016