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

- 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@ttparliament.org or 624-7275 Ext. 2283

**Committees Unit**

*Thursday 25th February 2016*