



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Allegations Made Against the Honourable Speaker**

The Commission for Standards in Public Life (“the Commission”) has noted the allegations made against the Honourable Speaker of the House, the public statement issued by the Speaker on 24 February, 2020, and the expressions of concern by members of the public regarding this matter.

The Commission is not privy to the factual events that occurred during the incident. However, based on the information in the public domain and in view of legal advice obtained previously on the Commission’s powers as set out under section 117(9) of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009, whereby the Commission was advised that its authority does not extend to engagement with a public official’s private life or dealings except where the circumstances raise a reasonable inference of lack of integrity, incompetence, corruption, conflict of interest or lack of standards of ethical conduct in the conduct of that official’s public functions, the Commission considers this matter to be outside of its remit at this time.

The Commission understands that the matter relating to the Honourable Speaker is being investigated by the RCIPS and no further statements will be made by the Commission at this time.

One of the functions of the Commission as set out under section 117(9)(f) of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order is to recommend codes of conduct. In 2013 and 2017 the Commission provided extensive feedback on the original and revised Draft Ministerial Code of Conduct produced by the Cabinet Office. The Commission has made several requests for updates on the finalisation and implementation of the Ministerial Code of Conduct, which we understand, remains in draft form. The Commission encourages the finalisation of a code which would apply to all elected members.

Ends.