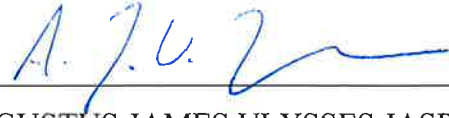


**COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT**  
**(CAP. 237)**



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AUGUSTUS JAMES ULYSSES JASPERT

Governor

**INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT**

TO: THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR GARY HICKINBOTTOM  
Greetings

WHEREAS it is provided by section 2 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act Chapter 237 of the Revised Laws of the Virgin Islands that it shall be lawful for the Governor, whenever he shall deem it advisable, to issue a Commission appointing one or more Commissioners to inquire into any matter in which an inquiry would in the opinion of the Governor be for the public welfare.

AND WHEREAS in the opinion of the Governor it would be for the public welfare to hold an inquiry as set out in the following Terms of Reference:

1. to establish whether there is information that corruption, abuse of office or other serious dishonesty in relation to officials, whether statutory, elected or public may have taken place in recent years;
2. if there is such information, to consider the conditions which allowed that corruption, abuse of office or other serious dishonesty to take place and whether they may still exist;

3. if appropriate, to make independent recommendations with a view to improving the standards of governance, to give the people of the Virgin Islands confidence that government is working in a fair, transparent and proper manner;
4. If appropriate, to make independent recommendations with a view to improving the operation of the agencies of law enforcement and justice;
5. should the Commissioner at any time consider that a change to these terms of reference would be beneficial to public welfare in achieving the objectives of the Inquiry, to inform the then Governor of the Virgin Islands at the first opportunity; and
6. to prepare and submit a written report to the then Governor of the Virgin Islands within six (6) months from the commencement of the Inquiry, making all such recommendations as seem fit provided that the Governor may extend the period for submission of the report to a period no longer than 9 months from the date of the Inquiry

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that for the above mentioned purposes a Commission should be issued under the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act (Cap. 237).

NOW KNOW YE THAT I, AUGUSTUS JAMES ULYSSES JASPERT Governor of the Virgin Islands, reposing full confidence in your zeal, discretion and ability, do appoint you the said RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR GARY HICKINBOTTOM to be Commissioner under the said Act to make a full, faithful, and impartial inquiry into the matters specified in this Commission and to conduct such inquiry in accordance with the directions herein given.

AND I DIRECT THAT YOU the said RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR GARY HICKINBOTTOM shall function as a one-man Commission.

AND I FURTHER DIRECT THAT the said inquiry shall be made on such days and such places as you shall deem proper and necessary and that you shall report in writing, the result of such inquiry, and make recommendations in the premises as may seem fit to you, with all convenient

speed and furnish to me a full statement of the proceedings of such Commission, and of the reasons leading to the conclusion arrived at or reported.

AND I FURTHER DIRECT THAT the meetings of the Commission may be held in private whenever you the said RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR GARY HICKINBOTTOM considers it appropriate to do so and THAT, to the extent permitted by law, and so far as it is consistent with the public welfare in achieving the objectives of the Inquiry, you may allow for information to be given to the Inquiry in confidence.

AND I acting as aforesaid do appoint Stephen Clive Chandler to be Secretary to the Commission, to attend the sittings of the Commission, to record proceedings, to keep the papers, to summon and minute the testimony of witnesses and generally to perform such duties connected with the inquiry as may be prescribed.

AND I CHARGE AND COMMAND all officers and all other Her Majesty's loving subjects in the Virgin Islands that in their several places and according to their several powers and abilities they be aiding and assisting you in execution of this your Commission.

GIVEN under my hand and the public seal of the Virgin Islands at the Governor's Office in the town of Road Town in the island of Tortola in the Virgin Islands this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, two thousand and twenty one in the sixty eighth Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN



