



Governor's Office  
British Virgin Islands

# Sixth Quarterly Review

Implementation of the Commission of Inquiry Recommendations

24 May 2024

**Governor Daniel Pruce**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
British Virgin Islands



# Contents

Executive Summary .....	2
Background .....	6
Coordination Approach.....	7
Overview of Progress .....	8
Constitutional Review .....	9
Commission of Inquiry Act .....	9
Governance & Integrity in Public Life.....	10
Assistance Grants.....	12
Statutory Boards .....	14
Contracts .....	17
Crown Land Disposals.....	18
Residency and Belonger Status .....	18
The Public Service.....	20
Law Enforcement and Justice.....	20
Electoral Reform .....	22
Communications .....	22
Conclusion .....	23
Annex A: Reviews .....	25
Annex B: Audits.....	26
Annex C: Investigations.....	27
Annex D: Joint Governance Reform Action Plan Deadlines.....	28



# Executive Summary



- 1.1. This is my first review of the implementation of the Commission of Inquiry (COI) recommendations, and the sixth since the Quarterly Review process began in October 2022.
- 1.2. I was sworn in as Governor on 29<sup>th</sup> January this year. Since then, my team and I have been working intensively with Premier Dr Natalio Wheatley and all branches of the Government of the Virgin Islands to make progress in delivering the COI reforms.
- 1.3. Commissioner Sir Gary Hickenbottom concluded in the COI report that “with limited exceptions, in terms of governance (i.e. how government makes and implements decisions), the people of the BVI have been badly served in recent years”.<sup>1</sup> So it is vital that these reforms are properly delivered to give the people the governance they deserve.
- 1.4. Based on my assessment of the current status of the reforms, I will write to the UK Minister for the Overseas Territories with the following recommendations:
  - To extend the deadline for implementing the COI recommendations from 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 (defining earlier deadlines for reforms we judge can be completed sooner).
  - A final assessment of progress should take place after August, with a clear overall conclusion on whether the COI recommendations have taken root.
  - To keep open the options of additional powers for the Governor and recourse to the Order in Council.

## Recent Developments

- 1.5. The previous Quarterly Review (submitted on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 by my predecessor) noted that twenty-five out of forty-eight recommendations had been completed with then only a few months before the May deadline.
- 1.6. The UK Minister for the Overseas Territories, David Rutley MP, visited the BVI between 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the issues presented in the previous

---

<sup>1</sup> British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry (4 April 2022), p7  
<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6297797c8fa8f503978288f9/British-Virgin-Isles-Commission-of-Inquiry-Report.pdf>



Quarterly Review. He met with the Government, Permanent Secretaries, the Opposition, and the Governor's Office to agree how delivery could be accelerated to ensure that all reforms would be completed by the end of May 2024. During Minister Rutley's visit, the Premier reaffirmed his commitment to the reforms as well as the following:

- To dedicate a space for collaborative working between the Government and the Governor's Office.
- To appoint a Delivery Manager to oversee the reforms.
- To produce a robust and realistic plan for implementing the remaining COI reforms.

1.7. Progress in delivering these three commitments has been as follows:

- The Governance Reform Coordination Centre (GRCC) has been established and four members of staff from the Premier's Office and two from the Governor's Office now operate from there.
- The Delivery Manager, Kedrick Malone, started work on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024.
- There have been multiple versions of the governance reform action plan, including a version which was agreed by Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> March. The Premier and I sent a final joint action plan to Minister Rutley on 15<sup>th</sup> May. It provides a realistic basis for completing the COI reforms, albeit beyond the May 2024 deadline. The Premier and I discussed this joint plan with Minister Rutley on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

### Current Status

1.8. As of 23<sup>rd</sup> May, the total recommendations completed stands at twenty-nine out of forty-eight. Four additional recommendations have been completed since January, and nineteen remain. The recommendations which have been completed since January are:

- The costed plan for the **extension of the Register of Interests (B3)**.
- The **cessation of House of Assembly Grants (B8)**.
- The review and consideration of criteria, processes and monitoring of grants for **educational scholarships etc. (B11)**.
- The **audit of Crown Land disposals (B31)**, which has been laid in the House of Assembly and published.



- 1.9. Much work has taken place over recent months, but based on the joint action plan, only 36 of 48 recommendations (75%) will have been completed by the end of May.
- 1.10. The four reforms which will be delivered late by the Government are key to the successful implementation of the recommendations: the curtailment of unnecessary discretionary powers (A3), rules and consequences associated with how elected representatives and candidates declare their interests (B5), social assistance reform (B7) and Statutory Board legislation (B26). In recent weeks the Speaker of the House of Assembly raised with the Premier and me proposals concerning a different integrity model. That process has not yet reached its conclusion, but it will remain the case that a robust integrity system will need to be established for recommendation B5 to be considered complete.
- 1.11. I am pleased to report that the law enforcement review report (B38 & B41) and outstanding reports from the Complaints Commissioner (B45) will be published next week. In other areas, the Governor's Group (including the Governor, Deputy Governor and Auditor General) is facing delays. Two recommendations relate to delayed audits and two are on hold pending external development: the regional review of Criminal Procedure Rules (B42) and constitutional change to allow for judge-only trials (B43).
- 1.12. The remaining four recommendations which the Governor's Group is due to complete after May are as follows:
- An amended COI Act (B1) is due to be passed in the House of Assembly in July.
  - Provisions for a register of interests for public officers (B4), will now be included in the Public Service Management Act.
  - The Public Service Management Act is due to be passed in June (B36).
  - Legislation allowing for the vetting of law enforcement officers (B39) is due to be passed in August.
- 1.13. Implementation of the COI recommendations will not have been completed by the end of May 2024. Therefore, they will not have "taken root" at this time, as required for the Order in Council to be lifted.<sup>2</sup> However the joint action plan provides a robust basis for ensuring the outstanding recommendations are completed by the end of August 2024.

---

<sup>2</sup> Lord Goldsmith letter to Governor (4 April 2023)

[https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/lord\\_goldsmith\\_letter\\_to\\_governor\\_bvi\\_4\\_april\\_2023.pdf](https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/lord_goldsmith_letter_to_governor_bvi_4_april_2023.pdf)



## Conclusion

- 1.14. The facts speak for themselves. We need more time. These past months have seen tangible benefits from the closer collaboration on key proposals. I am confident that this approach will drive good progress in the coming months. The joint action plan provides a realistic and credible basis for our future work. So, I recommend a final extension to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 (defining earlier deadlines for those recommendations we judge can be completed sooner).
- 1.15. This past period has revealed challenges of interpretation, including of the Framework Agreement and of the COI itself. It has also shown that assessing progress is not always straightforward. It is my view that a final and thorough review of all progress should take place. So, I recommend that a final assessment of progress should take place after August, with a clear overall conclusion on whether the COI recommendations have taken root.
- 1.16. After the January 2024 Quarterly Review, my predecessor wrote to Minister Rutley to request additional powers for the Governor to help drive delivery. The improved working processes described above mean that I do not judge that additional powers are necessary at this stage. But this should remain an open question, to be kept under review as we move through the final stages of implementation. In my view, the greatest additional power available to us is that of all branches of government working together collaboratively with sustained commitment and determination. So, I recommend no change on this: the question of additional powers for the Governor should be kept under review.
- 1.17. It follows that I do not at this stage judge that the conditions to remove the Order in Council have been met. So, I recommend no change on this: the Order in Council should remain in place.
- 1.18. In submitting these recommendations, I do so in the service of the people of the Virgin Islands. We must sustain our collective commitment to give the people of the Virgin Islands, and future generations, what they deserve: a system of government that will serve them well.

Governor Daniel Pruce



# Background

- 2.1. The Commission of Inquiry (COI) Report was published two years ago on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Called by then Governor Augustus Jaspert, who served between August 2017 and January 2021, the COI considered whether “serious dishonesty in relation to public officials may have taken place in the BVI”.<sup>3</sup>
- 2.2. The recommendation which the Commissioner made at the end of the COI report “with a particularly heavy heart”, was the **Temporary Partial Suspension of the Constitution (A1)**.<sup>4</sup> In June 2022, the Government of National Unity produced the ‘Framework for the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry Report and other reforms’ (Framework Agreement) which can be [accessed online](#). The UK Government considered that it would not invoke Recommendation A1 in light of this cross-party commitment to reform.
- 2.3. The Framework Agreement envisioned “that the reform process [would] be completed over the course of two years”.<sup>5</sup> The support for, and acceptability of, the Agreement was confirmed by an exchange of letters between the Premier and the then UK Minister for the Overseas Territories. Alongside this, an Order in Council was passed, which allows the Governor to be provided with the powers needed for corrective action (including the possibility of the temporary partial suspension of the Constitution) if commitments are not delivered.
- 2.4. With many of the initial Framework Agreement deadlines missed, at the beginning of April 2023 the then UK Minister for the Overseas Territories, Lord Goldsmith, set the expectation that reforms must have taken root no later than May 2024 for the Order in Council to be lifted.<sup>6</sup>
- 2.5. In the Fifth Quarterly Review, published in January 2024, the previous Governor reported that he did not have confidence that the reforms would have been delivered or taken root by the end of May. Governor Rankin said the “implementation of the COI recommendations [did] not appear to have been a

---

<sup>3</sup> British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry, p7

<sup>4</sup> British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry, p689

<sup>5</sup> ‘Framework Agreement’, p1

<https://bvi.gov.vg/content/proposal-framework-implementation-recommendations-commission-inquiry-report-and-other>

<sup>6</sup> Lord Goldsmith letter to Governor (4 April 2023)



sufficient priority for the Government as a whole”.<sup>7</sup> It was his assessment that “providing more time alone [would] not be sufficient to deliver the reforms and that there may be a need for the Governor to step in further”.<sup>8</sup>

- 2.6. Partly in response to Lord Goldsmith’s April 2023 letter, which asked the Governor to consider “whether there is anything [needed] to support and/or accelerate the new government’s reform programme for instance resources, a grant of additional powers or technical expertise”.<sup>9</sup> Governor Rankin wrote to the UK Minister requesting additional powers as well as an extension.
- 2.7. In early February, the UK Minister for the Overseas Territories, David Rutley MP, visited the BVI and met with the Government, Permanent Secretaries, the Opposition, and the Governor’s Office. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the issues raised in the Fifth Quarterly Review, enable him to make his own assessment of progress and press the importance of swift completion. The Minister identified weak planning and limited collaboration as the biggest risks to the reform process. The Premier promised the UK Minister a robust action plan focussed on finishing the remaining reforms, a dedicated Delivery Manager, and a shared workspace whereby Permanent Secretaries, the COI Implementation Unit and the Governor’s Office could work collaboratively.

## Coordination Approach

- 3.1. The Governance Reform Coordination Centre is now in operation and collaborative work has started to increase. It has enabled progress toward a better understanding of expectations, a more detailed analysis of plans, and earlier engagement on policy matters.
- 3.2. The Premier and I now meet on a weekly basis specifically to address issues associated with the rapid delivery of the remaining COI reforms. This has been fruitful. We have been able to reach agreement on how policy development should take place, where expert advice is needed, and how the reforms should progress.

---

<sup>7</sup> Fifth Quarterly Review: Implementation of the Commission of Inquiry Recommendations, p23  
[https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/fifth\\_quarterly\\_review\\_of\\_coi\\_implementation\\_1.pdf](https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/fifth_quarterly_review_of_coi_implementation_1.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Fifth Quarterly Review: Implementation of the Commission of Inquiry Recommendations, p3

<sup>9</sup> Lord Goldsmith letter to Governor (4 April 2023)





- 3.3. Whilst it took some time to recruit the Delivery Manager, Mr Kedrick Malone began work on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024. The intention is that by having a single person who is accountable for the overall delivery of the COI reforms, who can support, motivate, coordinate, and challenge those responsible, progress should be faster and more effective.
- 3.4. It has taken a great deal of time to arrive at a robust plan which we can all have confidence in. As work on implementing the COI reforms has progressed, Framework Agreement deadlines have been negotiated with the UK Government on three previous occasions: initially in June 2022, in January 2023 and again in September 2023. The Premier and I jointly submitted a final version of the governance reform action plan to Minister Rutley on 15<sup>th</sup> May and discussed this with him on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The plan is both ambitious yet achievable. It will require a concerted effort from all those involved to ensure that the remaining reforms are delivered in the next three months.

## Overview of Progress

- 4.1. The Government's COI Implementation Unit are currently reporting that twenty-nine of the forty-eight recommendations have been completed, with nineteen remaining. Four recommendations have been completed since the January Quarterly Review, namely:
- The costed plan for the **extension of the Register of Interests (B3)**.
  - The **cessation of House of Assembly Grants (B8)**. This continued to be reported as 'in progress' though in practice the schemes were stopped many months ago. The remaining work on the Disaster Management Fund will be addressed through work on **social assistance grants (B7)**.
  - The review and consideration of criteria, processes and monitoring of grants for **educational scholarships etc. (B11)**.
  - The **Audit of Crown Land disposals (B31)**, which has been laid in the House of Assembly, published, and can now be considered completed.
- 4.2. The final joint version of the action plan shows the need for more time on key policy areas such as the curtailment of unnecessary discretionary powers, social assistance, and Statutory Board reforms. More legislative change is required than was expected by the COI, however this will form the basis for ensuring that



institutions are well-governed and operate to serve the people of the Virgin Islands.

- 4.3. There has been progress over the past two years, but with so much legislation still required to pass through the House of Assembly, to meet the Framework Agreement commitments, it seems inevitable that we all require more time.

### Constitutional Review

- 4.4. The report of the **Constitutional Review Commission (A2)** was received at the end of 2023 and has now been laid in the House of Assembly and published.<sup>10</sup> I am extremely grateful to the Commission for their diligent work in covering a range of constitutional matters, including the accountability of Members of the House of Assembly, the powers of the Governor and aspects of electoral reform.
- 4.5. Several COI recommendations are dependent on constitutional amendment: namely part of B5 and B6 on how interests should be declared by elected officials and candidates in elections, and B43 on judge-only trials. It is likely that negotiations between the BVI and UK Governments will begin once the other remaining reforms are delivered.

### Commission of Inquiry Act

- 4.6. Amendments to the **COI Act (B1)** are at an advanced stage, following the publication of the review of the Act on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023. In the Framework Agreement, the Government committed to amending the Commission of Inquiry Act in accordance with the recommendations of the B1 review. The purpose of this reform is to modernise the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1880 and to learn from the experience of the recent COI. The Premier and I have both been consulted early on proposals and await the draft Bill.
- 4.7. Drafting instructions have been produced by the Deputy Governor's Office and a draft Bill is expected at Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> June. It will receive first reading in the House of Assembly by 27<sup>th</sup> June. For B1 to be considered complete, the HOA must pass effective legislation which meets the spirit of the COI reforms, specifically legislation which supports modern and transparent COI processes.

---

<sup>10</sup> 2022-2023 Constitutional Review Commission Report', Lisa Penn-Lettsome  
[https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/constitutional\\_review\\_commission\\_2022\\_-\\_2023\\_report.pdf](https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/constitutional_review_commission_2022_-_2023_report.pdf)



## Governance & Integrity in Public Life

- 4.8. The accountability and integrity of both elected officials and public officers is at the heart of the COI. Chapter Four of the COI report on 'Elected Officials' Interests' and Chapter Fourteen on 'Overarching Recommendations' (including the **curtailment of open-ended discretion (A3)**), provide the evidence for the need for reform. The reforms must provide a comprehensive accountability system which ensures that public interests are always put before private interests. These recommendations should provide the foundation for a government that is able to function effectively and fairly for the people of the Virgin Islands. These commitments include an accessible Register of Interests for both elected and unelected officials, an Integrity in Public Life Act, and the removal of unnecessary discretionary powers for Ministers.
- 4.9. The COI found that there were several areas where public officials (usually Ministers) could exercise decision-making power without any guidelines or criteria. Crucially, it found that "the existence and use of such powers is contrary to good governance, and... gives rise to a risk of not only poor decision making, but also dishonesty".<sup>11</sup>
- 4.10. The **review of discretionary powers (A3)** was laid in the House of Assembly and published on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023. In the Framework Agreement, the Government committed to removing the powers where they are unnecessary. Where they are considered necessary, the Government committed to ensuring they are exercised in accordance with clearly expressed and published guidelines.
- 4.11. There was a one-year delay from the review being laid in the House of Assembly and work properly starting, with former Attorney General Baba Aziz appointed in February 2024 to draft a policy. The policy sets guidelines for the effective management of discretionary powers and how they should be exercised. The policy is intended to support senior public servants and Ministers to act more diligently in the exercise of discretionary powers. The Governor's Office were given the opportunity to provide advice and guidance. The Policy was agreed in Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.
- 4.12. The review of discretionary powers proffered the idea of an Administration of Justice Act which would allow the public to ask for reasons for decisions. Cabinet have decided to implement the policy first, assess its effectiveness, and then

---

<sup>11</sup> British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry, p693



consider introducing legislation akin to an Administration of Justice Act in the future. Additionally, there were three pieces of legislation and regulations which the review recommended should be amended, as they give unnecessary discretionary powers. These amendments must be completed to meet the COI requirement, and this work is due to be completed by 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

- 4.13. As the COI report sets out, “a vital element of good governance is that public officials do not take into account private interests when making decisions in the public interest”.<sup>12</sup> To ensure that this does not happen, a Register of Interests is established for elected public officials to record their interests (which might include interests in businesses, land, other employment, or other benefits).
- 4.14. In the Framework Agreement, the Government committed to designing and developing a **Register of Interests to cover both elected and public officials (B4)**. Provision for a private register of interests for public officers will now be contained in the new Public Service Management Act, which is due to be passed in the House of Assembly by the end of June.
- 4.15. The Integrity in Public Life Act has had a complex history. A Bill was presented for consideration by the Legislative Council in 2001, though this initiative failed. The Integrity in Public Life Act introduced by former Premier Andrew Fahie in 2021 was brought into force by the current Premier earlier this year without amendments to resolve issues identified by the COI. That said, recruitment to the Integrity Commission has now begun and the Attorney General's Chambers has drafted amendments to the Integrity in Public Life Act.
- 4.16. The revisions to the Integrity in Public Life Act are due to be agreed by Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> June. It has emerged that in tandem to the strengthening of the Act, that the House of Assembly have been exploring an entirely different model where elected and unelected officials' interests and standards of behaviour are managed through two quite separate systems. It is now clear that advancing the Integrity in Public Life Act alone will not address the integrity framework required by the COI in relation to elected officials. Further consultation and adjustments to the model may take some time. It is proposed that Cabinet will agree a new integrity framework on 29<sup>th</sup> May. The outcome must be an effective and robust system.
- 4.17. One component of the integrity framework is the Whistleblower Act. The Premier brought the Act into force on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024, however in its current form it is not

---

<sup>12</sup> British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry, p125



possible to fully operationalise. Extensive amendments are being undertaken by the Ministry of Finance, and the joint plan notes this will be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> July.

- 4.18. The Office of the Complaints Commissioner is a constitutional mechanism for the purpose of investigating concerns the public have about their experience with the public service. The COI report noted that the “decline in number of contacts with and complaints to the Complaints Commissioner reflect[ed] the falling regard in which the post is held by other elements of the BVI Government”. This in turn results in a “loss of public confidence in the position”.<sup>13</sup>
- 4.19. The COI advised that there should be a return to **regular reporting from the Office of the Complaints Commissioner (B45)**, in line with the Complaints Commissioner Act 2003. I am pleased to report that all overdue reports, the Annual Complaints Report 2021 and 2022, have now been received. The reports will be laid in the House of Assembly by the end of May. I will continue to work with the Complaints Commissioner to strengthen the complaints system. It is vital that those living in the Virgin Islands have proper mechanisms to raise issues about services, and that the public service continually learns from this feedback.

### Assistance Grants

- 4.20. The **cessation of House of Assembly Grants (B8)** has somewhat belatedly been marked as complete during this reporting period, though in practice the removal of grants from House of Assembly members happened almost immediately after the COI was published. The subsequent audit of House of Assembly grants identified evidence of “abuse of discretionary authority by Members in awarding grants” as well as some instances of “abuse by applicants who have utilized the deficiencies to benefit themselves significantly”.<sup>14</sup>
- 4.21. It should be noted that removing the grants from Members of the House of Assembly is not the end of the COI reforms, this was just a first step in moving away from the system which “lacked controls that would promote equity, transparency and accountabilities”.<sup>15</sup> The substantive reforms are defined in the Framework Agreement as the Government’s commitment to “moving towards an open, transparent and single (or, at least, coherent) system of benefits, based on

---

<sup>13</sup> British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry, p67

<sup>14</sup> Press Release, ‘Governor’s Press Statement on Assistance Grants Audit’

<https://bvi.gov.vg/media-centre/governors-press-statement-assistance-grants-audit>

<sup>15</sup> *ibid*



clearly expressed and published criteria without unnecessary discretionary powers".<sup>16</sup>

- 4.22. The wholesale **review of assistance grants (B7)** conducted by the Social Policy Research Institute (SPRI Global) in partnership with UNICEF, recommended a model of support which included a range of social protection mechanisms intended to reduce poverty. A Discussion Paper was published by the Ministry of Health and Social Development in June 2023 for public consultation. On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024, Cabinet agreed the programme design for a social assistance system which prioritises the most vulnerable populations in the Virgin Islands. Accordingly, the House of Assembly are due to make amendments to the Public Assistance Act on 11<sup>th</sup> July. Alongside this, and going beyond the COI reforms, a separate Universal Social Protection Policy and Strategy will address broader social development goals. My team received the draft programme design early, and the Ministry considered expert advice from a Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office Social Development Advisor. A project group has been established to ensure effective collaboration and communication between Ministries as part of the development of grant programmes.
- 4.23. Other assistance grants still sit with other departments. Work continues on the Disaster Emergency Fund Policy, which provides grants to organisations and individuals in line with the Disaster Management Act. Though the Fund currently sits with the Ministry of Finance, further work will be done to ensure that it fits coherently into the overall grants system. Cabinet was due to agree the new policy on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, however this was delayed.
- 4.24. There has been no independent review of grants for **District Projects (B10)**, though the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Works has advised that grants to individuals for these purposes has ceased. Cabinet was due to agree a new Civil Mitigation Policy on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, which should ensure infrastructure needs are met in the absence of the previous grants system, but this was delayed. What is more important is that these grants systems align with the wider work on public assistance which is due to be completed by 11<sup>th</sup> July.
- 4.25. The Framework Agreement sets out that there should be a panel comprised of persons from Civil Society to review the **scholarship/educational grants programme (B11)**. Cabinet agreed the education assistance grants policy on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 based on the work of these reviewers, and the separate Virgin

---

<sup>16</sup> 'Framework Agreement', p12





Islands Education Scholarships Programme Policy was finalised in 2022. The COI was clear on the importance of criteria being “clearly expressed and published, to ensure an open and transparent process”.<sup>17</sup> I expect the Ministry to ensure relevant webpages are updated with the new policies and procedures for Education Scholarships and Education Assistance Grants in the coming weeks.

- 4.26. Separately, the Ministry of Finance has been tasked with producing clear standards applicable to all grants, to individuals or organisations, and these may be standalone regulations or be incorporated into the Public Financial Management Act. The House of Assembly are due to pass any necessary amendments to the Act on 11<sup>th</sup> July.
- 4.27. Three of the four remaining **audits on Covid-19 Assistance Programmes (B13)** are yet to be received. Some of the audits were completed previously and are being repeated. For example, the Covid-19 Stimulus Grants to Farmers & Fisherfolk audit was issued on 21 June 2021, however the audit was impeded because the Premier's Office had failed to provide documents requested for review. The audit found “an absence of accountability” and \$1.2m was paid to unlicensed fishermen.<sup>18</sup>
- 4.28. I received the updated audit on Grants to Religious Organisations, Schools, and Day-care Providers on 10<sup>th</sup> May. I will cause it to be laid in the House of Assembly by the end of June. In line with other reports, I will forward this to the Police and Director of Public Prosecutions to perform an assessment of whether any criminal offences have been committed. I will also forward the report to the Attorney General for an assessment of the likelihood of **financial recovery (A4)**.

## Statutory Boards

- 4.29. Approximately one quarter of the Government's recurrent expenditure is through Statutory Boards.<sup>19</sup> The COI report found a “lack of openness, transparency or rigour” in the process of recruitment to statutory boards.<sup>20</sup> It found that appointments were not made based on aptitude, expertise or experience as

---

<sup>17</sup> British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry, p17

<sup>18</sup> Audit of Covid-19 Stimulus Grants to Farmers & Fisherfolk (June 2021), p5  
<https://bvi.public-inquiry.uk/sites/default/files/2021-07/Audit%20Report%20-%20Covid-19%20Stimulus%20Grants%20To%20Farmers%20and%20Fisherfolk.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> 2016 Auditor General's Report, p24  
[https://www.auditbvi.com/files/ugd/6a2542\\_3cdb8869dde04896a89d3990d1c1ec8e.pdf](https://www.auditbvi.com/files/ugd/6a2542_3cdb8869dde04896a89d3990d1c1ec8e.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry, p451



measured against identified objective criteria. Additionally, the independence of the Statutory Boards had been “severely – and, at times, cynically and with apparent disdain – eroded”.<sup>21</sup> In the Framework Agreement, the Government committed to an overriding “statutory boards statute” which drew from the findings of various reviews.<sup>22</sup>

- 4.30. The **Protocol for the Appointment and Removal of Statutory Board Members (B28)** was laid in the House of Assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023. As Governor, I have committed to following the Protocol in relation to all Boards and Commissions for which I am responsible, and advertising openly even when not required by law. I hope that this approach will be taken by others in respect of all Statutory Board appointments.
- 4.31. In the Framework Agreement, the Government committed to the enhanced monitoring of Statutory Boards as well as three reviews: **a review of Statutory Board compliance (B24)**, **a review of the provisions under which Statutory Boards are established and maintained (B25)**, and a review leading to **consideration of Statutory Board membership revocations (B29)**.
- 4.32. The **review of Statutory Board provisions (B25)** was presented to the Governor and Premier on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, and laid in the House of Assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023. It contains forty recommendations for the improvement of Statutory Boards’ governance. Over a year after the publication of the review, a Statutory Boards Policy is due to be approved by Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Consultation with the Statutory Boards took place between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- 4.33. The Government has given some consideration to developing an **overriding statute that sets out the framework for all Statutory Boards (B26)**. Rather than an overriding statute, the Attorney General has recommended a systematic review of every piece of legislation relating to respective Statutory Boards, with revised governance principles included throughout. A gap analysis between the Statutory Boards Policy and current legislation will conclude by 14<sup>th</sup> June. The Government proposes to make priority amendments to legislation by 26<sup>th</sup> July. The process of wholesale legislative change will take time. Through its policy direction and progress in delivering its legislative timetable, the Government will need to evidence that it has met its Framework Agreement commitment to pass legislation to address issues identified in the COI and subsequent reviews.

---

<sup>21</sup> British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry, p488

<sup>22</sup> Framework Agreement’, p15





- 4.34. **Consideration of whether there should be a Statutory Boards Commission (B27)** was completed as part of the **Constitutional Review (A2)**, and hence this recommendation can be considered complete. The Commission found that “to embed statutory boards in the Constitution and/or to create a Statutory Boards Commission is a retrograde step that undermines the functions and responsibilities of the boards of directors”.<sup>23</sup> This judgement does not undermine the other recommendations, in fact it increases the need for a clear framework and structures as recommended in the various reviews.
- 4.35. In place of a Statutory Boards Commission, the B25 review recommends there be a “Statutory Boards Desk Officer” with oversight of the establishment and maintenance of all Statutory Boards.<sup>24</sup> So far, even this limited provision for central coordination has not been put in place and awaits the Cabinet decision on the new Statutory Boards Policy.
- 4.36. As part of the Framework Agreement’s ‘enhanced monitoring arrangements’, all Statutory Boards submit quarterly reports to the Premier and Governor for review. Detail on the quarterly monitoring forms is generally limited, however it does give an indication on compliance and common issues. Some positives should be noted, several Boards have undertaken training this quarter, for example on procurement and corporate governance (for example, the Ports Authority, BVI Electric Company and BVI Airports Authority).
- 4.37. Although some Boards have reported progress in completing outstanding annual reports, almost all continue to report challenges with producing up to date audited statements of accounts. The Ports Authority are currently awaiting auditors to complete the 2015 financial statements, BVIEC, BVIAA, SSB, Wickham’s Cay Development Authority, Scholarship Trust Fund Board, Recreation Trust and National Parks Trust all report challenges with audits. Many overdue financial audits are over five years behind schedule. The issue is compounded because of challenges in receiving statements from such a long time ago. One Board even reports that the audit department is “overwhelmed”. In the B25 review, the proposed Statutory Boards Desk Officer would ensure “that all audits and other financial reports are properly produced”.<sup>25</sup> Issues with capacity and appropriate

---

<sup>23</sup> ‘2022-2023 Constitutional Review Commission Report’, Lisa Penn-Lettsome, p83

<sup>24</sup> ‘2022 Statutory Boards Review’, Jamal Smith, p22

<sup>25</sup> ‘2022 Statutory Boards Review’, Jamal Smith, p74



resources to commission audits will need to be addressed, though the COI reforms do not explicitly mandate this.

## Contracts

4.38. The Auditor General has asked for further extension of **audit of contracts over \$100k (B18)**. I am now advised that this will be received by 27<sup>th</sup> May, and I will ensure its publication by the end of June. In line with other reports, I will forward this to the Police and Director of Public Prosecutions to perform an assessment of whether any criminal offences have been committed. I will also forward the report to the Attorney General for an assessment of the likelihood of **financial recovery (A4)**. The report will be laid in the House of Assembly and published within three months of receipt, in line with my obligations under the Audit Act 2003.

4.39. There has been improved public procurement, including the cessation of tender waivers, since the COI was published. I believe the public will begin to see the benefits of better value for money and improvement in the quality of Government contracts. The Procurement Act makes provision for deviation from public tendering in certain circumstances. The below table shows contracts approved by Cabinet since the COI Report was published. It should be noted that there is now no longer a category of tender waivers under the Virgin Islands Public Procurement Act 2021.

	May – Dec 2022	Jan – Apr 2023	May – Aug 2023	Sep – Dec 2023	Jan – Apr 2024
Tender waiver	9 (39%)	1 (3%)	0	0	0
Public tendering	8 (35%)	19 (58%)	3 (27%)	3 (75%)	7 (54%)
Single source procurement	3 (13%)	9 (27%)	4 (36.5%)	1 (25%)	4 (31%)
Contracts for specialist work (or public procurement exemptions)	3 (13%)	4 (12%)	4 (36.5%)	0	2 (15%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>

4.40. Although the above table indicates a reduced percentage of publicly tendered contracts awarded by Cabinet over the past few months, the rationale for each decision has been reviewed by the Attorney General and Financial Secretary and has been justified in line with the Procurement Act.



## Crown Land Disposals

- 4.41. The **review of Crown Land disposals (B30)** and subsequent **audit of Crown Land disposals (B31)** were laid in the House of Assembly in April and December 2023 respectively. The Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change conducted an extensive programme of consultation, including across the Sister Islands. Following this, a new Crown Lands Management Bill was agreed by Cabinet on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024. This draft legislation sets out to ensure that Crown Lands are managed for the benefit of the people of the Virgin Islands. The legislation was due to be passed in the House of Assembly on 16<sup>th</sup> May, though this is yet to have been completed.
- 4.42. An “open and transparent process” was a key recommendation from the review of Crown Land disposals.<sup>26</sup> The new legislation and policy must now be implemented to ensure that the policy objectives are met.

## Residency and Belonger Status

- 4.43. A new Residency & Belonger Status Policy was agreed at Cabinet, and followed swiftly by a draft Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Bill which was agreed in Cabinet on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024. The Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act 2024, if approved by the House of Assembly, should give effect to the new policy. The policy and the law will then be aligned, resolving a key issue raised in the COI. The Act is due to be passed in the House of Assembly by 30<sup>th</sup> May. The change in the law allows for residency to be sought after ten years but Belonger Status after twenty years living in the BVI.
- 4.44. The new Immigration and Passport Act is just one part of the reforms under B33 recommendations. As part of the Framework Agreement, the Government committed to “legislating in accordance with the **review of Residence and Belonger Status policy (B33)**”. The recommendations from the review can be briefly summarised as follows:
- Stop the automatic progression from work permit to Belonger Status.
  - Establish an Immigration Policy.
  - Establish a Labour Policy.
  - Ensure the law and policy align and are clearly communicated to the public.

---

<sup>26</sup> ‘Review of Virgin Islands Crown Lands Distribution’, David Abednego, p6  
[https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/resources/b30\\_crown\\_land\\_distribution\\_policy\\_review.pdf](https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/resources/b30_crown_land_distribution_policy_review.pdf)



- 4.45. If every recommendation set out in the B33 review were delivered, completion would take many more months. What must be achieved by May 31<sup>st</sup> is the amended legislation, along with clear published criteria and processes as part of a transparent application system.
- 4.46. It is encouraging that the Government is actively looking to address wider labour and immigration issues which are intrinsically linked to grants of Residence and Belonger Status. For example, the Ministry of Financial Services, Labour, and Trade has temporarily suspended new applications for work permit exemptions by Minister's discretion (leaving only exemptions for persons providing emergency and humanitarian services, individuals providing essential repairs and personnel contributing to government and community events).<sup>27</sup>
- 4.47. Discretionary decisions about work permits, not based on clear criteria, can often ultimately result in individuals receiving status in the future. As the B33 review indicates, "a clear and well-defined labour policy to support the long-term development goals of the British Virgin Islands (BVI) and to manage population growth effectively" is necessary to manage the numbers receiving the benefits of both Residence and Belonger Status in a sustainable way.
- 4.48. The Immigration Department and Immigration Board is making progress to process applications currently within the system under existing legislation. Though there are approximately 1,300 applications which still need to be processed. The Premier has given assurances that applications will be assessed based on the applicable law at the time the application is made, though no such grandfathering clause guaranteeing this commitment is contained in the Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Bill 2024 which is currently being debated in the House of Assembly.
- 4.49. The below table indicates that there has been a steady increase in applicants interviewed and considered by the Immigration Board. The number of applications considered now far outweighs the number of applications received.

Applications Received for the Period	Number of Applications Received	Number of Applications Referred to the Board (Interviewed)				No. of Applications Considered by the Board			
		Residency	Tenure	Marriage	Total	Residency	Tenure	Marriage	Total
Jan 2024	20	72	0	0	72	171	2	0	173
Feb 2024	9	17	28	5	62	38	12	4	54

<sup>27</sup> Press Release, 'Work Permit Exemptions By Minister's Discretion Temporarily Suspended'  
<https://bvi.gov.vg/media-centre/work-permit-exemptions-minister-s-discretion-temporarily-suspended>



Mar 2024	62	66	31	15	112	63	15	7	85
Apr 2024	11	77	18	10	105	41	30	10	81

## The Public Service

4.50. Public Service Transformation is being driven by the Deputy Governor's Office, and the main deliverable committed to in the Framework Agreement is to introduce the Public Service Management Act, incorporating a new **Public Service Management Code (B36)**. The Public Service Management Code was published in March 2023, although the House of Assembly is not due to pass the Public Service Management Act until 27<sup>th</sup> June. It will be formally launched by 12<sup>th</sup> July.

4.51. The Act is currently being drafted by the Attorney General's Chambers, and the Bill is due to be agreed by Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> May. The legislation will need to be amended to include a register of interests for public servants, to address concerns raised by the House of Assembly and to keep the register of public officer interests separate from those of elected officials.

4.52. It should be noted that **Public Service Transformation (B35)** extends well beyond the new Code, and the Deputy Governor's Office has championed the digitisation agenda. This will contribute to the people of the Virgin Islands receiving the professional and efficient experience they expect when they interact with the Government.

4.53. It was announced in April 2024 that the public can now book appointments with a range of departments online, including at the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Social Development Department, and the Department of Labour & Workforce Development. The expanded Customer Care Centre should be on hand to assist those using the new platforms.<sup>28</sup> The launch of the online system for public sector job applications in February should result in a better experience for applicants, as well as a more transparent process for recruitment. This will hopefully improve the calibre of successful candidates taking on public service roles.

## Law Enforcement and Justice

4.54. I am responsible for internal security, including the Police Force, as part of the Governor's 'special responsibilities' set out in s60(1) of the Virgin Islands

<sup>28</sup> Press Release, 'Public Can Book Appointments with Government Offices Online'  
<https://bvi.gov.vg/media-centre/public-can-book-appointments-government-offices-online>



Constitution Order 2007. The **review of law enforcement and justice systems (B38)** and the **appointment of a panel to ensure that the police and other law enforcement agencies have the facilities and powers to prevent, monitor and detect crime, and prepare matters for prosecution (B41)** has been completed.

- 4.55. His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) were appointed to deliver a report which addressed both questions. Sector experts visited the BVI in November and December 2023. The report was received ahead of the deadline at the end of March and has subsequently been shared with the National Security Council. The report is on track to be published on 30<sup>th</sup> May, once it has been laid in the House of Assembly.
- 4.56. Naturally, security and policing are of great concern to those living in the Virgin Islands, and the delivery of the recommendations from the law enforcement review should improve how agencies operate in the immediate term. There will be an ongoing dialogue with HMICFRS, and it is encouraging that external scrutiny and support for law enforcement agencies will continue into the longer term. HMICFRS have committed to providing a ten-year plan later in 2024, and the Premier and I will be conducting a programme of public engagement to ensure the public is clear on what we are doing to improve safety and security in the Virgin Islands.
- 4.57. Although an independent agency was appointed to conduct vetting, the **vetting of law enforcement officers (B39)** is taking longer than anticipated. My team have been working closely with the Deputy Governor's Office and the Attorney General's Chambers to progress new Police Regulations, and legislation to permit the vetting of Customs, Immigration and Prison Officers. The need for extensive legislative amendments was not identified early enough in the project.
- 4.58. Amendments to the Police Regulations to allow for vetting should be brought into force in June, then vetting of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force is due to start thereafter. For other agencies, Cabinet is due to approve draft legislation on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Once amendments are passed in the House of Assembly, all law enforcement officers should be subject to vetting by the middle of August.
- 4.59. The revision of **Criminal Procedure Rules (B42)** has been put on hold. The Deputy Governor's Office had produced drafting instructions on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023, however a regional approach is being led by the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court who advised that the Virgin Islands should wait to update local rules.





4.60. **Amendment to the Jury Act (B43)** has been partially completed, and the pool of jurors has been expanded accordingly. This should improve access to justice in the Virgin Islands. However, the consideration of judge-only criminal trials in addition to jury trials, which is possible in other parts of the region, will require Constitutional Amendment. The Constitutional Review considered the matter, there will be further consultation, and it will be a subject during constitutional negotiations.

## Electoral Reform

- 4.61. Although the COI does not make any specific recommendations relating to elections, as part of the Framework Agreement the Government of National Unity made a commitment to “undertake electoral reform as a part of the reform process”.<sup>29</sup> The Framework commits the House of Assembly to “amend legislation in consideration of the recommendations” of reviews of the most recent general elections.<sup>30</sup> The 2019 and 2023 reports of the Supervisor of Elections and the Independent Observer Mission by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association made a series of recommendations.
- 4.62. The last General Election took place in the Virgin Islands in April 2023. The report of the Supervisor of Elections was laid in the House of Assembly on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. In adherence with established protocols, informal meetings of the House of Assembly took place in February and March 2024. These sessions were dedicated to the thorough review of the recommendations outlined in the reports, and allowed the Members of the House to agree on the recommendations that should be advanced to legislative amendments. A Cabinet paper with the new proposals was agreed on 15<sup>th</sup> May. Draft legislation will now be produced and approved by Cabinet by 10<sup>th</sup> July. An amended Elections Act should be passed in the House of Assembly by 29<sup>th</sup> August.

# Communications

- 5.1. As we enter the final phase of our work on the COI, it will be important to keep the public informed of progress. We must also ensure easy access to information about the new policies and procedures. I will work with the Government to ensure we deliver an effective cross-government communications strategy.

---

<sup>29</sup> ‘Framework Agreement’, p20

<sup>30</sup> *ibid*



- 5.2. On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, the Government launched a website so that the public can track the delivery of COI recommendations. The website is described as a “one stop shop for all COI related information and for the public to follow along as public officers’ work towards greater accountability and transparency”.<sup>31</sup> Unfortunately, many key documents are missing and the website is not kept up to date.
- 5.3. More generally, whilst there is much legislative and policy change, it is vital that the relevant Government webpages are kept up to date and display information clearly. Although policies might be Gazetted or placed on the banner of the [bvi.gov.vg](http://bvi.gov.vg) website, the public expect to be able to find information using search engines and through easy navigation. In areas such as grants, it is vital that those who may be eligible are made aware of what they are entitled to.

## Conclusion

- 6.1. At my swearing-in ceremony on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, I made a commitment to building close relations with all communities in the Virgin Islands and drawing from their insights as I set about my work. This has been the focus of my first few months in office. In my swearing-in speech, I made three pledges: to do my best to keep everyone safe, to champion good governance, and to support the effort of partners to deliver a better future.
- 6.2. With only a week left until the reforms are supposed to have taken root, it is apparent that this will not happen by 31<sup>st</sup> May. For both the Governor’s Group and the elected government, significant further work will require several more months. Unfortunately, many crucial reforms are yet to reach the point of legislative amendment, let alone application. For example, there is not yet an effective system in place for holding elected officials and public officers to account on matters of standards and integrity. Statutory Board reform is in its infancy, and law enforcement officers are not yet subject to the new vetting regime.
- 6.3. Whilst there has been a good attempt to accelerate the reforms following the Fifth Quarterly Review in January and Minister Rutley’s visit in February, this has proven too late to meet the end of May deadline. It has taken the last few months to get the delivery of the COI reforms back on track. Departments are now working

---

<sup>31</sup> Press Release, ‘Government Launches Website To Track COI Recommendations Implementation’, <https://bvi.gov.vg/media-centre/government-launches-website-track-coi-recommendations-implementation>





closely together. Ministries are seeking and listening to advice to improve the quality of policies, working more effectively across government to deliver the reforms. The weekly COI coordination meeting I have with the Premier is productive.

- 6.4. I believe that an extension to the COI deadline will be necessary as Governor Rankin predicted, however the commitment shown by the Government and public officers so far in 2024 would indicate that additional powers, or the partial suspension of the Constitution, are not currently necessary. However, this should remain under review.
- 6.5. The jointly agreed action plan indicates that the reforms will be completed by the end of August and an extension to this time would be appropriate. That said, deadlines have been renegotiated on three occasions and this process cannot be repeated indefinitely. The plan must now be followed without any further request for extension. The greatest power available to us will be all branches of government working together collaboratively to deliver the agreed reforms with sustained commitment and determination.
- 6.6. Based on my assessment of the current status of COI implementation, my recommendations to the UK Minister for the Overseas Territories are as follows:
  - a. To extend the deadline for implementing the COI recommendations from 31st May 2024 to 31st August 2024 (defining earlier deadlines for reforms we judge can be completed sooner).
  - b. A final assessment of progress should take place after August, with a clear overall conclusion on whether the COI recommendations have taken root.
  - c. To keep open the options of additional powers for the Governor and recourse to the Order in Council.
- 6.7. The UK Minister for the Overseas Territories and the Foreign Secretary will consider this Quarterly Review in determining next steps.



## Annex A: Reviews

Rec.	Description	Reviewer	Status
A3	Review of discretionary powers	Ms Anthea Smith	<a href="#">Published with Appendix</a>
B1	Review of the Commissions of Inquiry Act	Ms Fikile Dlamini	<a href="#">Published</a>
B5	Review of the practice of House of Assembly members contracting with government, including Statutory Boards	Mr Denniston Fraser	<a href="#">Published</a>
B7 and B10	Wholesale review of the benefits and grants system	UNICEF /SPRI	<a href="#">Social Assistance Grants Published</a>  <a href="#">Grants to Institutions Due for House of Assembly</a>
B24	Review of all statutory boards and their compliance with policy and good practice	Ms Antoinette Skelton	Due for House of Assembly
B25	Review of provisions under which statutory boards are maintained	Mr Jamal Smith	<a href="#">Published</a>
B29	Investigation into whether any appointments to statutory boards made since 2019 should be revoked	Mrs Sheila Brathwaite	<a href="#">Published</a>
B30	Wholesale review of the process for the disposal of Crown Land	Mr David Abednego	<a href="#">Published</a>
B33	Review of Residency and Belonger Status policy	Mr Kedrick Malone	<a href="#">Published</a>
B38 and B41	Review of law enforcement and justice systems  Panel to ensure that Royal Virgin Islands Police Force and, as necessary, other enforcement agencies have the necessary facilities and powers to prevent, monitor and detect crime	His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)	Received  Due for House of Assembly



## Annex B: Audits

Rec.	Description	Status
B12	Full audit of all grants made by members of the House of Assembly and/or Government Ministries for the last three years, including applications which have not been granted	<a href="#">Published</a>
	Audit of Covid-19 Assistance Grants issued by Members of the House of Assembly	<a href="#">Published</a>
B13	Full audit of Covid-19 Assistance Programmes	Due 28 June 2024
B18	Full audit of all contracts valued over \$100,000 considered by Cabinet or approved by a minister over the last three years	Due 28 June 2024
B22	Full audit of government contracts with Claude Skelton Cline since 2019	<a href="#">Published</a>
B23	Full audit of government contracts with EZ Shipping concerning the provision of radar barges since 2019	<a href="#">Published</a>
B31	Full audit of all disposals of Crown Land over the last three years	<a href="#">Published</a>
B34	Full audit of all applications for and grants of Residence and Belonger Status under the Fast Track scheme	<a href="#">Published with Addendum</a>



## Annex C: Investigations

Key investigations identified in COI report are set out in the table below.

Rec.	Description
B14	Conduct of the Premier's Office (under the previous Premier) in obstructing the Director of the Internal Audit Department in respect of her audit of the COVID-19 Assistance Programmes
B20	Sea Cow Bay Harbour Development project and the Virgin Islands Neighbourhood Partnership project
B21	The Elmore Stoutt High School Perimeter Wall Project and the BVI Airways Project
B32	Disposal of Parcel 310 of Block 2938B, Road Town Registration Section
B40	Investigation into possible corruption within HM Customs

Audits referred to the Police and DPP to assess if any offences were committed

Rec.	Description
B12	Audit of all grants made by members of the House of Assembly and /or Government Ministries for the last three years, including applications which have not been granted  Audit of Covid-19 Assistance Grants issued by Members of the House of Assembly
B13	Audit of Covid-19 Assistance Programmes
B22	Audit of government contracts with Claude Skelton Cline since 2019
B23	Audit of government contracts with EZ Shipping concerning the provision of radar barges since 2019
B31	Audit of Crown Land Disposals
B34	Audit of all applications for and grants of Residence and Belonger status under the Fast Track scheme



# Annex D: Joint Governance Reform Action Plan Deadlines

## Governor's Group

Rec	Description	Owner	Deadline
B1	Amend the COI Act	Deputy Governor	25 July
B4	Extend Register of Interests to cover public officials	Deputy Governor	12 July
B13	Audit of Covid Assistance Programmes	Auditor General	28 June
B18	Audit of Government contracts over \$100k	Auditor General	28 June
B36	Introduce the Public Service Management Act	Deputy Governor	12 July
B38	Review of law enforcement	Governor	30 May
B39	Subject law enforcement officers to vetting	Governor	14 August
B41	Review to ensure law enforcement agencies have sufficient resources (considered as part of B38 review of law enforcement)	Governor	30 May
B42	Amend Criminal Procedure Rules	Deputy Governor	On Hold
B43	Consider introducing judge-only criminal trials	Deputy Governor	On Hold
B45	Regular reporting of the Complaints Commissioner	Governor	31 May
OR1	Electoral Reform	Deputy Governor	29 August

## Government of the Virgin Islands

Rec	Description	Owner	Deadline
A3	Legislate in accordance with review of discretionary powers (curtailment of unnecessary discretionary powers)	Premier	3 July
B5	Legislate in accordance with review of House of Assembly members contracting with Government/	Premier	29 August



	Integrity in Public Life Act		
B7	Legislate in accordance with the review of the welfare benefits and grants system	Ministry of Health & Social Development	11 July
B10	Clearly expressed and published criteria for grants for District Projects	Ministry of Communication and Works	22 May
B25	Review of provisions under which Statutory Boards are established and maintained	Premier	29 May
B26	An overriding Statutory Boards statute, informed by B25 review	Premier	26 July
B30	Legislate in accordance with the review of Crown Land disposals	Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources	16 May
B33	Legislate in accordance with the review of Residence and Belonger Status	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development	30 May
OR2	Wickham's Cay Land Lease Review	Ministry of Communication and Works	29 May
PrS	Good Governance Legislation (including Whistleblower Act and Integrity in Public Life Act)	Premier/Financial Secretary	31 July