

THE CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

10th, 11th, 23rd and 30th July 2025

Cabinet Meeting – 10th July, 2025

His Excellency, the Acting Governor Mr. David D. Archer Jr., chaired the meeting held on 10th July, 2025, in the absence of Governor Daniel Pruce, who was overseas on annual leave.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change; and the Attorney General (private business). Solicitor General Mrs. Jo-Ann Williams-Roberts attended as the acting Attorney General.

Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and approved the 2023 Annual Report and audited accounts of the Complaints Commission; and decided that the report and audited accounts be tabled at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly.
2. Accepted the recommendations of the Board of Immigration to grant Certificates of Residence to forty-seven (47) persons, in accordance with Section 18(1) of the Immigration and Passport Act (as amended); and directed that the Ministry of Financial Services, Economic Development and Digital Transformation instruct the Department of Immigration to communicate Cabinet's decision to the respective applicants in a timely manner.
3. Approved the waiver of the duty from Rain Science, valued at one thousand one hundred and thirty-nine dollars (\$1,139.00), in accordance with Sections 54(3), 65(1), and Schedule 5 (13)(1)(2) of the Customs Management and Duties Act, 2010 for registered farmer Mr. Kevin Faulkner.
4. Approved eight (8) Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence applications.

Cabinet Meeting – 11th July, 2025

His Excellency, the Acting Governor Mr. David D. Archer Jr., chaired the special meeting held on 11th July, 2025, in the absence of Governor Daniel Pruce, who was overseas on annual leave.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change; and the Attorney General (private business). Solicitor General Mrs. Jo-Ann Williams-Roberts attended as the acting Attorney General.

Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and received the 2023 Family Support Network Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements; and noted that the Government of the Virgin Islands makes an annual contribution of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000); and agreed that the reports be laid on the table of the House of Assembly.
2. Approved one (1) Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence application and one application for a charge over crown land for Todman Development Limited.

Cabinet Meeting – 23rd July, 2025

His Excellency, the Acting Governor Mr. David D. Archer Jr., chaired the meeting held on 23rd July, 2025, in the absence of Governor Daniel Pruce, who was overseas on personal leave.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change.

Cabinet:

1. Noted the 2024 annual report of the Supreme Court and Commercial Court; and agreed that the report be laid on the table at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly.
2. Accepted the recommendations of the Board of Immigration:
 - a. to grant Certificates of Belonger Status to six (6) persons who, in accordance with section 16 (6) of the Immigration and Passport Act (revised) are the spouses of belongers, and who have been living together with their spouses within the Territory for a period not less than five (5) years;

- b. to not grant a Certificate of Belonger Status on the basis of marriage, in accordance with section 16(6) of the Immigration and Passport Act (as amended);
 - c. to grant Certificates of Belonger Status to nine (9) applicants, who, in the opinion of the Board, have met the legal requirements of Section 16(3) of the Immigration and Passport Act (revised); and
 - d. to not grant a Certificate of Belonger Status to one applicant, who, in the opinion of the Board, has not met the legal requirements of Section 16 (3) of the Immigration and Passport Act (revised).
- 3. Reviewed the application of PHSU Antilles Corporation for the amendment of list of items under their current Pioneer Status; and approved the importation of the additional items by PHSU Antilles Corporation under its Pioneer Status, as approved by the Commissioner of Customs.
- 4. Reviewed the application received on behalf of Eustatia Corporation Limited for Hotel Aid; approved the grant of a Hotel Aid Licence to Eustatia Corporation Limited for a term not to exceed the fourth quarter of the year 2027, for which the construction is to be completed prior to the opening target of 'no earlier than' the third quarter of 2027; and approved the initial list of items for import to coincide with the licence as outlined by Commissioner of Customs.
- 5. Decided:
 - a. to establish a Technical Drafting Committee to coordinate the development of the National Employment Policy for the Virgin Islands;
 - b. that the Terms of Reference proposed for the Technical Drafting Committee for the development of the National Employment Policy be adopted;
 - c. that the Technical Drafting Committee be comprised of the following persons or their senior representatives, for the duration of the National Employment Policy development process:
 - i. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Financial Services, Economic Development and Digital Transformation - Co-chair;
 - ii. Financial Secretary Designate - Mr. Christopher Holder, Policy Analyst, MOF - Co-chair;
 - iii. Minister with responsibility for Financial Services, Economic Development and Digital Transformation's representative;
 - iv. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change designate - Ms. Lynda Varlack, Assistant Secretary;

- v. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development or designate;
 - vi. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Social Development or designate;
 - vii. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports or designate;
 - viii. Permanent Secretary, Deputy Governor's Office designate - Mrs. Kishann Cupid-Braithwaite, Transformation Manager Labour Commissioner;
 - ix. Sister Islands Coordinator or designate;
 - x. President, H. Lavity Stoutt Community College or designate;
 - xi. President, BVI Chamber of Commerce or designate;
 - xii. President, BVI Yachting, Hotel and Tourism Association or designate;
 - xiii. President, BVI Teachers Union or designate;
 - xiv. President, BVI Nurses Association or designate;
 - xv. President, Family Support Network or designate;
 - xvi. Mr. Sedrick Chinnery - Jost Van Dyke Representative;
 - xvii. Mr. Tristan Palmer - Jost Van Dyke Representative (Young Person);
 - xviii. Mrs. Cherry-Ann George Smith - Anegada Representative;
 - xix. Mr. Rondel H. Smith - Anegada Representative (Young Person);
 - xx. Mr. Carlitos Martinez-Matos - Virgin Gorda Representative (Young Person); and noted
- d. that the Technical Drafting Committee is exempted from the new appointments system pursuant to section 1.2 of the Protocol for the Appointment and Removal of Statutory Board Members, which states that it does not apply to bodies that are non-statutory entities such as advisory groups and expert committees that do not have formal conditions of appointment and fixed terms;
 - e. that non-governmental committee members in decision item c. would not receive a stipend during the tenure of the Technical Drafting Committee;
 - f. the commitment of the International Labour Organisation Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean to assist in providing technical assistance in developing a National Employment Policy for the Virgin Islands; and
 - g. that the National Employment Policy Technical Drafting Committee will be dissolved, and its members released from their roles and responsibilities, once the National Employment Policy drafting process has been completed and is formally adopted.

6. Decided:

- a. that the following persons be appointed to the Internal Audit Advisory Committee for a period of three (3) years, effective 1st August, 2025 until 31st July, 2028 in accordance to Section 8-(1) of the Internal Audit Act, 2011:
 - i. Mr. Burton Chalwell, Jr. - Chairman (3 years); and
 - ii. Ms. Tonya Guishard - Independent Member (3 years);
 - b. that the following persons be appointed to the Internal Audit Advisory Committee for a period of three (3) years, effective 1st August, 2025 until 31st July, 2028 in accordance to Section 8(1) of the Virgin Islands Internal Audit Act, 2011:
 - i. the Director, as an *ex officio* member;
 - ii. the Financial Secretary or the Deputy Financial Secretary as an *ex officio* member; and
 - iii. Mr. Jamal Jones, senior public officer;
 - c. that the Financial Secretary instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to prepare the instruments of appointment; and
 - d. that a stipend of six hundred dollars (\$600.00) will be paid to the Chairman and five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to the member, who is not a public officer, based on attendance, as per section 9 (4) of the Act.
7. Reviewed and approved Schedule of Additional Provisions (SAP) No. 1 of 2025, with amendments; and agreed that the final Resolution and SAP No. 1 of 2025 be submitted to the Clerk of the House of Assembly to be laid before the House of Assembly at the next convenient sitting.

8. Noted:

- a. the Blueprint for Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss: the UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2030;
- b. that the UK Overseas Territories' Biodiversity Strategy document is a draft and forms part of a coordinated action under the Blueprint for Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss: the UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2030; reviewed and approved
- c. the UK Overseas Territories' (OTs) Biodiversity Strategy document, which sets out six (6) joint goals between the UK and its OTs to conserve, protect, and restore biodiversity and aims to guide policy, capacity building, and funding toward territory-specific environmental priorities, including those of the Virgin Islands:

- i. Reconnect people with nature;
 - ii. Develop skills and talent;
 - iii. Maximise opportunities for funding, partnerships, and collaboration;
 - iv. Strengthen and implement management and regulatory frameworks;
 - v. Enhance environmental resilience; and
 - vi. Champion the benefits of nature; and
- d. decided that once the UK Overseas Territories' (OTs) Biodiversity Strategy is finalised, it be publicised and implemented.

Cabinet Meeting – 30th July, 2025

His Excellency, the Acting Governor Mr. David D. Archer Jr., chaired the meeting held on 30th July, 2025, in the absence of Governor Daniel Pruce, who was overseas on personal leave.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change.

Cabinet:

1. Approved:
 - a. the revised MSME Grant Programme Policy and Administration Guide, including the updated eligibility criteria, expanded support for start-ups, and provisions for businesses affected by disruptions, with an amendment;
 - b. an amendment to the MSME Grant Programme Policy and Administration Guide that the Business Continuity grants increase from \$10,000 to up to \$20,000; and
 - c. authorised the Ministry of Financial Services, Economic Development and Digital Transformation to seek partnerships with local, regional, and international agencies to supplement the grant pool and enhance capacity-building offerings, which will then be formalised with Cabinet's subsequent approval.
2. Reviewed and accepted the Evaluation Report submitted by the Central Tenders Board Technical Evaluation Committee, which was approved by the Central Tenders Board (CTB) on Tuesday, 29th April 2025; accepted the recommendation of the CTB to award a contract to Triple A. Security Inc. for the Supply of Security Services for the Safe Haven Transitional Centre in the amount of two hundred

eighty-seven thousand, seven hundred and eighty-four dollars (\$287,784.00) for a period of two (2) years.

3. Noted the 2023/2024 British Virgin Islands Cancer Society's Annual Report and 2024 Audited Financial Statements; noted that the Government of the Virgin Islands makes an annual contribution of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), through the Ministry of Health and Social Development; and agreed that the Report and Audited Financial Statements be tabled at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly.
4. Noted the 2024 British Virgin Islands Diabetes Association's Awareness and Activity Report and the 2023 Audited Financial Statements; noted that the Government of the Virgin Islands, through the Ministry of Health and Social Development, makes an annual contribution of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to the Association; and agreed that the Report and Audited Financial Statements be tabled at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly.

Published by the Cabinet Office on 4th September, 2025.

Guidelines:

1. Cabinet decisions will be published by the Cabinet Office following confirmation of the Minutes.
2. Only a summary of the decisions will be published.
3. Cabinet discussions will not be disclosed.
4. Cabinet decisions of a sensitive nature, matters of national security, those where publication breaches regional or international conventions and those relating to personal privacy will not be disclosed.
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