

The Integrity Commission of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) is an independent, anti-corruption Agency which was established by the Integrity Commission Ordinance 2008 and formally inaugurated in May 2010.

It is now enshrined in the TCI Constitution as one of the Institutions protecting good governance.

Integrity Commission Vision

The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) as a corruption free nation with high ethical standards, where persons in public life are respected for their integrity and commitment to serve their people.

Integrity Commission Mission

To lead in combating corruption, promoting integrity and increasing legal compliance amongst persons in public life, so that public resources are used fairly and for the benefit of all TCI people.

The primary responsibility of the Integrity Commission is to promote integrity, honesty and good faith in public life in the TCI.

It perform this role through compliance, enforcement and public education.

Functions of the Integrity Commission

The functions of the Integrity Commission are derived from the Constitution, Integrity Commission Ordinance and the Political Activities Ordinance and Code of Conduct and include:

- ❖ Carry out those functions and exercise the powers specified in the Constitution and/or Integrity Commission or Political Activity Ordinances.
- ❖ Receive, examine and retain all declarations filed under the Integrity Commission Ordinance;
- ❖ Make such enquiries as it considers necessary in order to verify or determine the accuracy of a declaration filed;
- ❖ Compile and maintain a Registrable Interests;
- ❖ Receive and investigate complaints regarding any alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct or Integrity Commission Ordinance or Political Activities Ordinances.
- ❖ Examine the practices and procedures of public bodies and advise them in order to facilitate the discovery or prevention of corrupt practices.

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Brochure modified from Integrity Commission- Trinidad and Tobago.

Acts of Corruption

A person commits an act of corruption if he:

- (a) solicits or accepts, whether directly or indirectly, any article, money or other benefit or advantage for himself or another person for doing an act or for omitting to do an act in the performance of his functions as a public official;
- (b) in the performance of his duty as a public official, performs or omits to perform any of his duties in a public body for the purpose of obtaining any benefit for himself or any other person;
- (c) offers, promises or gives directly or indirectly to a public official any article, money, or other benefit, for doing or omitting to do any act in the performance of his duties as a public official;
- (d) knowingly or recklessly allows his private interest to conflict with his public duties or to improperly influence his conduct in the performance of his duties as a public official;
- (e) improperly uses for his benefit or that of a third party any classified or confidential information that he has obtained in his duties as a public official;
- (f) communicates to an unauthorised person any classified or confidential information obtained in the performance of his duties as a public official with a view to assisting that person to obtain a benefit;
- (g) improperly uses for his benefit or that of a third party, any property belonging to the Government or any Statutory body or government controlled company to which he has access as a result of or in the course of the performance of his functions;
- (h) hinders, delays or interferes with the performance of a duty of a public official with a view to obtaining a benefit for himself or another person;
- (i) during the performance of his official duties pursues a course of conduct with respect to another public officer which amounts to offensive sexual comments, gestures or physical contact or other conduct of that kind;
- (j) pursues a course of conduct by which he exploits his position or authority for his sexual gratification.

Financial Disclosure

Within three (3) months of becoming a “Specified Persons in Public Life”, each individual is required to file with the Integrity Commission, on the prescribed form, a historical declaration of income, assets and liabilities. Thereafter, every two years of remaining a Specified Person in Public Life and three (3) months after ceasing to be a Specified Person in Public Life.

Register of Interest

The Integrity Commission maintains a Register of Interest of all Members of the House of Assembly. The Register is available for public inspection at designated public places throughout the islands.

How to Complain

Any member of the public can make a complaint, in person or anonymously (orally or in writing) if he has reasonable grounds to believe that a Public Official:

- ❖ Has committed an act of corruption;
- ❖ Has breached the Constitution, the Code of Conduct, the Integrity Commission or the Political Activities Ordinance.
- ❖ Has a Conflict of Interest in relation to their Duties

Duty of a Public Official

Public officials are required to report any person whom they suspect or know to be, has been or is likely to be engaged in an act of corruption.

Failure to do so is an offence and can result in a fine of \$5000 or imprisonment for six months, or both.

Note: A Public Official is a member of a public body or a public officer.

Specified Persons in Public Life are:

- ❖ Members of the House of Assembly
- ❖ Members of Cabinet (except the Governor)
- ❖ Deputy Governor
- ❖ Permanent Secretaries
- ❖ Under Secretaries/Deputies Secretaries
- ❖ Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the House of Assembly
- ❖ Chief Financial Officer
- ❖ Chief Auditor
- ❖ Accountant General
- ❖ Complaints Commissioner
- ❖ Chief Economist
- ❖ Chief Statistician
- ❖ Chief Medical Officer
- ❖ Heads of Department
- ❖ Director and Deputy Director of Planning
- ❖ Director and Deputy Director of Survey and mapping
- ❖ Registrar and Deputy Registrar of Deeds
- ❖ Registrar and Deputy Registrar of Lands
- ❖ Director and Deputy Director of Education
- ❖ Director and Deputy Director of Immigration
- ❖ Collector and Deputy Collector of Customs
- ❖ Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Lands
- ❖ Chief and Deputy Chief Valuation Officer
- ❖ Deputy Heads of Departments, where the Head of Department is not called a Director
- ❖ Deputy Attorney General
- ❖ Crown Counsel and Clerk of Courts
- ❖ Registrar and of Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court
- ❖ Supervisor of Elections
- ❖ Members of the Public Service Commission
- ❖ Commissioner of Police, Deputy Commissioner and Officers at or above the rank of Superintendent
- ❖ Special Advisers
- ❖ Members of the Advisory Council (except the Governor)
- ❖ Members of the Consultative Forum
- ❖ Members and Staff Members of the Integrity Commission
- ❖ Members of Statutory Bodies, and any person who records minutes of meetings of a commission, statutory board, public authority; who signs entity books or is involved in its business and affairs.
- ❖ Any person who acts in an office referred to above for a continuous period of six (6) months or more.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS



The Integrity Commission Ordinance

“Promoting Integrity, Honesty and Good Faith in Public Life”