GOVERNMENT OF THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS
Office of the Governor

2025 Annual Report



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MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR



I welcome this opportunity to provide Cabinet and the House of Assembly with an annual report on the work of the Governor's Office for the period January to December 2025.

On Tuesday 7th January, I began my second year in office by delivering The Speech from the Throne which is a tradition in British Overseas Territories that signals the opening of a new session of the House of Assembly. It was an opportunity to reiterate my commitment to working in partnership and collaboration with all branches of government, in the service of the people of the Virgin Islands.

The matters of security and disaster preparedness were top priorities for the Governor's Office in 2025. Following a number of incidents that occurred on 15th January, including a murder, the National Security Council (NSC) issued a public statement calling on members of the public to assist in playing their role in the prevention and detection of crime. This was the beginning of an active year for the NSC as we considered matters relating to internal security and significant security developments in the Territory, including the occurrence of significant criminal activity.

Rescuers from the Virgin Islands Search and Rescue (VISAR) were joined by maritime protection crews from the region for a two-week training programme, delivered in partnership with HM Coastguard and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), and facilitated by RNLI trainers. The course, which took place on Tortola from 13 – 24 January, included theory, tabletop and practical elements. As Governor, I attended the training course on Friday, 17th January, to thank the RNLI and observe course participants as they undertook a simulated search and rescue operation.

In February, Sarah Hulton, Director of Overseas Territories at the FCDO, accompanied by Michael Ottolenghi, FCDO Legal Adviser, visited the Virgin Islands. The purpose of the visit was to help inform the advice that will in due course be given to the UK Minister for the OTs Stephen Doughty and Foreign Secretary David Lammy on the progress the Government of the Virgin Islands has made on the COI reforms. Whilst a substantial amount of time was spent on security/policing and disaster preparedness, I was equally pleased with the UK's support of the Territory in the areas of public sector reform, environmental sustainability and community support.

This report will give further insight into the good work that the dedicated team in the Governor's Office has successfully executed.

Daniel Pruce

PART I - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report offers an overview of the structure, human and financial resources of the Governor's Office as well as a Programme Performance Analysis covering six areas of focus, namely:

1. Good Governance
2. Security and Justice
3. Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils
4. Community Engagement and Public Relations
5. Regional and Foreign Affairs
6. Protocol and Constitutional

The report also lists a number of achievements, challenges and opportunities arising from the activities of 2025. These includes the Governor's publication of the final review of the implementation of the Commission of Inquiry recommendations in May and the release of Volume 2 of the HMICFRS Report on the law enforcement in the BVI was published in June which reviewed the structures, resources, conduct and standard of all law enforcement agencies.

The Governor assented to a number of critical pieces of legislation including the Proceeds of Criminal Conduct (Amendment) Act, 2025, Drug Trafficking Offenses (Amendment) Act, 2025, Commercial Recreational Vessels Licencing (Amendment) Act, 2025 and the Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The critical work for the restoration of the upper floor of the Old Government House Museum was completed by the end of 2025 in preparation for a planned reopening early in 2026. The Museum was severely damaged by the hurricanes of 2017 with the upper floor taking the full force of the winds.

Changes to staff complement and a reconfiguration of the office space made for a challenging year. The team, however, stayed the course and was able to execute their duties at a very high standard while providing the requisite support to the Public Service.

See below a list of noteworthy achievements, challenges and opportunities for the Office of the Governor for the year 2025.

Achievements

- Published the final review of the implementation of the Commission of Inquiry recommendations on May 2025. The United Kingdom Minister for the Overseas Territories, Stephen Doughty MP, considered the review and wrote to the Premier in September. The UK Foreign Secretary concluded that an Interim Administration would not be required, and steps to revoke the draft Order in Council begun.

- The Governor's Office conducted a public feedback survey between 12 February and 2 March on the implementation of the Commission of Inquiry recommendations specifically to determine whether the changes had taken root and the public was experiencing improvements in governance as a result of the COI. Over 600 persons shared their views. While the public feedback exercise suggests there were improvements in some areas, many persons observe no difference as a result of the reforms and some are critical of the reforms.

- The Governor's Office successfully hosted three official UK visits in 2025, two of which were to assess progress in implementing commitments on beneficial ownership registers. Former FCDO Deputy Director of Illicit Finance Becky Richards visited in April, while UK's Anti-Corruption Champion Baroness Margaret Hodge visited in September. Both Baroness Hodge and Ms. Richards met with government officials and financial and legal sector representatives during their visit. The third visit was from the former Director of Overseas Territories at the FCDO Sarah Hulton in February. She was accompanied by Michael Ottolenghi, FCDO Legal Adviser. The purpose of her visit was to help inform the advice that was in due course provided to Minister Stephen Doughty and Foreign Secretary David Lammy on the progress made on the COI reforms by the Virgin Islands Government.

- The Governor's Office received the second of a two-volume report from His Majesty's Inspectorate Constabulary Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) following a review of law enforcement and criminal justice bodies in the Territory. The review, which fulfilled the Recommendations B38 and B41 in the Commission of Inquiry, proposed 375 recommendations to be completed in three phases. Volume 1 of the report was delivered in 2024 with 138 recommendations. The review team came to the Territory in late 2023 and interviewed staff at all levels of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, Immigration Department, HM Customs, HM Prison, as well as DPP's Office and the AG's Office as far as that office's involvement in law enforcement with a view of offering recommendations for improving the functions of these agencies. HMICFRS also analysed data and documents and reviewed relevant case files in several of the organisations. The report outlines an ambitious far-reaching long-term plan to strengthen law enforcement across the BVI.

- The Governor's Office participated in meetings to present progress on the recommended actions arising from the Mutual Evaluation Report on the Virgin Islands conducted by the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force. The report which was published in 2024 assessed the Territory's compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing standards. In doing so, the report examined both the laws in place and the effectiveness of those laws in protecting the local financial system from abuse.

- The Governor's Office also continued to work closely with the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force and the Virgin Islands Sanctions Unit to support ongoing reforms and ensure alignment with international standards.

- The Governor's Group successfully created and implemented a Mass Gathering Plan surrounding the Vybz Kartel Concert in 15 March 2025. Following this event, the Group

submitted, circulated and executed a mass gathering plan for several other events including X-Mas in July 2025, Uber Soca Cruise Celebration and Anegada Lobster Fest which were both in November 2025.

- The Governor's Office brought onboard an international liaison officer from the National Crime Agency to work closely with local enforcement agencies. The Office also hosted visits from the Office of Trade Sanctions Implementation, His Majesty's Revenue & Customs and the FCDO Sanctions Directorate to strengthen cooperation across the sanctions and anti-corruption framework.

- His Majesty's Virgin Islands Prison Service (HMVIPS) received a comprehensive UK-funded support package aimed at enhancing prison security, safety, and staff protection.

- The Governor assented to 18 pieces of legislation in 2025 including the Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act, 2025, Proceeds of Criminal Conduct (Amendment) Act, 2025, Commercial Recreational Vessels Licencing (Amendment) Act, 2025, Cruising and Home Port Permit (Amendment) Act, 2025 and the Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2025.

- The Governor submitted over 40 papers to Cabinet on behalf of the Governor's Group including ten weekly Commission of Inquiry Status updates. A number of bills were put forward to include the Bill entitled Human Rights Commission Bill, Magistrate's Code of Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025. For Cabinet's consideration, the Governor's Group also put forward the Updated SP 21 Territorial Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue Plan, the Review of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Bodies – Volume 2, and Auditor General's Report on Financing the 2025 Public Service Salaries. Governor's Office also put forward a total of 15 papers for consideration at the National Security Council (NSC).

- The Governor's Office along with Old Government House Museum Board (OGHM) successfully hosted a fundraiser entitled 'A night at the Museum' raising close to $10,000 for needed repairs to the upper floor. The March event drew over 100 persons to get a sneak peek at work completed to the upper floor and to listen to a presentation by Dr. Mitch Kent on his research of the Wreck of the Rhone. RMS Rhone was a UK Royal Mail Ship owned by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company which took shelter near Salt Island during the hurricane of October 1867. The ship sank in the waters just off the island after it broke in two during the second half of the storm. Its remains have become a popular dive site and the area is now a national park.

- The Governor's Office oversaw significant work to restore the upper floor of the OGHM. With the opening of the upper floor, significant value will be added to the visitor's experience to the Museum and to the Virgin Islands' tourism product as a whole.

- The courtyard to the Governor's Reception Hall was resurfaced to address health and safety concerns and a round planter instead of the oblong shape planter was installed to incorporate

seating for guests at events. Works for this project began on July with meeting between the staff of the Governor's Office, the Public Estate Management Team and the contractors. The Reception Hall itself was also updated with customs-made mahogany doors and a new chandelier.

- The Office's Reconfiguration Project successful made extra desk space for new security advisors. This move began with the purchase of some desks, the relocation of others and relocation of furnishings. Department of Information Technology assessed the space, installed the necessary networking wiring and transfer phone lines, while Facilities Management Department relocated furniture at various stages of the change.

Challenges

- In April, the Governor introduced the Police (Amendment) Regulations 2025 allowing the Police Service Commission to enter into an agreement with the UK Home Office to provide vetting initially at no cost to the BVI Government. The decision was challenged in the courts, and an interim injunction affected some aspects of the vetting process.

- With oversight of disaster management, the Governor led the pre- and post-response to Hurricane Erin, a Category 5 storm which came within close proximity of the Territory in August. The eye of the hurricane stayed well north of the Virgin Islands, but the outer rain bands soaked the Territory, triggered flash-flood alerts and knocked out electricity for several hours across the island. More than nine inches of rain were recorded in some parts of the Territory within an 18-hour period. Minor rockslides and blocked roads were reported.

- In October, the Governor oversaw the response from relevant agencies to the escape of two inmates, Jose Almestica, 37, and John Burgos, 27, from His Majesty's Prison which prompting a Territory-wide manhunt. A UK-funded independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the escape was complete. Both inmates are considered dangerous and are still at large, prompting heightened security at ports of entry.

- The criminal justice system faces a number of resources and efficiency challenges including backlog issues, recruitment, data collection and monitoring.

- As chair, the Governor led National Security Council's response to key concerns reflected in the crime statistics for 2025 showing a 39% increase in robberies, proliferation of illegal firearms, organised crime and domestic violence. Overall statistics show that crime in 2025 (1,642 cases) stabilised with just a 1% increase when compared to 2024 (1,631), however 1,642 cases in 2025 figure is 24% above the previous five-year average—indicating a new, higher operating baseline. There were reductions in attempted murders and murders, sexual offences, dwelling and non-dwelling burglaries and sexual offences in 2025.

Opportunities

- The governance reforms stemming from the Commission of Inquiry continue to be embedded across Government. Biannual public reports on progress and an annual public feedback

exercise conducted jointly between the Governor's Office and Government of the Virgin Islands will provide feedback on any meaningful progress. Such an ongoing monitoring mechanism will check that the reforms are resulting in improvements for the people of the Virgin Islands.

- During 2025, the Governor and members of the National Security Council hosted a Crime Summit bringing stakeholders together to put forward solutions for the crime and security in the Territory. The aim was to foster community-wide collaboration in developing a National Crime Reduction Strategy. The bulk of the three-day event were presentations from various stakeholders, leaders of NPO's, organisations and youth groups on ways to reduce crime in the community.

- National Security Council continues to meet regularly to better manage the growing security needs of the Territory. Through those meetings, NSC was able to provide added direction and support to the RVIPF and other law enforcement agencies. Prior to this decision, Council met only when there were papers requiring Council's advice or information, or security issues requiring the deliberation and attention of the NSC. At these weekly meetings, members of Council were provided with regular crime updates by the Acting Commissioner or his/her designate and considered actions to be taken in response to an impending or potential security threat. It is envisaged that these meetings will continue in 2026.

- In 2025 the Governor's Office focused on ensuring a full complement of members on commissions, boards, and committees to carry out intended functions and provide the necessary advisory support. With significant progress made, it is envisaged more performance output from the various sectors.

- In March, roof leaks were discovered at Government House and worsened during heavy downpours affecting the central air conditioning components housed in the same area. With the assistance of the Public Estate Management Unit, Metro construction was identified to assess, quote and complete the repair works. A quote of $9,577.60 was submitted and the works were completed on 18th December 2025. Quality Air Conditioning and Tortola Contractor Store Ltd investigated reoccurring problems with the air conditioning.

Part II – Overview

Introduction

The Governor's Office was established to support the Constitutional responsibilities that are placed on the Governor. In accordance with The Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007, the Governor shall be responsible for the conduct of any business of the Government of the Virgin Islands, including the administration of any department of government, as it relates to the external affairs; defence; internal security (including the police force); the terms and conditions of service of persons holding or acting in public offices; and the administration of the courts. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the activities and events completed during the period January to December 2025.

Vision

The vision of the Governor's Office is to be a model of excellence and a catalyst for institutional change, development and continuous improvement in the administration and governance of the Virgin Islands.

Mission

The principal role of the Governor's Office is to support and advise the Governor therefore enabling him to discharge his responsibilities effectively and represent His Majesty and the Territory at a level that reflects the economic, political and social development of the community.

The Governor's Office comprises BVI Government and Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office staff. Key areas of work are good governance; improving the effectiveness of the police; modernising the public service; developing criminal justice; nationality matters including the acquisition of British and British Overseas Territories' Citizenship; security and ensuring the Territory meets its international obligations on a range of issues including environmental, human rights, aviation and maritime safety. The Governor's Office acts as the Territory's authority on Mutual Legal Assistance requests and the implementation of international sanctions regimes.

The laws of the Virgin Islands also pass to the Governor certain responsibilities in relation to elections, disaster preparedness, and the prison among other matters. The Governor's Office and Government House staff support the Governor in the discharge of these responsibilities and enable him to carry out his programme of public functions.

Core Values

The core values of the Governor's Office are integrity, impartiality and fairness.

Integrity - putting the obligations of public service above personal interests;

Impartiality - basing advice and decisions on rigorous analysis of the evidence, acting solely according to the merits of the case and serving governments of different political parties equally well; and

Fairness - being willing to listen to the views of all sides.

Role of the Governor

The role of the Governor is a key part of the relationship between the UK and the Overseas Territories. The role enables increased powers to be devolved to the elected governments of the Territories, with the UK retaining only those powers necessary to discharge its sovereign responsibilities and manage its contingent liabilities. The Governor does not solely represent either the UK or the BVI Government, but acts as an intermediary between the UK and the Territory's elected representatives. The Governor is directly responsible to the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary for the security and good governance of the Territory.

In order to carry out his responsibility for security, the Governor retains oversight and strategic direction of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force and chairs the National Security Council. He is also responsible for Disaster Management. The Governor carries out the role and functions of Head of State, as the representative of His Majesty the King, by assenting to legislation and approving senior public sector appointments, working in collaboration with the Premier and standing Commissions, as well as serving as chair of the Cabinet. The Governor's formal responsibility for the effective administration of justice is exercised in collaboration with the Chief Justice and the Deputy Governor. The reserved powers exist as the last resort to ensure the Governor's good governance responsibilities can be met.

The Governor's Office serves as the principal interface between the Governor and the elected representatives; the wider arms of Government and statutory bodies.

Role of the Governor's Office

- Provide an effective channel of communication through which concerns of the Government of the Virgin Islands are understood by the United Kingdom Government and vice versa;

- Conduct business between the Government and all other countries and international organisations, except where authority has been devolved to the Premier or relevant Ministry e.g. CARICOM and OECS;

- Provide chairmanship for Cabinet meetings, the National Security Council, the National Disaster Management Council, the Prerogative of Mercy Committee and the Old Government House Museum Board;

- Oversee the RVIPF to ensure effective law enforcement in the Territory and implementation of the elements of a Criminal Justice Strategy;

- Leads on security at the Prison, working closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Development and the Prison Superintendent to ensure a well-managed and secure prison;

- Oversee the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) and other relevant bodies to improve disaster management capabilities in the Territory;

- Work with the BVI Government on economic matters and the financial services sector on meeting international regulatory standards;

- Implement the UK Sanctions regime, working closely with the Financial Service Commission (FSC), the Financial Investigation Authority (FIA), the Attorney General's Chambers and other relevant bodies;

- Oversee the process for registration and naturalisation of persons British Overseas Territories Citizen (BOTC) applications through close cooperation with Civil Registry and Passport Office;

- Verify the broad range of documents (e.g. new legislation, Non-Belonger Land Holding Licenses) that require the Governor's formal legal assent;

- Liaise with the BVI Airport Authority (BVIAA), Air Safety Support International (ASSI), Virgin Islands Shipping Registry (VISR), the BVI Ports Authority (BVIPA) and the UK Marine and Coastguard Agency (MCA) to maintain effective oversight of aviation and maritime safety and security and ensure international obligations are met;

- Respond to telephone enquiries and written requests for information from members of the public in the Virgin Islands and overseas;

- Handle complaints from members of the public about the service provided by the Public Service;

- Administer the Chevening Scholarship scheme;

- Respond to requests for the exercise of the Prerogative of Mercy;

- Facilitate the extension of treaties and conventions, such as international human rights instruments, to the Virgin Islands;

- Coordinate visits for dignitaries, VIPs and various UK government officials;

- Process recommendations for His Majesty the King Honours and the Certificate and Badge of Honour;

- Receive requests for His Majesty the King's congratulatory messages for Virgin Islanders who are 100 years of age or older and couples who have been married for 60 years or more; and

- Manage the Old Government House Museum. Host receptions for charitable events, international conference/meetings and local events at Government House.

Organisational Structure

The staff complement of the Governor's Office for 2025 was as follows. View an Organisational Chart at ***Appendix A.***

Office
1 Chief of Staff
1 Assistant Secretary
1 Senior Administrative Officer
1 Senior Executive Officer
1 Administrative Officer
1 Accounts Officer II
2 Orderly
1 Cleaner

House
1 Residential Manager
1 Chef
1 Assistant Chef
2 House Attendants
2 Maintenance Officer

Museum
1 Museum Supervisor

FCDO
1 Head of Governor's Office
1 Head of Policy
1 Policy Officer
1 Security and Justice Policy Officer
1 Communications and Policy Officer
1 Finance, Sanctions and Maritime Policy Officer
1 Corporate Services Manager
1 Deputy Corporate Services Manager

Part III – Programme Performance Analysis

1. GOOD GOVERNANCE

In committing to his pledge for good governance and improved security, the Governor and his team contributed significantly to the introduction and amendments of legislation and policy development by working to ensure the system serves the people, and does so efficiently and transparently.

Legislation/Policy Development

The Commission of Inquiry has heightened discussions in the Virgin Islands around integrity laws which are intended to further strengthen the territory's capacity to govern and to police itself. As a result, Governor's Group put forward several bills for Cabinet approval in 2025 to include:

- Human Rights Commission Bill
- Magistrate's Code of Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025

The Governor assented to 18 pieces of legislation. Those within the Governor's remit are listed below:

- Mutual Legal Assistance (United States of America) (Amendment) Act, 2025
- Proceeds of Criminal Conduct (Amendment) Act, 2025
- Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act, 2025

A more comprehensive list of legislation assented to by the Governor is found in ***Appendix B.***

Commission of Inquiry

At the start of 2025, the delivery of the Commission of Inquiry (COI) recommendations moved from the intensive legislative phase of 2024 to ensuring reforms were implemented effectively and sustainably across Government. During his visit in November 2024, the UK Minister for the Overseas Territories Stephen Doughty MP called for a final review of COI implementation to be conducted by the Governor, a Government self-assessment, short assessments by FCDO officials, and public feedback to inform Ministers' decisions.

Several of the laws passed in 2024 were brought into force including the Public Service Management Act 2025 which commenced on 1 January 2025. The Public Service Management Act placed renewed emphasis on integrity, defined clearer roles and responsibilities, and established the Public Service Learning Institute.

Following the UK Minister's request for public input into the decisions relating to the COI, including the potential lifting of the Order in Council, the Governor launched a public feedback exercise on 11 February. The public was invited to share their experiences with the reforms—particularly in relation to social assistance, crown land, and residence and belonger status as well as general observations. The online survey received 621 responses which were collated and anonymised in a public report and sent to the Minister for the Overseas Territories. In parallel, the Premier's Office completed a series of COI governance town halls and media engagements to brief the public and take questions.

Linked to the Commission of Inquiry recommendations, the Integrity Commission was formally launched in March. The purpose of the Integrity Commission is to promote ethical conduct in public life, as well as receive and investigate complaints.

Working jointly with the Premier's Office, the Governor's Office helped to shape the Governance Reform Transition Plan (GRTP), which acts as a bridge from the COI to ongoing governance reform. The Plan was agreed by Cabinet in April.

In May, the Governor published his final review of COI Implementation which was submitted to the UK Minister. The review assessed delivery across the recommendations and highlighted that although most laws were in place, the next phase of implementing the policies, procedures, training and resources would be vital to ensuring the reforms benefit the people of the Virgin Islands. In July, the Premier met the Overseas Territories Minister in London as part of the assessment process.

In September, the Minister for the Overseas Territories wrote to the Premier acknowledging significant progress, informing him of his recommendation that the Order in Council should be revoked, and setting expectations for sustained implementation with a twice-yearly public review of good governance and an annual public survey to sustain accountability. The GRTP continues to guide government-wide reforms, and the Governor's Office continues to work closely with the Premier's Office and permanent secretaries on this important work.

In April 2022, the Commission of Inquiry (COI) Report, presented to the former Governor, considered governance in the Virgin Islands and whether there had been serious dishonesty by public officials. The Report offered forty-nine recommendations. The recommendations, except for the partial suspension of the Constitution, were accepted in the agreement between the BVI and UK Government on how the reforms should be delivered.

Cabinet

Section 47 of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007 provides for the establishment of the Cabinet. The Cabinet Office, through the Cabinet Secretary, provides the link between the Cabinet Office and the Public Service, ensuring that the Public Service effectively, efficiently and fully implements the decisions of Cabinet and the National Security Council (NSC). The Cabinet

Secretary has joint responsibility to the Chairman of the Cabinet and the Premier regarding business of the Cabinet and the NSC.

The Governor submitted over 40 papers to Cabinet on behalf of the Governor's Group including ten weekly Commission of Inquiry Status updates. Below are some of the papers submitted by the Governor to Cabinet.

1. Governor's Office - Annual Report for 2024
2. Auditor General's Report on Financing the 2024 Public Service Salary Increases
3. Royal Virgin Islands Police Force 2024 Annual Report
4. Public Holidays for 2026
5. Supreme and Commercial Court Annual Report 2024
6. Human Resources Annual Report 2024
7. Magistracy Annual Report 2024
8. Department of Disaster Management Annual Report 2024
9. Office of the Complaints Commission Annual Report 2023 and Audited Financial Accounts

For a comprehensive list of Cabinet papers see **Appendix C**.

National Security Council

Provision is made in Section 57 of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007 for the establishment of the National Security Council (NSC). Among its functions, the NSC is responsible for advising the Governor on matters relating to internal security and any significant security developments in the Territory, including the occurrence of significant criminal activity.

The Governor, as chair of the National Security Council, called for an increase in meetings of the Council to keep on top of the growing security needs of the Territory. Through those meetings, NSC was provided with weekly crime updates from the Acting Commissioner or her designate which provided the needed direction, the added support and opportunities to consider actions to be taken in response to impending or potential security threat. The NSC meetings followed regular Wednesday's Cabinet meetings. Prior to this decision, Council met only when there were papers requiring Council's advice or information, or security issues requiring the deliberation and attention of the NSC.

In 2025, the NSC was comprised of the Governor as Chairman and members included the Premier, the Minister for Communication and Works, the Attorney General (ex-officio) and the Acting Commissioner of Police (ex-officio). Several NSC papers were submitted on behalf of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF) and on behalf of His Majesty Prison (HMP) through the online NSC Portal.

Through a NSC paper, the Governor informed Council of the completion of Volume II of a report following a review of local law enforcement and other criminal justice bodies by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in the United Kingdom.

The NSC received weekly crimes updates by the Acting Commissioner of Police or her designate. Council discussed and responded to several incidents during 2025 including a robbery at the Cyril Romney Tortola Pier Park in December 2025. Responses to the four murders which took place during the year were also considered including the shooting death of former inmate Nyron Erickson, a former inmate of His Majesty's Prison. The NSC commended the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF) for its quick response and offered its full support in this and other ongoing police investigations. The NSC in a statement called on members of the public to assist in playing their role in the prevention and detection of crime.

The NSC invited the Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports Honourable Sharie de Castro and her team to its meeting on 5 February to receive an update on the Minister's visit with members of the London Violence Reduction Unit and Department for Education in the UK on ways to address crime and violence among young people. The Minister hoped to implement some of the initiatives in the Territory's secondary schools.

Council also received a presentation from the Chief Education Officer Orlandette Crabbe on current safety and security strategies, including school-based interventions, and collaboration with law enforcement and the community. NSC welcomed the opportunity to discuss ways to partner with the Ministry of Education and other agencies to help reduce the risks of young people becoming involved in criminal activities. Council gave its assurance to the Ministry of its support, and committed to the establishment of a joint working group, comprised of key agencies.

NSC gave the Governor advice on

1. Mass Gathering Event – Uber Soca Cruise J'ouvert Celebration
2. Police Service Commission's Recommendation for Commissioner of Police
3. Nomination for the Appointment of an Interim Acting Commissioner of Police
4. Immediate/Medium-Term Intervention to Safeguard Security Risks at His Majesty's Prison

Through papers, the Governor informed NSC on a number of matters related to security in the Territory to include

1. The completion of the second Volume of two-part report following the review of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Bodies in the British Virgin Islands, pursuant to Recommendations 38 and 41 of the Commission of Inquiry;
2. Decision to accept the Assistant Commissioner's resignation;
3. The proposed establishment of a National Port Security Committee to guide the Virgin Islands' compliance with international obligations;
4. The response plan in the event of an emergency during the Vybz Kartel Concert in the BVI given the nature of the Vybz Kartel concert on 15 March 2025. This plan was updated to take into account the large crowd size, alcohol sales, and potential security risks. A paper

was also submitted on the lessons learned by the planning committee for the Mass Gathering Event – Vybz Kartel Concert which was discussed and compiled at the NDMC Meeting on 18 March following the concert.

5. The process for monitoring the implementation of recommendations made in the first of two reports following the review of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Bodies in the British Virgin Islands
6. Report on the Independent Investigation into Prison Escape on 25 October 2025
7. Mass Gathering Event – Uber Soca Cruise J'ouvert Celebration – 18 November 2025
8. Mass Gathering Event – Christmas in July – 26 July
9. Annual Report 2024 – Royal Virgin Islands Police Force

Anti-Crime Summit

National Security Council (NSC) hosted an Anti-Crime Summit in September 2025 which brought together Government officials, law enforcement and community groups to address rising crime particularly gun violence. The aim was to foster community-wide collaboration in developing a National Crime Reduction Strategy. The bulk of the three-day event were presentations from various stakeholders, leaders of various NPO's, organisations and youth groups on ways to reduce crime in the community.

The Governor continued to progress the commitments made during the 2025 Anti-Crime Summit including:

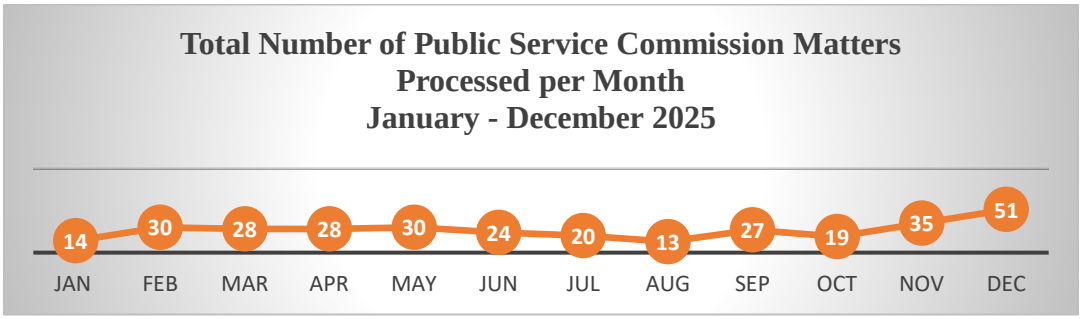
- the appointment of a Senior Strategic Security Adviser to the Governor's Office and the development of a comprehensive Security Strategy for the Territory.
- improving radio communications for the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF).
- support on planning upgrades to the prison estate.
- working towards the installation of a coastal radar system to strengthen maritime security.
- realising the vision of a fully vetted, highly professional, properly resourced RVIPF.
- ensuring community engagement with the National Security Council to keep momentum after the summit.
- working with the Premier and partners to ensure adequate resourcing across the wider law-enforcement sector.

House of Assembly Appointments

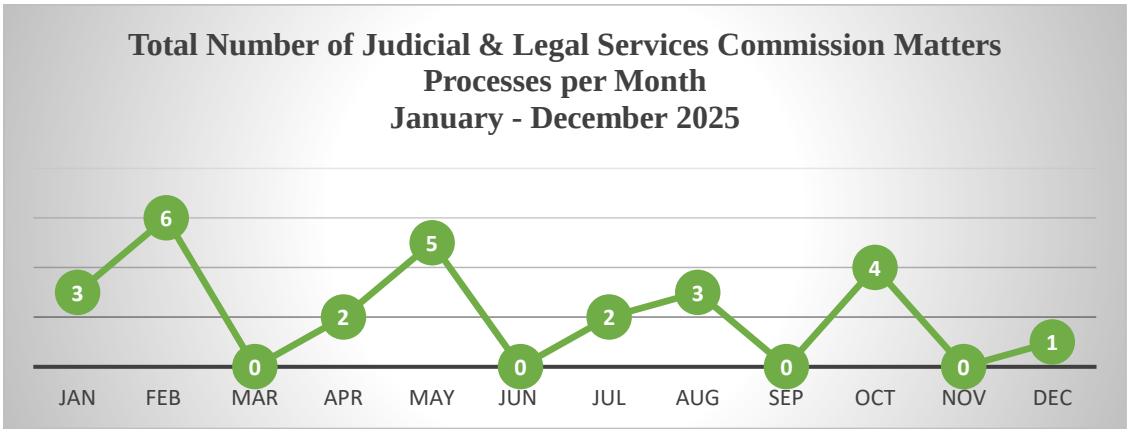
In 2025, upon the Premier's recommendation, Honourable Lorna Smith, OBE was appointed Junior Minister of Financial Services, Immigration, Labour and Trade. Similarly, following a letter signed by three members of the His Majesty's Opposition, the Honourable Myron V. Walwyn was appointed the Leader of the Opposition in accordance with the Constitution replacing Hon. Ronnie W. Skelton.

Public Service, Police Service, Judicial Legal Services Commissions Appointments

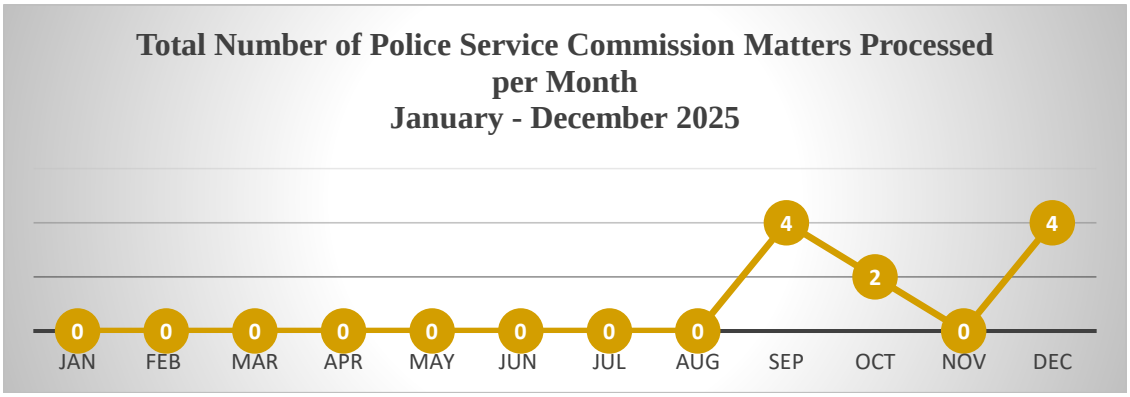
Under the Constitution, the power to make appointments to public offices and to remove and to exercise disciplinary control over person holding or acting in such offices is vested in the Governor. He exercises that power after seeking the advice of the requisite commissions. Below are the total number of decisions made by the Governor during 2025.



Total number of Public Service Commission by month



Total number of Judicial and Legal Services Commission by month



Total number of Police Service Commission by month

Administration of Legal Documents

A total of 289 legal documents were processed as received from the Attorney General's Chambers electronically, and from the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, with physical files. The below table provides a tally of the documents processed:

LEGAL DOCUMENTS SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR IN 2025													
Type of Legal Document	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**April**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**YTD**
Student Bonds	8	14	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	0	10	5	50
Instruments	0	8	9	1	6	0	0	5	3	0	8	7	47
Proclamations	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	5
Non Belonger Land Holding Licenses	4	11	18	7		19	6	3	10	28	11	6	123
Land Leases, Instruments of Transfers	5	0	2	2	4	3	0	2	0	4	1	1	24
Purchase/Acquisition of Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Revocations	1	3	2	4	4	3	1	2	1	11	6	1	39
Grand Total	**18**	**38**	**31**	**14**	**15**	**25**	**7**	**14**	**26**	**43**	**36**	**22**	**289**

2. SECURITY AND JUSTICE

In order to carry out his responsibility for security, the Governor retains oversight and strategic direction of the RVIPF and chairs the NSC. He is also responsible for Disaster Management and shares responsibility with the Ministry of Health and Social Development for the management of His Majesty's Prison (HMP). In 2025, the Governor and his team set out to achieve these objectives in practical ways.

Progress the Commencement of Vetting of Police Officers

In April 2025, the Governor introduced Regulations which allowed for vetting to be outsourced to the UK Home Office's International Policing Assistance Service. Royal Virgin Islands Police Force officers were invited to submit their vetting applications in May 2025, and approximately 100 out of 250 officers did so to varying degrees of completion. The Chairman of the Police Welfare Association brought a legal challenge against the vetting process.

In August, an interim injunction temporarily suspended enforcement action against officers who fail to submit a vetting application or fail vetting. A judicial review hearing took place in November, and the outcome of that hearing is still unknown. Work on vetting continues, and agreements which govern how data can be shared between the agencies have been developed. It is anticipated that an agreement will be signed between the Government of the Virgin Islands and the UK Home Office early in 2026 so that vetting can begin for prisons, customs, and immigration officers.

Publication of the Law Enforcement Review - Volume 2

The Governor welcomed the second volume of the independent review of law enforcement and criminal justice bodies in the Virgin Islands, conducted by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The review, which fulfilled the Commission of Inquiries Recommendations B38 and B41, proposed improvements designed to optimise and support law enforcement agencies in performing their duties, in form of 375 recommendations to be completed in three phases. Volume 1 was delivered in 2024 with 138 recommendations. The review team came to the Territory in late 2023 and interviewed staff at all levels of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, Immigration Department, HM Customs, HM Prison, as well as DPP's Office and the AG's Office as far as their involvement in law enforcement with a view of offering recommendations for improving the functions of these agencies. HMICFRS also analysed data and documents and reviewed relevant case files in several of the organisations.

The 375 recommendations in Volume 2 of the HMICFRS covered a wide spectrum of subjects designed to:

Improve governance and oversight of law enforcement and criminal justice organisations;
Tackle international organised crime and protect the BVI's borders;

Tackle illicit finance;
Make the criminal justice system more efficient;
Tackle corruption and improve conduct and standards; and
Protect vulnerable people and safeguard fundamental rights and freedoms.

The report outlines an ambitious far-reaching long-term plan to strengthen law enforcement across the BVI, including some recommendations which are straight forward, and others which require further discussion and consideration.

The Governor also with Members of the House of Assembly to discuss their views and concerns regarding the review in the spirit of collaboration and in the interest of achieving a safe, secure and prosperous Virgin Islands.

By improving the governance and oversight of law enforcement agencies, the Governor's Office will be better equipped to tackle crime, including international organised crime, protect the borders, halt the flow of illicit finance, make the criminal justice system more efficient and protect vulnerable people, while safeguarding fundamental rights and freedoms.

Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF)



In keeping with his pledge to keep the community safe by fulfilling his responsibilities for security, the Governor and his team continued to work with all law enforcement agencies in accessing technical support and assistance, developing better practices, building capacity and funding for infrastructure improvements. He also pledged support to tackle organised crime in the Territory.

Following the receipt of the Volume 2 of UK-funded Law Enforcement Review in 2025, the recruitment campaign for the Commissioner of Police which had been temporarily suspended resumed. The rigorous selection process was updated in line with the recommendations in the report and is expected to yield a leader who can deliver transformational change in a complex organisation.

With Deputy Commissioner Jacqueline Vanterpool acting in the post of Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner St. Clair Amory on pre-retirement leave, and the resignation of Assistant Commissioner Pam Trevillion, the Police Service Commission recommended that Superintendent Dariel Robinson and Chief Inspector Kenrick Davis act as the two deputy commissioners; Paula Alleyne act as assistant commissioner; Louis Buckley and Jummo Shorte act as superintendents for Operations Division and Criminal Division respectively. Governor appointed all five based on the advice of NSC.

On 6 November, the Governor announced that Jacqueline Vanterpool would return to her substantive role as Deputy Commissioner of Police with effect 18 November 2025, after serving

for over a year as Acting Commissioner. The decision was taken in accordance with the Constitution, following consultation with the Police Service Commission, and in line with the Governor's duty under the Police Act to ensure the effective administration of the RVIPF. The Governor emphasised that the security of the Virgin Islands remains his top priority, noting the pressures facing the Force. The Governor confirmed that he had nominated Richard Ullger, former Commissioner of the Royal Gibraltar Police, to Act as Commissioner for a limited period, while the process to appoint a substantive Commissioner of Police continued separately.

On 19 November 2025, Richard Ullger formally assumed the position of Interim Acting Commissioner of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force. Following the ceremony the Governor noted the significant challenges facing the RVIPF, including an increasingly complex criminal landscape, the need for internal reform, and the task of securing resources and training necessary to meet modern policing standards, all issues that required strong leadership, strategic planning, and collaboration with partners across the Territory.

Throughout 2025 several security experts from the UK were deployed to BVI to work with the RVIPF. The experts focused on priority areas including improving BVI's marine unit capability, mentoring and supporting the Financial Investigations Unit, and providing strategic support to the RVIPF senior team. Superintendent from Northumbria Police was deployed to provide strategic support to the former Acting Police Commissioner and the senior team for four months and a chief inspector from Northumbris Police spent three months supporting the RVIPF to implement related HMICFRS recommendations. In addition, a security expert was deployed for seven months to support and coordinate the implementation of the recommendations from the HMICFRS law enforcement review volume 1.

Cyber Security



In collaboration with the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), cyber specialists funded by the UK Government conducted a national cyber security risk assessment (NCRA) and training programme in March to improve the resilience of the Virgin Islands in the event of a cyber-attack.

The UK team worked with DoIT to train them on the risk assessment process from 17 to 21 March. On 18 March, DoIT hosted a workshop for 34 officials from across 13 departments within the Government of the Virgin Islands, who have critical assets that could be of interest to a cyber threat actor. Having completed the training, DoIT now has the capability to run the NCRA across all critical sectors each year to build a valuable data set and measure the mitigation of identified risks. The NCRA also provides evidence for building business cases for greater investment to reduce the threats.

The NCRA focuses on improving the cyber security of critical national infrastructure and essential digital services in critical sectors such as government, telecoms, health, maritime, energy, and

transport on which the Territory is increasingly dependent. The NCRA project is part of a wider UK Overseas Territories' cyber programme which has been running since 2019 and funded by the UK Government's Integrated Security Fund.

Civil Aviation Security

The Governor visited Terrance B. Lettsome Airport to chair the National Civil Aviation Security Committee and to also see the recent works on the stand-off zone, which will bring the airport closer to compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization's standards.

The Governor was also delighted to host a special reception for the UK's Air Safety Support International (ASSI) and the Virgin Islands' Aviation industry, where attendees had the opportunity to build new relationships and strengthen existing connections.

His Majesty's Prison



The Governor visited His Majesty's Prison (HMP) at Balsam Ghut in early March to meet with prison staff and inmates. He was pleased to see conditions have improved for officers and prisoners alike. The prison's superintendent and his dedicated team are working towards making the prison a place of rehabilitation.

The Governor met with the prison chaplain and heard about the pastoral support he provides. He also met with the visits officer and learned about changes made to improve family visits. The Governor was delighted to see progress made to improve the workshop, as well as some woodwork undertaken by inmates. The Governor and the Honourable Mr. Vincent O. Wheatley also met to discuss ways they can work together to further support HMP and its rehabilitation programme, to prevent prisoners from committing to a life of crime.

The UK's Ministry of Justice (MoJ) continued to provide significant support to HMP Balsam Ghut including officer training and infrastructure security and safety upgrades. Specialist UK locksmith and Head of the National Locking Section Lee Pilkington completed a major upgrade to the key and locking systems at His Majesty's Prison (HMP) Balsam Ghut to improve security and ensure safer day-to-day operations. Prison officers were trained to ensure local capability on the ongoing maintenance of the new locking systems.

In addition, four local prison officers were seconded to HMP Maidstone for ongoing professional development to support leadership development and succession planning for HMP Balsam Ghut.

In December 2025, a senior prison officer completed the first phase of the MoJ's OT Prison Leadership and Management Development Programme. The programme, which continues into

2026, is designed to build operational leadership capability and connect participants across jurisdictions.

Despite the general upgrades to the prison, concerns remain over the overcrowding conditions. This led to the submission of a Cabinet paper requesting additional funding and staffing. The paper entitled, Immediate/Medium-Term Intervention to Safeguard Security Risks at His Majesty's Prison seeks to:

- Create another wing
- Implement electronic tagging
- Create an alternative site for prisoners.
- Improve safety at the prison

UK Ministry of Justice funded an external, independent investigation into the escape of two inmates from HMP Balsam Ghut in October 2025. The investigation report was considered by the NSC early in 2026. Since then the Governor has stressed that its recommendations will be implemented in full.

Search and Rescue Training



Rescuers from the Virgin Islands Search and Rescue (VISAR) were joined by maritime protection crews from Anguilla, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands for a two-week training programme, delivered in partnership with HM Coastguard and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), and facilitated by RNLI trainers. The programme, designed to 'train the trainers', developed attendees' search-and-rescue capabilities so that participants can redistribute the information to colleagues in their respective territories.

The course, which took place on Tortola from 13 – 24 January, included theory, tabletop and practical elements. The RNLI is a British non-governmental organisation with over 200 years of experience in saving lives at sea.

The Governor attended the training course and observe course participants as they undertook a simulated search and rescue operation. The Governor noted that this type of training was vital to ensuring crews are trained and up to date with international industry standards for search and rescue in order to provide the best service possible to the territories. He shared his gratitude to the RNLI and UK Coastguard for conducting the training course.

The UK Joint Force Headquarters from the Ministry of Defence also visited the Virgin Islands, as part of the UK's efforts to prepare for a potential response in the event of extreme weather. The

team visited the Governor, Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport, Royal Virgin Islands Police Marine Unit, and held a tabletop exercise with frontline agencies and assessed medical capacity on Tortola and Virgin Gorda.

Disaster Preparedness and Management



The forecast for the 2025 Hurricane Season was above average storm activity with 17 names storms and nine hurricanes with four major hurricanes. These predictions covered the entire Atlantic basin. However, the last season's impact of Ernesto, a system categorized as a tropical storm, toppled tree, damage roads, and cause serious disruption to lives. Therefore, preparation is the key.

Hurricane Erin had the greatest impact to the Virgin Islands rapidly intensifying to a Category 5. On 14 August, the meteorological service in Antigua and Barbuda issued a Tropical Cyclone Alert for the Leeward Islands to include the British Virgin Islands. On that day, the Governor chaired a virtual agency preparedness meeting with the Department of Disaster Management and key agencies comprising the operations team. This meeting provided updates on the storm's track and the level of preparedness of the agencies. By 16 August, the Tropical Storm Alert has been discontinued as the hurricane moved north of the islands, however, the Territory continued to experience winds, high seas and heavy rainfall during its passage. A flash flood watch was issued for the Virgin Islands by the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Office and remained in effect until 17 August 2025.

Following Hurricane Erin's passage, many roads were blocked throughout the Territory by fallen trees, landslides and debris, including Little Dix Hill, Mayaba, Balsum Ghut, Road by MacNamara, Ridge Road, Blackburne Highway from West End to East End. Areas in Virgin Gorda were similarly impacted. Power was out throughout the Territory for a period.

The highest wind speed reported as Hurricane Erin's outer bands impacted the Territory was 56.3 mph in the Chalwell area. The highest recorded rainfall was 10.2 inches of rain which occurred in Hodge's Creek. The estimated cost of damage was $335,000.00.

Training Exercise with UK's Royal Air Force Aircraft (May 2025)

In May the UK's Royal Air Force Globemaster (C-17) aircraft and crew from 99 Squadron, conducted a training exercise across the Caribbean as part of the UK's annual hurricane preparedness initiative. The Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport was one of five stops in this exercise to become familiar with the airspace and airstrips in the region and assess the readiness of airfields to receive humanitarian aid. This training task was being undertaken in preparation for hurricane season, to ensure that UK support is swift in the event that hurricane relief is needed.

Marine Incident Exercise

Several agencies and organisations participated in the marine incident exercise in June including: BVI Ports Authority BVIPA, Cyril B. Romney Tortola Pier Park, Royal Virgin Islands Police, BVI Health Services Authority, VI Fire and Rescue Service, the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency, U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Juan, VISAR and the Cyril B. Romney Tortola Pier Park. Interagency exercises help in ensuring an optimal response to various complex incidents. Gratitude was extended to all participants including the volunteers who acted as casualties from HM Governor's Office in the BVI, VISAR, and BVI DDM; and to the Virgin Islands Shipping & Maritime Authority and Road Town Fast Ferry for the use of their vessels.

Criminal Justice System

Throughout 2025, the Governor continued to chair the Criminal Justice Advisory Group (CJAG), a meeting of representatives from across the Virgin Islands' criminal justice system, to share information and work together to make the system more efficient.

The Governor continued to emphasise the need to preserve the constitutional underpinning for the independence of the courts, DPP and RVIPF in order to maintain the checks and balances central to a democratic society. To this end, he has offered substantial recommendations to strengthen existing and new legislation inclusive of the Police Act, Integrity in Public Life Act, Register of Interests Act and Whistle Blowers Act.

The judiciary within the BVI continues to be productive, however it is imperative that business continuity measures can be transitioned to with relative ease. The Courts must be recognised by the public as an institution that is not only accessible, but also where fair, equitable and swift justice can be attained. There are several measures which need to be developed and implemented to enhance efficiency of the system. There is also a need for closer monitoring of the backlog issues and dedicated resources to support and evaluate the performance of the criminal courts.

Legal Matters

The Governor in 2025 continued to collaborate with the Attorney General Chambers on a number of legal claims against Government. Most of the claims were maladministration claims. It is the intention of the Governor’s Office to work closer with the Deputy Governor’s Office to assess the claims with the aim of reducing/alleviating the number of cases in the future.

In the first quarter, the Governor’s Office processed immigration deportation requests for five inmates: Isabella Merton, Franklin Jose Ramirez Garcia, Junior Frankie Williams, Jerome Mapp, Pedro Mercedes Soto. All requests were honoured and the individuals were subsequently deported. The Governor’s Office also honoured eleven requests for removal warrants by the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force to facilitate further investigations.

The Governor’s Office received and considered 23 early release recommendations from the Superintendent of Prisons. Following receipt of the advice from the Superintendent and the Prerogative of Mercy Advisory Committee, the Governor granted 17 inmates early releases.

3. BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITEES AND COUNCILS

Maintenance of Commissions, Boards and Committees

The Governor is responsible for appointing members to the following Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils **(See Appendix D for Membership of the Respective Groups).**

Boards
Old Government House Museum Board
Parole Board
Virgin Islands Cadet Corp Board
Scholarship Trust Fund Board
Emergency Disaster Fund Board
Firearms Advisory Board

Commissions
Integrity Commission
Judicial and Legal Services Commission
Police Service Commission
Public Service Commission
Teaching Service Commission

Committees
Visiting Ships Committee
BVI Honours Committee
Prison Visiting Committee
Prerogative of Mercy Committee

Councils
National Security Council
Virgin Islands General Legal Council

In 2025, the Governor's Office focused on ensuring a full complement of members on commissions, boards, and committees to carry out intended functions and provide the necessary advisory support. The Office endorsed and encouraged the competitive process for selecting and appointing persons to commissions, committees and board in line with the newly established Protocols for Statutory Boards for Appointments and Removals of Statutory Members brought into force by Cabinet in 2023.

Four appointments on Public Service Commission expired during 2025. The Governor reappointed Chairperson V. Inez Archibald for another year and appointed Darlene Forbes as the nominee for the Civil Service Association. Ms. Forbes replaced Kelvin Hodge whose appointment had expired in the second quarter of the year. The Governor also reappointed Helen Seymour as his representative to the Commission and Louis Malone as the Premier's nominee.

Public Service Commission

V. Inez Archibald	Chairperson
Louis Malone	Member
Helen Seymour	Member
Darlene Forbes	Member
Ayana Hull	Member

In September, a member of the Integrity Commission Dr. Robert Mathavious died suddenly. Though the Governor's Office made several requests, as of the year ending 2025, a nominee for his replacement had not submitted. All other commissions maintained full membership throughout 2025.

The Governor's Office pressed for the reestablishment of two critical boards which resulted in a full slate of members appointed to two bodies -- V.I. Cadet Corp Board and Scholarship Trust Fund Board. All the appointments to these boards had expired for a period and required nominations from external bodies for the Governor's consideration.

The Governor convened the Virgin Islands Cadet Corps Council in the first quarter of the year to garner the advice on the persons nominated to sit on the Virgin Islands Cadet Corp Board. On the advice of Council, he appointed all the four persons nominated. The Council ordered the Board to recommend the appointment of a Commandant who shall be an ex-officio member in accordance with Section 13(2).

The Governor held an official welcomed to the members of the Cadet Corps Board at his Office. This invitation was extended to the Minister for Education and Culture Sharie deCastro, her Acting Permanent Secretary Claude Kettle and Director of Youth Affairs and Sports, who, by law, is an ex-officio member of the Board. Members will serve for a period of three years effective 1 March 2025 in accordance with the Virgin Islands Cadet Corps Act, 2008.

The Board is comprised of the Commissioner of Police, the Director of Youth Affairs, an attorney nominated by the Attorney General, and not more than three members nominated by the Minister for Education. The Commandant who shall be an *ex-officio* member.

Virgin Islands Cadet Corp Board

Kayron Todman	Chairperson
Timothy Barker	Member
Deidra Thomas	Member
Ann Allen Encontre	Member
The Commissioner of Police	Member
The Director of Youth Affairs and Sports	Member

Scholarship Trust Fund Board

In March 2025, the Governor appointed the five persons nominated by the Minister for Education to the Scholarship Trust Fund Board. The Ministry indicated that the individuals were selected based on competitive process which is in line with the Protocols for Statutory Boards for Appointments and Removals of Statutory Members brought into force by Cabinet in 2023.

Former members Deon Vanterpool and Everette Fraser were reappointed to the board. Wendell Gaskin was be appointed as Chairman, and Shanique Creque and K'Mari Fahie were appointed as new members.

Wendell Gaskin	Chairperson
Everette Frazer	Member
Shanique Creque	Member
Deon Vanterpool	Member
K'Mari Fahie	Member
NBVI Head	Ex-officio
PS ME&C	Ex-officio

The Scholarship Trust Fund Board established through the Scholarship Trust Fund Act (Cap. 118) Section 5(1) and (2) is comprised of seven members. Members, who hold office for three years and are eligible for reappointment, oversees the management of the Scholarship Trust Fund, manages the loan and assists in financing the higher and further education of Virgin Islanders with special emphasis being given to priority areas of study decided upon each year by Cabinet. The former membership expired 31 November 2024.

The Governor's Office help to restore membership to two additional bodies -- the Virgin Islands General Legal Council (VIGLC) and the Emergency Disaster Fund Committee (EDFC).

Virgin Islands General Legal Council

Jerry Samuel	Chairperson
A.G., BAR Head	Member
Alex Hall Taylor, Asha Johnson-Willins	Member
Sonjah Smith	Member
Delia Jno Baptiste	Member

Based on the nominations of the Acting Chief Justice and President of the Bar Association, the Governor appointed four persons to the VIGLC after receiving the name of the final nominee from the Premier in last quarter of the year.

The Virgin Islands General Legal Council, established under the Legal Profession Act, consist of a chairperson nominated by the Chief Justice; a Deputy Chairperson who is the Attorney General, the

President of the Association, two legal practitioners nominated by the Association, one person nominated by the Premier, and one legal practitioner nominated by the Leader of the Opposition. Members are appointed by Governor for three years, and are eligible for re-appointment.

Based on nominations put forward by the Financial Secretary, the Governor also appointed four new members to the Emergency Disaster Fund Committee. The Financial Secretary is the ex-officio chair of the EDFC while members are permanent secretaries of various ministries.

Emergency Disaster Fund Committee

Jeremiah Frett, Financial Secretary	Chairperson
PS, Deputy Governor's Office	Member
PS, Ministry of Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sustainable Development	Member
PS, Ministry of Communications and Works	Member
PS, Ministry of Health and Social Development	Member

Meetings with Boards and Committees

Honours Committee

The Honours Committee held four meetings during 2025 to review the applications of nominators and select those that would be put forward for King's Honours and Badge of Honour. The Committee submitted the name of three candidates to the Governor as nominees for the New Year's 2025 Honours. Nominations were subsequently forwarded to the U.K. Honours Committee for consideration.

The Committee also proposed nominees to be put forward for the Badge of Honour. Members put forward nine names and assigned members to gather the necessary documentation for each nominee. The final meeting for the year was held virtually on December.

Advisory Committee of Prerogative of Mercy

The Governor sought advice from the Advisory Committee of Prerogative of Mercy to consider one request for pardon and over ten requests for early release. To expedite the consultation process, the Governor requested the advice from members via email. Advice was received, printed, and placed on file for the Governor's consideration.

Meet and Greet for JLSC, VICC, VIGLC

In June, the Governor hosted a meet and greet with the members of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC) and the V.I. Cadet Corps Board (VICC Board). With fresh members on all these bodies, the meeting was intended to engage and support the work of each of the bodies.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Throughout the year, the Governor hosted visits, events, attended and participated in others. He visited several communities, ongoing environmental and infrastructural developments and hosted many events at Government House. Some of the noteworthy events that the Governor attended in the community included the Biodiversity Strategy Workshop, the vigil held for 11-year-old Arianna Younge, the BVI Red Cross's Men Health Fair, and the meeting of Rotary Club of Tortola.

Official Visits

Former FCDO Director Visit (January 2025)



Governor Pruce hosted Sarah Hulton, former Director of Overseas Territories at the FCDO, accompanied by Michael Ottolenghi, FCDO Legal Adviser, who visited the Virgin Islands for the purpose of helping to inform the advice that was given to the UK Minister for the Oveseas Territories Stephen Doughty and Foreign Secretary David Lammy on the progress the Government of the Virgin Islands has made on the COI reforms. During her stay, Sarah Hulton enjoyed in a community walkabout where she met local residents and heard their concerns. She was accompanied by the Acting Commissioner of Police, the Governor and the Premier.

Deputy Director of Illicit Finance Becky Richards (April 2025)

The Governor also hosted Becky Richards, FCDO Director of Illicit Finance. The purpose of her visit was to assess progress in implementing commitments on beneficial ownership registers. Richards met with government officials and financial and legal sector representatives during their visit.

Baroness Visit (September 2025)



In September, Governor Pruce hosted the visit of Baroness Margaret Hodge, the UK's Anti-Corruption Champion. The Baroness met with government officials and financial and legal sector representatives. The purpose of the Baroness' visit was to assess progress in implementing commitments on beneficial ownership registers.

Environmental Engagements

Biodiversity Strategy Workshop (June 2025)

The Governor spoke at a Biodiversity Strategy Workshop hosted by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The workshop

supported the development of an Overseas Territory Biodiversity Strategy and highlighted progress on two UK-funded Darwin Plus projects, including new marine habitat maps and training for BVI Government departments.

Gubernatorial Engagements

Speech from the Throne (January 2025)



The Speech from the Throne is a tradition in British Overseas Territories that signals the opening of a new session of the House of Assembly. Opening the House for 2025, the Governor said: "It is a privilege for me to stand before this House today and an honour to deliver this speech for the first time. Just as it has been a privilege and an honour for me to work in partnership and collaboration with all branches of government, in the service of the people of the Virgin Islands over the past year, since I was sworn in as Governor."

Annual Conference of Governors (June 2025)

The Governor attended the annual conference of Governors, Ambassadors and High Commissioners in the UK, which featured important discussions with Ministers and colleagues on a wide range of current issues.

Joint Ministerial Council (November 2025)

The Governor and the Premier travelled the London for the annual meeting of the Overseas Territories' Joint Ministerial Council (JMC). The JMC is the highest forum for political dialogue and consultation between the elected Leaders of the Overseas Territories and UK Ministers. The Council met under the strapline of 'Listen, Transform, Deliver – Together' with the aim of building closer relationships based on mutual respect and inclusion, to deliver greater security and prosperity.

Security Engagements

Governor Visits Rotary Club of Tortola (February 2025)

The Governor attended the Rotary Club of Tortola to speak about his security priorities and the role of the National Security Council. The Governor noted that security was his top priority and his approach is an inclusive and pro-active one. Yet he maintained that we all have a contribution to make. "No single person has all the answers. The more of us who become involved the greater our chances of success".

Anti-Crime Summit (September 2025)

National Security Council chaired by the Governor hosted a three-day Anti-Crime Summit National Security Council (NSC) in September 2025 bringing together Government officials, law

enforcement and community groups to address rising crime particularly gun violence. The aim was to foster community-wide collaboration in developing a National Crime Reduction Strategy.

Engagements during Observances

BVI Red Cross Men's Health Fair (February 2025)
The Governor Daniel Pruce and his close protection officer took part in the BVI Red Cross' Men's Health Fair. All men over 40 were encouraged to take advantage of a free health screening at the Multi-Purpose Sports Complex on Tortola. This quick and easy screening could catch any health issues early.

International Women's Day (March 2025)
The Governor hosted a cohort of future female leaders studying at the H. Lavity Stoutt Community Colllege for a special lunch and learn event. The Governor and senior female leaders at the Governor's Office shared their career experience in government, public service, communications and diplomacy. The team also offered advice on how to get a 'foot in the door', advance in a career and manage any challenges along the way. The group were provided lunch at Government House, discussing a range of important, topical matters including sustainability and the environment, juvenile delinquency, citizenship and healthy relationships.

Centenarian Celebrated (April 2025)



The Governor delivered a letter from the King and flowers to Centenarian Mrs. Esmie Turnbull-Stoutt. Mrs. Turnbull-Stoutt was the first recipient of the enhanced centenarian grant of $10,000. At the time of her celebration, there were seven other centenarians in the Virgin Islands.

King's Birthday (June 2025)
Governor Pruce hosted the King's Birthday celebration in June and honoured the King's passion for sustainability and conservation by using only

Armistice Day (November 2025)
The Governor was joined by the Deputy Governor, Attorney General, and veterans for Remembrance Day. At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, the guns fell silent, signaling the end of the First World War. On this day every year, those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom and safety are remembered with two minutes' silence. Wreaths are laid and the flag is lowered as a mark of respect. This November marked 80 years since the end of World War II.

Announcement of MBE and BEM Medals (November 2025)
Governor Pruce announced that Mr. Andre Braithwaite has been awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in His Majesty The King's New Year 2026 Overseas and International Honours list.

This prestigious award recognised Mr. Braithwaite's outstanding service to young people and the music industry while in his post as music director at Elmore Stoutt High School and H. Lavity Stoutt Community College in the Virgin Islands. For over 30 years, Mr. Braithwaite has been a mentor, leader, and cultural ambassador - shaping generations of musicians and enriching the Virgin Islands' cultural heritage.

Governor Pruce noted that Andre's passion for music and his tireless work teaching and inspiring young people has enriched the community and strengthened the cultural fabric of the Virgin Islands. The honour celebrates Mr. Braithwaite's incredible achievement and lifelong dedication to music and youth development!

A special ceremony was held at Government House following the announcement that Mrs. Julie Cooper awarded a British Empire Medal for her charitable service to the community as a champion fundraiser.

Glasgow 2026 King's Baton Relay (May 2025)



Acting Governor Mr. David Archer and Dr. Alison Flax-Archer hosted a reception for the Glasgow 2026 King's Baton Relay at Government House, wrapping up four days of activities that included coastal cleanups in Anegada and Virgin Gorda, school visits to the Elmore Stoutt High School and Bregado Flax Educational Center and culminating in a short relay through Road Town.

Heralding the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games taking place in Scotland, July 23 - August 2, 2026 - the King's Baton Relay celebrated the BVI's past Commonwealth Games athletes and sports, our culture - depicted by local artist, Desiree Smith on the uniquely decorated Baton, and environmental sustainability through coastal cleanups organized by Green VI.

Filipino Celebration (March 2025)
The Governor hosted a celebration of Filipino culture at Government House in March celebrating the vibrant Filipino community living here in the BVI.

World Press Freedom Day (May 2025)
Local journalists, communications professionals, media owners, bloggers, content creators, and influencers joined the Governor at an event at Government House to mark World Press Freedom Day. Governor Pruce noted the importance of upholding the fundamental principles of press

freedoms to democracy. Journalism is the lifeblood of democracy and all the values that underpin it. The free flow of accurate information must be protected and respected.

Christmas at Richiez Learning Centre (December 2025)
Acting Governor Mr. David D. Archer Jr. and the Governor's Office Team took Christmas to the children and teachers of the Eslyn Henley Richiez Learning Centre. In a turnaround to the annual celebration held at Government House, the team prepared and packed a sumptuous lunch, gifts for the school and plenty of Christmas cheer and took it to newly constructed Learning Centre. Staff engaged in chatting, singing, and dancing. Members of the Ministry of Education joined in the festivities.

Memorials and Tributes

Vigil for 11-year-old Arianna Younge (May 2025)
To close off Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month, the Governor attended a special vigil for Adrianna Younge, and spoke out against all forms of child abuse. He was particularly moved and impressed by the young people who spoke and performed throughout the programme. The Governor noted that there is nothing more important than the safety and security of children. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable and loving home, and those who do need help and protection, deserve high quality, effective support. This requires individuals, agencies and organisations to be clear about their roles and responsibilities, and those of their partners, so that they can all work together.

Tribute to the Late Marlene Penn Trotman (May 2025)
The Governor gave tribute to the late Mrs Marlene Penn Trotman, recipient of the Badge of Honour Award, by hosting her children at King's Birthday Party at Government House. Mrs. Penn Trotman is described of one of the Virgin Islands Cultural icons. She was the founder of the Family Support Network and help to launch Christmas on Main Street.

Tribute to the Late Eileene L. Parsons, OBE (June 2025)
In the absence of the Governor, the Acting Governor, Mr. David D. Archer Jr., and his wife, Dr. Allison Flax-Archer, share heartfelt condolences with the family, friends, and all who had the distinct privilege of working alongside the late former legislator, Mrs. Eileene L. Parsons, OBE. Mrs. Parsons was not merely a public servant, but a nation builder whose unwavering dedication to the Virgin Islands spanned nearly six remarkable decades. Her life's work stands as a resounding testament to her steadfast commitment to the social, educational, political, sports and cultural upliftment of these Virgin Islands.

Tribute to the late Dr. Robert Mathavious (October 2025)
The Governor attended the services to honour the life and legacy of the late Dr. Robert Mathavious. Dr. Mathavious was the former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the BVI Financial Service Commission. He is recognized as a pioneer and innovator of the BVI's

Financial Service Sector and one of the driving forces behind the industry which is one of the two main economic engines.

Other Community Events

February 2025 – Government House welcomed 25 students from Cedar International School for a Q&A with the Governor yesterday. Governor Pruce spoke with the students about his responsibilities and the work of the Governor's Office, and was impressed by their interest in governance and sustainable development
March 2025 – The Governor attended the Humane Society's Dog Show and judged 'Pepper' to be Best in Show.
May 2025 – The Governor hosted the UK's Ministry of Defence's Joint Force HQ in preparing for hurricane season.
June 2025 – The Governor hosted a special football fundraising reception at Government House for the BVI Football Association ahead of the BVI vs Jamaica match.
June 2025 – Went aboard US Coastguard ship Northland and met with its crew who were in the BVI as part of a routine visit.
August 2025 – Governor Pruce spoke at the Youth Rally in August to launch the BVI's Anti-Crime Summit.
September 2025 – Hosted a special Chevening mixer for alumni and prospective scholars.
December 2025 - Acting Governor Mr. David D. Archer Jr. hosted the first roundtable discussion on preventing digital violence against women and girls.

Events and Receptions

- Public Officers Recognition
- Sanctions Unit Reception
- National Crime Association and RVIPF Reception
- BVI Diabetes Association Auction Winner Dinner
- VISAR – Governor's Gourmet Gathering
- UK Policing Support Officers Reception
- Maritime Sector Reception
- Journalist and Influencers Dinner
- Commonwealth Games
- Aviator Sector Reception
- BVI Football Association Reception
- BVI Cancer Society Fundraiser
- Chevening Scholarship Reception
- Rotary District Governor Reception
- BVI Diabetes Association Fundraising
- Community Christmas Dinner Banquet

Training and Workshops

- Joint Nature Conservation Committee – UK
- Personal Financial Strategy Training
- Royal Virgin Islands Police Force Training
- Read the Room - Virgin Islands Public Service Learning Institute Training
- OSHA - Virgin Islands Public Service Learning Institute Training
- HR Management - Virgin Islands Public Service Learning Institute Training

Ceremonies and Observances

- Naturalisation Ceremonies
- Remembrance Day
- Honours Reception – Mrs. Julie Cooper, BEM
- Diabetes Awareness Month Opening

Meetings

- Criminal Justice Advisory Group Meeting
- Heads of Department Meeting
- Cedar International School students meet the Governor
- H. Lavity Stoutt Community College students meet the Governor
- Honours Committee Meeting
- U.K. Policing Support Meeting
- Violence Reduction Unit
- National Port Security Committee
- National Disaster Council Meeting
- Old Government House Museum Board Meeting

5. LOCAL, REGIONAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

International Relations, Reporting Obligations and Extension of Treaties and Conventions
The Governor's Office liaised with the International Team in the Premier's Office on a number of responses to United Nations (UN) and other international treaties/conventions, in accordance with international obligations, as well as the extension of legislation and treaties to the BVI.

These include but are not limited to:

- Visits of two ships - the US Coastguard Ship, *Northland* in June and the HMS Trent in November
- Visit of the High Commissioner of India to Jamaica and Non-resident Consul for the Virgin Islands Mr. Mayank Joshi
- Visit of Air Safety Support International (ASSI) to ensure aviation safety, security, and compliance with international standards.

Mutual Legal Assistance requests

The Governor is the competent authority under the Criminal Justice (International Cooperation) Act 1993 for requests for legal assistance from foreign Competent Authorities. The Governor's Office continued to work closely with the Attorney General's Chambers assisting with returning results and occasionally onward forwarding of direct requests received by the office.

Sanctions Regime

The Governor's Office is the competent authority responsible for the implementation of sanctions in the Virgin Islands. Under each Order in Council ('OIC') ('Sanctions Order') the Governor's responsibilities and duties include, inter alia, the power (with the consent of FCDO ministers) to grant, vary and revoke licenses (which permit the conduct of specified activities otherwise not permitted under the relevant Orders-in Council); the duty to publish certain lists which is fulfilled by the Financial Investigation Agency (FIA) and Financial Services Commission (FSC).

Following the unprecedented package of sanctions introduced against Russia after its invasion of Ukraine and the recommended actions in the Virgin Islands' CFATF Mutual Evaluation Report, a dedicated sanctions unit was required in the BVI to improve the effectiveness of sanctions implementation and enforcement. In 2024, the Governor was pleased to announce the establishment of the Virgin Islands Sanctions Unit.

Following the announcement, there was a six-month handover period with the Governor's Office and the sanctions unit which culminated with the Governor's delegation of relevant powers under Statutory Instrument No. 49. The delegation of relevant powers has delegated functions to the Attorney General, the Director of the Financial Investigation Agency and the Managing

Director of the Financial Services Commission to allow for certain functions and powers to be carried out effectively.

The Office hosted visits from the Office of Trade Sanctions Implementation, His Majesty's Revenue & Customs, the FCDO Sanctions Directorate and Baroness Hodge in her capacity as the UK Anti-Corruption Champion, strengthening cooperation across the sanctions and anti-corruption framework.

Financial Actions Task Force

In February 2024, the Mutual Evaluation Report of the Virgin Islands by the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) was published. Over the last year, the Governor's Office has worked closely with BVI Government in implementing the recommended actions, as set out in the National Action Plan.

The Governor's Office also participated in meetings to present progress on the recommended actions arising from the Mutual Evaluation Report of the Virgin Islands. We continue to work closely with the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force and the Virgin Islands Sanctions Unit to support ongoing reforms and ensure alignment with international standards.

Port Security

In 2025, the National Port Security Committee was formally established, co-chaired by the Governor and the Minister of Communications and Works. The Committee met twice during the year and included representatives from both the public and private sector. It serves as a critical component of the Territory's maritime security framework, providing a forum for stakeholders to discuss security matters, coordinate activity, and ensure a consistent and compliant approach across all ports.

As part of our continued efforts to strengthen port security, the Governor's Office welcomed two visits from the UK Department for Transport. These engagements provided guidance and support to local agencies as they work to meet international port security standards.

Search and Rescue

The Governor's Office became an established member of the Search and Rescue Committee, which became operational in 2025. Throughout the year, the Office worked closely with partner agencies to support preparations for the III Code and ICAO Audit. As part of this effort, the Governor's Office welcomed a visit from the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency and participated in a Mass Rescue Exercise at Pier Park, delivered in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management. Representatives from the UK's Maritime & Coastguard Agency & the US Coast Guard were also in attendance.

6. PROTOCOL AND CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Royal Matters

The Governor's Office processed nominations, and investitures, for His Majesty The King's Honours; congratulatory messages from His Majesty The King for Virgin Islanders who are 100 years of age and couples married for 60 years or more; processed requests for commemorative stamps and coins; and ensured all matters relating to Royal protocol are kept up-to-date in line with guidance issued from Buckingham Palace.

King's Birthday Parade and Reception

The Governor hosted His Majesty The King's Birthday Party in June. The annual celebration marked the Monarch's birthday and was held at Government House, Tortola. Tributes were made to His Majesty King Charles III as Head of State in the Virgin Islands.

Nationality

The Governor's Office works with the Civil Registry and Passport Office to ensure all applications for British Overseas Territories Citizenship (BOTC) are processed in accordance with the statutory requirements under the British Nationality Act, 1981, and the regulations made under it. In 2025, there were:

- Four naturalisation ceremonies held in 2025 with a total of 232 person were naturalised as belongers of the Virgin Islands

- One British citizenship ceremony held where 70 persons became British citizens.

Constitutional Matters

The Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007 established a new Constitution for the Virgin Islands, to replace the Constitution of 1976. The new Constitution included, for the first time, a chapter setting out the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual and provisions for their enforcement. It provided for a Governor as His Majesty's representatives in the Islands, and for a Premier and Ministers who form a Cabinet together with the Attorney General. It also provided for an elected House of Assembly, which together with His Majesty forms the Legislature.

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court continues to have jurisdiction in the Islands. Provision is made for a Public Service Commission, a Teaching Service Commission, a Judicial and Legal Services Commission, and a Police Service Commission to provide advice on appointments to offices in these services. A National Security Council was established, as was the office of Director of Public Prosecutions. Provision was also made for a Complaints Commissioner and a Register of Interests.

Administration of Complaints

Presently, Section 24 (1) of the Complaints Commissioner Act stipulates that the Commissioner must, within six months after the end of each financial year, furnish a full report of his or her functions during the financial year and should present a general survey and statistics in relation to complaints received by the Commissioner, the results of mediations and investigations conducted under the Act, steps take to implement the recommendations and such other matters or developments as he/she thinks fit. The section also stipulates that the report must be submitted to the Governor for submission to the House of Assembly.

The Commission's main role is to enquire into or investigate complaints of maladministration causing injustice by government departments or agencies. A key aim to engender quick resolution for aggrieved individuals.

The Complaints Commission Annual Report 2023 was received by Cabinet in 2025 and subsequently laid in the House of Assembly. The report showed an increase in complaints in 2023 to 55 new cases up from 28 filed in 2022. Reports for 2021 and 2022 were received and laid in the House of Assembly in 2024. In 2021 there were 57 complaints made to the Office of the Complaints Commissioner. In 2021 and 2022, the most common types of complaint were that 'no consideration' was given to a decision and that there was bias in decision-making or there was delay.

Complaints

The Governor's Office received over 15 complaints which were processed in the aforementioned period. Once reviewed, the grievances were assessed and redirected to the appropriate departments or desk officers for further assistance with the matters being raised.

PART IV - HUMAN RESOURCES

Responsibilities of BVI Government Staff

The Chief of Staff in the Governor's Office is supported by a dedicated team with responsibility for:

I. Cabinet and National Security Council Matters;
II. Maintaining linkages with Constitutionally Established Departments and Commissions;
III. Maintaining the Governor's calendar of activities;
IV. Maintenance of Government House, Supervision of House Staff, Security and upkeep of the Grounds;
V. Upkeep of the Museum; and
VI. Planning and executing ceremonial events.

There is a combined number of twenty-three (23) staff distributed across four sections in the Department. The staff of BVIG, which comprises three (3) sections, is dispersed between the Office, Museum and the House while the FCDO staff based in the office.

The last quarter of 2025 saw a change in the staff complement of the BVIG team with the retirement of the Chief of Staff on 11 September and Senior Executive Officer (SEO) given a promotion to Administrative Officer. There was also the addition of another close protection officer.

The team welcomed the arrived of the new Chief of Staff Jillian Douglas-Phillip on 22 December 2025 with the Assistant Secretary acting in the post of Chief of Staff from 12 September 2025. Recruitment efforts continued for a House Attendant 1.

The staff complement for BVIG is 15, with two (2) vacant positions and comprised of the following persons during the below periods:

Staff Training and Professional Development

Virgin Islands Public Service Learning Institute (VIPSLI) offered a range of blended courses in their training schedule throughout the year. At year end, 53.3% of the staff completed or surpassed their learning hours.

There is a need for more customized training for the staff of the Government House to build their capacity particularly in the area of hospitality and maintenance training should include electrical and plumbing. The Residential Manager reached out to VIPSLI for assistance or guidance on coordinating this type of customized training, and will endeavor to do so again in 2026.

PART V - FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2025 Accounts Overview

The Office of the Governor's budget allocation for 2025 was $1,036,099.99. The total actual expenditure during the year was $926,684.40. Since the budget allocation was sufficient for the office's requirements, there was no need for supplementary appropriation (SAP).

The budget analysis revealed a deficit in operational expenses therefore several reallocations were made throughout the year to cover the office's expenses. The underfunded subcategories were addressed through this process, and operational costs and personal emoluments were successfully funded. Furthermore, to ensure adequate financial support and that all of the expenses were covered within the 2025 fiscal year, additional funding was also reallocated to specific subheads for the purchase of a new air conditioner for the conference room and repairs to the office and at the Governor's House, funds for staff allowances, and other votes for the remainder of the fiscal year.

2025 Capital Projects

Two of three capital works projects were completed during this period.

A bid for the works to renovate the courtyard in front of the Government House Reception Hall was awarded to GND Construction at a cost of $38,313.11 with a four to six-week timeline from the start to finish. Works for this project began on July following a site visit where a variation was made to change the oblong shape of the old planter in the centre to a round one that could more easily incorporate seating for guests at events. In an effort to variance, the contractor submitted cost of $6,066.25 bringing the revised contractual cost to $45,289.30 reflecting a spend increase of approximately 18.20%. The budget allocation for the project was $85,617 and it was expected to finish on August 31 ahead of the projected completion date of September 5. However, due to a number of delays from the contractor and work delivery issues experienced, the project was eventually completed in October.

The second capital project is for fabrication and installation of doors of the Reception Hall. This bid was awarded to Northam Construction Company at a cost of $31,165.00. The installation works began on 1 December 2025, with a two-week timeline. The doors were partially completed on 12 December, 2025 while waiting on the new hardware to fully complete the works. The hardware is expected to arrive and be installed by 12 January, 2026.

CONCLUSION

The Governor's Office team met its objectives in supporting the work of the Governor as he carried out his responsibilities for security and good governance of the Territory. The team engaged closely with other departments to achieve these objectives. The team also helped to facilitate working relationships with members of the community and civil society in order to build a better future. Several other objectives were achieved and various challenges and opportunities were identified. The team is now poised to build on these achievements in 2026 in order to represent the interest of the people and communities within the Territory.

Good Governance

Following consideration by UK Minister for the Overseas Territories Stephen Doughty MP on the Governor's final review on the implementation of the COI recommendations, Government's self-assessment, the assessments by FCDO officials and the public feedback, his recommendation was that the Order in Council be revoked setting expectations for sustained implementation with a twice-yearly public review of good governance and an annual public survey to sustain accountability. The GRTP will continue to guide government-wide reforms, and the Governor's Office will continue to work closely with the Premier's Office and permanent secretaries on this important work.

Several of the laws passed in 2024 were brought into force including the Public Service Management Act 2025 which commenced on 1 January 2025. The Public Service Management Act placed renewed emphasis on integrity, defined clearer roles and responsibilities, and established the Public Service Learning Institute.

Linked to the Commission of Inquiry recommendations, the Integrity Commission was formally launched in March to promote ethical conduct in public life, as well as receive and investigate complaints and the Governance Reform Transition Plan was given Cabinet's approval to bridge the gap from the COI to ongoing governance reform.

Security

Through the National Security Council's Anti-Crime Summit, law enforcement, NPOs and other community stakeholders were able to spent three days focused on addressing the rising crime in the Territory particularly gun-related violence. The aim was to foster community-wide collaboration in developing a National Crime Reduction Strategy.

The Governor made several commitments following the Summit to include improving radio communications for the RVIPF, support the planning upgrades to the prison estate, support the installation of a coastal radar system to strengthen maritime security and realise a fully vetted, highly professional, properly resourced RVIPF.

Though the vetting of law enforcement officers to include the RVIPF, Customs, Immigration and Prison was not completed in 2025, the Governor's Office remains commitment to this.

Building a better future

With reconstruction work to the upper floor of the Old Government House Museum now in its final stage of completion, residents and visitors alike can expect a measurably greater experience with its opening. This will add significant value to the Virgin Islands tourism product.

The Governor's Office focused on ensuring a full complement of members on commissions, and on the reengagement of defunct boards and committees who memberships had long expired. These bodies provide the essential advisory function and support the work of Government.

The Governor throughout the year visited several communities, schools, clinics, historical sites, infrastructural developments and environmental projects. He also hosted many meetings and events at Government House. These provided an opportunity to interact with the community and to engage the populace. A number of regional and foreign engagements also afforded the Governor the opportunity to serve as an intermediary between the UK and the Territory's elected representatives. Work with the BVI Government on economic matters and the financial services sector on meeting international regulatory standards continued

Finally, the most important asset to any organisation is its human resources. The Governor's Office will continue to work with all stakeholders to continually develop the public service and ensure a safe and conducive work environment that is favourable for personal growth and institutional success. Overall, the Governor's office has made an invaluable contribution to the positive growth and development of the Territory.

Glossary of Abbreviations

ACAMS Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists

BVI - British Virgin Islands

BVIPA - BVI Ports Authority

CCA - Council of Competent Authorities

COI - Commission of Inquiry

DDM - Department of Disaster Management

DPP - Director of Public Prosecution

FATF - Financial Action Task Force

FCDO - Foreign and Commonwealth Development

FIA - Financial Investigation Agency

FSC - Financial Services Commission

GO - Governor's Office

HM - Her Majesty

HMP - Her Majesty's Prison

HOA - House of Assembly

JLSC - Judicial and Legal Services Commission

MLA - Mutual Legal Assistance

NSC - National Security Council

OFSI - Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation

OGHM - Old Government House Museum

PoSC - Police Service Commission

PSC - Public Service Commission

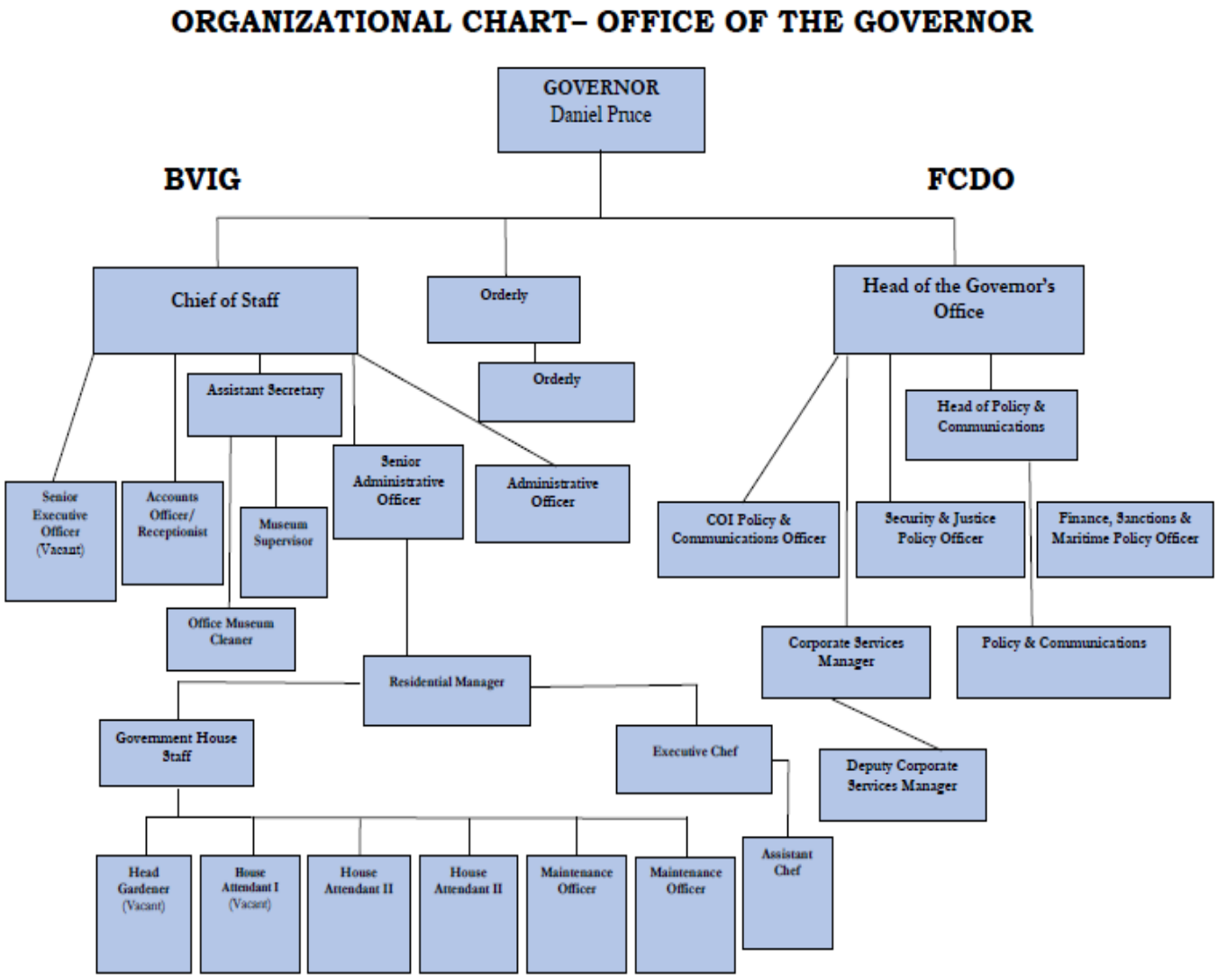
RDA - Recovery and Development Agency

RUSI - Royal United Services Institute

RVIPF - Royal Virgin Islands Police Force

UK - United Kingdom

APPENDIX A - Organisational Chart



Acts received – 2025	Acts assented to – 2025 & Date of Assent
No. 1 - Financial Services (Exceptional Circumstances) (Amendment) Act 2025	30 January 2025
No. 2 - Police (Amendment) Act, 2025	
No. 3 - Computer Misuse and Cybercrime (Amendment) Act, 2025	
No. 4 - Customs Management and Duties (Amendment) Act, 2025	25 March 2025
No. 5 - Criminal Justice (International Cooperation) (Amendment) Act, 2025	26 March 2025
No. 6 - Mutual Legal Assistance (United States of America)(Amendment) Act, 2025	14 March 2025
No. 7 - Proceeds of Criminal Conduct (Amendment) Act, 2025	10 April 2025
No. 8 - Drug Trafficking Offenses (Amendment) Act, 2025	10 April 2025
No. 9 - Asset Seizure and Forfeiture (Amendment) Act, 2025	10 April 2025
No. 10 - Tobacco Products Control (Amendment) Act, 2025	10 April 2025
No. 11 - Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 2025	27 May 2025
No. 12 - Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act, 2025	8 May 2025
No. 13 - Commercial Recreational Vessels Licencing (Amendment) Act, 2025	30 May 2025
No. 14 - Cruising and Home Port permit (Amendment) Act, 2025	23 May 2025
No. 15 - Customs Management and Duties (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 2025	23 May 2025
No. 16 - Labour Code (Validation of Labour Inspections) Act, 2025	14 August 2025
No. 17 - Miscellaneous Amendments (SIGTAS) (Validation) Act, 2025	14 August 2025
No. 18 - Mutual Legal Assistance (Tax Matters) (Amendment) Act, 2025	14 August 2025
No. 19 – Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2025	2 October 2025
No. 20 – House of Assembly (Management) Act, 2025	
No. 21 – Virgin Islands Appropriation (2026) Act, 2025	29 December 2025

APPENDIX B – List of Acts Assented to by the Governor

APPENDIX C – LIST OF CABINET PAPERS (excluding Governor's Office Papers)

Memo No.	Title
227/2025	Auditor General's Report on Financing the 2024 Public Service Salary Increases
121/2025	Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Status Report (Week of 7th April 2025) REVISED REVISED
97/2025	Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Status Report (Week of 31st March 2025)
79/2025	Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Status Report (Week of 17th March 2025)
72/2025	B38 and B41 Report - Review of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Bodies – Volume 2
71/2025	Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Status Report (Week of 10th March 2025)
60/2025	Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Status Report (Week of 24th February 2025)
59/2025	Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Status Report (Week of 10 February 2025)
31/2025	Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Status Report (Week of 03 February 2025)
15/2025	Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Status Report (Week of 27 January 2025)
12/2025	Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Status Report (Week of 20 January 2025)
11/2025	Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Status Report (Week of 15 January 2025)
282/2025	Royal Virgin Islands Police Force - 2024 Annual Report
200/2025	Office of the Complaints Commissioner – 2023 Annual Report and Audited Accounts
96/2025	Annual Report 2024 - Governor's Office
176/2025	Retiring Allowance - Mrs. Alvera Maduro-Caines

APPENDIX D – Boards, Committees, Council and Commissions

Commissions	Membership
Public Service Commission	Inez Archibald – Chair Helen Seymour Kelvin Hodge Ayana Hull Louis Malone
Police Service Commission	Preston Stoutt - Chair Kenneth Matthew Christopher Varlack Vere Browne Neville Smith
Integrity Commission	Dancia Penn - Chair Gene Creque Reynell Frazer Sandra Walters-Malone Vacant
Judicial and Legal Services Commission	Acting Chief Justice Margaret Price Findlay – Chair Lady Angelica Teelucksingh V. Inez Archibald Astra Davies Penn Ann Encountre
Teaching Service Commission	Wade Tobin Rochelle Smith Mavis S-Abednego

Boards	Membership
Parole Board	Kya Huggins–McKenzie - Chairperson Dane Robbin Annjel Flax Daniel Rogers Thomas Alexander Da-Ana Samuel Shaunice Leonard
Scholarship Trust Fund Board	Wendell Gaskin – Chair Deon Vanterpool K'Marie Fahie Everett Fraser Shanique Creque Manager, National Bank of the V.I. or designate Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education
Firearm Advisory Board	Vere Browne June Samuel Dean Robin

Committees/Council	Membership
Prison Visiting Committee	Nolma Chalwell – Chair Gregory Smith Sendrick Chinnery Kenrico Wheatley Sara Potter
Prerogative of Mercy Committee	Governor - Chair Attorney General Chief Medical Officer Four appointed members
BVI Honours Committee	Ulric Scatliffe - Chair Bennet Smith Harlan Vanterpool. MD Janice Blyden Arona Fahie-Forbes Kareem-Nelson Hull Julia Dawson Laurel Freeman JoAnn Stoutt Briana Henley
Visiting Ships Committee	Paul Hewlett – Chairperson Maria Drigo Dean Greenaway Symone Penn JoAnn Stoutt
Emergency Disaster Fund Committee	Jeremiah Frett – Chairperson Sharlene DaBreo Joseph Smith- Abbott Elvia Smith-Maduro Tasha Bertie
Virgin Islands General Legal Council	Jerry Samuel – Chairman Attorney General (ex officio) – Deputy Chairman President of the BVI Bar Association (ex officio) Alex Hall Taylor Asha Johnson-Willins Delia Jon-Baptiste

Board	Membership
Old Government House Museum Board	Governor Daniel Pruce - Chairperson Mark Chapman, Ermin Penn, Jillian Dunlop, David Penn, Judith Vanterpool, Astrid Wenske, Kareem-Nelson Hull, Verna Penn-Moll, Nadia Menezes, Dr. Mitch Kent, Thor Downing, Nancy Pascoe, Dr. Katherine Smith, Natalie Penn Lake

2025 End of Year Report

Month	Admission Fees	Packaged Tours	Gift Shop Sales	Donations	Fundraising Events
January	$2,782.00	$590.00	$549.90	$22.05	$0.00
February	$1,968.00	$960.00	$367.72	$41.00	$0.00
March	$1,922.00	$470.00	$698.00	$1.00	$10,525.00
April	$763.00	$200.00	$248.00	$130.00	$0.00
May	$620.00	$510.00	$410.95	$129.00	$0.00
June	$377.00	$390.00	$123.00	$0.15	$0.00
July	$833.00	$610.00	$506.95	$31.00	$0.00
August	$35.00	$60.00	$14.00	$0.00	$0.00
September	$160.00	$0.00	$96.00	$0.00	$0.00
October	$626.00	$125.00	$36.00	$18.00	$0.00
November	$1,553.00	$580.00	$170.95	$23.00	$0.00
December	$2,786.00	$695.00	$514.40	$19.00	$0.00

Total of visitors for 2025 were 3,944 to include 2,986 walk ins from cruiseships, yachts and hotels.
Tourists on packaged tours totaled 1,038. Residents and students on field trips totaled 315.
The table below will give a breakdown.

Month	Adult Visitors	Child Visitors	Adult Residents	Child Residents	Students	Adult Visitors in Packaged Tours
January	554	5	6	2	14	118
February	392	12	4	0	0	192
March	384	22	1	0	105	94
April	151	7	4	0	0	40
May	122	10	5	0	0	102
June	75	4	1	o	13	78
July	165	22	4	3	0	122
August	7	0	0	0	0	12
September	32	0	0	0	0	0
October	124	1	3	0	0	25
November	309	15	4	0	0	116
December	556	24	3	0	21	139

APPENDIX F - List of Events at Government House

2025 EVENTS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Meetings	CJAG
	Heads of Department
	Cedar International School
	HLSCC Students
	Honours Committee
	UK Policing Support
	Establishment of Violence Reduction Unit
	UK Transport Dpt. – Port Security Committee
	National Disaster Council Meeting/DDM
	Old Government House Museum Board
	National Port Security Committee
Receptions and Special Events	Public Officers Recognition
	Sanctions Unit
	National Crime Association and the RVIPF
	BVI Diabetes Association – Auction Winner
	VISAR – Governor's Gourmet Gathering
	PAW BVI
	Old Government House Museum
	Filipino Association
	UK Policing Support Officers
	Maritime Sector
	Journalist and Influencers
	Commonwealth Games
	Aviation Sector
	BVI Football Association
	King's Birthday Party
	BVI Cancer Society
	Chevening Scholarship
	Rotary District Governor
	BVI Diabetes Association
	Christmas Dinner Banquet
	EHRLC Children's Christmas Activity
Trainings and Workshops	Joint Nature Conservation Committee – UK
	Personal Financial Strategy
	Royal Virgin Islands Police Force
	VIPSLI – Read the Room
	VIPSLI – OSHA
	VIPSLI – HR Management for non HR Professionals
Naturalization Ceremonies and Special Observance Ceremonies	Civil Registry & Passport Office
	Records Management Centre
	Ministry of Health
	BVI Diabetes Association
	Veterans Remembrance Day
	Mrs. Julie Cooper, BEM

Ministerial / Official UK Visits
Former FCDO Director of Overseas Territories Sarah Hulton
Former FCDO Deputy Director of Illicit Finance Becky Richards
UK's Anti-Corruption Champion Baroness Margaret Hodge

APPENDIX G – Accounts 2025

Details of Expenditure	Approved Budget $	Available for Quarter 4 $	Actual Expenditure $	Residual $
SALARIES				
511120 Permanent Sec/Heads	86,214.36	86,214.36	73,136.34	13,078.02
511130 Personnel (Staff)	512,574.52	512,574.52	485,584.37	26,990.15
511140 Supernumerary &Tem Sal	2,917.00	2,917.00	0.00	2,917.00
WAGES				
511210 Full Time Wage Earners	84,930.48	84,930.48	66,711.48	18,219.00
511220 Part Time Wage Earners	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GENERAL EMPLOYEE ALLOWANCES				
511410 Travel Allowance	5,200.00	5,200.00	4,550.28	649.72
511411 Telephone Allowance	1,684.80	1,684.80	1,682.46	2.34
511412 Overtime	41,200.00	41,200.00	31,411.54	9,788.46
511413 Car Allowance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
511414 Special Duty Allowance	2,594.80	2,594.80	2,594.80	0.00
511415 Commuter's Allowance	3,744.00	3,744.00	3,321.00	423.00
511419 Entertainment Allowance	3,510.00	3,510.00	3,264.00	246.00
511523 Orderly Allowance	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	0.00
511527 Private Secretary's Allowance	5,616.00	5,616.00	5,224.00	392.00
511531 Acting Allowance and Leave Rel	16,218.48	16,218.48	13,389.53	2,828.95
511599 Other Spec Employee Allow.	0.00	0.00	479.69	(479.69)
SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS				
512210 Social Security Contrib.	26,128.83	26,128.83	23,392.40	2,736.43
512220 Payroll Tax	36,730.30	36,730.30	32,195.85	4,534.45
512230 Health Insurance	29,761.22	29,761.22	25,423.86	4,337.36
TELECOMMUNICATIONS				
521999 Other Rent	3150.00	3150.00	3078.00	72.00
522110 Mobile	3,864.00	3,864.00	3,980.06	(116.06)
522120 Landline	1,920.00	1,920.00	1,580.20	339.80
522130 Internet	4,939.29	4,939.29	5,234.28	(294.99)
ELECTRICITY				
522220 Electricity (General)	57,000.00	57,000.00	46,448.58	10,551.42
WATER				
522310 Water (General)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
522320 Drinking Water	700.00	700.00	337.94	362.06
FUEL				
522510 Gasoline	2,100.00	2,100.00	1,927.58	172.42
522520 Diesel	600.00	600.00	367.23	232.77
522530 Propane	477.25	477.25	477.00	0.25
522599 Other Fuel	250.00	250.00	59.95	190.05
POSTAGE AND COURIER COSTS				
522610 Postage and Courier Costs	15.00	15.00	3.60	11.40