

Dear All press corp;

Please see attached herewith my letter of resignation as the Chairman of the newly (recently) created Consumer Council, which falls under the provisions of the substantive governing legislation; namely- The Utility Regulation and Competition Act (2021 Rev.); Section 60 (a single WEAK paragraph) which says it ALL and I was silly enough to accept the Chairmanship having the knowledge of it.

Section 60 of the Utility Regulation and Competition Act, (2021 Rev) IS ALL THAT HAS ENABLED the ability of OfReg to have created the Consumer Council in the first place. And here is what it says; in total. And I quote it. It says " The Office [that is OfReg] **may appoint and fund the operation of the Consumer Council to advise it [ie. the "Office or OfReg"- my own interpretation and words added] on issues of significance to consumers; and the terms of reference, composition and appointment of the Council's shall be at the discretion of the Office [i.e. OfReg].**

So, there you have it! The Consumer Council was created to be a CHEAP EMPLOYEE of OfReg; to be used by them to TRY to garner some good PR from a "side-kick" as it were as no one currently have any CONFIDENCE in OfReg as a unit of Government and what it was created to attempt to achieve- and those critical functions of oversight and effective monitoring (well; it was supposed to be "effective"; can be found in the substantive legislation in Section 6 (1),(a), (b),(c),(i),(ii), (iii) and (d).

What the public might wish to see (and I have not nor do I wish to publish it!) is the accompanying "Terms of Reference" document that was sent to each Council member; including the Chairman; and we were ALL to pledge to abide by. It was a "straight-jacket" which was meant; and I did not see it until a few weeks after being appointed as CHAIRMAN. We could not do anything proactively without first reporting to OfReg for further scrutiny and input of sufficient bureaucracy that was designed to make council members mere employees of OfReg; but provided WITHOUT the need to be liable for their direct costs associated with a normal staff person; namely- provision of Health Insurance; Pension and other statutory civil service organization's policies and procedures.

The letter is self explanatory as to what triggered my action of resignation.

However as a "side note" to the detailed attached letter of resignation; I can also mention and highlight the following facts and information.

I cannot and will not be a "seat warmer"; sitting around a boardroom table twiddling my thumbs and wondering what we do next to protect the consumers of these beloved Cayman Islands. I know the answer- WE MUST ACT! and ACT BOLDLY!! and it must be NOW!

This was the message of change that I brought to the OfReg's created Consumer Council. I was demanding effective and quick action to address our many sub-par service providers (FLOW, DIGICEL, Cayman Water Company and others); I as a private citizen would have liked to see OfReg deploy.

Sadly, they are content to remain in the backwaters of time, seemingly, currently unable or UNWILLING to ACT!

I am of a different opinion and in direct conflict with OfReg- my "head Office". Therefore I could not conceivably remain on a Consumer Council; although a creature of law, falling under the Utility Regulation and Competition Act (2021 Rev.) which is administered by OfReg.

The Cayman Islands should be and ought to be so much further ahead with Solar and Renewable Energy; however are miles away from its stated national target of 70% Renewable Energy- we are only at 3% currently and the 70% NATIONAL TARGET range/ goal is set to be achieved in 2037. I bet a rocket scientist who would argue with me on whether we are on the right course to achieve those NATIONALLY and PARLIAMENT passed NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS!

Simply put. WE ARE MILES away from ever even coming CLOSE to such stated national Government policy targets.

And what does OfReg do? I leave that for you to answer dear citizens of the Cayman Islands.

That is why I now; free from any conflicts brought about by OfReg attempting to place me in a "straight-jacket"; can now and will be busy going forward agitating and appearing on public forums; including privately owned Radio stations to argue for and to promote aggressively my new demand of a Consumer Bill of Rights to Renewable Energy!

This then is my letter of resignation together with some additional information as contained in this email.

For sake of completeness I also attach a copy of the official OfReg Complaint form against Licensee that they were insistent that even the Consumer Council busy themselves completing for each consumer complaint received- in essence we would become just a "cheap employee" of OfReg and become; just like OfReg (our head "Office") seen by the consumers of these Islands; either correctly or in perception; as being rather useless in effectively protecting their basic rights as consumers in the Cayman Islands.

I rest my case.

Regards;
George Ebanks