



UTILITY REGULATION AND COMPETITION OFFICE

13 March 2023

OfReg Consumer Council Chairperson resignation

OfReg has accepted the resignation of Consumer Council Member and Chair, Mr. George R. Ebanks. His resignation comes as the result of irreconcilable differences arising between Mr Ebanks, OfReg and other Council Members. These differences centre on his behaviour as Chair and on the role and remit of the Council as an advisory body to OfReg to identify and recommend solutions to issues facing consumers in the utilities sectors.

Council Members independently reported to OfReg that Mr. Ebanks was acting unilaterally in speaking on behalf of the entire Council on matters on which they had not discussed or agreed upon. This extended to a fundamental disagreement on the role and function of the Consumer Council. They also took serious issue with Mr. Ebanks' aggressive and demeaning tone and behaviour in both written communications, and in Council meetings.

OfReg Interim CEO, Mr. Peter Gough said, "OfReg has accepted Mr. Ebanks resignation as Chair and Member of the Consumer Council. It is disappointing to find the Chair was not aligned with the role and remit of the Council and was in conflict with other Council members to the extent that the Council could no longer function under his leadership. However, we look forward to appointing a new Chair in due course so that the Council can get back to the work of helping OfReg represent and protect the rights of consumers in the utilities sectors."

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ABOUT OFREG

The Utility Regulation and Competition Office ('OfReg' or the 'Office') is the independent regulator established by section 4 of the Utility Regulation and Competition Act (as revised) (the 'URC Act') for the electricity, information, and communications technology, water, wastewater, and fuel sectors in the Cayman Islands.

OfReg provides the opportunity for consistency and collaboration in regulation across the energy, fuel, ICT, and water sectors; better utilisation of skills and resources resulting in more efficient and effective regulatory processes; encouraging competition where appropriate and feasible; championing sustainability and innovation across markets, contributing to the economic and social goals of the Cayman Islands.

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